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Phone glitch keeps Marfans guessing time

By SAM KARAS
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MARFA — Chaos reigned in Marfa last Friday morning as some locals woke up, looked at their phones and hit snooze. Somehow, phones around town — and around the tri-county area — had set their automatic time to Mountain Time, leaving some cellular users in the past and some in the future.

Last year, a similar problem wreaked havoc on the tourism industry in Terlingua after a new phone tower was accidentally configured to Mountain Time. Locals and tourists alike initially attributed the glitch to their proximity to the border — the neighboring state of Chihuahua is an hour behind. By the time everyone figured out what was really going on, the tower techs had departed, leaving locals on the American side at the mercy of phone company bureacracy.

Unlike the situation in Terlingua, this weekend's time warp in Marfa affected only some mobile users and didn't affect everyone at the same time. Judd Foundation archivist and recent transplant Erin Schneider heard about the glitch from friends before it happened to her. "I woke up the next day and I was like, 'That's weird. It doesn't feel like the right time,'" she recalled. "My stove clock said something different."

The glitch quickly divided locals into camps — Android users versus iPhone users, AT&T customers versus Verizon. "I had plans at a certain time with someone who has an Android phone and I asked him what time it was, and he had the right time," Schneider explained. "I kept my eye on it, and eventually switched my phone time to manual."

Mayor of Alpine Catherine Eaves confirmed that the problem wasn't just a Marfa problem. She was out of town when the drama unfolded and it seemed to peak over the weekend, when city offices were shuttered. Her constituents took to Facebook to express their confusion. "I heard some people were late for work because of it," she said.

Marfans were less vocal online about the glitch, relying instead on good old-fashioned word of mouth. Hannah Delagi, a baker at Aster, opens shop around 6 a.m. — she was one of the first in town to sense that something was amiss. Initially, she gaslit herself into thinking she'd forgotten when Daylight Savings Time sets in. "I knew it's in November, but I still Googled it," she said.

Over the next few hours, coworkers staggered in for their shifts in various states of lateness. Customers started coming in around 9 a.m., dazed and confused. "We called it the wormhole," she said. "It was so bizarre. People came through town and they were like, 'We have no idea what time it is, but we heard Marfa was kind of weird.' I had to tell them, 'This is not normal. This kind of s — happens in Terlingua, but not here.'"

Over the weekend, a process of elimination gradually suggested that

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Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Junior Class Duchess Fernanda Flores waves to spectators from the hood of a bobtail truck during the 2022 Marfa ISD Homecoming Parade last Thursday. See pages 6-7 for more photos and a recap of homecoming.

In blue Presidio County, Republicans — aided by political action committee — aim to win in November

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — When Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara first decided to run for reelection as a Republican in 2022, she did not believe she had a chance at winning come November. She was a lifelong Democrat — most recently, she had been reelected to her current office as a Democrat in 2018. This was in keeping with the local political climate. In reliably blue Presidio County, common knowledge dictated, you must have a "D" next to your name if you want to win.

But as she came up against the filing deadline in December of last year, she found herself beset by a crisis of conscience — she no longer felt the Democratic Party reflected her values. But to run as a Republican, she believed, would be to accept defeat.

"If I run as a Republican, I know I won't win," she recalls thinking. "I told myself: you're not going to win."

Still, on the last possible day to file as a candidate, within minutes of the deadline, she opted to file with the Republican Party. A lot has changed since then. Nearly one year later, just shy of a month from Election Day, campaign signs bearing her name are scattered throughout the Democratic stronghold of Marfa — many of them containing the legally-required disclosure, in minute lettering, that they are paid for by a political action committee called Project Red Texas.

Guevara has become one of over 100 local Republican candidates bolstered by the PAC, which has the stated mission of getting Republicans elected to local office in "targeted counties." The judge learned about the group when they came to Presidio County in July, she said — she was parked near the Presidio County Courthouse when a truck loaded with campaign signs for another candidate — she didn't recall who — pulled up nearby. She cracked a joke that turned out to be fortuitous.

"I just said to the guy, 'Oh, I guess you're here to deliver my signs,'" she said. "He said, 'I am

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Historical markers, commemorating Presidio history, will finally be moved from Marfa to Presidio

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — After nearly 20 years of negotiation, a pair of historical markers commemorating Presidio history are set to be uprooted from a roadside pull-off just outside Marfa. One marker explains the origin of Presidio County's name, and another proclaims Presidio "the oldest town in America."

The two small monuments will be relocated to Presidio, one to a future downtown visitor center and the other to a satellite visitor kiosk across from the Presidio Municipal Pool. At last Tuesday's meeting of the Presidio Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB), $200 was allocated from the organization's budget to finance the transport of the markers, which they hope will take place in the next few months.

Board President Arian Velázquez-Ornelas has been working to move the markers since she was a member of the Presidio Chamber of Commerce in 2003. Shifts in city leadership delayed her efforts, but she was able to get the ball rolling again a few years ago. Numerous entities — including the Texas Historical Commission, Presidio County Historical Commission, City of Presidio and Presidio County Commissioners Court — all had to sign off on the project. "This has been a labor of love," she said.

Last year, the CVB and the Presidio Municipal Development District started planning a visitor center in the Slack building, home of the Presidio Farmers Market. Members of the two boards discussed setting up a historical exhibit detailing Presidio's past, from its prehistoric roots and Indigenous history to the Spanish colonial years and recent settler past.

Alongside the historical exhibit, there will be more general tourist information detailing fun things to do in the area and tips for visiting the neighboring state and national parks. Velázquez-Ornelas hopes transporting the markers off the highway and to busy parts of Presidio will encourage more people to check them out. "Hopefully when everything's set up, it'll be a focal point to share our community's history," she said.

Rod Ponton and Mona Garcia of the Presidio County Historical Commission weren't exactly sure why the markers were erected in Marfa in the first place, but speculated it had something to do with Marfa being the county seat. The earlier of the two markers, placed in 1936, was a part of the Texas Centennial Celebration — that year, $3 million in state funds were appropriated

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Man found guilty of child endangerment receives 5 years probation, court-ordered mental health treatment

By MARY CANTRELL
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ALPINE — Hector Flores Jr., a Fort Stockton man who went missing with his 9-year-old daughter in February in Big Bend National Park, was found guilty of child endangerment in June and was sentenced to five years probation Tuesday morning in the U.S. District Courthouse in Alpine.

Flores was facing six months to two years of jail time and a maximum fine of $10,000. Deemed a flight risk, Flores was held without bond while the legal proceedings played out, meaning he has already served seven months in prison, exceeding the minimum sentence.

"We're obviously pleased with the sentence," said Flores' defense attorney Shane O'Neal in an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "It was good that he got out of jail faster rather than later."

As a part of the conditions for release, U.S. District Judge David Counts, who presided over the case on Tuesday, mandated that Flores undergo a psychological evaluation, mental health treatment and parenting classes. O'Neal inititally objected to mental health treatment requirements, stating while Flores might have a "libertarian streak," there was no testimony in the trial relating to Flores' psychological condition.

Judge Counts overruled O'Neal's objection, stating imposed psychological evaluations and mental health treatments for Flores could result in helpful discoveries and recommendations.

Flores and his daughter, identified by her initials L.F. in court proceedings, were reported missing on February 5 in Big Bend National Park. Their abandoned vehicle was located by park volunteers and rangers off of the remote Old Ore Road. The father and daughter were found over a week later on February 14 having crossed the border near Boquillas Del Carmen in Mexico. An FBI agent who testified in earlier court proceedings estimated the distance from their vehicle to where they were discovered in Mexico to be a distance of 20 miles or more.

The prosecution for the case, U.S. Assistant Attorney Scott Greenbaum, argued Flores put his daughter in imminent danger by not providing adequate water, food, clothing and shelter during their journey. In a series of events leading up to their entrance and disappearance from the park, Flores had taken L.F. out of school a month earlier and never re-enrolled her, his phone service had been disconnected, and he quit his job at a supermarket.

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'A hub for everyone': Border Network for Human Rights office opens

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last Friday, the Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR) celebrated a ribbon cutting for its new satellite office in Presidio. The organization has been hosting smaller local events since May, most notably a roundtable discussion and a pop-up event in solidarity with marches protesting Operation Lone Star, Governor Abbott's infusion of funding for law enforcement in Texas border communities. Locals turned out to Friday's event to celebrate BNHR's permanent place in the community.

BNHR — an El Paso-based organization — hopes to spread its message by connecting border communities with educational resources as controversy over state and national border policy reaches a fever pitch. "The BNHR is opening Human Rights Centers in the Texas border region to further develop community capacity and community engagement to address a systemic violation of rights created, mostly, by unaccountable border strategies and immigration law enforcement institutions," Executive Director Fernando Garcia wrote in a press release.

Presidio was not the only community to celebrate a new BNHR outreach location this past week — Del Rio had its own-ribbon cutting on Tuesday. The organization hopes to expand to employ locals in both cities full time and provide everyone in the community with information that will help protect and empower them as political tides change. In addition to the day-to-day operations of their local offices, BNHR hosts actions large and small, from parades in the borderlands' larger cities to distributing pamphlets about how to advocate for yourself in a traffic stop.

Lizette Rohana — who has deep roots in Presidio and Ojinaga — helped bring BNHR to town after years of serving the regional community through volunteer work. "We have activist friends in common," she explained. "I did not want to let go of this opportunity. We're so isolated here, it's important for not only Presidio but the whole Big Bend area. We want to make it a community center, a hub for everyone."

Rohana has played an important role in helping BNHR adapt its message for a local audience. One major difference she advised from the organization's big-city messaging was to try to work with law enforcement, rather than protesting their existence — Customs and Border Protection employees represent a significant chunk of the town's population. "We want to build a network where we can work with law enforcement, but also people feel like they can come in and ask questions," she said. "We want to be mediators and bridge that gap."

Presidio high school senior Ramon Rodriguez joined in on Friday's festivities. He's had plenty of organizing experience through Project Homeleaf, a youth-led group dedicated to environmental causes. "I decided to get into it because the youth needs to be represented here too — we have a say because we're all human beings," he said. "When I first heard about the program, I thought that it wasn't a luxury, it was a necessity — especially in a border town."

Rodriguez explained that he

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Political action committee

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looking for Cinderela Guevara,' and I said, 'Hey, that's me!' He said, 'I was told to contact you.' He asked me if I was running as a Republican and he said, 'We can get you some signs.'"

That was a Thursday, she recalled — by Tuesday, she learned, the signs were ready, and they were delivered to her a week and a half later. They gave her 125 signs altogether — 100 small lawn signs, and 25 large ones. All but roughly 30 of the small signs now adorn the homes and businesses of supporters in town, she said — folks kept calling her and asking for them. If she ends up needing more, Project Red Texas has offered to supply them, she said. (Guevara said she will report the signs as campaign contributions, their monetary value adding up to over $1,000).

The judge has become symbolic of a phenomenon the state Republican Party is touting this election season — longtime Democrats defecting from their party, believing the one-time opposition is more aligned with their true values. In July, Guevara was showcased on Governor Greg Abbott's Twitter account in this capacity, with the governor calling her "a life long Democrat until the Democratic Party walked away from her."

In a video accompanying the tweet, Guevara — seated next to Abbott at a campaign event for the governor in Fort Stockton — explains that she had run as a Democrat since 1992, and this is her first year running as a Republican. "I'm very happy with Governor Abbott here, for all he has done for Texas and continues to do for Texas, especially with our border crisis," she beams. (Weeks earlier, Guevara had issued a controversial "declaration of local disaster" which declared Presidio County under "invasion" by migrants and drug trafficking, hoping to secure reimbursements for border security from the state).

Guevara, who is slated to face off against Democrat Jose Portillo in November, isn't the only Republican candidate running in Presidio County. Garey Willbanks is running as a Republican for county commissioner precinct 4 against Democrat David Beebe. Republican David Chavez is running for county treasurer against incumbent Frances Garcia.

Project Red Texas has paid for campaign signs for both Willbanks and Chavez. Neither candidate responded to interview requests from The Big Bend Sentinel.

Headed by political operative Wayne Hamilton, Project Red Texas was launched in 2017 with the singular mission of flipping counties like Presidio — "currently held Democrat counties" where "we think their values more traditionally should align with what the Republican Party stands for," explained Cat Parks, the former vice chair of the Texas Republican Party who now works in candidate recruitment for Project Red Texas on a volunteer basis. The PAC provides campaign and marketing materials like signs to candidates, but also serves as a resource for advice to candidates as they navigate their campaigns. (The group also offers to pay candidates' filing fees, but did not pay the fees for any Presidio County candidates, having made contact after the filing deadline, per Presidio County GOP Chair Dan Dunlap).

That first election cycle, they started with 54 counties and saw some results, said Parks — this time around, their reach has more than doubled.

"With that effort, [we] were successful in flipping four county commissioner courts from Democrat to Republican," she said. "And this cycle, we are supporting 135 candidates in 24 counties. So we've grown the effort and we really feel that there's a clear path forward here."

Parks noted the "red shift," typified by Guevara, of former Democrats switching to the Republican Party. It's a trend that has been observed in Sanderson, where the formerly Democratic county judge, county clerk and treasurer all opted to run as Republicans this year. It is a shift Parks believes is driven by an adherence to core values that the Republican Party claims to represent: "Economic freedom, certainly inflation right now, law and order, backing of police, strong borders, oil and natural gas independence."

Parks also repeated the theory Abbott had deployed in his tweet about Judge Guevara, that these defecters were not so much abandoning the Democratic Party so much as the party was abandoning them, alienating them with "increasingly leftist, progressive — I don't think you can even call them values, but the things that they're pushing, the transgender community … even things like the Biden administration saying there was 0% inflation in July."

Guevara has become one of over 100 local Republican candidates bolstered by the PAC, which has the stated mission of getting Republicans elected to local office in "targeted counties"

Guevara, when asked why she chose to run as a Republican, said the main issue that prompted her own red shift was that of abortion. "I just can't put my name there," she said of running as a Democrat. "I feel like we're killing ourselves, we're killing the next generation, and I don't think it's right. It's very, very complex. It gets real sticky, but I won't back down. I'll never back down from saying that I believe in the sanctity of life from conception to now."

Guevara said that she saw the fall of Roe v. Wade — and with it, the end of the federally guaranteed right to abortion — as a good thing, though she had not yet researched the current state of abortion restrictions in Texas. When asked whether she supported the current ban, which makes no exceptions for rape or incest, she said that she does. "I just feel like there's already one wrong and another wrong isn't going to fix it," she said.

Despite her platform more closely aligning with the Republican Party, to affiliate herself with the party outright was a risky choice. In Presidio County, as Guevara herself acknowledged, to call oneself a Republican has long been a guarantee of loss. In the 2016 primary, the county's then GOP Chair Todd Beckett scrambled to set up a polling place for the county's few Republicans in time for early voting — of the county's 5,000 registered voters, about 80 Republicans voted early that year. He assumed no one would show up on Election Day. There were no local Republican races. "Nobody runs locally as a Republican," Beckett told The Texas Tribune at the time. "You can't get public office here if you're a Republican."

The current county GOP chair, Dan Dunlap, took on these efforts in 2020. "What got me into all of this was the fact that Presidio County was dominated by the Democrat Party," he said. "And there were no primaries. There was no [Republican] party that existed."

Parks argued that some rural, blue counties are blue simply due to lack of options. "Part of the thing to consider is, some of these counties that have had the appearance of being blue haven't had full slates of Republican candidates to choose from."

Dunlap has wanted to ensure that Republicans are able to vote — beyond that, he has wanted to ensure that candidates had the option to run as Republicans if they wished. "It just bothered me greatly that people were forced to run as Democrats in Presidio County if they were to compete — that's how strong the Democrat Party is and has been in Presidio County," he said. "There are a lot of very conservative candidates who have run Democrat."

Buddy Knight, who competed and lost against David Beebe in the Democratic primary for county commissioner precinct 4, is one of them. "I'm pretty conservative, I'd say," he acknowledged, though "not so far right that I can't listen to somebody else."

Knight identifies with neither party — preferring to call himself an Independent — but, despite his self-described conservative politics, he chooses to run as a Democrat. This is a matter of deep-seated tradition and familial loyalty, he explained.

"My grandfather came to Texas as a little boy at the end of the Civil War from Mississippi, and they were Democrats because all southerners were Democrats, and I was raised that way," he said. His grandfather had such a profound influence on him, he still feels tied to the party of his ancestors.

Dunlap had tried to convince Knight to run as a Republican, but he shot him down. It wasn't just the voice of his grandfather in his head, though — it was also a matter of practicality. "Frankly, I don't think a Republican can get elected in Presidio County, to tell you the truth," he said. "Very few. I just don't see it happening yet."

If any, Guevara's run might prove the exception, he predicted. "I believe she has a good chance," he said. "I think it will be a lot tighter race than anybody thought it would be a year ago."

And Guevara concurs — she has felt that support from local voters, who tell her they still plan to cast their ballots for her despite her new party affiliation.

Knight's stubborn party affiliation speaks to the as-of-yet intractable wrinkle in the battle for the soul of blue, rural West Texas — politicians who are Democrat by name are not necessarily Democrat by policy or belief. Republican operatives seem to be betting on more and more Democrats a la Knight and Guevara changing their affiliations as the state — and national — Democrat parties move farther afield of their grandfathers' Democrat Party. As Parks put it: "Your former Presidio Democrats are not your Austin Democrats. And the reality is, the Keep Austin Weird Democrats are what's controlling the Democrat narrative and the Democrat policies at this point in time."

Dunlap put it more succinctly: "The Democrat Party today is not your daddy's Democrat Party."

He believes, as Parks does, that the Democrat Party today is alienating more conservative and moderate voters and candidates with an "extremism" he observes on a state and national level, on matters of fiscal policy and border security.

"People don't want to go down that socialism road," he said. "And we've got borders that are wide open, people being bused all over the country … people see this stuff, and they're pushing back." (Amidst an increase in border crossings, Governor Abbott has had thousands of migrants sent by bus to the East Coast this year).

Dunlap became connected to Project Red Texas after Judge Guevara was courted by them, he said — they reached out and asked him if there were other Republican candidates in Presidio County. "They were looking for Hispanics that were interested in running Republican," he recalled. "So there was Dave [Chavez] … they were excited about that." It quickly became clear to him that the PAC could provide some tangible, on-the-ground assistance.

"They had already talked to the judge about providing signage. And so I just simply asked them if they would be interested in providing signage for our other candidates, and they were very happy to do so — and there's high quality stuff, very nice."

With campaign season heating up, candidates will soon be ramping up their efforts. Parks clarified that the Project Red Texas team is around to provide guidance, but won't be coming to Presidio County to knock on doors — their goal is to enable candidates to guide their campaigns themselves. "We're teaching them how to do it, because people need to learn how to fish, not be given fish," said Parks.

Increased efforts by Republican operatives have not gone unnoticed by the opposition. Jason Ballman, who handles communications for the Presidio County Democratic Party, chalked it up to fear. "What I see is a lot of attempts by the Republicans to flip this county red, and I think that's because they're scared," he said. "I think they know that Beto has a great chance of becoming our next governor and they're trying to do everything they possibly can to make it feel like they're going to win in all these border counties."

And the abundant campaign signs themselves have not gone unnoticed, either. "It should be really alarming to a lot of people that we're seeing outside Republican groups try to spend a lot of money here to influence our opinions," said Ballman.

Hilary Beebe, a Democratic organizer in Presidio County and wife of Democratic candidate David Beebe, said she has gotten some calls from people who "aren't happy about the signage, and aren't necessarily happy about these activities" — that is, "an outside organization to come in and try to influence our election with money raised on the outside, and purely partisan agenda."

Still, both Ballman and Beebe expressed confidence that Presidio County will continue to vote for Democratic candidates. "I think that many people in Presidio County will say their values are aligned with the Democratic Party, and I think this will continue to be a very blue part of the state," said Beebe.

It is an unassailable fact that registered Democratic voters far outnumber registered Republicans in Presidio County. In the primaries earlier this year, Guevara garnered 90 votes; her opponent, Joe Portillo, brought in 835. Willbanks, in the primary, got 34 votes. Chavez received 86 votes in the primary, while Garcia got 709.

But those were the primaries. On Election Day, Presidio County voters of all parties will have options. Guevara, for her part, wonders if party loyalty will fall to the wayside altogether.

"Maybe people are going to be more open now to voting for the person, instead of the party," she said.

Historical marker

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to commemorate the state's historical sites. "The Centennial caused a big push to get markers put up everywhere, and for some reason, these markers ended up here [in Marfa]," Ponton said.

The text of the 1936 Centennial Marker details the establishment of Presidio County, which was carved from Bexar County in 1850 and formally organized in 1875. The original county seat was Fort Leaton, located just south of Presidio. The text of the marker explains that the county's name comes from "the early fortress garrisoned by soldiers for the protection of the Big Bend missions."

Missions were a Spanish colonial institution that sought to convert Indigenous people to Christianity. In 1683 — a date immortalized throughout Presidio on its welcome signs and Catholic Church — Jumano leader Juan Sabeata petitioned the Spanish government for the establishment of a mission near present-day Presidio, in hopes that colonial powers might protect his people from the incursions of other local Native groups.

The actual presidio — the Spanish word for "prison," though that term doesn't fully capture how these sites functioned — wasn't completed until 1760. In the 77 years it took between the establishment of missions in the Big Bend and the construction of the presidio, the six missions in the Presidio area were cyclically raided, abandoned and rebuilt.

The county was named Presidio del Norte, which was intended to put a stop to all the chaos. It lasted only six years at its original site before shuttering and being moved downstream on the Río Conchos. Its own pink granite Texas Centennial marker is located at Fort Leaton.

The history commemorated on the other marker that will be moved to Presidio is a little more slippery. That marker — erected in 1961 by the Texas branches of the Children of the American Colonists and Daughters of the American Colonists — proclaims Presidio "the oldest town in America" and "the site of the first recorded wagon train crossing into Texas."

In a paper published by the Center for Big Bend Studies in 1989, Russell Gardinier wrote skeptically of the roadside attraction. He agreed with the marker's claim that Presidio had been "a settlement for over 10,000 years," but couldn't verify that it was, in fact, the oldest town in America. "Whether this claim is a bona fide one or not, Presidio has been a [center] of human occupation for millennia," he wrote.

"I think as human beings we should know where we came from. To respect each other we have to know who we are — and who you are"

Luis Armendariz, former superintendent at Fort Leaton and Presidio history buff, explained that an exact timeline for the area's history is hard to pin down because local history wasn't written until the arrival of Spanish priests. "They were the only ones who knew how to read — whatever they did that day, they'd write it down," he explained.

It took Armendariz a long time to get the hang of poring through the priests' and monks' scrawling script. Those religious leaders started recording snippets of Indigenous history — albeit filtered through their perspective and language. "They had to have relations with the Indians and they had to communicate with each other," he said.

Their testimony was more nuanced than the sporadic Spanish expeditions that passed through the area in the 16th and 17th centuries — some of the heads of those entradas, Armendariz explained, were illiterate and had to enlist outside help to record their travels.

One such expedition is memorialized on the 1961 marker in Marfa as "the site of the first recorded wagon train crossing into Texas" by Antonio de Espejo in 1582. Espejo was the 16th century equivalent of a rancher in present-day Chihuahua, known back then as Nuevo Vizcaya. Sometime before his great journey up the Río Grande he was accused of assisting his brother in the murder of one of their hired hands.

The brothers were found guilty, and Espejo decided to duck the fine levied by the Spanish government by hiding in the northern reaches of Nuevo Vizcaya. "It was a customary practice to evade punishment for a crime by remaining on the frontiers," historian J. Lloyd Mecham wrote in a paper for the Texas State Historical Association.

While on the lam, Espejo took an interest in the fate of two friars who had disappeared from their missionary work among pueblos in modern-day New Mexico. He assembled a number of soldiers and their servants to set off for the north, ostensibly under the banner of Spanish King Phillip II, whom he owed money. "By what official authority the expedition was organized is not certain," Mecham wrote.

Espejo traveled up the Río Conchos until he reached the present day site of Ojinaga, where his party rested and resupplied for eight days. They then set off on a long and ultimately pointless journey up the Río Grande — not surprisingly, they found that the two missing friars had been murdered. The party split in two, and Espejo led the remaining men overland to the Pecos river.

About a month into their journey downriver, some helpful Jumanos informed the Espejo expedition that the Pecos emptied into the Río Grande hundreds of miles below Ojinaga, and that it was virtually impossible to follow the river upstream through the canyon country of present-day Big Bend National Park. The men journeyed southwest, becoming the first white people to see what's now Balmorhea, Fort Davis, Marfa and Shafter.

Of course, the full Espejo saga — and the larger 10,000 year story of Presidio — can't be written out on a roadside plaque. Still, Armendariz feels that any opportunity to teach locals and tourists about regional history is important. "I think as human beings we should know where we came from," he said. "To respect each other we have to know who we are — and who you are."



Child endangerment

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A land and air search was conducted by state and federal agencies in addition to Mexican law enforcement. Upon discovery, Flores was taken to jail and charged with child endangerment and his daughter was taken into custody by Child Protective Services (CPS).

"The U.S. Attorney's Office is proud of the work and coordination between the National Park Service, the FBI, and the Mexican authorities resulting in the safe return of this child to the United States," the office of the Western District of Texas said in a statement about the case.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Counts deliberated over whether to limit or prohibit Flores' contact with his daughter as a condition of his probation. But, upon a recommendation from O'Neal, the judge agreed the matter should be handled by CPS.

Custody of Flores' daughter was given to his parents in February after his arrest. There will likely be future CPS hearings relating to Flores' legal relationship with his daughter, said O'Neal. Flores' family was not present in the courtroom on Tuesday, but both O'Neal and Judge Counts remarked on the support he received from his parents and daughter, who was called as a witness, at the trial in June. Flores himself did not address the court at Tuesday's hearing, per a recommendation from O'Neal.

O'Neal said he plans to appeal Flores' conviction on the grounds L.F. was never in real physical danger — Flores' belongings included survivalist books and water purification tabs, plus the two successfully foraged for food in the desert, according to O'Neal. He said he will start the process of reviewing the trial transcripts soon, but appeals can take a while to play out.

"The government's evidence wasn't just sufficient to show that there was an imminent bodily injury. I'm not sure if it was sufficient to show that there was a deprivation of food," said O'Neal. "I'm looking forward to writing the appeal. I think Mr. Flores would be happy if he could not be convicted of this type of crime."

Phone glitch

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AT&T customers were suffering the most from the glitch. On Tuesday, an AT&T spokesperson responded to a request for comment. "Our technicians have corrected the time zone display for wireless customers in the Big Bend area. We apologize for the inconvenience," they wrote.

Though the situation has calmed — for now — the Aster crew urged the organizers of this weekend's Trans-Pecos Festival to caution out-of-town visitors before hundreds of people showed up late for bucket-list performances. Then they brainstormed amongst themselves how they'd avoid similar snafus in the future. "Somebody said we needed watches," Delagi said. "I said we needed sundials."

Schneider set her phone clock to manual and had the same revelation. "It was definitely weird to be reminded how much we depend on technology," she said. "It's not always there for us."

Human Rights office

(Continued from page 1)

felt immigration and human rights causes were interconnected with environmental activism. His organization educates folks about climate change and fights against it — in a world where people are increasingly displaced from their homes by climate disasters. "When it comes to peoples' health and safety, especially refugees or people looking for somewhere to go, the environment plays a big role," he said.

Presidio is a town where it's not unusual for people with multiple immigration statuses — undocumented people, permanent residents, guest workers — to live in the same house. Rodriguez has seen that play out in his own family and in the families of his friends. "I told my grandparents about [BNHR], and they said, 'Imagine if we'd had that when we immigrated, if we knew we'd be protected and that there's someone behind us,'" he said.

Rodriguez is hoping his involvement will help start tough conversations about issues like border policy and racial profiling among Presidians his age. "As the youth, we can't forget where we came from," he said, noting that most of the older generations in his family were born in Mexico. "At the end of the day, we all have human rights, and we can really do something to improve things for the next generation."

Both Rodriguez and Rohana are looking forward to their next major action — Presidio's first official delegation to attend the annual Hugs Not Walls event in El Paso, where families separated by border policies spend five minutes reunited in the river together. Rohana is helping to bring the organizers of Voices from Both Sides, a similar event held in Lajitas, to the El Paso demonstration. "We're not leaving anybody out — we're trying to see how we can make it a bigger and more powerful event," she said.

Marfa Country Clinic now offering weekly urgent care hours

MARFA — The Marfa Country Clinic, located on Oak Street next to the Marfa Public Library, is now offering same day appointments for urgent care needs.

"We were realizing that it was getting harder and harder to get in to be seen. So [we're] just opening up some slots," said Dr. Christie Alexander.

Same-day urgent care appointments will be offered on Monday afternoons and Wednesday and Friday mornings. The appointments will be brief 15-minute time slots and are for acute needs such as urinary tract infections, colds, strep throat, ankle sprains, chest pains, dog bites and more, according to Alexander.

"Anything that should be seen right away versus, 'Oh, you know, I have this thing I can see you in a week,' then we could book them at a different time for a longer appointment," said Alexander.

Patients should first try to make a same-day appointment with their primary care doctor, but if they are unable to get in can contact the Marfa Country Clinic to see if their insurance would cover an urgent care visit.

"We're not an urgent care center. We're just opening up urgent care appointments for specific needs that can be handled quickly," said Alexander.

Days and times that the clinic will offer same day urgent care are subject to change, said Alexander, depending on the needs of the community.

For more information call 432-729-3000.

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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 (current tax year) tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) from the same properties in both the 2021 (preceding tax year) tax year and the 2022 (current tax year) tax year.

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

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

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m. (date and time)

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGAINST the proposal: none

PRESENT and not voting: none

ABSENT: none

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

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division — For additional copies, visit: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax
50-876 • Rev. 4-22/3

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

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

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

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

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

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

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

As a council member for Marfa, one of the most significant concerns I hear from many residents is about housing, from affordability to safety and availability. One part of the solution to this problem is how we update our policies for short-term rentals (STRs), also commonly known as vacation rentals, AirBnBs, or VRBOs.

While STRs were originally meant as an alternative to traditional hotels, they have instead become a significant replacement of our community's homes. Profit-minded buyers have cashed in while our hardworking teachers, emergency responders and other community members have been pushed out. We need to find a far better balance between supporting housing affordability and availability, empowering our long-term residents, and controlling vacation rentals and their effects.

That's why I have asked for us to revisit our short-term rental policies beginning this Thursday, September 29, at 5:30 p.m. (during our regularly scheduled City Council meeting and also Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate and Budget).

I encourage Marfa community members to consider coming to provide public comment or email me ahead of time at councilmemberballmann@cityofmarfa.com. I am always open to all constructive, positive ideas regarding short-term rentals and other topics, and I appreciate the persistence of many in seeking thoughtful resolutions.

Jason Ballmann
Marfa

• • •

Editor:

Election Day is November 8.

Early voting is Oct 4 to Nov 4.

As we near our next opportunity to cast our votes for various local, state and national politicians, we realize that high or low "turnout" typically has serious impact on results.

It occurs to me that, at least for local races, each of our votes have more weight than they may have in more populous counties. So, my fellow eligible voters, we should not miss the opportunity to use our valuable votes for our chosen candidates. One great way to protect our democracy is to fully participate in it.

I trust that most of us will vote for who will best represent our interests of living well with our families in a free and safe precinct, city, county, state and country. To make good choices, we need to have candidates tell us their intentions as to how they will serve us.

For example: Both Cinderela Guevara and Joe Portillo are popular with me, but I need to know more than I know now about their plans as county judge for this next term so that I can make a good choice. A good place to start is with informative ads in this newspaper. All candidates for office should inform us voters of their plans.

Candidates: Talk to us!!

Citizens: With good information in hand we should "turn out" in record numbers to cast our valuable votes. We will all be proud we did.

H. A. ("H") Cowan

• • •

Editor:

Last week Robert Gray wrote a letter chastising the Goliver cartoon in the September 15 Sentinel, specifically using the words "hateful, crude and demean(ing)" due to the reference to Governor Abbott in the cartoon. But since the cartoon was about a 12-year-old pregnant girl who under Abbott's anti-abortion law would be forced to carry a rapist's fetus to term, I submit the words "hateful, crude and demeaning" would be better used if directed to Abbott and all the other Republicans who either voted for or support such a horrendous law.

What I know is that if I had a 12-year-old daughter (or 10 year old as in Ohio recently) who was raped and became pregnant, it would be cold day in h*** before I would force her — a child! — to have that baby, regardless of what a bunch of old, white pseudo-Christians manage to pass into law. They want us to believe that their "pro-life" agenda is "Christian," but I see absolutely nothing Christian about forcing girls and women to have babies conceived through rape or incest, or when the mother's life or health are in jeopardy.

Abbott's abortion law, in addition to his lack of interest in common sense gun control regardless of how many Texans are murdered in Uvalde, El Paso and other mass shootings, are actually proof he doesn't care about democracy, only about power and control over the people of Texas. I shoudn't have to remind readers that a strong majority of Texans are NOT in favor of his abortion law and ARE in favor of decent gun controls. So much for democracy in Texas...

And for Mr. Oliver: Keep up the good work!

Fred Gossien
Terlingua

• • •

Editor:

It is somewhat disheartening to find that a person such as Mr. Gray, who is obviously intelligent and well-educated, cannot or will not see that we are in a battle against the forces of barbarism, as embodied by Mr. Trump and his minions (apologies to the cinematic Minions) for the heart, the soul, the very life of American democracy. I can understand that some would think that Mr. Oliver's recent cartoon (others of which are always insightful and often brilliant) went too far. But I would remind Mr. Gray that, in terms that the barbarians will understand, you don't bring a knife to a gunfight.

Ronald E. Parrish
Marfa

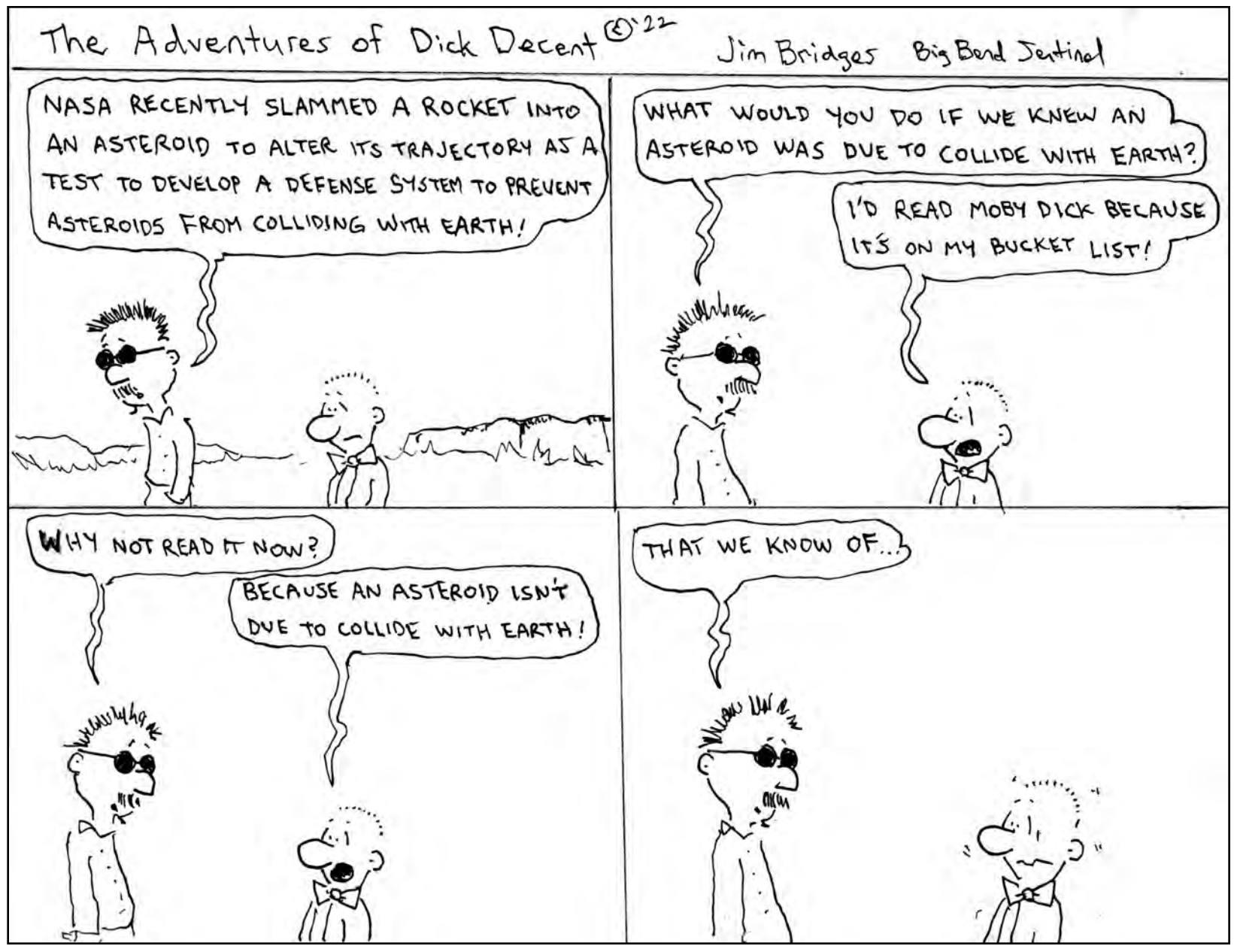
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We want to hear from YOU!

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

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

BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM



To the Editor,

Sometimes I wonder what language we are speaking. Someone misuses our native tongue and, before long, everybody else picks it up.

One that I hear constantly now on news media across the country as they report on the crisis at our southern border is "Rio Grande River." I occasionally heard it, and then more and more started using it.

As most in our area know, Rio Grande means Big River. Sure, you wouldn't know that if you didn't have a smattering of Spanish. But before going on national TV, I would look it up so I don't sound stupid. But nobody, it seems, bothered to do so. Do they think Rio was somebody's name and they named the river after them? What we heard them say is "River River." Around here, many in second reference refer to it as "the Rio."

Another is "fentanyl overdose." An overdose is where one is accustomed to taking, say, 10 pills of something a day and then, for some reason, takes 15 or 20 and gets really sick or dies.

But that's not what happens with fentanyl. It is so powerful that only a tiny dose can be fatal. Typically, someone takes one pill of something he thinks is Xanax or something else and immediately dies. That is not an overdose. It is a poisoning.

And how many times do we hear "one-year anniversary?" Anniversary simply means the date on which something happened in a previous year. Anniversary by itself means one year since. You got married, signed a contract or something else a year ago so today is your anniversary, not your one-year anniversary. And it's not the two-year anniversary or the ten-year anniversary. It's the second anniversary or the tenth anniversary.

And I first heard this odd use of language on Sean Hannity on FOX News a year or so ago. He said something like, "The president, he said …" "Or Congresswoman Sludgepump, she said …" What's wrong with "the president said …?" Then Hannity started using it more and soon everyone on national TV was using that verbiage.

Most of us used language property in the past. What has happened?

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PATRIOTIC MILLIONAIRES

Raising the minimum wage strengthens our economy

By RON GUILLOT

This summer, America celebrated a shameful anniversary. July 24 officially marked 13 years since the federal minimum wage was last raised, a record of congressional paralysis so long it's reached historic levels. We are now living in the longest period without a minimum wage hike in our country's entire history since the introduction of a federal wage floor in 1938.

Despite significant increases in worker productivity and cost of living since 2009, the minimum wage has stagnated at just $7.25 an hour, only $15,000 a year for a full-time worker. This is so low that it not only sentences minimum wage workers to lives of crushing poverty and insecurity but also impacts the communities they live in, damaging the health of our economy and society. This is simply unsustainable.

Congress's inaction has created a permanent underclass of millions of Americans living in working poverty. It's time for congressional action to right this wrong.

Over the last 13 years, we've seen a drastic shift in our economy, an international pandemic, historical inflation and supply chain issues. It's absurd to think that workers can survive on the same wage created to meet the minimum requirements of living back when Lady Gaga was number one on the pop charts.

$7.25 an hour was already inadequate in 2009 and is not even close to a livable wage for any American in 2022. In 93% of U.S. counties, a person earning the federal minimum wage cannot afford a single-bedroom apartment.

That shouldn't come as a surprise, considering that when adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage today is worth 27% less than it was in 2009. That means full-time employees must work almost 11 more hours each week to meet the basic living standards of 13 years ago.

The minimum wage simply no longer does what it was designed to do: ensure that the low-income employees make enough to get by. With stagnant wages and skyrocketing inflation it has left low-wage workers to fall further and further behind.

The argument for raising the minimum wage is not exclusively a moral one: the success of many state and local minimum wage hikes show that everyone stands to benefit from raising wages. If we look at the states that have already raised their minimum wage, we see what we already know; workers, local businesses and economies benefit from increased wages.

We live in a consumer-based economy, meaning that every time people buy necessities like gas or groceries, or spend money at shops or restaurants in their communities, they invest in their local economies. American businesses depend on consumers being able to spend money in their local communities, but too many American workers make too little money to meaningfully participate in the economy. Giving millions of workers more spending money is a clear and effective economic stimulus that helps us build a better economy from the bottom up rather than trickled down.

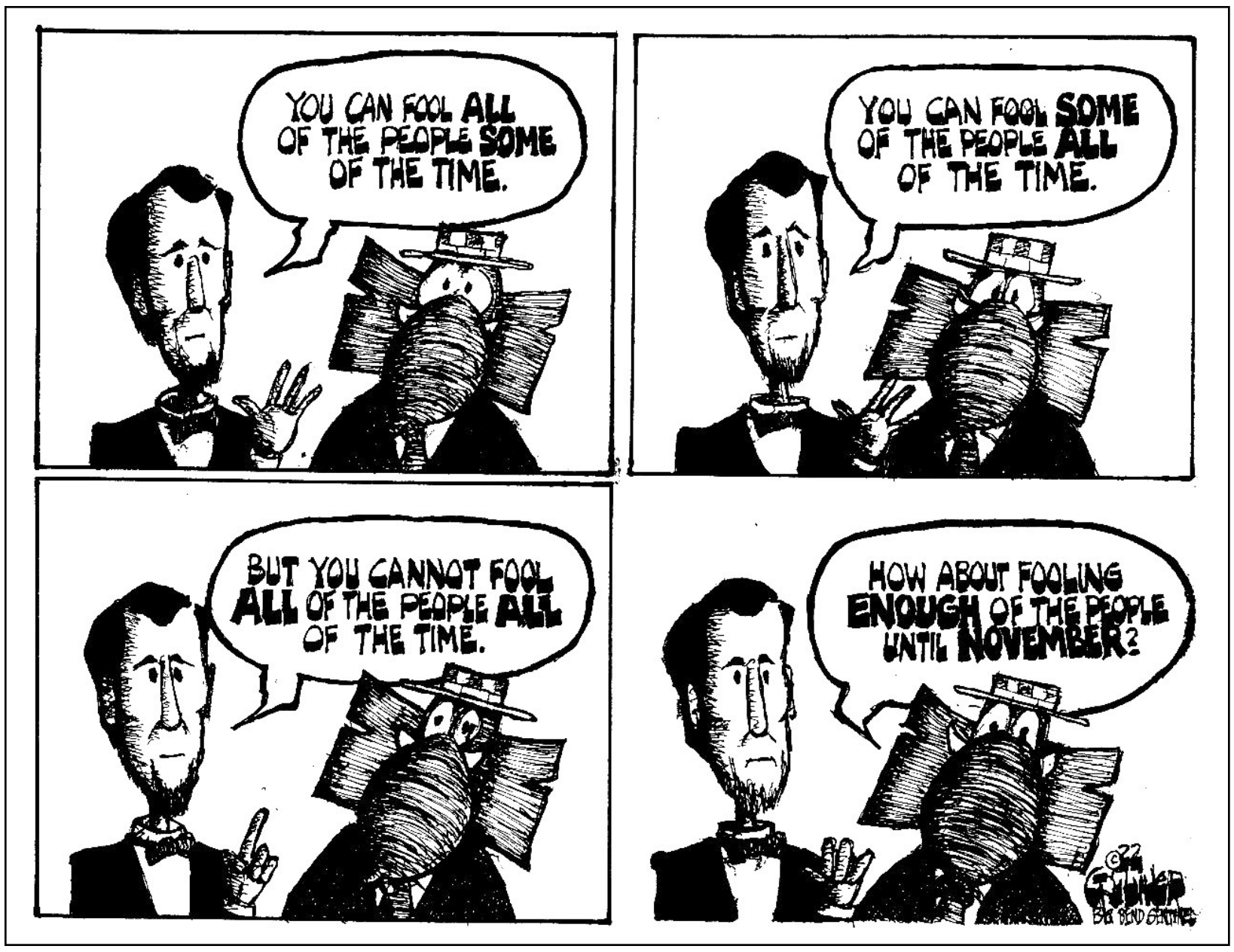
Congress's inaction on this issue would be shameful but understandable if this were a politically toxic issue, but the popularity of minimum wage increases makes their paralysis even more baffling.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the few remaining bipartisan issues, popular among red and blue voters alike. The vast majority of Democrats (85%) and Independents (72%) believe the federal minimum wage should be raised, and even a 52% majority of Republicans agree. In a divided society like ours, it's rare to see legislation such an overwhelming number of people agree on. Since 1997, every single minimum wage increase put directly to voters has passed, even in deeply red states like Arkansas, Missouri, Alaska, and others.

Congress has a responsibility to the American people that should come before any promises or deals made with lobbyists, corporations or donors – just about the only people in America who oppose raising the minimum wage. If Republican and Democratic voters agree that hard-working Americans deserve a raise, their legislators should enact legislation that reflects those values.

This country cannot afford another year of a stagnant minimum wage. The clock is ticking — every day, millions of Americans are working harder but falling further behind. It's time for Congress to act and ensure this is the last year a $7.25 wage is the law of the land.

Ron Guillot is the vice president of sales at HeartBeam and an investor in equities, options and direct start-ups. He is a member of the Patriotic Millionaires.



TEXTURE PRESIDIO

The Acosta Siblings

Photos and Text 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.

As kids growing up in the 1950s and '60s in the small town of Marfa, Texas, the five Acosta siblings learned how to get creative. Amelia, Elida, Frances, Mario and Lisa, with an age difference spanning 12 years, grew up in the northeast neighborhood referred to as Sal Si Puedes. They attended school across town at the Blackwell School. The Blackwell School was a segregated school for Mexican American children that closed down in 1965 after the Marfa schools became integrated. While the older Acosta sisters finished their schooling at Blackwell, Mario and Lisa transferred to public school in their eighth and second grades. Last week the Blackwell School, restored as a museum, became America's newest historical site.

The Acosta siblings welcomed me in one afternoon in early September during the Marfa Lights Festival, indulging my curiosities about what their childhood in Marfa was like during that time. They shared magical tales of creating a backyard circus made from found objects in the neighborhood, performing shows for neighbors, and using cardboard boxes and cut-out images of dolls and furniture from the Sears catalog to create their own doll houses to play with. Elida added, "We were poor, but ohhhh we were happy!" All of the sisters agreed with the sentiment. Every day they could be found out in the street playing games and every sport you can think of with their neighbors, delaying having to come back inside until the very last drop of light was gone. Parents in the neighborhood were also often outdoors tending to their lush gardens and plethora of animals, doing laundry, working on their cars or playing a game of baseball with the kids.

"As prices in Marfa drastically increase it has become a true rarity to afford keeping your family home"

During this time, most of the families made their own homes, usually using adobe bricks. Many of these adobe homes have become ruins or were torn down and replaced with a prefab trailer. However, the Acosta family has been able to keep their childhood home and rent it out to long-term renters. As prices in Marfa drastically increase it has become a true rarity to afford keeping your family home, furthermore offering it as a place for locals to rent. While all five siblings have moved away, with the exception of a cousin, Amalia Razo, who they all agree is more like a sibling, they often return to their hometown to collaborate on maintaining the house, treating it like a family reunion. This past Marfa Lights weekend they all returned along with several other handy family members to rebuild the backyard fence and do some other light repairs, taking turns welding and weeding and climbing on the roof to trim trees.

They shared stories of young love — using a technique of flashing the front porch light as Frances' boyfriend David (now her husband) waited in the old ruins across the street, signaling she'd be out soon. They wore hand-sewn suits in their Blackwell homecoming parades as Amelia, Elida and Frances were each selected as "class representatives" for their individual senior classes. They savored their once-a-week pieces of fruit from the grocery store so that they would last longer, and took extra care of their clothes as they knew they wouldn't be getting many. Their mother, Maria, would have the girls pick out a dress they liked from Christopher's department store in town, and she'd make patterns from newspaper and sew the dresses herself. They collected Coca-Cola bottles they found around town and recycled them for 5 cents each. With that money they'd buy sweets and go to the movies at The Palace Theater on Highland Avenue. The movie theater had Spanish movie nights on Wednesdays that their parents would hardly miss. During that time, the movie theater was still segregated. They'd be escorted to their seats and strictly shown which side of the theater they were allowed to sit in. There was lots of laughter and reminiscing as they took turns sharing their favorite memories and describing how wonderful their parents were and the varying ways the neighborhood doesn't look the same anymore.

Mario shared about the nervousness he felt walking across the bridge over Alamito Creek, especially at night because it doesn't have sidewalks. He recalled a fond memory of seeing lit candles left on the bridge as an ofrenda. He would see them all around town, in fact. The small driving



Amalia Razo, Lisa Fuentes, Amelia Chavez, Mario Acosta, Frances Rodriguez and Elida Ontiveroz pose together in the backyard of their childhood home in Marfa, Texas.

bridge was built when Mario was a boy, but prior to that if it rained, those living in Sal Si Puedes would be stuck, hence the origin of its given name — "get out while you can."

The only time the siblings spoke with real reverence was when talking about the passing of their father Manuel. He suffered from a heart attack in 1999. Their mother would pass many years later in 2013. Amelia, the oldest sibling, shared a moment between her and Manuel at the hospital. He held her hand and spoke to her directly, "I spanked you didn't I?" "I said, 'Yes, Dad.'" She paused as she was struggling to hold back tears. "He said, 'I'm really sorry,' and then squeezed my hand hard." She wept more as she added, "It had stuck with him his whole life." He had only spanked her one time, so she remembered it clearly. As a young girl, Amelia had refused to leave the car when being dropped off at her grandmother's house. Her parents were taking only her sister Elida to the movies — Elida was often a sick child and it took awhile for the family to afford the proper treatment and care. As the big sister, Amelia was afraid to leave Elida's side, which was the reason she wanted to go to the movies too. But her parents didn't understand that, they just thought she was being defiant, and it took years to rectify.

After our time together, they walked with me around the house showing me the very specific place Maria hung their exorbitant amount of socks to dry, where the garden was made, the clothesline they used as a volleyball net, the place where there had been a secret door to the house behind them as well as later on a secret door between their grandmother's house and the house next door where one of the sister's lived briefly, the bench the neighbor sat rolling his cigarettes every night, the place that lightning hit the street in front of the house, and where the goats did laps for practice, among many other special spots. After giving some suggestions for where to eat, and doing my best to explain the eclectic decor at Casita Bar, I asked how they felt about the changes in Marfa. Lisa answered quite simply "Really, I'm just glad this town still exists."

For more stories with The Acosta Siblings, visit the link below.

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

OP-ED

When Rural West Texas Thrives, all of Texas Does Too

By STATE SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

When driving through the roads of Far West Texas, it's easy to see Texas' history in its small towns, ranches and desert land. But if you look a little closer, you'll see the future too. There's a unique charm about rural Texas. But along with that charm come unique challenges.

With the 88th Legislative Session quickly approaching, it's important to get our boots on the ground and learn more about the challenges and how to address them from those who know the community the best — the residents. That's exactly what our office did last month. From the art oasis in Marfa to the small town of 1,050 in Fort Davis, and the distinct deserts of Hudspeth and Culberson County, our office spent a week traveling in Far West Texas to hear firsthand about some of the most pressing issues in their respective communities. Even amid campaign season, the issues we heard from rural Texans are not partisan issues, they are kitchen table issues. After insightful conversations with constituents, stakeholders and elected officials, this is what we learned:

• **Water infrastructure needs major upgrades.** To this day, many rural communities still struggle with access to clean water. Currently, the drought has plagued most of our communities, and access to water has been strained even more. It's important we invest in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for our rural communities and ensure Far West Texas gets its fair share of funding through the Texas Water Development Board for local clean drinking water and wastewater projects.

• **Affordable healthcare is extremely limited**. Texas has the largest uninsured rate in the nation. In Far West Texas and rural Texas, the uninsured and access to healthcare rates are even worse than the state average. Rural communities across Far West Texas continue to be faced with rural hospital closures, physician shortages, and medically underserved areas. No Texan should have to make the unfortunate decision of letting their health issues worsen or taking on the expense of traveling hundreds of miles to access quality care. Fighting for our rural communities to ensure rural Texans are not left behind and have access to affordable healthcare is imperative.

• **Rural schools need more help.** An investment in our schools is a direct investment into our future. Consequently, insufficient funding will continue to enhance the teacher shortage, increase class sizes, and worsen school safety and mental health issues among our students. It's also critical we block any private school vouchers that would pull critical funding from our public schools in Far West Texas. Our students and educators can succeed in any public school as long as they have the resources to support them.

• **The lack of adequate broadband is pervasive.** Broadband is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. Most of the rural population cannot participate in remote learning, telemedicine, or e-commerce due to the lack of affordable high-speed internet. While the Texas Legislature took action to expand high-speed internet access across the state last session, there's much work to be done to secure affordable broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

• **Rising costs are pushing out lifelong residents.** While Presidio County's burgeoning art scene has become an economic engine in rural Texas, tourism and rising property taxes are pushing out locals who have lived there all their lives. Its art-led growth has brought unintended consequences, causing housing prices and property taxes to skyrocket as demand from wealthy newcomers soars.

• **Our region can't afford to delay construction of the Presidio International Bridge.** Improving the bridge is a top priority for the state due to its projected economic impact, however, the construction process has been delayed due to the bridge's unique binational ownership. While the bridge is poised to be a leader in border crossings and a major facilitator of U.S.-Mexico trade, the bridge's outdated infrastructure is causing long wait times that are stifling the flow of traffic. I have been advocating and working with TxDOT officials, local stakeholders, and Governor Abbott's office to move this Presidio Bridge expansion forward.

Ultimately, investing in rural Texas is a win for all Texans. The interdependency between urban and rural areas shapes state policies and programs to reflect and respond to the unique challenges Far West Texas faces.

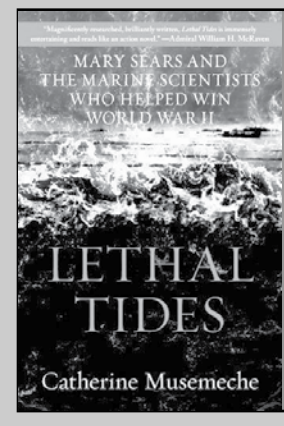
When rural Texas thrives, all of Texas does too.

When I was elected to represent Senate District 29, I took an oath to fight for the needs of the great, hardworking people who make up the district. As we quickly approach the 88 Legislative Session, I look forward to continuing upholding that oath and working with my colleagues in the next legislative session to bring impactful change to Rural Texas.

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

LIVE EVENT!
Thursday, September 29 @ 6:00

FRONT STREET BOOKS



BOOK SIGNING & Talk
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Homecoming traditions
enliven city with shorthorn spririt



Right: Ulises and Damián Estrada toss out candy from the back of a pickup truck during last Thursday's parade.

Below: Queen candidate Lesly Torres descends the stairs towards the football field after Thursday's parade.

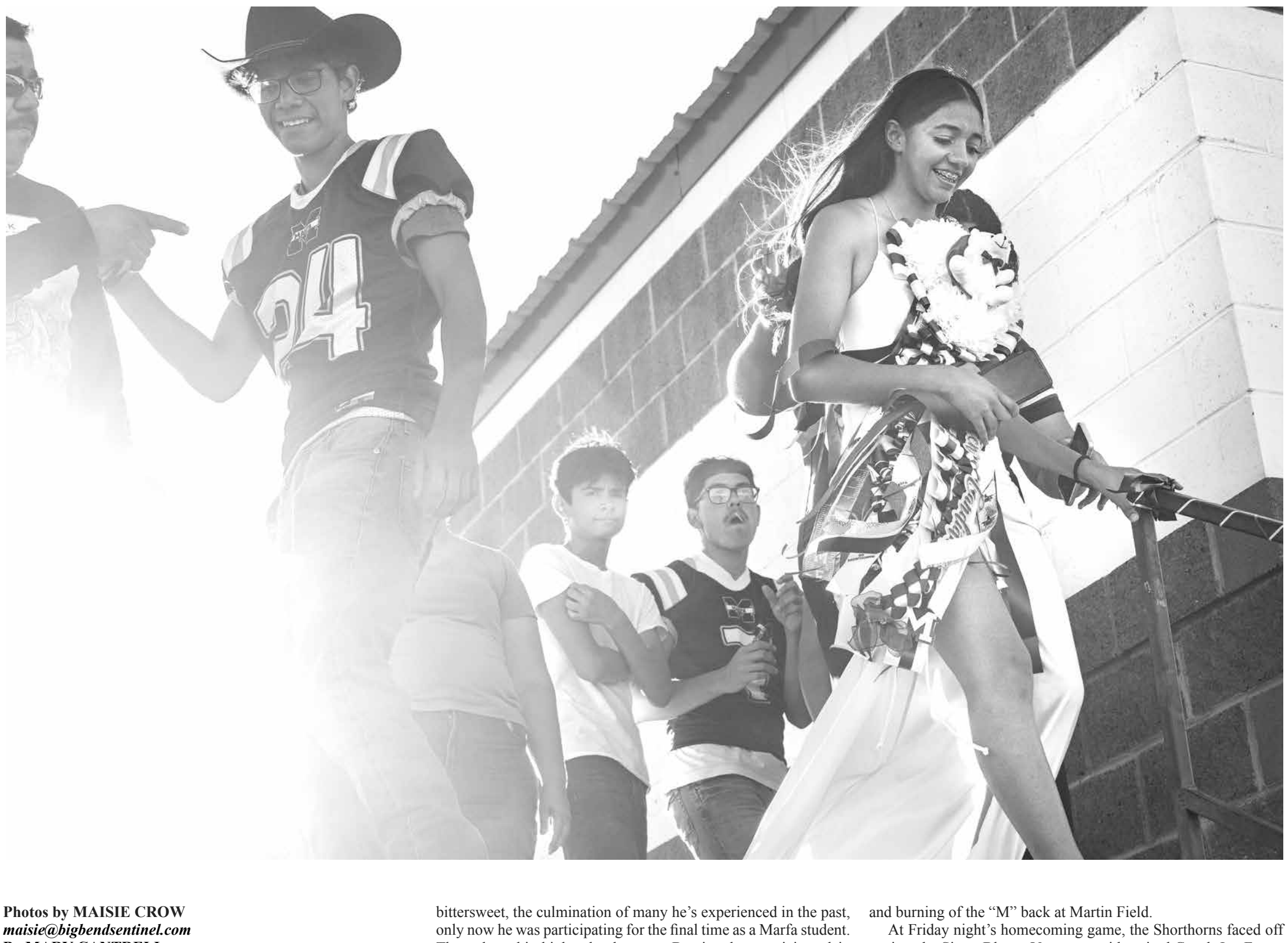
Opposite page, clockwise from top: Queen candidate Alexis Gonzales waves to spectators from the back of a car during the Marfa ISD homecoming parade. Gonzales was crowned 2022 Homecoming Queen the next evening before the game.

Andres Solis, sophomore class duke, is flanked by his family as they wait their turn to be presented as part of the homecoming court on Friday night.

Queen candidate Maribel Meraz and her mom Arlene Acosta pose for a selfie before the start of Friday night's homecoming football game.

The Presidio High School Band traveled to Marfa to perform at Friday's game. The band learned MISD's fight song, and both schools saw it as a collaboration given that Marfa lacks a band and Presidio a football team.

Sophomore Class Duchess Maryfer Martinez waits for her mother, Sandra Martinez, to fix her hair before taking to the field to participate in the presentation of the homecoming court at Thursday's pep rally.



Photos by MAISIE CROW
maisie@bigbendsentinel.com
By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Homecoming court candidates sporting formalwear and mums, underclassmen gripping bags of candy, proud parents, and Marfa ISD staff scrambled last Thursday evening as they gathered in front of the high school to line up for the annual homecoming parade.

Not a single motor vehicle lay bare; silver streamers, purple and white balloons and glittery homemade signs decorated car doors and bumpers as homecoming court nominees, dressed to the nines, hopped up onto hoods for the rowdy ride down to the courthouse.

While awaiting parade take-off, older students idled in the parking lot, blaring party music from their car speakers. Senior Juan Bautista sat, more quietly than most, in the back of a truck he embellished with posters and balloons to support his campaign for homecoming king while other cars assembled.

"It's not much. I tried my best to blow up the balloons, but almost all the balloons popped," Bautista laughed. "But I'm happy that I did it."

For Bautista, who grew up in town, this year's homecoming was bittersweet, the culmination of many he's experienced in the past, only now he was participating for the final time as a Marfa student. Throughout his high school career, Bautista has participated in cheer, basketball, the arts and more.

Senior and queen candidate Ummi Chanez, busy with parade preparations and the subject of her mother's many photographs, stopped for a brief moment to speak with The Big Bend Sentinel about being a part of the Class of 2023. She said she was looking forward to the performance of the senior skit taking place later that evening and to wrapping up her sports career, which has included four-year stints in cross-county, volleyball, basketball and more.

"It's just fun being on the [homecoming] court with my friends," said Chanez. "I'm excited to have my last season for sports, and of course want to end it off on a strong note."

The procession eventually took off to excite its viewers with handfuls of candy, colorful class floats, and a soundtrack consisting of "Tití Me Preguntó" by Bad Bunny, "Gasolina" by Daddy Yankee and "U can't touch this" by MC Hammer. The Get Go staff rode in a banana-theme truck which displayed a "Get Go goes bananas for Shorthorns" sign. Junior duchess Fernanda Rivera rode gracefully atop the hood of an 18-wheeler. The evening then concluded with the performance of the senior skit and burning of the "M" back at Martin Field.

At Friday night's homecoming game, the Shorthorns faced off against the Sierra Blanca Vaqueros, with retired Coach Jay Foster lending his voice as announcer. Smoke filled the air around the concession stand as the PTO grilled burgers and slung football game fare. Before kick off, Alexis Gonzales and Nathan Peña were crowned homecoming queen and king, and posed with their bouquets and sashes for photos with their families. Nayar Flores was elected as prince and Emily Hernandez as princess.

Gonzales, who gave out cupcakes, cookies and other sweets each day at lunch as a part of her homecoming queen campaign, said she was grateful to her fellow students for voting for her and the whole experience felt surreal, almost like the plot of a movie.

"I love all my friends in MHS, and I'm so thankful that they voted for me and that I have been the best person I can be, the nicest I can be, to have the honor of people voting for me," said Gonzales. "I feel like senior year is already going fast!"

Peña, too, was appreciative of the votes he received, and said his senior year was shaping up to be very memorable. As the only senior on the football team, he had the support of many students in his role as school royalty.

"[Being homecoming king] makes me feel good about how I interact with people, that they'd vote for me," said Peña. "It's











something I'll remember for a while, being MHS homecoming king."

After the crowning of the homecoming court, the Shorthorn stampede ran out to honking and music from the visiting Presidio High School band to begin the game against the Vaqueros, who ultimately beat the Shorthorns 54 to 6 via mercy rule nine minutes into the third quarter.

Football Coach Arturo Alferez said despite the tough loss, the football program remained optimistic about the season. The varsity football team is made up of more freshmen and underclassmen playing new positions than normal, so is experiencing growing pains, he said.

“We're getting better. We're learning, and I know sometimes it doesn't show, it doesn't reflect on the score,” said Alferez. “But when we go back [to review] film and we see the little things that we've been teaching, it reflects on the progress.”

Some of the game’s highlights included junior Marco Ruiz completing a touchdown and a receiving pass just under 100 yards. Junior Dustin Martinez, who is new to the position of quarterback, also threw his first touchdown.

This Monday the team was busy watching film from Friday’s game, exercising in the weight room and rehabbing injuries ahead of their next game against New Mexico’s Animas High School this Friday. Alferez said moving forward he intends to coach his players on synchronizing as a team, defensive blocking schemes and learning more versatile pass plays, as well as being more confident in themselves and their skills on the football field.

“We just have to be a little more aggressive on the field,” said Alferez. “I know we're young, I know, you're a young team, but I'm gonna tell you that when you make a tackle and you do it by yourself on an open field, you build confidence. But it takes time. You just can't go one day to the weight room and expect to build muscle in one day.”

The Shorthorns’ valiant efforts on Friday night were aided by the Presidio High School band, a group of around 35 students who wore Marfa T-shirts and wielded brass instruments, filling Martin Field and the spectator stands with the familiar, upbeat sound of a true marching band. The band also performed a half time show and marched into an “M” formation to honor their neighboring district.

Molly Ferguson Rodriguez, Presidio High School band director, said the collaboration was a positive, fun experience for her players and allowed them to gain experience marching and performing at a football game, something they aren’t familiar with because Presidio High School doesn’t have a football team. The band worked quickly to learn Marfa’s fight song — which Rodriguez admitted was a fairly challenging number — mastering the ditty in two to three weeks ahead of homecoming.

“We wanted to go to impress, that's for sure. Not just like, ‘Oh, we kind of know the song.’ It was more like we want to get there and play it well,” said Rodriguez.

The band performed “Las Nubes” by Tejano artist José “Little Joe” Hernández, which they first premiered at this year’s Marfa Lights Parade, earning them the approval of the older generations at the game. Despite having never served as a real marching band accompanying a football team before, the group got in the groove, keeping time with the pace of the on-field action and rousing the crowd when a dose of optimism was needed.

“Especially when the mascot came out and we started joining the cheerleaders with their cheers everything mellowed out,” said Rodriguez. “We started to really enjoy ourselves and try to get the crowd pumped up.”

The Presidio High School band is looking forward to potentially returning for another Marfa football game later on this season, said Rodriguez. The experiment was a lesson in collaboration, she said, and a reminder of the importance of putting a competitive mindset aside and prioritizing inter-community support in an otherwise isolated environment.

“For me, as a teacher and as a musician, my goal is [to keep doing] stuff like [Marfa homecoming] where it's really meaningful to the community and not just all about competitions,” said Rodriguez.

Community

DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Editor's note: This installments were written in advance of Homecoming week. Please enjoy them with our special coverage of last week's festivities.

Breaking News:

Marfa girls' cross-country team places third in Lubbock meet!

Homecoming game is Friday and junior QB Dustin Martinez turns 17!

Zach Wilson returns to the field for the homecoming game after being sidelined by an injury!

Special announcement

By ISAIAH

Regular readers of this newsletter will be happy to note that last month's issue featuring an article by this reporter about new school rules and policies was brought up in an MISD staff meeting by Coach Ojeda, says a source. The staff agreed with students cited in the article and have decided to use the money generated from cell phones being confiscated to go toward a special treat for students. The source said since school started over $200 has been raised. Stay tuned here for more updates & news exclusives!

Homecoming Spirit Week and schedule

By CHRIS and ISAIAH

This week is homecoming and Spirit Week! Wednesday's theme is Senior Citizen Day. Thursday is Favorite Celebrity or Super Hero Day. On Friday, Shorthorns are asked to Purple Out! The parade and pep rally are both on Thursday this year. The parade begins at 6 p.m. (although participants need to line up in front of the auditorium at 5:30!) After the parade, everyone is invited back to the field for the pep rally, which will include lots of cheers, this year's senior skit, and the burning of the "M." In order to increase spirit for the Spirit Week Newsletter, we decided to interview the homecoming court and ask what they are excited about for this year's spirit week and parade floats.

We decided to start off interviewing Samuel Salgado, a king candidate for the senior class, and so we asked him what that is like. He considered and replied "I'm excited and I didn't see myself being a candidate so it was quite a shock to me."

I then proceeded to ask if there was anything that he was going to do special to decorate his parade float. He answered, "Yeah, we'll just try to decorate a bunch and use a lot of purple, with a picture of my class maybe."

While we were talking I brought up this year's Spirit Week. Sam said, "The themes are pretty good I think! If there was one I would change it would have to be the Senior Citizen Day. I would personally love a Throwback 80's Day."

For the junior class I interviewed Fernanda Rivera. I began by asking her what she thinks about being this year's duchess for her class and she said, "Good, I guess, it just happened in homeroom one day!"

Then my partner asked her about Spirit Week. She responded, "It's alright! If there was one day I could change, I would add Twin Day."

Fernanda was carelessly answering the questions, it was hard to tell how she really felt about representing her class. In between interviews, Chris and I started talking about how you can only choose two people for these positions each year and how some people get left out.

For the sophomores, this year's duke is Andres Solis. I went ahead and asked him about the feeling of being his class' duke.

"It feels amazing and I'm very happy about it!" he said.

Chris then asked him if he had expected to be elected.

"To be honest, I really didn't see it coming! But I'm excited to be the duke for my class."

Finally, to end, my partner and I interviewed Freshman Duke Sammy Estrada. When I asked him how he was feeling, he said, "Honestly, I feel great knowing that I get to be the duke this year! I didn't really see it coming but it's great for me."

Chris then went on to ask Sammy if he had any plans in mind to do with his float for Thursday's parade, and Sammy said, "Yeah, nothing much, we're using my dad's truck and trying to just decorate as best as we can. Also I want me and my brother to throw as much candy as possible." After that I asked him what his thoughts were in this year's spirit week.

"I think it's pretty good but if there was one day that I would want to add it'd be Western Day for sure!" Sammy responded before pretending to lasso this reporter.

To conclude, this is what this year's homecoming dukes and duchesses and one king candidate had to say about homecoming spirit week, the parade, and the pep rally. Go Horns!

Homecoming interviews

By TARYN and MESSIAH

Homecoming is a week when people have fun and dress up before the homecoming game as MHS welcomes back alumni. Homecoming is also the week for homecoming duchesses, dukes, princesses, princes, and the king and queen to be announced and celebrated. For 9-11th grades, two people, one boy and one girl, are chosen. My partner Messiah and I wanted to see how the dukes, duchesses, and queen and king candidates felt about being deprived of a high schooler's dream, the homecoming dance.

First, we decided to discover how this travesty came about! So, we asked two high school teachers at Marfa ISD. When we asked Ms. Lara, the theater and English teacher, she replied, "They [the sophomores] just didn't have enough money, plus they voted no to the dance." The outcome of the voting felt very mysterious. Rumors flew in the hallways that everyone had voted yes, and then that everyone had voted no. Ms. Lara was repeating what she'd heard. We also heard other rumors, like Coach Ojeda does not want a dance because of a volleyball game, and/or that the sophomores of Marfa are just being too lazy! No one seemed to know what was really going on, but Mr. Klockman, the robotics teacher and the sophomore sponsor, cleared up the rumors for these reporters.

He said, "It all just didn't work out, homecoming was too close to do a fundraiser and sophomores just decided not to when they found that out." With rumors swept up, and the reason for the homecoming dance not happening determined, we can carry on and try to enjoy this fun and spirited week. Plus, this year's freshmen (like these reporters!) can learn from the sophomores and begin saving money and planning for next year's homecoming this year!

You all know Kayla Vasquez. She is a girl who always keeps herself together and does her makeup every morning.

We began by asking her, "How would you feel that we don't have a dance? And how would you feel if we did?"

Kayla replied, "As a freshman, I feel pretty sad that the dance was canceled because we are only having prom. I also wish we had more events like this. But honestly I'm so excited for homecoming even without a dance!"

Next we asked, "How do you feel being on the homecoming court?"

Kayla excitedly answered, "I think being on the court is going to be very fun and exciting." Even though Kayla and Sammy aren't really a couple, I think this pair is perfect for our freshman class.

We then interviewed Sophomore Duke Andres Solis. He's really funny and just an all-out amazing guy to be around.

We started talking, got pretty off-topic, and finally got around to the interview by asking Andres how he feels about the lack of a homecoming dance and his election as sophomore duke.

Andres replied, "I feel great. I love to represent the sophomore class. I hate that we won't have a dance, because it was the only thing that we had control of, and I just wanted to prove to everyone that we were not lazy and could really do something … honestly I'm very sad, I really was looking forward to dancing and the memories we'd make."

When Andres brought up the dance he seemed to be distraught about it. Hoping to cheer him up, we wanted to ask about the homecoming court!

He answered, "I feel amazing, it's just so cool to be on the court and experiencing it is just something else, you got to be in it to know it." As soon as we were finished Andres had to go to the mystic and magical area called theater class and we went on our way.

Esdras Flores is the junior class duke. When we interviewed him, he really didn't have much to say, but after a little persistence, we got him talking, kind of.

About the dance, he said, "I don't really care, it really doesn't bother me that much, but I guess I'm excited to see how this homecoming goes?" His eyes shifted as he finished answering, he looked like he was looking for a friend to see if that answer worked.

Isaiah gave him a reassuring nod and asked, "How do you feel that you're on the homecoming court?"

Esdas replied, "I feel very embarrassed. I really didn't want to do this."

Lastly, for the seniors we picked Nate, one of the king candidates whose partner is Lesly. Nate is a very funny and amazing guy.

He answered our first question about homecoming and the dance by saying, "I'm feeling pretty good and very excited, but I'm pretty sad that for our senior year there won't be a homecoming dance."

After he finished with either a nervous or happy smile, we continued, "How do you feel that you're on the homecoming court?"

He considered and answered, "I am feeling good about being a king candidate and this homecoming is going to be very interesting."

The whole school at this point knows who the queen and king candidates are and most likely have already decided who they will be voting for. There are all kinds of options and they're all amazing. I honestly wish all of them could win, but we have to vote for only two. We wish luck to all the candidates of the queen and king court. Also we congratulate the dukes and duchesses of the classes!

Homecoming game: Predictions with Darren

For this month's article I decided to write about this week's homecoming football game.

To start off, I asked freshman quarterback Alejandro Rodriguez, who is recently recovering from an arm injury, how the Shorthorns are going to do for the homecoming game. He answered, "We're gonna win! We've got this if we work as a team!"

I then asked him, "Who do you think are the strongest defensive and offensive players?" He replied, "I think Jaden, Derick and Nate are our strongest players for both sides."

My last question for him was, "What would you change about our offense and defense?"

He said, "Honestly I would leave everything the same. I don't see a problem with anything!"

I also interviewed our center, Diego Jurado. I began asking him about his predictions for Friday's game.

"I think we will have a positive outcome for this upcoming game," he replied.

When asked about our strongest players he said, "For offense our strongest player is Nate, and for defense, Derick is our strongest player."

When I asked about improvements to the Shorthorns' game, he said, "Half the game we should run our defense we used at the end of the Fort Hancock game and the other half we should run our normal defense."

The last person I interviewed was Coach Ramirez. When I asked him about our homecoming match against Sierra Blanca, he said, "I think we will win, do well, get an easy W, and get a good win to give to the fans and ourselves. A WIN WE DESERVE!!!"

I then asked him about our defense and offense and he replied, "Our defense and offense are the key to winning if we follow the game plan."

My last question was whether he thinks we should change anything in our playing strategy for the homecoming game, and his response was, "I would not change much. All we need to do is execute the system!"

In conclusion, GO SHORTHORNS!

These are some of the September installments from Marfa ISD's journalism class - more to come. All dispatches are currently available online.

GAREY WILLBANKS

FOR

PRESIDIO COUNTY COMMISSIONER PCT 4

Call or Text
432-888-2845

Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Garey Willbanks and I am running for County Commissioner in the November 8th election. I would like to share with you a little about who I am, my experience and my values.

Ten years ago my wife and I moved to Marfa. We have come to love our home town with its wonderful people, amazing landscapes and rare diversity.

Today I strive for a life defined by service, family and faith. However, my legacy has been in business. I have stewarded, started and built several successful businesses using my aptitude for creativity, consensus building and leadership. Talents which I am committed to using in service to our community.

In recent years Debbie and I have worked to bring Young Life to Marfa and we have formed the Alamito Foundation, both are dedicated to cultivate growth in our communities youth. I also serve on the Board of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District.

I am not a politician and do not aspire to climb a political ladder but instead seek to contribute as a public servant. Elected officials and those employed by government, I believe, are here to serve the community and not the other way around. A vote for me as County Commissioner Precinct 4 will be choosing the candidate who has the business skills and life experiences that will move the county forward and manage the spending of your tax dollars wisely.

You can rest assured that the decisions I will be required to make as county commissioner will be fair and in the best interest of the citizens of this county.

I hope to hear from you! Please call me or text me with any questions or just to visit. Cell 432-888-2845

Sincerely,

Garey Willbanks

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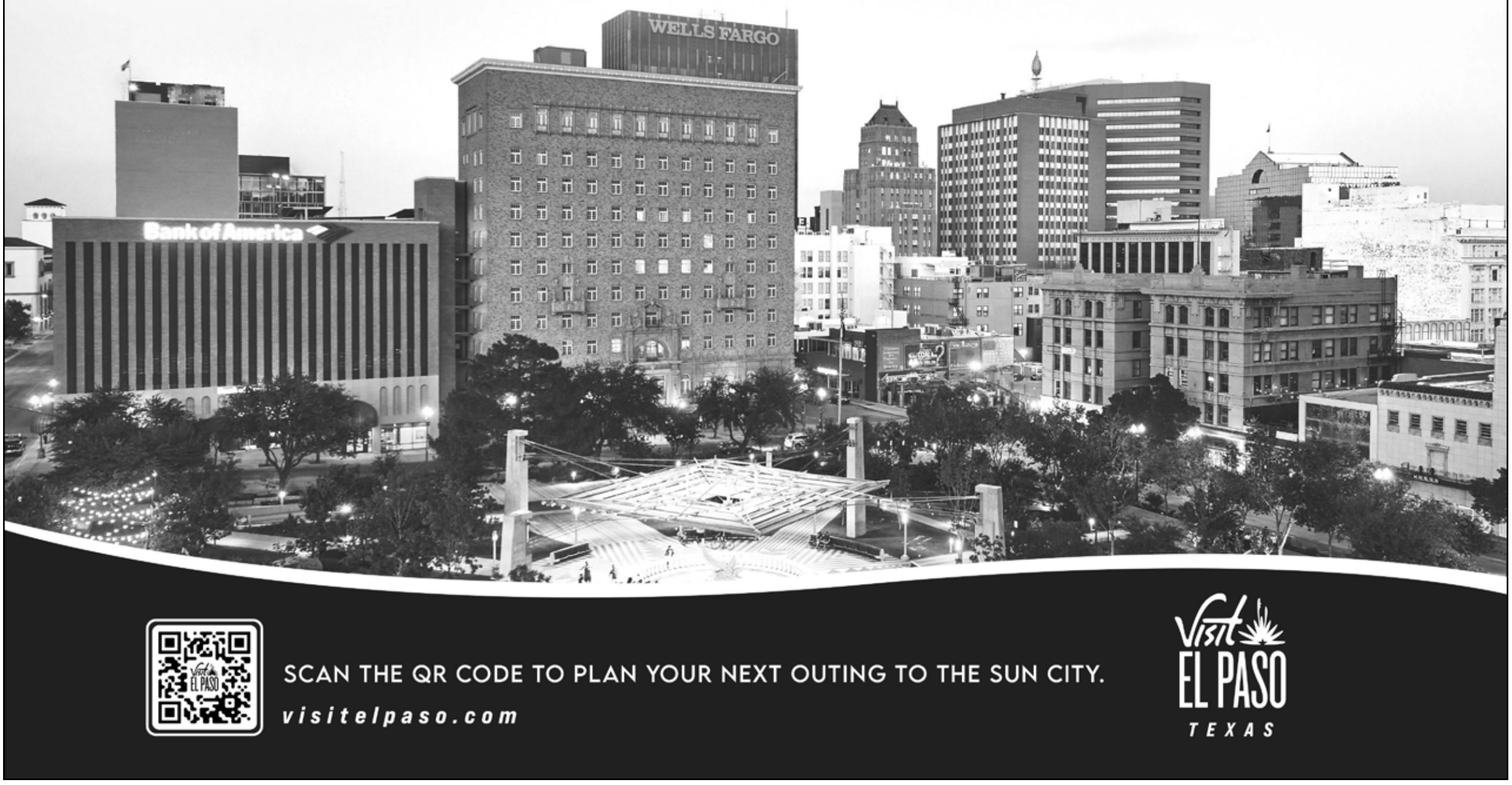




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The Chinati Foundation announces two new leadership positions

MARFA — Last week, the Chinati Foundation announced the hiring of two new staff members in leadership positions: Malinda Galindo, associate director of development, and Stephen Martin, director of preservation and planning.

According to a press release from the organization, the new positions will guide critical operational areas for Chinati as the organization moves forward with a multi-year master plan to ensure the ongoing vitality of their physical facilities as well as the art, architecture and land that they steward.

Malinda Galindo is an experienced fundraiser, committed to nurturing the relationships that are essential to a museum's stability and growth. From 2017 to 2021, she was at El Museo del Barrio, New York, doing institutional advancement and patron programming before recently stepping up to serve as interim director of development. Galindo is cofounder of Atomic Culture, a curatorial platform that encourages dialogue around concepts of art and experimentation, which was the recipient of a 2019 Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

Stephen Martin is a graduate of Cooper Union with a background in design, capital construction and land conservation. In New York, he served as director of design and planning at the Louis Kahn–designed Four Freedoms Park and was the owner's representative to Anthology Film Archives for its forthcoming $18 million restoration. He has worked for the Calder Foundation, the Noguchi Museum and the Library of Congress, among other institutions. Martin is currently president and founder of Friends of the Ruin, advocating for an adaptive reuse of New York's landmark Smallpox Hospital into a public-health memorial.

"These roles are essential to pursuing Chinati's vision," said Marella Consolini, interim director of the Chinati Foundation. "Malinda and Stephen bring to us invaluable experience. They both are creative thinkers and outstanding communicators. The Board and I are very excited to welcome them to the team. We are confident that their impressive skill sets and knowledge will be an asset to Chinati and the Marfa community as a whole."

SRSU Center for Big Bend Studies receives $1 million for anthropology program

ALPINE—The Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University is in receipt of $1 million in funding from the Department of Education through the office of U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales, Texas Congressional District 23.

"The funds will go toward building an anthropology program at Sul Ross," said the director of the CBBS, Dr. Bryon Schroeder. "The majority of this funding will be spent hiring three PhD level researchers for a three-year appointment, aiding in the expansion and development of anthropology courses and regional research programs."

Schroeder said the money will help to professionalize the center as they work to become a leading research organization in the region and the nation.

"This is a major shot in the arm for a department like ours," he said. "We will be able to advance our department and push the discipline forward using the world-class archaeological record in our region."

Rep. Gonzales first announced the procurement last March. The funds will be spent over three years.

Established by Sul Ross State University in 1987, the Center for Big Bend Studies promotes archaeological and historical research in the Greater Big Bend region of Texas and northern Mexico.

The center conducts research and provides educational opportunities to university students, the public and outside researchers.

The 28th annual CBBS conference is scheduled for Nov. 11-12 at the Morgan University Center. For more information or to register, visit cbbs.sulross.edu/28_cbbs_conference/#.

Email cbbs@sulross.edu to learn more.

Jiminez cards a hole in one



Photo courtesy of Frank Jimenez

The Alpine Country Golf Club recently held the Magoo Par 3 Tournament and Abigail Jimenez of Midland, formally from Marfa, carded her first hole in one. The shot took place on the ninth hole from 122 yards using a 5-iron. The feat was witnessed by Frank Jimenez, Carlos Dominguez, Nancy McCormick, Lu Lara-Valdez and Robert Johnson.

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Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
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Isaiah 41:10

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Alexis Gonzales
12th Grade
Mixed Media

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 26, 2022

ACROSS
1 Shark's proposal on "Shark Tank"
6 Classic meme featuring a Shiba Inu
10 Kilmer of "Tombstone"
13 How great minds think, in a saying
14 Young, hooting bird
16 Wonderment
17 Where to see WXYZ
20 Deli meat
21 Opera solo
22 Corporate shuffling, briefly
23 Gifts are put under it
27 "___ words were never spoken"
28 Portuguese king
29 Baby bird's call
30 Month that's also a first name
33 Nine-digit IDs
37 How syringes should be purchased
38 Low hotel rating, or what 17-, 23-, 50- or 61-Across has
41 French for "yes"
42 Loch with an elusive monster
44 Only U.S. state other than Iowa or Ohio that might be entered here
45 What ghosts do
47 Scot's hat
49 Bridle straps
50 Tiles are laid on it without grout
56 "Are we ___ yet?"
57 Biological egg
58 1040 preparer, for short
61 Symbol of a Caribbean commonwealth
65 @ @ @ @ @
66 Say stuff
67 Martini garnish
68 Item in a golfer's pocket
69 Rural lodgings
70 Wrote in Word, say

DOWN
1 Vow
2 Fido's annoyance
3 Teams behind the scenes?
4 ___ out (barely manage)
5 One of 435 in D.C.
6 Exit signs point toward them
7 Embrace something, informally
8 Brief flash
9 Cry upon seeing a mouse
10 Steam or mist
11 Tuned in
12 Pigeon perch, perhaps
15 Not wordy
18 Marge Simpson's is blue
19 Mythical Himalayan creatures
24 Painter's shade
25 Taken-back auto
26 Length x width, for a rectangle
27 Quaker "you"
29 Channel that Ted Turner co-founded
30 Boeing product
31 Winningest Olympic team
32 To the ___ degree
34 Small audio file
35 Convent residents
36 What diners do after entering diners
39 Senseless
40 Actress Seehorn
43 Ringo on drums
46 It hisses as it leaks
48 Helps in a heist
49 Italia's City of Seven Hills
50 3/17 honoree, briefly
51 Laundry passageway
52 Witherspoon of "Wild"
53 Sophia of classic film
54 Big name in bottled water
55 Feel like a million ___
59 Install asphalt
60 Got on in years
62 Nail lacquer maker
63 ___ too shabby
64 Travel on a 787

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/25

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☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

SEPT/OCT	Thu, Sep 29	Fri, Sep 30	Mon, Oct 3	Tue, Oct 4	Wed, Oct 5
BREAKFAST	PANCAKE WRAP, YOGURT	CINNAMON ROLL, SAUSAGE	WAFFLES, BACON	BREAKFAST TAQUITO	BREAKFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN
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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, SEP 30: HS Football vs Animas in Animas, 7:30 pm
FRI, SEP 30: HS Volleyball vs Marathon in Marathon
SAT, OCT 1: HS Girls Cross Country & JH Boys/Girls Cross Country at Alpine
TUE, OCT 4: HS JV/V Volleyball & JH Volleyball vs Buena Vista at Marfa

9/26

Shining Example *by Guilherme Gilioli*

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	■	10	11	12
13					■	14				15	■	16		
17					18						19			
20			■	■	21				■	22				
■	■	23	24	25					26					
■	27					■	■	■	28			■	■	■
29					■	30	31	32		■	33	34	35	36
37			■	38	39					40	■	41		
42			43	■	44				■	45	46			
■	■	■	47	48		■	■	■	49					■
50	51	52				53	54	55					■	■
56					■	57				■	■	58	59	60
61					62					63	64			
65			■	66					■	67				
68			■		69				■	70				

Borderlands Research Institute students awarded $46,500 in scholarships

ALPINE—Seven graduate students at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University have been selected to receive $46,500 in scholarships from seven different sources, including the first ever scholarship awarded from the Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship and the Wayne and JoAnn Moore Endowed Scholarship.

The Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship was established by the Bannisters' family after their passing. The Bannisters were longtime residents of Alpine who loved the natural beauty and ecological diversity of the region. They passionately supported wildlife conservation and philanthropy in the region, and their family honors their legacies with a permanent endowment fund plus annual student scholarships to the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University.

The Wayne and JoAnn More Scholarship was established by the Wayne and JoAnn Moore Charitable Foundation in Midland. Wayne and JoAnn placed considerable emphasis on education and saw it as a path to a fulfilling life. To that end, the foundation has established a number of endowed scholarships at various colleges and universities, most recently at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University.

"We are very grateful to the Bannister and Moore families and their support of our students that will be felt far into the future," said Dr. Louis Harveson, who is the Dan Allen Hughes Jr. BRI endowed director at Sul Ross State University. "Our students are working hard to finish up their degrees, and many take out loans as they work on their classwork and thesis projects. These scholarships are an investment in the future, and we are grateful for the support of these fine organizations and donors."

- Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship — Caleb Hughes
- Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship — Olivia Gray
- Wayne & JoAnn Moore Endowed Scholarship — Maya Ressler
- Virginia Matthews Law Scholarship — Leanna (Lilly) Morin
- Franklin and Virginia Law Scholarship — Brooke Bowman
- West Texas Safari Club Scholarship — Erin O'Connell
- Dan L. Duncan Scholarship (Houston Safari Club) — Preston McKee
- Dan L. Duncan Scholarship (Houston Safari Club) — Olivia Gray
- Dan L. Duncan Scholarship (Houston Safari Club) — Erin O'Connell
- Dan L. Duncan Scholarship (Houston Safari Club) — Maya Ressler
- Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society — Olivia Gray

SRSU assistant professor part of research featured on cover of 'Science' magazine

ALPINE — Donkeys generally strike us as stubborn and not particularly fast animals. Yet, a new study released in the Sept. 9 issue of the journal Science now reveals that donkeys spread like a wildfire out of Africa around 4,500 years ago, reaching Europe and Asia within only a few centuries.

This demonstrates the key role that donkeys played in past human societies, especially as beasts-of-burden, mobilizing people, culture and goods across arid deserts and steep mountains.

Surprisingly, where and when donkeys were first domesticated has remained a longstanding scientific mystery. Archaeological findings as well as texts and iconographic evidence have suggested the broad region of Northeastern Africa as a possible source. But they also pointed to regions outside Africa, possibly the Arabian Peninsula, or even further away in Mesopotamia. Previous work aimed at tracking the evolutionary history of donkeys using their genetics failed to find significant support for any candidate region.

"We decided to sequence the genome of donkeys living in regions that were previously overlooked," said Ludovic Orlando, CNRS research director at the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse (CNRS / University Toulouse III Paul Sabatier) and senior author of the study. "This was expected to reveal important missing parts of the puzzle."

This provided the research team, which comprises 49 scientists from 37 laboratories around the world, with the most extensive genome panel of donkeys. However, mapping the genetic diversity of donkeys today is not sufficient, as modern breeding and trade may have exchanged animals over very distant regions. Therefore, the researchers needed to characterize the genomes of donkeys that lived in the past, leveraging state-of-the-art technologies in ancient DNA research.

Dr. Laura Patterson Rosa, assistant professor of animal and equine sciences at Sul Ross State University, was part of the team that analyzed the genome of the donkeys as part of the study. Patterson Rosa's efforts included sampling a unique South American donkey breed, the Pega donkey, that has been heavily selected for its smooth locomotion — as a "gaited" donkey breed — and endurance since colonization of the Americas. The worldwide and historical comparative genomic analysis demonstrated that the written historical accounts of the origin of this breed may not be entirely accurate. Furthermore, results showed high genomic inbreeding, posing an issue for concern as conservation of the Pega donkey may require planned outcrosses to maintain health and population diversity.

"Modern donkeys living in different regions of the world show quite strong genetic differences, especially between the African, European and Asian continents," said Dr. Evelyn Todd, first author of the study. In addition to striking geographic differences, the team found that the timing of the separation between the different populations followed a clear trend, starting first in Africa and spreading into Eurasia and Asia. The researchers report an African origin around 7,000 years ago, a time roughly close to when the once green Sahara region became one of the most arid deserts in the planet. They estimate that donkeys spread out of Africa at least 4,500 years ago and rapidly expanded both east into Asia and west into Europe within 1,000 years at most. The expansion did not just follow one direction but also returned to Africa. For example, donkeys were already exchanged between Europe and Africa across the Mediterranean Sea by the Roman times, the study finds. While these exchanges went both ways and continued after the collapse of the Roman Empire, they left the most important genetic footprint in modern donkeys from Western Africa.

Ancient genomes provide securely located time points, which helped the researchers track the expansion of donkeys across the world. They also revealed the presence of previously unknown genetic lineages. One such lineage was found in the Levant some 2,000 years ago but probably inhabited a much larger geographic region, as the researchers could identify traces of their genetic legacy in modern donkeys throughout Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Eastern Asia. Furthermore, the researchers reveal that wild donkey relatives also contributed a fraction of their genes to various regions of the world. For Evelyn Todd, "This likely reflects free-ranging management of local donkey populations in some African regions and in the Arabian Peninsula." Clearly, the study reveals an important difference between the donkey and its close relative, the horse. In contrast to horses, inbreeding in donkeys did not particularly increase in modern times, which suggests similar reproductive strategies now and in the past.

The study reveals an important difference between the donkey and its close relative, the horse

But the researchers went beyond just tracking global patterns of donkey management techniques. They found a mule breeding center at Boinville-en-Woëvre, a Roman site from Northern France dating to the second to fifth century. There, breeders appear to have produced particularly inbred families of giant donkeys at a time when mules provided the workforce for delivering military equipment and goods across an empire that stretched over thousands of kilometers. Mating between those giant donkeys and horse females allowed breeders to produce highly-prized sterile mules. Here, the genetic evidence echoes the texts of Roman writers who described that selective breeding for animals of exceptional stature was already common practice and a lucrative business at the time. "This is the beauty of ancient DNA to provide data that allow us to test hypotheses from other classical historical sources," concluded Orlando. The genetic study went one step further: the limited presence of horses at Boinville-en-Woëvre suggests either horse females were brought in for mating or donkey breeders visited surrounding farms with their giant males — another kind of journey, admittedly over a more limited region than the one that brought their ancestors outside of Africa thousands of years earlier, but that nonetheless contributed to building the powerful Roman Empire.



Scholastic Book Fair comes to Marfa

MARFA — Marfa ISD's annual book fair is October 3-7 at the Marfa Schools Library on the high school campus. The school's library has a goal of adding 650 new books to its shelves for all ages.

Hours for the book fair are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to noon. There are additional shopping hours on Thursday, Oct. 6, 6-7 p.m. during the junior high football game.

If you can't make the fair during those hours, you can shop online from October 3-16, 2022, at **https://www.scholastic.com/bf/marfaschools**.

Contact Marfa Librarian Crawford Marginot at 432/729-5500, x3040 for more information or to volunteer.

OBITUARY



Lindley

Lovick Clark Lindley, 85, died peacefully at his home in Midland on September 22. He was born in Pecos, Texas. Clark will be buried on Thursday, September 29 at 11:30 a.m., alongside his parents and among many Lindley family members at Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple, Texas.

Clark was an accomplished man and one of integrity and philanthropy. He was all-state in debate–extemporaneous speaking, and received an academic scholarship from Stanford University as well as a master's in Victorian literature from North Texas State University under the watchful guidance of Dr. J. Don Vann. Clark also worked in the capacity of State Bank Examiner, bank loan officer and oil lease operator. He served as president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. His kindness and thoughtfulness toward others will be remembered.

Clark is survived by his brother, Harold Norman Lindley; life partner Tip Chesney; nephew Courtney Lindley; and cousins Dr. Neil Lindley, Dr. Gene Ray Lindley, Dianna Taite and Dr. Gary Herrick. Clark was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Harold and Madge Lindley, and cherished nephew, Heath Lindley.

We thank LoShorn Dickson and Nancy Hernandez of Visiting Angels Midland and the nurses of Hospice of Midland for the many hours of loving care given to Clark. We extend special thanks to our caring neighbors on Windridge Circle and our dear friends Linnie McAdams, Christine Doyle and Dr. Won Bong.

In lieu of flowers, please acknowledge Clark by giving to a charity of your choice or Hospice of Midland.

Services are entrusted to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland, Texas. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

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Rio Grande Council of Government Appointments

New Board Members

The Rio Grande Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments formed under Texas law. In January of 1967, local elected officials in El Paso County joined together to form the El Paso Coun cil of Governments. This organization was initiated to further intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in the planning, development and delivery of govern mental services within El Paso County, Texas.

In 1971, the counties of Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster were included in the organization to form a truly “Regional” body, and the organization was renamed West Texas Council of Governments. In 1987, by vote of the membership, Doña Ana County, New Mexico and the local governments within were included as full members and the name of the organization was changed to the Rio Grande Council of Governments.



President & Small Communities outside of El Paso County Director
The Honorable Summer Webb
Mayor, Town of Valentine



1st Vice President
The Honorable Henry Rivera
City of El Paso, Representative for District 7



2nd Vice President
The Honorable Carlos Urias
Culberson County Judge



Special Districts Director
Dr. Kristina Mena, Chair
Public Service Board



Small Communities in El Paso County Director
The Honorable David Cantu Alderman,
City of San Elizario

Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love returns for its 16th year







Photos by Chad Wadsworth

MARFA – The 16th Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love, El Cosmico's music experience, is taking place in Marfa from September 29 - October 2 with headliners Marty Stuart, Cat Power, Andrew Bird, Cimafunk, and Iron and Wine.

Additional acts include a diverse group of musicians and bands like Ben Kweller, Heartless Bastards, Sir Woman, Tift Merritt, Abraham Alexander, Nora Brown, Ross Cashiola, Genital

Panic, and the El Cosmico Family Band. Late night acts include Ozomatli, THE BROS FRESH and Camilo Lara.

The festival goes beyond music, offering attendees the chance to camp at El Cosmico, while cultivating artistic engagement with a variety of unique activities, day parties, workshops, a vendor marketplace, pop-up desert spa (El Cosmetico) and barber shop (El Cosmicuts), food trucks, tattoos and more.

This year's workshops include: two-step lessons, wine and spirit tastings, yoga and movement classes, horseback riding, an urban nature walk, history of the Big Bend, political action, water marbling and cochineal dying. A complimentary children's music class, El Kidsmico Percussion Party with David Garza and Friends, will share some of the festival musicians' skills with the littlest of cosmonauts.

In addition, the annual sandlot baseball game has gotten a remix. The Austin All Stars is a special team made up of the city's greatest sandlot players. Los Yonke Gallos de Marfa and Los Tigres de San Antonio round out this West Texas three-way game.

On Sunday, festival-goers can also participate in a community breakfast benefiting KRTS Marfa Public Radio -—complimentary this year for all festival ticket holders.

A variety of beverage and food options will be available on-site for the duration of the festival including a pop-up from Los Angeles's Breadhead, wines from Scribe Winery, coffee from Meteor Coffee, and breakfast tacos from Marfa Spirit Co. Food trucks will include Cloudy's, Lick It Up, Burro, Oh My Pizza Pie, Wildflower Caramel Co., Southern Comfort, Billy Pete's, and Wonder-Pilz Kombucha.

This year's marketplace will feature West Perro, Workwear Vintage, Lykke Wullf, Caddis, El Cosmico Provision Co. and Far West Collective, Filth Mart, 4Kinship, Glor, Muchacho Vintage, From the Grey Fortress, La Ropa, Sister Ceramics, Pioneertown General Store, Lunchroom Anxiety, Richter Goods, Forrest & Groves Vintage, Carla Fernandez, Carleen, Bexar Goods, Far Out Silver, High Desert Dye, Habitat Hammocks and Miranda Bennett Studio.

Erika Wennerstrom of Heartless Bastards

Have you come to Trans-Pecos before?

It's my third or fourth time as Heartless Bastards, and it'll be my sixth time performing at the event in some form because I did a solo album, too. Then I've been one or two times on years I didn't play.

So this is like an old friend.

Oh, yeah. Aside from the festival, which was my first exposure to Marfa, I actually spend a lot of time in the region. I just absolutely fell in love with it. I've written sections of every album, since I first experienced Marfa, in the region. I go down to Big Bend a lot and hike and write lyrics as I'm hiking. I write at Chinati Hot Springs. I probably go to Marfa two to three times a year. I love the area. I almost feel like it's a second home to me.

How does being here affect your writing process?

I think there's something about going out in a big, wide open space that allows me to process, and I think it gives me the space to be creative. As much as I also love city life, I know there's a lot of distraction. I feel like [being here] allows me to let go of a lot of daily distractions. There's maybe one bar on the cellphone and I have to actually go to the edge of the porch to get texts or emails. I can't see Instagram with the one bar. So I feel like I let go of some of that stuff that takes up some time, that's unproductive.

As a musician and performer who's done the festival a few times, how do you find Trans-Pecos compared to other venues and compared to other festivals?

I just love it. It's one of my favorite festivals in the world. I think we played the third festival Liz [Lambert] ever had, so it's been lovely to watch it grow. The first time I went, I had never been to Marfa — I had done festivals like Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits. And so when we got out there, I didn't know how many people to expect. Not only has it grown, but the fact that she keeps it very intimate, it just keeps it really really special. It's not only more manageable for the town, but I think that there's something about when you're in a smaller, intimate festival — you start running into the same people all weekend and it's easier to kind of develop new relationships. There's just a real magic to an intimate festival.

What are you most looking forward to about the festival? Are you going to stick around and see all the vendors and the other performers? Who are you most looking forward to seeing?

Yeah, I'm going to be there for the whole festival. I've toured with Andrew Bird over the years — we actually had a collaboration, he played on the last album I released, and I sang on a song with him on his. I also did a tour with Sam Beam [of Iron & Wine]. So it'll be really nice to see them and hear their music, which I love. And I'm a huge Cat Power fan, so I'm definitely excited about that.

I'm also going to sing in the [El Cosmico] Family Band on Saturday, and that's always a blast. We're doing covers, and feel like every time I sing a cover and learn another artist's song it always finds its way into inspiration for my own songs, so I'm looking forward to that in multiple ways.

For those who aren't familiar with your music, how would you describe your sound? How would you describe the set people are going to see?

Describing myself, after so many years, you'd think it'd get easier, but it almost gets harder because I've had seven albums and when I think about the journey of experimenting with different sounds … in a way, it gets almost, actually harder, it doesn't get easier to describe myself. But I would say I really love the description on our bio: "It's a delicate coalescence of French pop, Celtic folk, space rock, symphonic pop, Disney scores, and post punk."

We're a rock and roll band when it comes down to it, but I do think I have some pop sensibilities and I love some aspects of world music. On the new album, there's Persian setar, there's South American, bossa nova influence. It's just a big amalgam of stuff that I think ultimately comes out sounding like Heartless Bastards.



Photo by Aaron Conway

Heartless Bastards, fronted by Erika Wennerstrom, will take to the festival's stage on Thursday.

You've been based in Austin since 2007. How does being a Texas and Austin-based musician impact your music?

When I moved here, it was really inspiring — every band comes through Austin. It's kind of a must-stop on the tour circuit. So I felt really inspired, but it wasn't always necessarily Texas music or Texas musicians — it was the sheer amount of music I was exposing myself to when I first moved here. Texas itself is hugely inspiring to me because of the landscape. I write in nature, so I would say the landscape of Texas really inspires me.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Heartless Bastards will perform on Thursday. Music starts at 6 p.m.

Pat Keesey of The Grand Tourists

Tell us a little bit about yourself, what do you do for a living? How long have you lived in Marfa?

I came to Marfa in the early '90s and I bought a house around '94. It was a ruin. I bought it for $1,000. I bought another house that was more livable in 2000. I was going back and forth from New York to here for a long time and then moved here permanently I think six years ago. I have a woodshop, I teach yoga, I'm a painter. I make a little money making paintings. And then I have a bunch of bands.

You've played Trans-Pecos Fest in the past, but this year you will be playing with The Grand Tourists. Can you tell us a little more about the bands you are in?

I have a swamp, rockabilly, punk-ish band called Loviband that's a little more like a guitar trio with the drummer of The Grand Tourists, Cale Hand, and David Garcia. We played the small stage [last year]. Ross Cashiola, the singer of The Grand Tourists, has traditionally always played one of the first shows on the large stage. He's doing that this year, but his group varies.

I play the guitar and I'm really a blues guitar player, maybe a little bluegrass in there. The Grand Tourists are a country rock band. Our country guitar player and our pedal steel player is Colt Miller and Cale is our drummer. He's one of the best drummers around. For such a small town, it's just incredible how good the musicians are. Ross is a singer and acoustic guitar player. We were playing with Jimmy Magliozzi for a long time, but now he wants to focus on his own music. So we have somebody named Jag Raspopvich [on bass].

Do you regret letting Jimmy quit the band?

That's a good question. Jimmy is an incredible musician and really nice person. But I'm a little older than everybody else; I'm not gonna get into trying to push people to do things that they don't want to do. He works really hard with Method [Building Company] and he has his own musical aspirations. He's going to play with Ross this time on the mainstage. The Grand Tourists came out of the Marfa Municipal Alliance of Dead Country and Folk Singers. They only play once or twice a year to raise money for charities and we do tributes to dead country folk legends on the day of their death.

What's been nice about that is we invite all sorts of different types of musicians, so there are 50 people who have played with our municipal alliance. Because I'm not really trying to become a successful musician, it's really nice for me to encourage people and give people opportunities. People who want them will play and people who don't won't and to me, it almost doesn't matter if you're good or bad. It's great if I can help create an opportunity for somebody to perform or get excited about it.



Photo by Chad Wadsworth

The Grand Tourists perform at El Cosmico for the Trans-Pecos Festival.

What have The Grand Tourists prepared for the festival? What can audiences look forward to?

We are going to play some country music. I think we have at least one song from the last 10 decades. We probably have a song from the '60s, '70s, '80s. We have a '90s song. I think we have a variety of different types of country music, most of it is classic country, and we have a few classic rock songs. I think we're gonna do a Bruce Springsteen song, give it a little flair. It's gonna be all covers. There'll be plenty of songs to dance to and we're gonna play "Neon Moon," so that should make everybody happy.

There's a band called Midland and they have this great song called, "Drinkin' Problem." That's probably the most recent song we'll cover. We're gonna do some Waylon, some Willie. We do a lot of Gary Stewart. We did a tribute to him with the alliance and we became big fans of him. We'll probably do a song by David Berman, from the Silver Jews. We like to do his music. We ended up having a little bit of a country flair to almost everything.

Are there any particular musical groups performing at Trans-Pecos that you are excited to see?

Marty Stuart is one of the greatest country guitar players of all time. I definitely think that that is something you're gonna want to see. I've always been a fan of Cat Power. I think she has a beautiful voice. I like her singing and her songs. Those are the two main things that I'm making an effort to go to.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. The Grand Tourists perform from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, September 29 on the small stage at the Trans-Pecos Festival.



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Ross Cashiola

You've played pretty consistently at Trans-Pecos over the years. How many festivals is this for you?

I think [I've played] almost all of them, except for one year. Obviously, it's been nice to be asked back to play after all these years. It's always a good time to be over there, with so many great musicians and artists that come through that festival over the years.

How long have you lived in Marfa?

I moved here in 2006. And it was kind of back and forth between Chicago and down to Austin in the early days — a little traveling around when I first moved here — but I was still playing music and things.

How has your music evolved during that time?

The way that I've always approached my music is, it just kind of always has continued to be a revolving cast of musicians and friends. It still basically goes like that, because there's been a lot of people in and out of this town that play music and that I've played with, and they have their own musical projects. I feel like there's more musicians around town now than ever before, so it's nice.

So I don't know how I would say it's evolved, really. It's basically still just songs that I write on the guitar and then see when I play them with other people … I've always just been pretty open to what people can bring to the songs. I like that philosophy. It's basically what I've been doing for a long time.

I got this new record that's releasing on Thursday that I recorded out in Nashville, with some people that my buddy Ryan Boyles met and befriended and was like, "Hey, you should come out here and get in the studio with some of these folks." And so we went down there in April, at this studio called The Bomb Shelter in Nashville. We got some players in there who are musical geniuses in a lot of ways, in my opinion. I just kind of approached it in the same way: here's the songs, like let's see what we can turn them into. I think that the record turned out pretty good.

Are you going to be playing some songs from that new record at your Trans-Pecos set?

Yeah, I think we'll get a chance to play four or five of the new ones, and a couple others.

How would you describe the new record?

I would describe it as a much bigger sounding record than I've ever put out on my own for sure. The last records that I've recorded have been kind of like, you know, recordings at practice-space kind of studios up in Chicago and recording down here at my old house over by the high school. And so it was nice to have a really great studio to be recording in and seeing what kind of sounds came out of that. It's about what I call the bigness of the sound compared to what I've done before. And obviously playing with a lot of players who live out in Nashville and play every day and record every day, do that. There wasn't a whole lot of learning curve or anything that anybody was having to deal with. You get into a studio down there and everyone knows exactly what they're going to be doing pretty quickly. It's definitely cool to record in that kind of setting.

How would you describe your musical style to someone who's coming to your music for the first time?

The thing that I've always tried to use as the description of it is a very long word called country-grunge-folk-and-roll.

I figure that's like the closest thing that I could still kind of make sense of what it is. Because they all start off as folk songs that I just write on my guitar, but then what they turn into is always some form of rock and roll, a little bit of a louder sound when you play with the band with drums and everything like that.

We did the Infinite Hellscape Festival up in Fort Davis, and for that set of songs I've been playing with Anthony and Jimmy, we just use a Casio keyboard as the drum, like a drum machine. So it's kind of like playing to a drum machine and not a live drum sound. That's a sound that I'm kind of working with to do this next little record, probably. But we'll see how that goes, but I have really liked that style of exploring the songs in a little bit more of a dancy way.

Your new record comes out Thursday, the day of your Trans-Pecos set. Where can people find it?

I think you can go buy it on Bandcamp right now. It's gonna be for sale at The Marfa Book Company. And I'm probably going to take a few copies over to The B-Side. When I sent it all in for Spotify, and all the platforms, it was with a release date for September 29. So I think I got it in long ago enough that it will come out on like iTunes and Spotify and all that stuff on the 29th.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Ross Cashiola will play on Thursday at the Trans-Pecos Festival. Music starts at 6 p.m.

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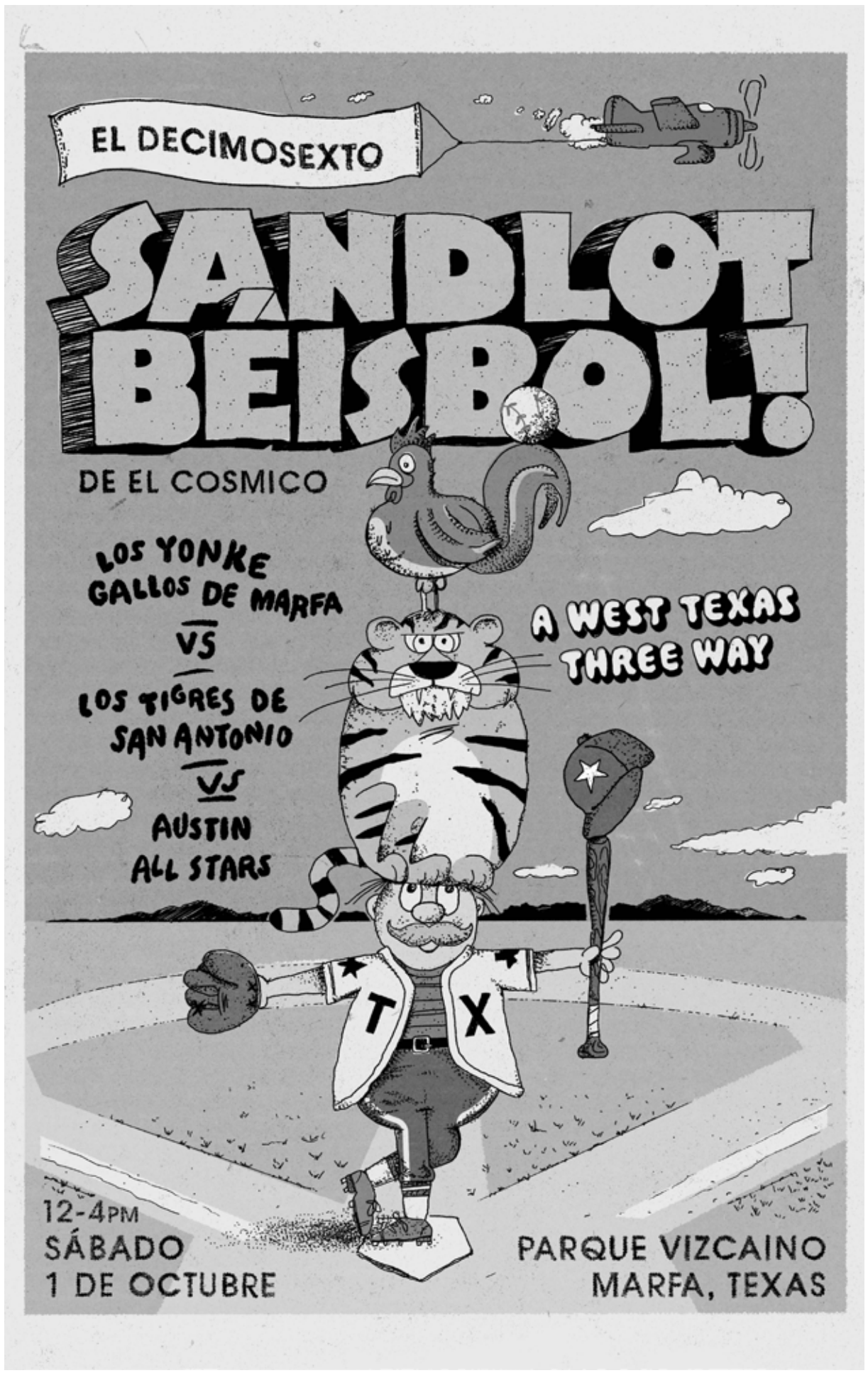
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Trans-Pecos Workshops

Two-Step with Beth Coffey
Thursday, September 29 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday, September 30 from 11 a.m. – noon
Here's your chance to learn the authentic Texas Two-Step. Native West Texan Beth Coffey will start with walking through the basics and then progress into some Urban Cowboy worthy moves! She has choreographed music videos, movies and dive bar dance parties. Beth knows how to work with all experience levels and allows room for laughs. No partner necessary.

Mezcal Three Ways
Thursday, September 29 from 4:30 – 6 p.m.
Friday, September 30 from 4:30 – 6 p.m.
Explore different ways to experience and appreciate mezcal. The session will begin with neat pours of different expressions of mezcal from Madre, looking into the unique flavor profiles different agaves bring to the spirit. Next, attendees will mix up a drink for a refreshing mezcal cocktail. To end the session, attendees will learn about mezcal tinctures and have a chance to make their own herbal blend of plant medicine.

Horseback Riding with Prude Ranch
Friday, September 30 from 7 - 10 a.m.
Friday, September 30 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 7 – 10 a.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Experience Far West Texas like the settlers did, by horseback! We'll meet at the Highland House before setting off to the Fort Davis Mountains where you'll take in the beauty of West Texas by the best means possible, on the back of a horse! The Prude Ranch trails wind through the mountains; cross over trickling streams, and will take you to breathtaking views. Horses are safe and well trained and very experienced in negotiating all the trails. We provide all the equipment + transportation to the ranch grounds that you'll need to have an enjoyable and exciting experience.
Never ridden a horse? That's okay! The horses take excellent care of their riders and we look forward to giving you a great first experience. For safety reasons, we kindly ask for our riders to be older than six years, weigh no more than 220 pounds, and to please come dressed in jeans/pants and closed-toe shoes. All requirements are for the safety of both horse and rider. The trails are suitable for all levels of riders, but we often encounter brush, cactus,and other elements. The horseback experience will last for one hour with a 40-minute shuttle ride to and from the property. We recommend you bring water to this experience.

Workout! with Erica Nix
Friday, September 30 from 9 – 9:45 a.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 9 – 9:45 a.m.
You'll be sweatin' to the '90s, Richard Simmons-style. This is not your typical aerobics class. This class is more raw, more colorful, and more ridiculous than any class you will have ever experienced. When you work out with Erica, you aren't just working out your body, you are creating art — so get ready to dance your heart out. Wear clothing that's good for movement with support where you need it. Oh, and feel free to wear your vintage aerobics-wear. No pressure though, because she prefers to be the best dressed.



Photo by Hannah Koehler

Step Class with Monika Bernstein
Friday, September 30 from 9 – 9:45 a.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 9 – 9:45 a.m.
Get in shape old-school style! This 45-minute step aerobics class will strengthen and tone muscles, build your endurance, increase bone density and so much more, like sweating out those toxins from the night before. This is an all levels class, beginner to advanced. Modifications are offered for all levels and intensity preferences.

Mail Art with La Ropa Vintage
Friday, September 30 from 9 – 11 a.m.
Mail Art is one of the most beautiful ways to connect with someone over land or sea. You don't have to be an artist to send this type of mail, but receiving a message that has meaning and care is priceless. We will unplug and tap into our imagination to make (and send) a special piece of mail out of vintage paper, postcards, recycled images and objects. We will explore our creativity through paints, pens and poetry while being inspired by all of the desert delights of Marfa.

MDRN YOGA with Annie Parr
Friday, September 30 from 10 – 10:45 a.m.
MDRN YOGA is a dynamic vinyasa class set to an eclectic playlist of alternative rhythmic scores, R&B, rock and folk. This class bridges dancey yoga sequences with mind-body modalities and conditioning. All of the sequences are choreographed and clearly guided similar to a yoga class but with the personality of a dance class. Dancer or not, yogi or not, this is not a traditional dance or yoga class. It is for the athletic and artful minded individual that is looking to creatively expand their practice. This class will open up one's approach to transitions, musicality and flow. Ultimately, MDRN YOGA enables a strong, and efficient body, stimulating grace and fun through motion to connect to your authentic self. Please BYO yoga mat.

Urban Hike with Ranger Ty
Friday, September 30 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Join local outdoor guide and long distance hiker Tyler Priest on an easy 3-mile 2-hour urban hike. We'll get a lay of the land and discover what gives Marfa an air of mystery and magic. Put on your walking shoes, grab your water bottle and meet Tyler at the main entrance near the small stage.

Magic Around Us with Sam Watts
Friday, September 30 from 10 – 11 a.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 11 a.m. – noon
Explore the ancient history and present day beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert. In this family friendly workshop, we will create artworks and drawings to capture the magic around us here in West Texas. Ages 5 + welcome.

Big Bend's Deep History with the Center for Big Bend Studies
Friday, September 30 from 11 a.m. – noon
Saturday, October 1 from 10 – 11 a.m.
Join Dr. Bryon Schroeder of the Center for Big Bend Studies and unearth the 13,000-year-old history of the Big Bend. This area contains a rich Indigenous record of adaptation to the changing Chihuahuan Desert. From establishing the earliest human presence to the first domesticated plant use, the center's field work and research aims to reveal this deep history. This talk will cover the center's most recent archaeological findings & their significance. There will also be opportunity to view artifacts recovered from sites in the Big Bend!

Golden Elixir: Fire Cider with Meetinghouse Arts
Friday, September 30 from 12 – 1 p.m.
Learn about the history, health benefits, and make your own fermented, immune boosting fire cider tonic.

Water Marbling with Mercedez Rex
Friday, September 30 from 12 – 2 p.m.
In this workshop students will be introduced to the ancient art of water marbling, a centuries-old mono-printing process that involves floating pigments on the surface of specially treated water. Austin artist Mercedez Rex, will cover a brief history of the craft and guide participants through how to achieve specific patterns using various tools. Each participant will have their own marbling vat and time to practice learned techniques and color combinations on both paper and silk textiles.

Blind Wine Tasting
Friday, September 30 from 12 – 1 p.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 12 – 1 p.m.
Guided by the folks from Scribe Winery in Sonoma, California, and Shayne Bernier of Victory Wine Group, Texas. We will taste five wines blind and access qualitatively from cheapest to most expensive (ranging anywhere from $12-$120 per bottle). We will discuss varietal, region and price and reveal who amongst us has the most discerning palates.

Claiming Your Power: Intro to Activism
Friday, September 30 from 1 - 2 p.m.
Join us for a workshop on unlocking your power through civic engagement. Led by voting rights activist Charlie Bonner and Democrasexy founder Becky Bullard, this workshop will be an introduction to the wild world of political activism, how it intersects with art and culture, and how to take meaningful action on the issues that matter most to you and your community. In our democracy, there's a role for everyone to claim their power!
100% of your ticket donation will go to Deeds Not Words. Creating today's changemakers and tomorrow's leaders by galvanizing the power and building the leadership of young people through organizing, policy-making, art, and voting.

Texas Sun: Cochineal Dying with Meetinghouse Arts
Friday, September 30 from 2 – 4 p.m.
Learn how to dye natural dye with cochineal, a Texas native pigment, using traditional shibori tie dye techniques.

Creating Patterns from Plants with Miranda Bennett
Friday, September 30 from 2 –3 p.m.
Miranda Bennett Studio (MBS) creates ethical and sustainable, zero waste apparel for everyday life – cut, plant dyed and sewn under one roof within Austin City Limits.
In this workshop, we will teach bundle dyeing: an intuitive, approachable and wildly satisfying plant dye technique. Bring a beginner's mind and learn to create spontaneous patterns on fabric using non-toxic extracts and elements from plants. Each workshop participant will walk away with their own organic cotton T-shirt, grown and sewn in Texas (available in sizes S - XXXL), hand-dyed with their bespoke pattern. All attendees also will enjoy 15% off at the MBS booth on the day of the workshop, located in the retail circle of the festival.

Joint Rolling with Noah Rubin
Friday, September 30 from 4:20 – 6 p.m.
Noah Rubin, author of the new book, How We Roll: The Art and Culture of Joints, Blunts, and Spliffs, will guide participants on a journey to decode one of life's great mysteries: how do you roll a perfect joint? In this interactive workshop, Rubin will share examples and excerpts from his book including an exploration of rolling traditions from around the world, detailed instructions for numerous rolling styles, as well as celebrity stoner insights, humorous anecdotes, and a group rolling class that will change your rolling game forever. Legal hemp and rolling paper will be provided by Dad Grass. Roll on!

Deconstructed Whiskey Tasting
Friday, September 30 from 5 – 6 p.m.
Saturday, October 1 from 5 – 6 p.m.
Dive into the power of the signature triple-casked process. We will take you on a flavour journey tasting whiskey from each of the three casks -- Virgin, Seasoned, and Sherry -- and only available to taste within this exclusive experience alongside Slane Irish Whiskey and its co-founder, Alex Conyngham. You just might also get to hear some stories from his family's legendary concerts taking place on the front lawn of Slane Castle since 1981.

Yoga with Kate Waitzkin
Saturday, October 1 from 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Join Austin-based yoga + meditation instructor, Kate Waitzkin, for a dynamic yoga flow and guided meditation designed to cultivate a sense of renewal, vitality, and radiance – a sweet reset for the mind and body. Practice will be accompanied by live original sounds by LouLou from Thievery Corporation and Night Glitter.
All levels welcome. Please BYO yoga mat.

Clay Copita & Sotol Tasting with Marfa Spirit Co
Saturday, Oct 1 from 10 a.m. – noon
Join Marfa Spirit Co for a Sotol Tasting — followed by a hand-formed clay copita workshop with Brooke Shepard of Clay Island Ceramics. We will taste through our Chihuahuan sotols, and discuss the history of this native plant — as well as our relationship with Sotolero Jacobo Jacquez. Following the tasting we will work on hand formed clay copitas with our talented ceramist Brooke. Copitas will then be fired and glazed on your behalf, before being shipped to your home — ready for you to sip some sotol on your return from Marfa.

Shift with Annie Parr
Saturday, October 1 from 11 – 11:45 a.m.
Drop in. Tune in. Let go. Shift is a vigorous movement practice set to an eclectic musical playlist. Shift explores layers of sensation through your body in motion. We will tune into the quality of movements, push physicality, and discover fresh movement pathways. The class, guided by Annie Parr, has a deep root in dance improvisation and somatic methods. Come as you are and wear what you are comfortable in. There is no dance experience required.

Lumber Club Marfa
Saturday, October 1 from 2 – 5 p.m.
Skip the year-long waitlist and learn from the pros! Lumber Club marfa is a group of girls (+ one boy), ages seven to 14, who run a woodshop in Marfa, Texas. Supervised by artist Larry Bamburg, they don masks and goggles, taking turns on the machinery to craft three-legged stools out of walnut, mahogany and the like.
In this three-hour workshop, participants will learn the basics and build their own rustic version of a Lumber Club Marfa three-legged stool. Building includes cutting and rudimentary sanding the seat, threading the legs, assemblage, and stamping. Profits from the workshop will be donated to the 529 education accounts of each Lumber Club member and participants take home their stool!

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LATE NIGHT: THEBROSFRESH

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Photo courtesy of Becky Bullard

Becky Bullard and Charlie Bonner will lead an intro to activism workshop on Friday afternoon at the Trans-Pecos Festival.

Austin-based activists invite festival-goers to 'claim your power'

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — This weekend Trans-Pecos Festival goers will have the opportunity to participate in "Claiming Your Power: Intro to Activism," a workshop on civic engagement hosted by Becky Bullard, founder of Democrasexy, and voting rights activist Charlie Bonner. The crash course will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday and touch on political activism, its relation to arts and culture, and how citizens can take action on issues they care about in their own communities.

Bullard, who became politically active in the wake of the 2016 election, is now on a mission to help empower others through political involvement. She co-hosted The Rabble, a Texas politics podcast, for a couple of years before founding Democrasexy, a pro-voting, pro-pleasure initiative, in 2021. She was inspired, in part, by activist Adrienne Maree Brown's concept of "pleasure activism," and got behind the idea that a sustainable civic engagement career centers around taking care of oneself.

"It sounds counterintuitive at first to many people because the issues we are trying to make progress on are heavy — bodily autonomy for women and trans people, combating voter suppression especially of BIPOC [Black and Indigenous People of Color] communities, and righting institutional inequities of all kinds," said Bullard. "But in order to sustain ourselves in the long game of change-making, it's essential that we intentionally infuse joy and humor and pleasure."

Keeping in mind the upcoming Nov. 8 General Election, Friday's workshop will cover how citizens can encourage friends and family to vote, what issues on the ballot will impact them, and what it's like volunteering for a political candidate. How to stay involved during the upcoming January 2023 legislative session will also be touched on. Spooky-season themed fun will be sprinkled into the more practical how-tos, said Bullard, including a tarot reading for Texas and distribution of symbolic talismans of protection that double as voting organization tools.

Bullard said months leading up to elections are critical times for sharing information with friends and family and that research shows encouragement from one's closest acquaintances is the most effective way to increase voter turnout.

"When you can inform yourself on these offices, how they impact the issues you care about and where the candidates stand, you can become a trusted resource for other folks in your life," said Bullard.

The biggest misconception Bullard is working to overcome with the public regarding civic engagement is the idea that organizing change and being politically active has to be tedious and boring.

"I spent my entire life before 2017 not getting involved in politics because I thought it was a depressing space, and it certainly can be. But nothing gets better when too many of us sit on the sidelines," said Bullard. "It's crucial that we expand the population of people who feel invited to participate in our political system, and to do that we have to create spaces that feel good to be in."

Bullard and Bonner will also be registering people to vote at the Los Yonke Gallos de Marfa baseball game at noon on Saturday at Vizcaino Park.

"Claiming Your Power: Intro to Activism" workshop will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, September 30, at El Cosmico. The workshop is open to all Trans-Pecos Festival ticket holders. There is no cost to attend the workshop, but donations are encouraged and will go to Deeds Not Words.

For more information or to register, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/claiming-your-power-intro-to-activism-at-trans-pecos-festival-tickets-407565277717?aff=odcleoeventsincollection

Presidio Democrats host multiple events during festival

MARFA — The Presidio County Democrats are hosting a series of events during the Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love, starting this Thursday, September 29, at El Cosmico. El Cosmico has provided the Presidio County Democrats with a central booth adjacent to the main stage, where candidates will mix with festival goers and volunteers will offer complimentary water and merchandise.

On Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m., John Lira, who is running against incumbent Tony Gonzales for U.S. Congress TX-23, will join Democrat County Judge candidate Jose Portillo for a meet and greet in Presidio at the American Legion.

On Friday, Janet Dudding will join the Presidio Democrats at El Cosmico from noon to 5 p.m., including a meet and greet at 2 p.m. at the booth. Dudding is challenging Republican Glenn Hegar to be the next Texas state comptroller.

On Friday at 5 p.m., the public is invited to join the Democrats at Wrong Gallery's Do Right Hall at 110 West Dallas Street to meet the candidates and view the gubernatorial debate between Beto O'Rourke and Governor Greg Abbott.

San Antonio-based artists and activists Olivia and Cruz Ortiz will be screening the debate, which starts at 7 p.m. and is expected to last one hour. At 6 p.m., activist Charlie Bonner of the grassroots organization Move Texas will moderate a discussion between Dudding, Lira and local candidate David Beebe. Beebe is running for Presidio County commissioner in Precinct 4. Marfa Coffee Company and Cactus Liquors will be sponsoring the event.

On Saturday, John Lira will be joined by the candidate for Texas agriculture commissioner, Susan Hays, at the sandlot baseball tournament at Vizcaino Park starting at noon. The candidates will be throwing the first pitches when Los Yonke Gallos de Marfa face off against the Tigres of San Antonio and the Austin All-Stars.

Following the games, Hays will host a meet and greet back at the festival, where the Democrats will be stationed at their booth until the music stops.

LAUREN MEADER FOWLKES



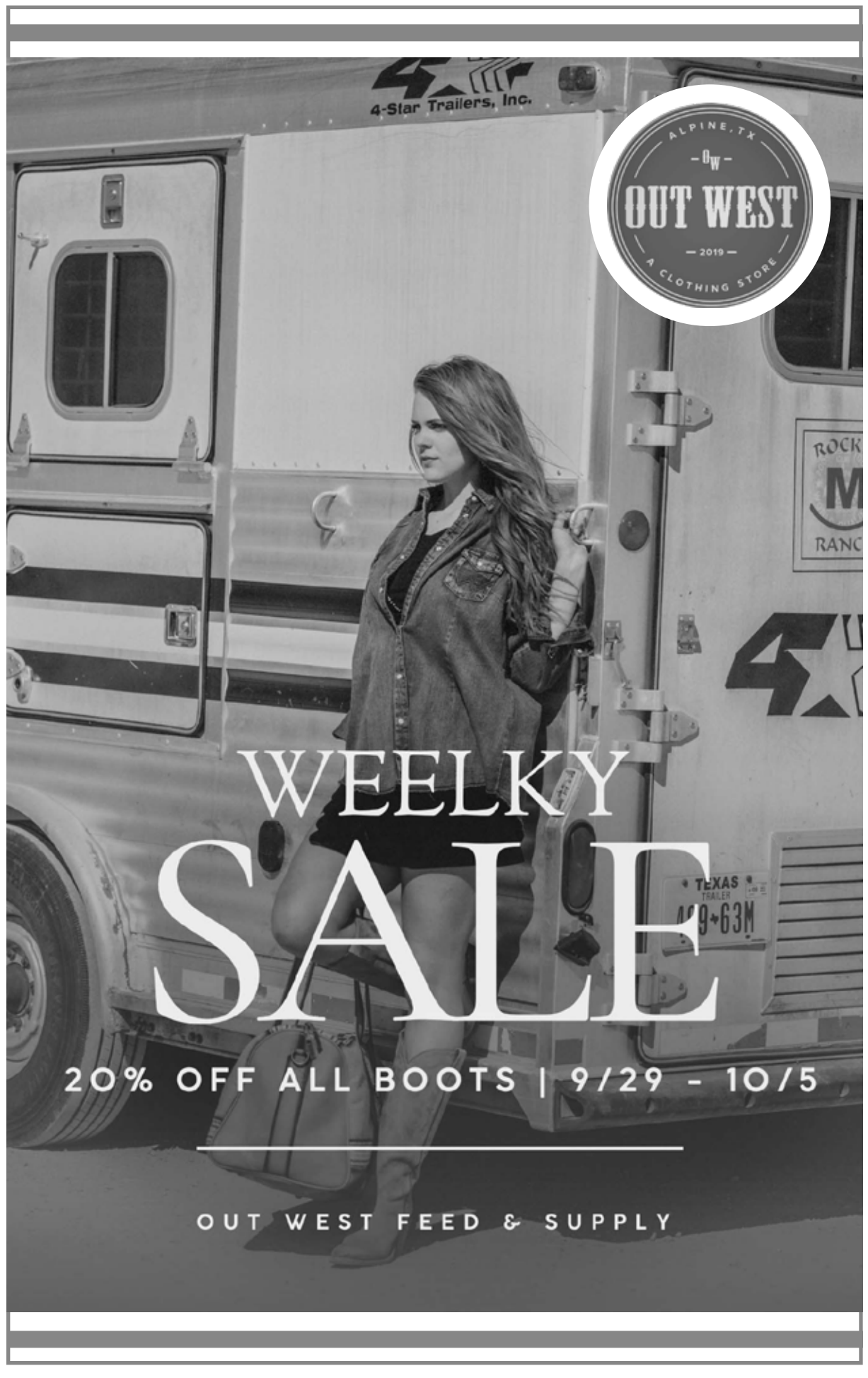
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Photo by Chad Wadsworth

Sam Watts during his "Magic Around Us" workshop at Trans-Pecos last year.

'The Magic Around Us' workshop aims to show wonders of the Big Bend

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — At this weekend's Trans-Pecos Festival, local and visiting kids alike will have the opportunity to participate in "The Magic Around Us," a workshop dedicated to exploring local wonders through artwork. The hour-long class will take place on Saturday morning, providing a space for youngsters and their families to start their weekends with thoughtful and creative exercises.

Sam Watts, a Marfa dad and educator, has honed his curriculum over the past three years. The workshop started as an enrichment activity for students at Marfa ISD and has grown beyond the classroom to include field trips and plein air artmaking. "I've been trying to get kids in the area to look at what is so unique about living in this place and then turn it into art," he explained.

Past workshops have encouraged students to look at the Big Bend region through the lens of local flora and fauna as well as its cultural and human history. "I know that the word 'magic' is one of those overused words to describe things," Watts said. "I wanted to show people in this area that so much exists right around us, that you don't have to travel to a big city to see incredible things."

A few years ago, Watts invited representatives from the Jumano Nation in San Antonio to give educational talks on their culture. The Jumano Nation is one of the many Indigenous groups who call the Big Bend region home, and their visits to Marfa through Watts' program have grown into regular Jumano appearances at regional cultural events. "It was beautiful to get to meet these people and see these stories come to life," he explained.

Watts has taken kids on field trips to see historical Indigenous art at rock shelters around the region, but has also been working hard to make present-day connections. "I'm trying to find and work with contemporary painters who are using their family's tradition or their cultural traditions to make work," he explained. "One of the most important things I want to teach the kids is that they are the future of painting, and their work is in a long line of people making work."

This weekend's workshop will be more focused on the natural world — with the help of a few feathered guest stars. "I have some really beautiful taxidermied hawks and falcons and owls that were a part of my family — I really want to show the kids these birds of prey up close," Watts said. Attendees will be encouraged to learn and talk about birds of prey in the Trans-Pecos, and then to make drawings of these fierce locals.

The workshop is open to everyone, but Watts stressed that it was designed with kids in mind. "Adults are welcome to draw falcons too, but it's really designed for the kids to have something to do at an adult festival," he explained. "Last year, it was really beautiful to have something for the kids to do in the morning — to get their heads going and get some of their energy out."

The Trans-Pecos edition of "The Magic Around Us" will be held this Saturday, October 1, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, email themagicaroundusmarfa@gmail.com. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online https://www.eventbrite.com/e/magic-around-us-kids-art-at-trans-pecos-festival-saturday-11-am-tickets-406953949217.

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AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu Sep 29

El Cosmico Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love
9/29 through 10/2
See our Special Section for festival details and schedules!

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

Fri Sep 30

Texas Governor Debate Watch Party: Beto O'Rourke vs Greg Abbott
5:00pm at Do Right Hall (110 West Dallas Street, Marfa)
5:00pm - Doors open; 5:30pm - Meet the Candidate w/ Janet Dudding; 6:00pm - Progressive Answers Panel moderated by Charlie Bonner w/ Janet Dudding, John Lira & David Beebe; 7:00pm - Debate Starts. Presented by Presidio Democrats. Refreshments provided!

Prometheus Pizza Pop-Up at Marfa Wine Co.
12:00pm - 5:00pm, 303 E. El Paso Street
The "best" pizza + your favorite natural wine!

Alpine Public Library's Travel Talk
7:00pm at AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room at APL (432-837-2621)
Sharon McClanahan will share her travels in Turkey with a pictorial exploration of the country's history, museums, pottery, mosaics, mountains, beaches, and food.

Sat Oct 1

Prometheus Pizza Pop-Up at Marfa Wine Co.
12:00pm - 5:00pm, 303 E. El Paso Street
The "best" pizza + your favorite natural wine!

Tue Oct 4

National Night Out presented by the Marfa Police Department
6:00pm - 9:00pm at Coffield Park (105 N. Mesa Street, Marfa)
Join us for free food, jumpers, child safety education, emergency vehicles, law enforcement personnel, music, goody bags & bike giveaways!

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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

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

Free Zumba Classes
Mondays & Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Mysore Yoga Classes
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays at 9:00am at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes
Tuesdays at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Coffee in the Courtyard
Fridays at 9:00am - 12:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Have an upcoming or weekly event?

Please submit a two sentence maximum description of your weekly event including who, what, when, and where by Tuesday at 10 am to ads@bigbendsentinel.com

The girls of Lumber Club Marfa to lead their first workshop at Trans-Pecos

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Visitors flocking to Marfa for the Trans-Pecos Festival will have the unique opportunity to build their very own wooden stools, under the careful guidance of a group of skilled local artisans.

Those artisans, the members of woodworking group Lumber Club Marfa, happen to be girls between the ages of 6 and 13.

11-year-old Willa Bamburg, despite her age, has seven years of experience with the club under her belt. For her and her equally capable clubmates, it can be amusing to watch it dawn on adults that they're coming into a space where a group of kids have them bested in terms of expertise.

"I guess — kind of rightfully so — they underestimate kids, because ideally the adults are the ones teaching the kids about stuff," said Willa. "And then when they realize that we know what we're doing they're a little shocked. I just like seeing the change on their faces. It's funny."

The all-girls club, overseen by artist Larry Bamburg, meets every Friday after school for about four hours — interrupted halfway through by a dinner break — at a woodshed off Golf Course Road near Vizcaino Park. There, the young woodworkers hone their craft and turn out three-legged stools that are then sold via the group's website for $300. The kids are paid for their work, in money that goes directly into a 529 education account for each member, to serve as an eventual college fund.

The girls work on the customer service side of the business as well, taking orders via email and corresponding with prospective buyers. The result is a well-rounded education not just on woodworking but grit, determination, and the development of vital social skills. Seeing each girl reap the benefits of that education is deeply rewarding, said Bamburg.

"That confidence and seeing that grow over time, that's what we do — helping them find their power is what we do," he said. The completed stools themselves, made from white oak, are icing on the cake.



Photo by Sarah M. Vasquez

Elliott Thompson, 8, works on a project at Lumber Club Marfa.

"The fact that they're beautiful objects and they're a perfect blend of wonky and refinement is just my own secondary interest in objects and form and sculpture."

Gaining experience through years of Lumber Club is an exercise in gradually gaining confidence and familiarity with a series of new tools, which can be intimidating upon introduction — and dangerous if used incorrectly, the girls remind newcomers. Willia's sister, 13-year-old Mae Bamburg, said she is currently gaining confidence with the table saw.

"I guess it's kind of exhilarating when you first start on a new tool," said Mae. "It's scary — you have to get a feel for it. After a while, you just get comfortable and forget what it was like when you started out."

Amelia Ofenstein, 12, remarked that gaining this knowledge and confidence was her favorite part of being in the club. "I really like how you get to learn how to use big tools and how to learn to be careful around them and be mindful of your surroundings," she said.

While the girls have led tours of their studio, and some have taught adults one-on-one, the festival event will be their very first workshop for adults. Participants in the workshop will, over the course of three hours, turn out their very own three-legged stool. Novice woodworkers nervous about their lack of ability should take comfort in the simplicity of the item, which Bamburg had settled on for the club's purposes due to its ability to be perfect in its imperfection.

"It's a really simple piece of furniture, and it can be really wonky and still stand," he said. "In a form sense, in a structural sense, it's the bare minimum of what you need to pull off a little seat, and they'll always stand."

The young instructors themselves are thrilled about stepping into the teaching role.

"I think it's pretty cool, especially if we can teach people that are older than us," said 12-year-old Abi Scott. "Most of the time, we're teaching younger children. But I feel like it's fun to teach adults, because if they never gain those skills it's a good skill set for people to have. Some people don't know how to change a light bulb, and that's kind of sad, so I feel like them getting the experience to be able to learn this kind of stuff is a really good experience for us and for them."

The experienced workers do have some advice for prospective workshop participants: stay focused, come equipped with plenty of water, respect the power of the tools, and listen to your instructors. After all, they know what they're doing.

"If one of our clients is feeling intimidated by a tool or they're scared to work with a tool, I would assure them that as long as they follow the instructions with the tool, as long as they are doing the best they can, they will be safe," said Abi.

Lumber Club Marfa: Stool Making Workshop will take place on Saturday, October 1, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at El Cosmico. Tickets are $475 and can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lumber-club-marfa-at-trans-pecos-festival-saturday-130-pm-tickets-407644725347?aff=odcleoeventsincollection.

Three-team baseball coming to Vizcaino this Saturday

By MARY ETHERINGTON

MARFA — When the traditional yell of "play ball!" rings out around noon this Saturday at Vizcaino Park, signaling the start of another baseball game as part of the Trans-Pecos Festival, a possible footnote of "let chaos rein!" might as well be added.

Marfa's own Los Yonke Gallos will face off with not one, but two other teams. The San Antonio Los Tigres reached out hoping to play a Friday night game against Marfa's home team — however, since it's an event weekend, most of the local players would be working and others rebelled. In the spirit of accommodation familiar out here, Los Yonke Gallos offered to include the San Antonio team in the Saturday game already scheduled with the Austin All Stars. They accepted, and history waits to be made.

The possibilities for confusion are legion. The game will still be nine innings, there will be a winner, and each team will play two innings and sit out the next one.

"In theory, the best team will win — that said without a grain of insight," said player Michael Camacho.

The first, famous "tri-cornered" game called by sportswriter Dick Young in the New York Daily News "the wackiest diamond battle ever conceived" was played only weeks after the landings in Normandy, in 1944, at the Polo Grounds in Upper Manhattan, New York, as a fundraiser for WWII war bonds. The Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants, and New York Yankees — all with similar win/loss records — sold war bonds for tickets to 49,500 people. Five hundred injured veterans were given free admission. After bond sales, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia pledged another $50 million in bonds and another $1 million was donated to bring the total to $56 million raised, all for the war. All three teams had short-handed rosters as players were away participating in the war effort.

The Dodgers shortstop, one of the youngest MLB players to hit the field, was 16 years old at the time. Not entirely unlike last July 4th when Shane Maxwell, 10 years old at the time, volunteered to take to the field for Los Yonke Gallos, answering the call to serve, so to speak, in the local sports world.

Once the idea was hatched for the game in 1944, the organizers called in a mathematician who actually relied on his trusty slide rule to figure out and format the game, making sure each team had equal playing time. Luckily, that round robin approach has survived and does not have to be reinvented. With the basic tenets figured out, it's time to take to the field and to the stands.

Michael Camacho — longtime player, sometime coach, and not this time the one "barking orders" — wonders about getting back up to play after sitting out an inning, if it will be a situation where "you kinda forget you're playing baseball." Oh the anticipation! The thrills! The chills!

The team will field longtime players Nick Bustillos, Jerram Rojo, Anthony DiSimone, Max Kabat, Nick Fazio and others, plus any that show up, even if they missed most of the practices. Zeke Raney and Mia Valenti are both on the injured list — however, Valenti may pinch run.

In the spirit of the best of sandlot baseball, never short on entertainment, this game scenario definitely bumps up the stakes and, as Camacho promises, there will be a "win in some fashion."





Classifieds & public notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF MARFA
MARFA, TX

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing on the proposed City of Marfa Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 5:30pm. City Council will meet in the Casner Room located inside City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave, Marfa, Tx 79843.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of $198,099.61 which is a 24.08 percent increase from last's year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from the new property added to the tax roll this year is $9,312.43.

A copy of the proposed budget is posted on the City's website for public review. Any citizen will have the opportunity to give oral comments at the Public Hearing.

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the Casner Room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

The City of Marfa Parks and Recreation Development Corporation is requesting proposals for construction services for the erection of a shade structure over the playground at Travis Self Park.

Kindly visit https://cityofmarfa.com/rfps to download the Request for Proposals.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of OLIVIA R. SPENCER aka OLIVIA SPENCER, Deceased, were issued on SEPTEMBER 21, 2022, under Docket No. 2000, pending in the County of Court of Law of Presidio County, Texas, to LUIS MIGUEL SPENCER, aka LUIS M. SPENCER, aka LUIS SPENCER.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Olivia R. Spencer aka Oliva Spencer, Deceased
c/o Spencer Trial Attorneys P.C., Ashley Spencer
1009 Montana Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79902

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

DATED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2022.

By:/s/ Ashley Spencer, Attorney for Applicant

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

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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.

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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