THE BIG BEND
# Sentinel

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## *November 8 General Election voting times, locations and local races*

### *Early voting takes place until Friday, November 4*

**Presidio County**

**Early voting** in Presidio County will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through November 4 at the Marfa Visitors Center/USO Building and the Presidio County Annex Building C. Both locations will serve residents in precincts 1 through 7, or all Presidio County residents, for early voting.

**Election Day** voting on November 8 will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Marfa Visitor's Center will serve residents from precincts 1 and 7. The Presidio Activity Center will serve Precinct 2 voters. The Presidio County Annex Building C will serve Precincts 3 and 4 voters. The American Legion in Presidio will serve Precinct 5 and 7 voters.

**Local race**s

County Judge: Democrat Jose Portillo Jr. versus Republican Cinderela Guevara

County Commissioner Precinct 4: Democrat David Beebe versus Republican Garey Willbanks

County Treasurer: Democrat Frances Garcia versus Republican David Chavez

Uncontested Races: County Commissioner Precinct 2 Democrat Margarito Hernandez, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Democrat Dina Jo Marquez, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Democrat Juanita Urias Bishop, District/County Clerk Democrat Florcita Zubia

**Marfa Independent School District bond**

Voters within the boundaries of the Marfa Independent School District will also see a school bond initiative on the ballot, a $57 million proposal for a new K-12 school, career and technology addition to the high school and other district-wide improvements. The district will raise school property taxes to pay off the bond within a period of 30 years.

**Brewster County**

**Early voting** in Brewster County will take place at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex (Old Library) 203 N 7th St., Alpine. Hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 1, through Friday, November 4.

**Remote early voting** will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. November 3 at the Marathon Community Center for Precinct 3 residents, the Panther Junction Visitor Center, Big Bend National Park, for Precinct 5 residents and J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center, Terlingua, for Precinct 6 and 7 residents.

**Election Day voting** on November 8 will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precinct 1 voters can cast their ballots at the Assembly of God Fellowship Hall, across from Alpine High School, 1802 N Hwy 118,

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Photo by Hannah Gentiles for *The Big Bend Sentinel*

***Maverick Conners, 3, reaches for a goody bag as he shows off his fireman uniform for the judges at Marfa Public Library's annual Halloween costume contest. READ MORE ON PAGE 15.***

## *City Council approves HOT grants for local organizations and raises utility rates*

**By MARY CANTRELL**
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MARFA — City Council met for a regular meeting last week to approve two new utility rate ordinances, which will allow them to increase customer fees, and greenlit hotel occupancy tax (HOT) grant proposals.

Mayor Manny Baeza, Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado and council members Raul Lara, Eddie Pallarez and Jason Ballmann were present. Early in the meeting, Council swiftly voted to approve two ordinances, one for new water and sewer fees, another for new natural gas fees, which will allow the city to charge customers more for those utilities. New rates should be reflected in November billing, said City Manager Mandy Roane in an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel.*

The profitability of utility services was a major point of discussion in this year's budgeting cycle, with a few city departments losing money on providing the services, which are designed to generate revenue for the city to help pay for other operations. The city is raising rates for water and wastewater, which have remained stagnant since 2015, based on recommendations from a water and wastewater rate study city staff had performed. The city will use the altered rates to help fund local water infrastructure improvements over time, first prioritizing water storage, said Roane. Roane said for now water and sewer rates were set to increase by 8% each.

The need to also increase natural gas rates stems from the fact that the city recently renewed its contract with provider West Texas Gas (WTG) and, even though Council selected the cheapest of the available renewal options, its new rate, $7.91 per MMBtu, is more than double the previous rate of $3.60 per MMBtu. The city will likely pass on this increase to city customers, but Roane said gas usage tends to vary widely between households and the city was currently unable to provide an estimated average change in natural gas rates.

The city is in ongoing legal discussions with WTG relating to a $114,000 bill they received from the February 2021 winter storm. In similar cases in other cities, the cost of the invoice was passed on to customers via an increase in rates, but it remains to be seen how the city and WTG will proceed with the bill. Roane said the city should have an update on the matter in time for the next City Council meeting on November 8.

Next, the council voted to approve the city's participation in a group seal coat program for city

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## *Alpine Public Library receives grant for tri-county community resource directory*

**By MARY CANTRELL**
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TRI-COUNTY — The Alpine Public Library recently received a $9,200 grant from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to develop a web-based community resource directory for tri-county citizens that will help match an individual's needs — including healthcare — with the requisite services.

The formation of the directory will begin in earnest in the new year and, if all goes according to plan, will be ready for public use by summer of 2023, according to Don Wetterauer, the library's executive director, who said they welcome feedback as they get the service off the ground.

"We are open for suggestions — things that people would want to include," he said. "We want to try to make it as comprehensive as we can."

In addition to area healthcare providers, the directory may also include contact information for local food pantries, family crisis centers, legal aid, transportation services and more. Wetterauer said the primary goal is to simply connect those in need with entities that can provide help — something that could prove useful for locals and visitors alike. The initiative is just one example of how rural libraries act as hubs for information, said Wetterauer.

"I hope that people think that the library is a place where they can come and get good, accurate information," said Wetterauer.

Dr. Adrian Billings of Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS) said the community resource directory will provide services that, in a more urbanized area, would typically be found through a social worker. However, he's not aware of a licensed social worker operating in the area in his 16-plus-years of practicing healthcare in the Big Bend region, he said, so the library is stepping up to fill a critical need.

"[It's] really a very kind and generous donation of their time, sweat equity and efforts to put something like this together for healthcare resources in the Big Bend," said Billings.

The BBRHD grant will, in part, go toward hiring a resource investigator who will take on the task of developing the human services listings. The library will then plan semi-annual

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## *After bond reductions, brothers charged in Hudspeth County migrant shooting are released from tri-county jails*

**By ALLEGRA HOBBS**
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TRI-COUNTY — Mike and Mark Sheppard, the Sierra Blanca brothers accused of shooting and killing one migrant and wounding another last month, have once again been released from custody after a district judge agreed to significantly lower their cash bond amounts.

The twins face manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon charges in Hudspeth County, but were briefly held in tri-county jails last week. At a joint Zoom hearing on Thursday, Mike Sheppard appeared from Brewster County Jail in Alpine and Mark appeared from Presidio County Jail in neighboring Marfa, sitting silently as their attorneys argued their bond amounts of $250,000 were "illegal" and "oppressive." The Sheppards had already forked over $250,000 apiece following their initial arrest on manslaughter charges in the days after the shooting; they were jailed again, on the same bond amounts, when hit with the assault charges.

Ultimately, 394th District Judge Roy Ferguson agreed to lower those cash bond amounts to $75,000 for Mike Sheppard, the alleged shooter, and $50,000 for Mark Sheppard. The remaining difference in each bond amount — $175,000 for Mike and $200,000 for Mark — were rendered personal recognizance (PR) bonds, which require no money upfront.

The brothers now await the outcome of a slow-building criminal case — as of press time, over one month after the shooting, they had not been indicted.

But the hearing provided a first glimpse into the prosecution of the attack that has drawn national scrutiny as a possible hate crime, with immigrant rights advocates and elected officials alike calling on authorities to investigate it as such. An arrest affidavit recounts how, on the evening of September 27, the brothers pulled over near a reservoir south of Sierra Blanca where a group of migrants had stopped to drink, at which point Mike — as Mark told investigators — emerged from the driver's seat with a shotgun and fired two shots. A male migrant was struck and killed, while a woman who was shot in the stomach survived. Mark professed they believed they had been shooting at javelinas.

At Thursday's hearing, prosecutor Kevin Marcantel stated plainly that he wasn't buying the javelina story. The use of a shotgun indicates they were shooting at close-range, he argued, plus Mark claimed to have been using binoculars to spot their targets.

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## *City of Presidio to receive gift ambulance from Winkler County*

**By SAM KARAS**
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PRESIDIO — At last Wednesday's meeting, the Presidio County Commissioners Court finalized the formal acceptance of a big gift — a new ambulance that will service the City of Presidio. Winkler County had a surplus ambulance and decided to gift the ambulance to Presidio County, which then identified the City of Presidio as the community with the highest need.

After years of struggling to keep the city's fleet up to date, the donation was welcome news. Even among the far-flung communities in the Big Bend, Presidio's ambulances have quite a ways to travel — the typical run from within city limits is 88 miles in each direction. Those miles add up quickly, and the city's EMS service frequently deals with breakdowns and other mishaps on the long road to Alpine.

The quest for a new ambulance began in 2019, when former EMS Director Malynda Richardson started applying for grants to refresh the city's beleaguered fleet. Years of bad bookkeeping on the city's part bungled her efforts to secure outside funding, and it took a coordinated effort to seek immediate assistance from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District and begin the long, difficult process of addressing the city's troubled financial history.

The ambulance donation was coordinated by Precinct 4 Commissioner Buddy Knight, whose nephew is a county commissioner in oil-rich Winkler County. Winkler County has a surplus ambulance — a 2011 International with 40,000 miles on it. Ambulances typically get "retired" when the odometer hits 100,000, meaning that Presidio will still get plenty of use out of the new unit.

Both Presidio City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez and Presidio Municipal Development District Executive Director Jeran Stephens attended the meeting to express their appreciation. As long-term locals, both understood the importance of having an ambulance fleet in good shape. "It's a big deal to have ambulance service out here in the middle of nowhere," Stephens said.

The county had originally hoped not to assign the ambulance to a specific community and instead use it as a county-wide backup that either Marfa or Presidio could use. That idea was prompted, in part, by talks about developing a region-wide EMS service spurred by the death of former Alpine EMS Director Mike Scudder, whose passing left the city to depend on Terlingua EMS for service.

The commissioners quickly realized that wasn't an option — regulations are set by the Texas Department of Health, which stipulates how ambulances are stored, serviced and maintained. After weeks of discussion, the commissioners agreed that the ambulance would benefit the city of Presidio the most. "It's hard for [Presidio] to keep up with the wear and tear because they just have such a long distance to go to get to the hospital," said County Judge Cinderela Guevara.

The donation means that the city will eventually have three functioning ambulance units. One is an ambulance Frankenstein — a "box" that originally served Terlingua EMS patients and a new chassis that was funded through

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

# Community resource directory

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reviews of the information to ensure everything is up to date, said Wetterauer. "We all realize there's no point in doing this if we're not going to keep it accurate and up to date," he said.

The directory will be tailored to resources in the tri-county area, and likely include listings from Fort Stockton, Midland-Odessa and El Paso. The library may also opt to provide a printed resource, or guidebook, but sees the online platform as better able to adapt over time, said Wetterauer. The Alpine Public Library plans to reach out to other local libraries to train their staff on the directory so that citizens may come into their respective library branch to access computers and get help locating resources.

The idea to develop a community resource directory was born out of the library's previous initiative to host a community read-along where participants read *The Plague Year: America in the Time of COVID* by Lawrence Wright. The library hosted an accompanying forum where locals discussed healthcare needs in the region, with local healthcare providers present.

One of the realizations that came out of the conversation, said Wetterauer, was that people were unaware of who to contact for certain needs and often had a difficult time getting in touch with the right people.

"We're kind of listed as a healthcare desert, as far as health services, because of our lack of resources and the distance from here to other places where you can get more comprehensive medical care," said Wetterauer. "People realized that there were things they could do, but they had no clue."

The Alpine Public Library will likely partner with the San Antonio Community Resource Directory (SACRD), a nonprofit operating a similar online service in the greater San Antonio area founded in 2019. Bill Neely, executive director of SACRD, said the organization currently has around 8,500 resources listed from 1,850 organizations and averages around 6,000 to 7,000 visitors per week, the majority being case managers, social workers and more.

SACRD also operates a mental health portal — which includes a "guided interview" to help individuals discover the right solutions for them — and is in the process of launching an apartment finder. Wetterauer said the tri-county resource directory may not initially offer a housing locator, but could be expanded to do so in the future. Neely said in order to be successful the platform must have support on the local level from medical districts, government offices, religious organizations and more.

"Public awareness and trust of the platform is always an issue in any community," said Neely. "The supporting coalition will need to tap into the various networks of trust in the area and invite them to get to know the platform and recommend it to their constituents."

Neely said anticipated challenges relating to creating a community resource directory for the tri-county area include a possible low resource count and how the site's proximity feature may be utilized.

"Long distances between people and resources are to be assumed, but the specifics of how this will affect the maps are yet to be known," said Neely. "I don't expect it to be an issue technically, but we will see if users are happy to receive information about a service 100 miles away."

For Billings, the need for a community resource directory underscores how healthcare entities in the tri-county area are under-resourced — citizens of the region are often seeking support with everything from mental health to long-term assisted care, he said.

"Medicine is more and more specialized, urbanized and centralized and that kind of leaves our rural health care workforce under-resourced." said Billings. "This is not to say anything bad of the healthcare systems in the Big Bend, it's just that we are a consequence of the national healthcare system not, in my opinion, really prioritizing rural healthcare."

He said he is fully supportive of the initiative and sees it as an important example of multiple institutions coming together to meet community needs. "For them to come into the healthcare information spectrum is really great and generous. I think it's really what is needed to provide the best and more robust healthcare in the Big Bend."

# Gift ambulance

*(Continued from page 1)*

grant money. The City of Presidio also ordered a new ambulance with help from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District back in the spring, but thanks to supply chain issues, that ambulance won't be ready to take home until next year.

Though a timeline for picking up the ambulance from Kermit has not yet been set, the process should be much quicker and smoother than ordering a brand-new ambulance. City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez was thrilled with the news. "It'll make sure that the problems we've had with getting stranded will be lessened," he said. "We'll be able to provide better care for our citizens."

The new ambulance isn't all the city of Presidio has to look forward to. Over the summer, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District announced that Presidio would split a $5.5 million dollar grant from the USDA with Terlingua. Presidio's share of the funding will go to creating an after-hours clinic to serve patients evenings and weekends. "Presidio County has made really good progress and we just have to keep working at it," said Guevara.

# City Council

*(Continued from page 1)*

streets from Parkhill, an architectural and engineering design services company the city has previously worked with. Last year the city allocated $125,000 to the program which "is just to expand the lifespan of those deteriorating roads," according to Mayor Baeza. Council opted to participate in more seal coating for city streets this year and allocated $150,000 to the program.

Lastly, Council heard from Director of Tourism Abby Boyd, who also serves on the HOT grant committee with Mayor Baeza and Mayor Pro Tem Salgado, regarding HOT grant recipients for the current cycle. The city gives out HOT grant money twice a year, and the council approves which organizations get funds based on recommendations from the HOT committee.

This year, the city budgeted to receive $700,000 in HOT revenue. HOT grants given must fall into one to four main categories: arts and culture, advertising reimbursements, sports, and historic preservation. Funds must go to events or activities that promote the local tourism industry.

The city budgeted $185,000 this budget cycle for historic building preservation, and $41,000 for historic preservation events and programs. Most of the historic preservation money was already spoken for during the budgeting process, with the city allocating money to The Marfa and Presidio County Museum and the Blackwell School, per agreements with those entities, as well as money for historic events, including the Marfa Lights Festival and Chinati Weekend, both circa 1987.

Because of this set up, the Friends of the Hunter Gym, a newly-formed nonprofit organization looking to restore and preserve the old adobe gym on Marfa ISD's campus, was denied a grant they requested for historic preservation for the amount of $35,000. However, the mayor mentioned the city will reconsider the group for funding while planning next year's budget.

For arts and culture funds, Ballroom Marfa was awarded $7,500 for their fall exhibitions, MAINTENANT was awarded $5,500 for current exhibitions, the Marfa Chamber of Commerce was awarded $3,000 for the Marfa Holiday Bazaar, Marfa Live Arts was awarded $500 for its Beyond the Box program and another $500 for its My HEB partnership project, and Marfa Open was awarded $500 for their fall arts festival.

For advertising reimbursements, Ballroom Marfa was awarded $3,500, CineMarfa was awarded $1,500, the Marfa Chamber of Commerce was awarded $3,500 for the Marfa Holiday Bazaar and Marfa Live Arts was awarded $2,000 for its Beyond the Box program and an additional $2,000 for its My HEB partnership project. For sports, the Marfa 100 bike race was awarded $2,000 and an additional $3,500 in advertising reimbursements.

# Migrant shooting

*(Continued from page 1)*

"I can't hardly believe these guys didn't know those were human beings they were shooting at," said Marcantel. "I'm really surprised it's not a higher charge than manslaughter, quite frankly."

While the brothers' attorneys argued that their clients were not a danger to the public and did not pose a flight risk — offering the testimony of a local bond salesperson and letters submitted by Sierra Blanca residents — Marcantel argued the opposite. He argued forcefully that their actions showed they were a danger, and that once an indictment came down they might be tempted to run. He proposed an evenly split bond at $125,000 cash and $125,000 PR — less lenient than the judge's eventual ruling.

Character testimonies aside, the attorneys argued that their clients were simply unable to pay the full bond amounts. Brent Mayr, representing Mike Sheppard, said his client had no more than a few thousand dollars left in his bank account, and that his family was selling a property in Florida in order to cover expenses stemming from the case.

"Both Mike Sheppard and Mark Sheppard do not have any significant assets in order to post this now second illegal, oppressive bond that we're challenging," said Mayr.

Richard Esper, attorney for Mark Sheppard, said his client had suffered a stroke approximately nine months ago and has since exhibited early signs of dementia, per a recent medical examination in Hudspeth County Jail. "His health is not well," he said.

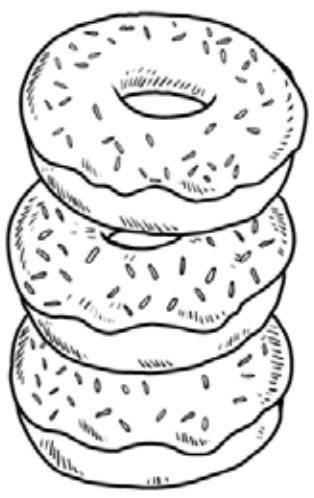
Though Esper questioned why the two sets of charges were not filed simultaneously, precluding the need for two arrests, Marcantel explained that the Texas Ranger filing the charges was waiting to see whether the surviving victim would live or die — if she had died, the Rangers would have filed additional manslaughter charges. Once they determined she was likely to live, they filed the assault charges.

> *"I'm really surprised it's not a higher charge than manslaughter, quite frankly."*

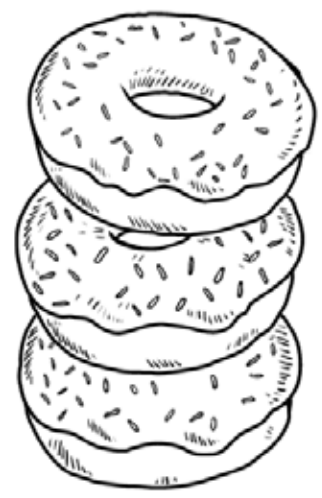
Esper also insisted — as he has in the past — that Mark Sheppard is not guilty of the charges he currently faces, calling the evidence against him "extremely weak, even in the law of parties."

Marcantel pushed back against that characterization in very strong terms.

"Mark's the one looking through the binoculars at the alleged javelinas that turned out to be human beings," he said. "I think he knew darn well they were human beings."

VOTE Y'ALL



**Join us on Election Day Tuesday, November 8th for FREE donuts and coffee from 8am - 3pm, or until we run out.**

**Acompañenos el Dia de Eleccion, Martes 8 de Noviembre. Donas y Café gratis de las 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, o hasta que se agoten.**

Bring your "I Voted" sticker and celebrate Election Day. Find us across the street from the USO (at the bank).

Traiga su calcomania de "I Voted" y celebremos el Dia de Eleccion, estaremos al cruzar la calle del salon USO (En el Banco de Marfa)

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# *Presidio ISD hosts fentanyl awareness workshop for parents*

**By SAM KARAS**
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PRESIDIO — Last Wednesday, Presidio ISD Police Chief Joel Nuñez gave a presentation on fentanyl to a small crowd of parents at the Blue Devil Gym. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that the CDC warns can be 50 times stronger than heroin. His presentation gave parents basic facts about the drug and its distribution as well as how to spot potential fentanyl overdoses.

The informational program was a part of Red Ribbon Week, an annual nationwide drug awareness campaign. The tradition started as a way of honoring Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was tortured and murdered after working undercover to expose illegal drug networks in Mexico.

These days, Red Ribbon Week is a more lighthearted affair. Presidio ISD students were given a different costume prompt each day, from dressing up as their future selves to exploring fashion trends of the past. The week was capped off by a parade down O'Reilly street and a bonfire at the high school to "light it up" against drugs.

Wednesday's presentation was the one Red Ribbon Week event specifically geared toward parents. While Nuñez planned to host informational talks at the schools about opioid abuse and overdose, he wanted to target parents first. "Kids are going to be kids," he said. "Help from our parents and families is needed."

Fentanyl was patented in the 1950s, but has become a hot-button issue in recent years. The concern about fentanyl today isn't about its use in medical settings — it's lab-synthesized knockoffs that have been found laced in street drugs, causing a rash of overdoses around the country. Overdoses from synthetic opioids have been steadily rising in Texas over the last few years.

Nuñez stressed to parents that fentanyl hadn't yet made it to Presidio, as far as law enforcement was aware — but that he worried it was on the way. In early October, Customs and Border Protection in El Paso seized almost 17 pounds of fentanyl in a single bust. "We have not had any cases here, but it's very close," he said. "We're learning as we go."

One form of fentanyl Nuñez warned parents of was rainbow fentanyl — a brightly-colored version of the drug in pill form that the DEA called an "alarming emerging trend" in a press release from August. "Rainbow fentanyl is a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction amongst kids and young adults," DEA Administrator Anne Milgram wrote.

That DEA release caught like wildfire on TV and talk radio ahead of Halloween, making rainbow fentanyl, in the words of one NPR report, "the latest Halloween bogeyman." Rumors circulate every year that parents should be on the lookout for drug-laced treats in their childrens' candy buckets, despite there being no statistics or case studies to back up those fears.

There have been some reports of fentanyl being concealed in candy packaging for transport — on October 19, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department put out a release after seizing 12,000 fentanyl pills disguised as packets of SweeTarts, Nerds and other popular kinds of candy.

Nuñez was concerned the Mexican cartels responsible for moving drugs through the region could take the same approach, and sloppy trafficking could prove fatal. He asked parents to imagine a number of scenarios: what if one of the fake candy packages fell off a shipment in a truck? "We don't know if it was intended for kids, but either way it's very dangerous," he said.

Kids are way more likely to encounter rainbow fentanyl in the home of a friend or family member struggling with addiction, Nuñez eventually conceded. If left out unattended, the brightly-colored pills might entice young ones. "It's very possible for a child to take one by accident," he said.

One concerned mother asked if the pills actually taste like candy. "No," replied Nuñez. "They taste like drugs."

In any form, the drug can prove fatal in doses as small as the equivalent of 15 grains of salt. Symptoms of a fentanyl overdose include sleepiness, breathing problems, small or constricted pupils, choking, nausea, confusion, clammy skin, discolored lips or nails, and a loss of consciousness. "It can become fatal pretty quickly," Nuñez explained.

All Presidio ISD Police officers carry Narcan, or naloxone, in case of a suspected overdose. Narcan comes in injectable and inhalable forms, and is commonly used to help restore breathing in people who have overdosed on opioids.

Presidio Police Department Chief Margarito Hernandez said that his officers did not yet carry Narcan, but they had ordered some and were awaiting the necessary training. He agreed with Nuñez that fentanyl had not yet become a local issue. "We haven't had to deal with fentanyl yet, but it is really scary when you read about the drug," he said.

For Hernandez, curtailing the spread of illegal drugs in the borderlands is personal. During his childhood, he watched his hometown of Redford fall apart as more and more locals got involved in the drug trade. "I grew up here and went to high school in Presidio — at one point or another, you were exposed to drugs," he said.

This Red Ribbon Week, Hernandez made an appearance in local schools to educate kids about the dangers of drug use. He stressed that prevention comes down to the individual — no matter where or how an individual grew up, choosing to use or traffic drugs is a personal choice. "I told them it was their choice and their decision — don't try to be like anyone else. [Drugs] affect everybody," he said.

His biggest piece of advice for parents was to take an active role in talking to their kids about drugs and addiction. He also urged keeping a close eye on where and with whom their children spend time. "Sometimes you don't think about it — you're like, 'Oh, it's just a little girl.' But you don't know who the parents are, who the siblings are. That can be a big red flag."

# *November 8 General Election*

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Alpine. Precinct 2 voters can cast their ballots at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex (Old Library), 203 N 7th St., Alpine. Precinct 3 voters can cast their ballots at the Marathon Community Center, 2nd and Ave E, Marathon. Precinct 4 voters can cast their ballots at the Alpine Civic Center-Council Chambers, 803 W Holland, Alpine. Precinct 5 voters can cast their ballots at the Panther Junction Visitor Center, Big Bend National Park. Precinct 6 and 7 voters can cast their ballots at the J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center, Terlingua. And Precinct 8 voters can cast their ballots at the Food Pantry of Alpine, 933 East Gallego Ave., Alpine.

**Local races**

County Judge: Democrat Oscar Cobos versus Republican Greg Hennington

County Commissioner Precinct 2: Democrat Sara Colando versus Republican Mark Chiles Justice of the Peace Precinct 2: Democrat Tim Relleva versus Republican Paul Rashott

There are also Marathon ISD School Board members up for election. All other races in Brewster County are uncontested. To view a sample ballot, visit brewstercountytx.com/vote/

**Jeff Davis County**

**Early voting** in Jeff Davis County will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until November 4 at the Jeff Davis County District and County Clerk's office located in the county courthouse on 111 N. Front St., Fort Davis.

**Election Day** voting on November 8 will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precinct 1, 2 and 3 voters will cast their ballots at the Jeff Davis County Community Center, 601 E Cemetery Road, Fort Davis, Precinct 4 voters at the Valentine Community Building, North Main and Eighth Street, Valentine, and Precinct 5 voters at the Davis Mountains Resort Baptist Church, 101 Broken Arrow Trail, Fort Davis.

**Local races**

County Commissioner Precinct 2: Democrat Todd Jagger versus Republican Roy Hurley

County Commissioner Precinct 4: Democrat Albert Miller versus Republican Royce Laskoskie

All other races in Jeff Davis County are uncontested, including that of Jeff Davis County Judge in which Curtis Evans, a Republican, is running to continue his role. To view a sample ballot, visit co.jeff-davis.tx.us/page/jeffdavis.Elections


**ELECT DAVID CHAVEZ**
**PRESIDIO COUNTY TREASURER**

- U.S. Marine Corps Retired. Attained rank of Sergeant (E-5) Served 13 months combat duty in Viet Nam. Subsequently commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.
- As a 1st Lieutenant, appointed Executive Officer over 250-man combat engineer company.
- Bachelor of Science Hydrology - Utah State University – Logan, UT
- Master of Public Administration - Governor State University – University Park, IL
- Post Graduate Paralegal Certificate - Southeastern Paralegal Institute – Dallas, TX
- Following military service, served over 20 years in multiple capacities as a City Manager, County Manager, Public Works Director, and Economic Development Director.

I am asking for your vote on November 8th to be your next Presidio County Treasurer. Given my extensive experience in the public sector serving in high visibility and executive-level positions, all requiring oversight and construction of departmental through citywide level budgets, I am very confident that I possess both the incisive business acumen and seminal leadership qualities to confidently step into this position in a highly competent manner with a minimum of introduction.

Many people in this county are grounded in the habit of voting for a person based on family ties, friendship status, or political affiliation. This is hardly the best way of ensuring the best candidate is elected. I am running primarily on my qualifications, not my political affiliation. If you, the voter, were a hiring manager for a major corporation, professional ethics would demand that you hire the best qualifying candidate over someone you knew and liked. You would want the best person to ensure the most favorable returns for the company. Well, the same holds true for a political candidate; you would want someone whose credentials predict the best returns for the county at large. I would ask the voter to compare my qualifications with those of my opponent. If qualifications remain the predominate determinate in this election, I am confident of my victory in November.

**Again, I am asking for your vote on November 8th.**

**Thank you in advance for your confidence in my candidacy.**

**- David Chavez -**

Pol Ad Paid for by David Chavez



**Democratic Party of Presidio County**
**Partido Demócrata del Condado de Presidio**
**2022 Midterms Voting Guide**
**Guía de votación de mitad de período (2022)**

| State / Estado | County / Condado | Federal / Federal |
|---|---|---|
| Beto O'Rourke (D)<br>Governor<br>Gobernador | Jose Portillo (D)<br>County Judge<br>Juez de Condado | John Lira (D)<br>CD23<br>U.S. House of Reps.<br>Cámara de los Rep., U.S. |
| Mike Collier (D)<br>Lt. Governor<br>Teniente Gobernador | Frances Garcia (D)<br>Treasurer<br>Tesorera | |
| Rochelle Garza (D)<br>Attorney General<br>Procuradora General | Florcita Zubia (D)<br>Clerk<br>Secretaria | |
| Janet Dudding (D)<br>Comptroller<br>Contralora | Margarito Hernandez (D)<br>Comm'r, Pct. 2 | |
| Luke Warford (D)<br>Railroad Comm.<br>Com. de Ferrocarriles | David Beebe (D)<br>Comm'r, Pct. 4 | |
| Susan Hays (D)<br>Agriculture Comm.<br>Com. de Agricultura | Dina Jo Marquez (D)<br>JP, Pct. 1 | |
| Jay Kleberg (D)<br>Land Comm.<br>Com. de Tierra | Juanita Urias Bishop (D)<br>JP, Pct 2 | |
| Eddie Morales (D)<br>D74, House of Reps.<br>Cámara de los Rep., Tejas (D74) | | |
| Cesar Blanco (D)<br>D29, Senate<br>Senado de Tejas (D29) | | |
| Dr. Melissa Ortega (D)<br>D1, Board of Education<br>Junta Educativa (D1) | | |

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correo electronico:
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**Important Dates:**
**fechas importantes:**

Early Voting: 10/24 · 11/04
Votación anticipada: 24/10 · 04/11

Election Day: 11/08
Día de las elecciones: 08/11

polling locations, candidate info, and more:
**PresidioDemocrats.com/vote**

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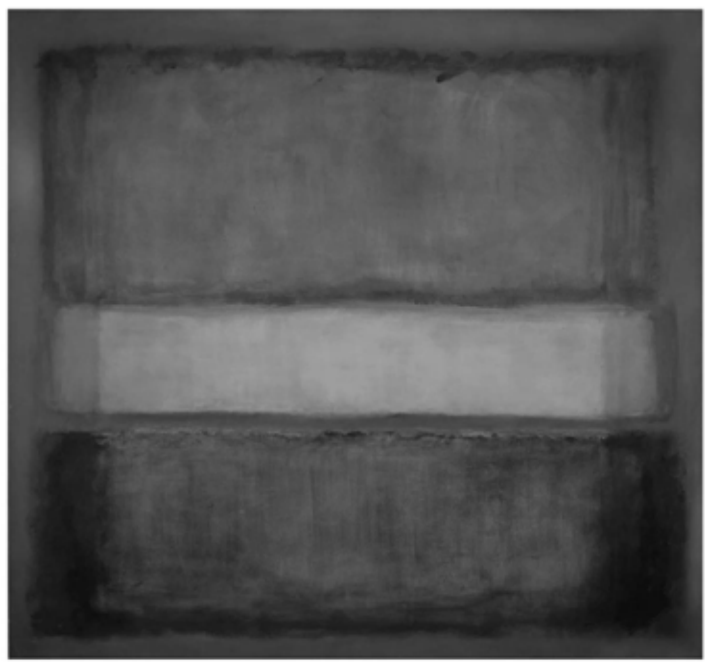
**JUDGE CINDERELA GUEVARA**

***FOR RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDIO COUNTY JUDGE***

Abbott
GOVERNOR

**"Cinderela Guevara has led Presidio County with impeccable integrity. She ensures that Presidio County remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Please join me in supporting Cinderela for re-election as Presidio County Judge," said Governor Abbott.**

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Mark Rothko, *White Band No. 27*, 1954. Oil on canvas. 81¼ × 87 inches. Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Gift of Anne Windfohr Marion. © Kate Rothko Prizel and Christopher Rothko. Photograph by Evie Marie Bishop

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**for**
**Presidio County Treasurer**

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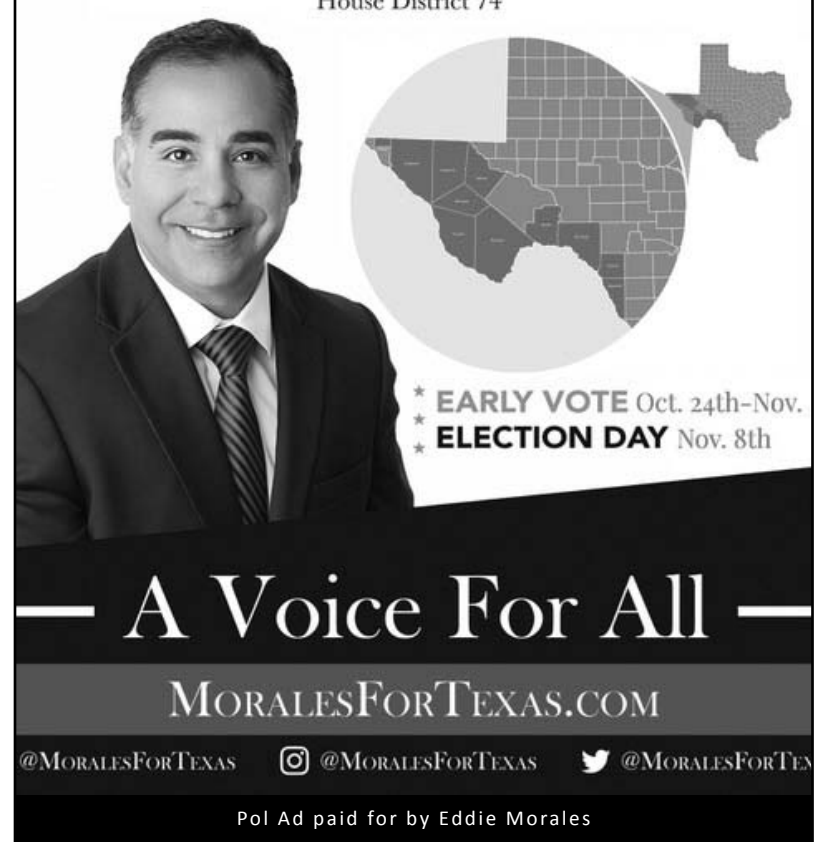
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**VOTE DEMOCRAT**

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Presidio native, Marfa resident

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FOR
PRESIDIO COUNTY COMMISSIONER PCT 4

| Garey Willbanks | David Beebe |
|---|---|
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| PROVEN<br>Business Experience | APPOINTED<br>City of Marfa Municipal Judge |
| PROVEN<br>In the Community | ELECTED/RESIGNED<br>Presidio County JP |
| The MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE for Presidio County Commissioner | The MOST AMBITIOUS POLITICIAN for Presidio County Commissioner |

★ ★ ★ GOD, FAMILY & COUNTRY ★ ★ ★

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## Moving Boldly Into The Future....

This election is not about being a Republican or a Democrat. This election is about YOU, the good people of Presidio County. With continued integrity and honesty, I will continue to work hard for you.

## Re-elect Judge Cinderela Guevara

*because proven leadership, experience and values means something!*



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# Jose "Joe" Portillo, Jr.
## for Presidio County Judge (D)



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Let's get Presidio County on the right track. Together, we can make it better. And that's why I need **your vote**!

Follow me:
@PortilloForPresidio

**Energize the Port of Presidio.**

Finish the bridge expansion project to speed up travel times to and from Ojinaga, and bring fresher produce and lower-cost goods to us here.

**Build Greener and Stronger.**

Repurpose spare tires and other debris / junk for road and construction projects all around the county.

**Your Safety. Your Rights.**

Help protect civil rights. Establish urgent care and ER throughout our county. Start a county fire / EMS agency.

**X Not moving the courthouse to Presidio.**
**X Not shutting down the county golf course.**
**X Not promoting fear and false information.**

**Early Voting: Oct. 24 - Nov. 4**
**Election Day: November 8**
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# Opinions

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I need to correct some misinformation in regard to a letter to the editor published on October 20, 2022, in response to Allegra Hobbs' article regarding the Dollar Store on October 12, 2022.

The first incorrect point made in this letter is that the Alpine City Council took up the issue of annexing the land Dollar General had bought. The request to annex the land was not made by Dollar General, it was made prior to their purchase by the original property owners, known as, "Horse Apple 118, LLC."

The author of the letter stated they found out about the annexation from Allegra Hobbs' October 12 article and that it was a surprise to them that the city annexed this property. This should not be a surprise to any resident of Alpine, let alone the chair of the P&Z Commission who is expected to do their due diligence and stay informed in regards to what is on the city council agendas that involves the board they chair.

Regarding the transparency the author calls into question, this is the official sequence of notification that the City of Alpine followed in this matter. It is what is required by law in order to notify residents in order to maintain governmental transparency:

"Resolution 2022-07-02: A resolution initiating annexation proceedings. The resolution contained a step-by-step process that the City would follow. It even included that a notice would be sent to AISD in accordance with the Local Gov. Code. This was approved unanimously by the City Council on July 5th. All City Council meetings are recorded and placed on the City YouTube Channel. Minutes are also uploaded to the City Website.

July 14, 2022: Annexation notice was sent to AISD in accordance with the Local Gov. Code.

July 14, 2022: Notice on City Website regarding Annexation Public Hearing.

July 14, 2022: Notice appeared in Alpine Avalanche regarding the second and final hearing that would take place on August 2.

July 19, 2022: City Council Public Hearing 1

August 2, 2022: City Council Public Hearing 2

August 11, 2022: Notice that the Annexation ordinance finally passed was published in the Alpine Avalanche"

As can be seen from the sequence above, notices were published in the newspaper and on the city website as required in order to keep the public informed. The item was also readily visible on several city council meeting agendas, which are not only posted on various social media pages by me but also on the city website and the door of City Hall.

The author of the letter states that if the annexation had gone to P&Z first, which is not standard procedure for annexations since it delays the process, then "the citizens surrounding the proposed site would have been properly notified and invited to attend their meeting."

This is misleading because all boards follow the same procedures for notification that are required by law. The procedures are as follows: "Agendas for board meetings are posted a minimum of 72 hours in advance and are always posted in three places: the board page on the website, in the front lobby of City Hall, and on the City Council Chambers doors." There would have been no additional invitation on social media or radio.

The intent of this letter is to say that the city was not informative, transparent or receptive to resident concerns. As mentioned in the paragraphs above, not only was the information posted as required by law but also on various Facebook pages.

The owner of the land, Horse Apple 118, LLC, located in the county, asked the city to annex the property. Suppose the city had not annexed the property, once sold to Dollar General. In that case, the store could still be built on the property, but the city would not be able to enforce any restrictions, building codes, or environmental codes on the location if it were not in the city. With annexation, the city can enforce city codes, in addition to receiving property tax and sales tax revenue.

The author of the letter is correct in agreeing with the Alpine city attorney that the property would need to be annexed in order for the city to enforce city codes. A quick search of Google answers that question by leading you to many websites, including this one, https://law.justia.com/cases/texas/fifth-court-of-appeals/2018/05-17-00546-cv.html, which details the court cases the author described at length in the letter that requires the property to be within city limits for city codes to be enforced on it.

However, when the author disagreed with the city attorney stating that the land could only be annexed with the approval of the owner, he was incorrect. H.B. 347 passed in 2019 made it clear that the city attorney is correct.

The author of the letter went on to say that the Alpine City Charter allows for annexations without owner consent, which is outdated and incorrect. This is what is written in the Alpine City Charter of 2005 regarding annexations, "Section 2.04 Annexation Procedures: All annexations by the City, whether by the action of the City Council or by petition shall be undertaken in strict compliance with State law, including Chapter 43 of the Texas Local Government Code."

State law under 2019 H.B. 347 requires that the owner approves the annexation or if it is more than one property, for example, a subdivision, then an election has to be held in which a majority of those property owners approve the annexation. The Texas Constitution and state laws always supersede a city charter.

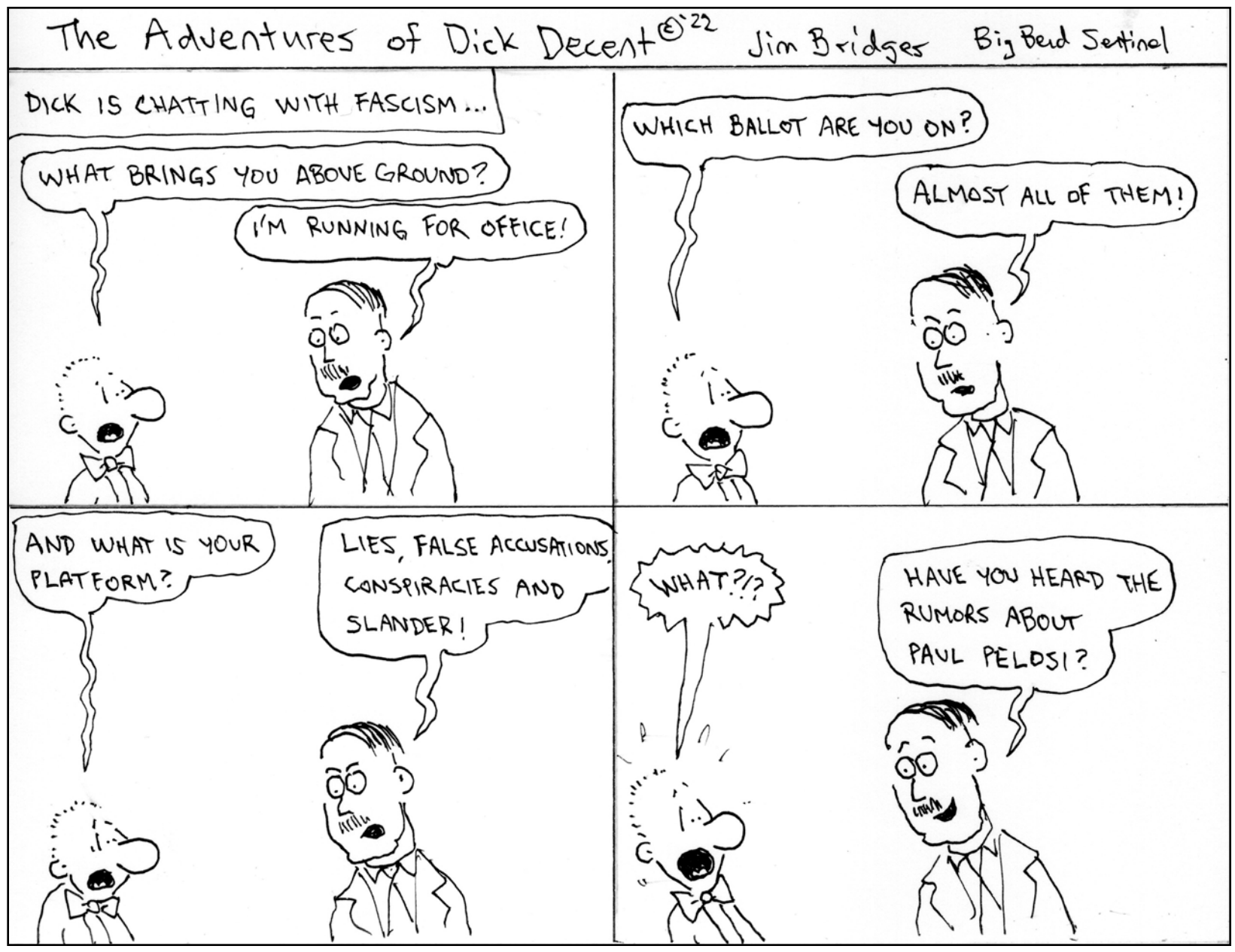
On the city website, there is a tab that describes the procedure for voluntary annexation which includes the form that needs to be completed as well as the procedures and steps that need to be followed. All of these steps were followed as outlined by law for the annexation of Horse Apple 118, LLC's property. You can find voluntary annexation information at: https://cityofalpine.com/departments/building_services/planning/annexations.php

To clarify, nothing in the government code or the Alpine Code of Ordinances indicates that annexations go to the Planning & Zoning Commission. None of our previous annexations have gone through P&Z, and when city staff researched the process in other cities, they did not find any instances where P&Z would be responsible for annexation.

Sincerely,

**Catherine Eaves**

• • •




Editor:

It appears that, based on Texas Republican talking points, getting campaign assistance from Governor Abbott's Project Red TX comes with attached propaganda for recipients to promote. With all due respect to Judge Guevara, a pretense of moral superiority by anti-abortion Republicans over pro-choice Democrats falls flat. Perhaps because the word "Democrat" derives from "demos" which means "people," we Democrats focus on the already-living human beings of child-bearing age and place highest priority on their health, their wellbeing and their own choices about their lives and families. We would never force anyone to have an abortion, but we would also never force anyone to have a child. We would never force others to follow our own religious beliefs. This is a country of freedom of and from religious dogma.

Another common theme of Republican propaganda is election denial. Sometimes it's a direct refusal to accept free and fair election results, but it also is seen in questioning election processes such as voter registration, voting by mail, and reporting of results. Project Red's preferred candidate for governor, Greg Abbott, is about restricting voting, especially voting by "those people" deemed unworthy. It's about making it harder even for Republicans to vote. Yet the core of our society is democracy — there's that "people" word again. We Democrats believe that the government exists to provide for the people and the people choose their government leaders for that purpose. To mumble "I don't know" when the people have spoken and the results have been verified is undemocratic and un-American.

One more theme of propaganda from Project Red candidates is the myth that we're being "invaded" and suffering a "disaster" because a large number of people, aka human beings, are coming to the U.S. for help. To be clear, "invasion" is what Russia is doing to Ukraine. And to call the influx of immigrants a "disaster" flies in the face of real disasters that may need to be declared to obtain state assistance. Sending legal asylum seekers (not undocumented immigrants) to other states only interferes with their asylum process and does nothing to discourage people from coming here.

One thing Project Red is NOT about is making any concrete proposals for government to actually improve the lives of people and protect the planet from the real ongoing disaster of climate change. The talking points promoted by Republican candidates bear more resemblance to Russian propaganda than to anything heretofore promoted by Americans. Please consider this as you vote in the ongoing General Election.

**Mary Bell Lockhart**
***Alpine***

• • •

Editor:

To the residents of this true gem of our great state, Presidio County, it has been my greatest honor to serve as your county judge for the past eight years and as an elected official for 24 years prior to 2015. I am asking for your support to be re-elected as your county judge. I have 32 years of judicial experience and my record reflects that I am thoroughly prepared to continue as your leader. I will continue to work for you. I like to finish what I start. There are many started projects yet unfinished. I went to Washington, D.C. to personally request the presidential permit for the expansion of the Presidio/Ojinaga bridge; I have supported and will continue to support the reconstruction of the Presidio/Ojinaga rail bridge because it will bring agriculture, industrial, automotive, and energy marketing opportunities.

I cannot itemize each and every board I chair or serve on to be a ready voice on our local issues. I cannot itemize every state and federal grant we have received to put Presidio County in a robust position that will ensure the needs of YOU, the constituents, come FIRST. I can assure you Presidio County remains ready to better respond to your needs in case of an emergency, ready for clean water distribution throughout the whole county, ready to maintain both our airports, ready to better equip our law enforcement through Operation Stone Garden and Lone Star grants, ready to better equip our transportation needs through transportation grants. All the meanwhile, Presidio County has not raised taxes, offered first time homestead exemption, and continually operates with financial stability of no less than 4-6 months of reserves. I am proud to say that ALL OF US at the county have worked hard to get to this place.

These are unprecedented times and we have worked through some very tough and confusing times. As a leader, it has been my responsibility to work with the appropriate authorities to find working solutions to problems that have arisen. Presidio County remains the #1 most vaccinated county in the state and the U.S. When awarded Elected Official of the Year for this region, that award was truly yours. You did your part to get us through the pandemic safely.

Residents of Presidio County, you are strong, you are proud, hardworking people that believe in family and unity. We will need each other to get through the uncertain times we live in. May we continue to work together to make Presidio County better and stronger, and I ask that you re-elect me for continued, dedicated, proven leadership.

God Bless You Presidio County and the United States Of America!

**Cinderela Guevara**
***Presidio County Judge***

• • •

Editor:

Hasta la próxima Karen!

Our dear friend and neighbor Karen Williams is moving to Oregon!

There will be a come and go reception in her honor November 11 from 4-6 p.m. at the Galleria Sibley in Alpine.

Karen moved to Alpine in 1976 and is the last member of the Williams family still living here in Alpine. The Williams/Weyerts clan are area pioneers who settled here in the mid 1880s and early 1900s.

Karen received her BFA from Sul Ross in 1978, and later taught art at Alpine Elementary for seven years. She then worked at the Sunshine House as director of the meals program for several years and later opened Morning Star Stained Glass on historic Murphy Street in the early '80s. After meeting her soulmate, local boy Scott Williams, they married in 1981 and welcomed their daughters Jessica in 1982 and Mariah in 1986.

The family moved to Chihuahua City in 1992 where Karen taught at the American School and Scott worked as a builder.

Upon their return to Alpine in 1993, Karen and Scott opened Quetzal, selling imported handicrafts from Mexico. In 1995 they purchased the historic Storey-Whiteside Lumber building in the heart of downtown Alpine. Together they ran several successful businesses from this location including Quetzal, Rancho Nopal Construction and Home Elements.

Karen was a founding member of and served on the board of the Big Bend Food Co-op (a natural foods buying club) that started in the mid-70's and operated for over 25 years.

Another accomplishment of Karen's was serving on the Historic Alpine Board as treasurer and assisting with Wall of Pioneers and Gallery Night. Quetzal Imports participated in the first Gallery Night and remained a popular location each year until the retail store closed in 2011.

Karen and her late husband also were founding members of Alpine Montessori School.

After Scott's passing, Karen sold the business and retired in July 2021. She will be moving to the Oregon coast to be near her daughters. Karen has been a vital member of our community for 46 years and will be dearly missed, although Oregon is a wonderful place to visit!

Please come by Galleria Sibley November 11 from 4-6 to wish Karen the best as she enters this new chapter of her life.

**Ellen Weed**
***Alpine***

• • •

Editor,

In last week's *Sentinel* there were some direct and indirect commentaries about my rookie mistakes, and for the record they are all true. I missed my finance report filing, and I didn't put the correct "political ad paid by…" disclaimer on my ads. In the opinion section, Kate Hand did a good job of bringing me up to speed on the campaign advertising rules and even referred to my ad as "clever"; that made me smile. Thanks, Kate.

*Sentinel* reporter Sam Karas penned an article on campaign finance which provided a solid overview of how campaign financial reporting has worked and how it should work in the state and in our county. Although not criticized by name (thanks, Sam), I was definitely in the group of candidates that didn't do it right.

Campaign finance is an appropriate topic and I want my friends and neighbors to know that I have accepted only one actual donation which was not cash but in the form of free signs from a group called Project Red Texas. I thought that they did a nice job designing my signs and was happy to receive them. The value was slightly less than $800. Any other expense for my campaign I have paid out of my pocket — in my case, all pretty boring stuff.

Much more interesting was David Beebe's well thought-out and well-articulated philosophy on campaign fundraising and his use of his campaign funds. All quite clearly described in Sam Karas' article last week.

David explained:

"I started only accepting donations from outside the area — none of those people have business in front of the JP."

The article goes on to say:

"Beebe raised some serious cash, but not all of it went to his own campaign. His campaign made donations to larger state-wide candidates like Beto O'Rourke for Governor and Luke Warford for Texas Railroad Commissioner."

This seems odd to me in several ways. First, I struggle to understand why donors from outside of our community have a need to contribute to our county officials, and I just cannot think of a single explanation as to how this is healthy or positive for our county.

Then David takes the money from outside of our community and redistributes it to candidates in the larger statewide race. I asked myself, why wouldn't David's donors just give the money directly to O'Rourke and Warford? And, how does it help the people of Presidio County when David's "county commissioner campaign fund" gives money to these other statewide campaigns? It all appears to be part of a well thought-out plan, I just don't understand the objective and how it connects back to us here in Marfa. In any case, I thank Sam Karas and *The Sentinel* for this article finding it all very thought provoking.

This strategy of finance and influence that Beebe is orchestrating is very different from my simple desire to serve my neighbors here in Marfa as county commissioner. I guess each voter will decide what they are looking for in a local leader.

Your neighbor,

**Garey Willbanks**

***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***




## OP-ED

# *Teachers and students in rural Texas deserve appropriate school funding*

**By STATE SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO**

Education is our society's greatest equalizer, especially in rural Far West Texas. Texas is responsible for educating more rural students than any other state. Our public schools are often the center of our rural communities, the incubator for our next generation of leaders and sometimes the only places some kids can get a warm meal. But our rural schools are being left behind.

For example, Marfa ISD, considered a "rich" district by the state, struggles to find funding to address mold issues, make building repairs and pay their teachers. There's a disconnect between the state of Texas and the reality of our rural schools. History has shown us when our schools decline, the community soon follows. Here's how we can provide our kids the education they deserve and ensure rural communities are not left behind.

**Opposing diverting public education funds to private vouchers**

Put simply, we have to say no to private school vouchers Republicans are proposing. Public schools are already cash-strapped. Diverting scarce funds to private schools is not the answer, it only worsens the situation. Private schools are not a choice for millions of rural Texas students and cannot accommodate the growing number of Texas children who are constitutionally guaranteed a free, high-quality education. Giving private schools a hand up at the expense of public schools is contradictory to our responsibility to educate Texas students. But that is what is happening by Texas underfunding our schools and then blaming underfunded schools for poor outcomes or mismanagement. The answer to ensuring every child has a world-class education no matter the zip code isn't to divert funds to vouchers so kids can go to private schools — we must ensure the public schools that kids go to have the resources and personnel our students need. Our kids can succeed in any public school if we are providing the resources to support them.

**Increasing the state's share of public education to over 50%**

Funding education is a shared commitment between local property taxpayers and the state of Texas. But as property values in Texas began rising the state share declined, and local property taxpayers began carrying the burden. Currently, local property owners foot about 64% of the bill, and in rural communities like Marfa, Alpine and Fort Davis with smaller tax bases, rural school districts are disproportionately impacted.

Money intended for our schools should stay in our schools. The Texas Legislature needs to invest in programs, students, and teachers. By redistributing the funds back to our schools and restoring the state's share to over 50%, our schools will not only have the resources to succeed, but property taxpayers would feel a serious relief in their wallets.

**Investing in mental health and school safety**

Schools are a unique ground where mental illness identification, prevention and treatment can occur. We are currently in the biggest mental health crisis of our time and whether that aid comes in the form of mental health resources available on campus, addressing school safety and school hardening, or a decrease in workload, we must equip schools with resources to support every student's and teacher's mental health.

Following the 2018 Santa Fe High School Shooting, the Texas Legislature passed more than 17 laws related to school safety. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to harden schools and address mental health. There's no denying that mental health and school hardening is important and that we can do drastically better, but any credible school safety solutions also need to include curbing the extremely easy access to assault rifles in Texas.

**Providing teachers with competitive pay, professional development and incentives to teach in rural communities**

Teachers are the backbone of our public schools, but they are stretched egregiously thin. For years, the state of Texas has been asking our teachers to do more with less. Between scarce affordable housing and being severely overworked and underpaid, attracting teachers to rural areas is a serious challenge.

In communities, like Marfa, in which tourism drove up real estate costs, teachers are unable to pay rent or buy a house. As an incentivization tool, rural school districts have implemented four-day work weeks, but it's not enough to attract and retain teachers. We must do everything we can to compensate for the low-average salary that has remained stagnant for nearly a decade and provide our teachers with more workforce development opportunities. If we do everything in our power to help elevate our educators rather than keep them trapped in a system that undervalues and overworks them, we have a better chance of retaining and incentivizing them to teach in our rural public education systems.

**Investing in bilingual and English-Language-Learners (ELL) programs and teachers**

There are over one million English learners in Texas. More than half of Presidio ISD's student population is enrolled in bilingual and English Language Learning (ELL) Programs. However, multilingual students face systemic barriers in accessing high-quality instruction and entering the workforce that stems from available resources, teacher efficacy, and language barriers in the classroom.

Last session, our office proudly co-authored SB560, requiring the TEA, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Board to collaboratively improve bilingual education in Texas. In establishing a collaborative and coordinated strategy, Texas schools will be better equipped to ensure Spanish-speaking students overcome learning loss and receive high-quality and equitable education. Regardless of language barriers or socioeconomic status, all Texas children should have the same access to resources necessary for a quality education to shape tomorrow's workforce and change the world

---

A child's zip code should never determine their destiny. It's well beyond the time we live up to the promise of protecting and educating our children. We owe these things to our kids. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Texas Legislature to properly – and equitably – fund rural public schools. Our students and teachers in rural West Texas deserve it.

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

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For Texans
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# Community

## *2nd annual Ruidosa Church Community Day to be held this Saturday*

**By SAM KARAS**
***sam@bigbendsentinel.com***

RUIDOSA — This Saturday, the Friends of the Ruidosa Church will be hosting their second annual Community Day in Ruidosa. The event will kick off at 2 p.m. and go till 7 p.m., with plenty of free food, drinks and performances along the way.

The Friends of the Ruidosa Church is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesus, an early 20th century adobe church located in the remote River Road town. The church is notable for its arches, which are the largest standing adobe arches in Texas.

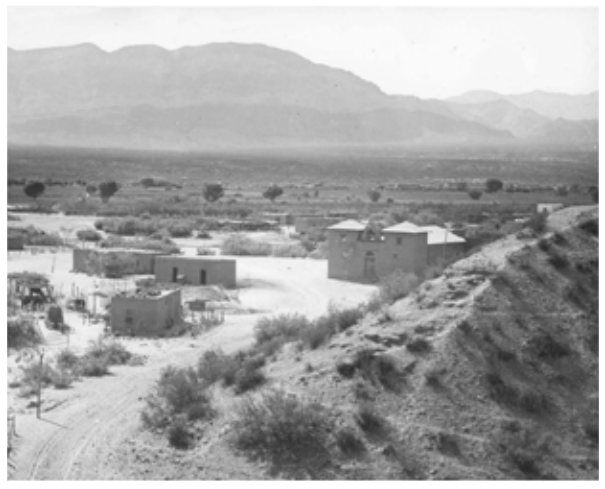
The last Mass in the church was held in the 1950s. The structure was then all but abandoned by the Diocese of El Paso — Pinto Canyon local Donald Judd intended to purchase and restore the building, but those plans never came to fruition.

In 2019, the Diocese deeded the property to Presidio County in order to start the process of restoration. The Friends of the Ruidosa Church took up the mantle and started raising money for the effort. That project has grown into regular adobe-making workshops, fundraisers and community festivals.

As a part of their efforts, the Friends have been collecting oral histories of the era and inviting the cornerstone families of Ruidosa to come back and reminisce about their hometown. This year, Marfa Public Radio will be lending recording equipment and expertise to try to collect more oral histories of life in Ruidosa and the church.

This weekend's festivities will feature an opening dance by the Matachines de Santa Teresa — a traditional dance group representing Santa Teresa Church in Presidio. The Cariño of the Radio, the alter ego of Jacqueline Del Olmo of Mira Marfa, will provide the soundtrack for the rest of the afternoon with help from the Roswells, a bilingual country outfit from New Mexico.

The event will also feature a community altar constructed by Jacquelin Zazueta of Marfa, as well as a large-scale sculpture installation by Chihuahua City-based artist Miguel Valverde. Part of the Ruidosa team traveled to Chihuahua City to view Valverde's studio and prepare the sculpture for shipment.



Courtesy of University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History

***El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesus (the Sacred Heart of the Church of Jesus) in Ruidosa, Texas was built in 1915.***

For Board Member Clara Bensen, the journey west was an important gesture. "We really wanted it to be a cross-border event this year," she said. Getting the sculpture through customs was a challenge, but folks from both sides of the river helped with successfully transporting the piece.

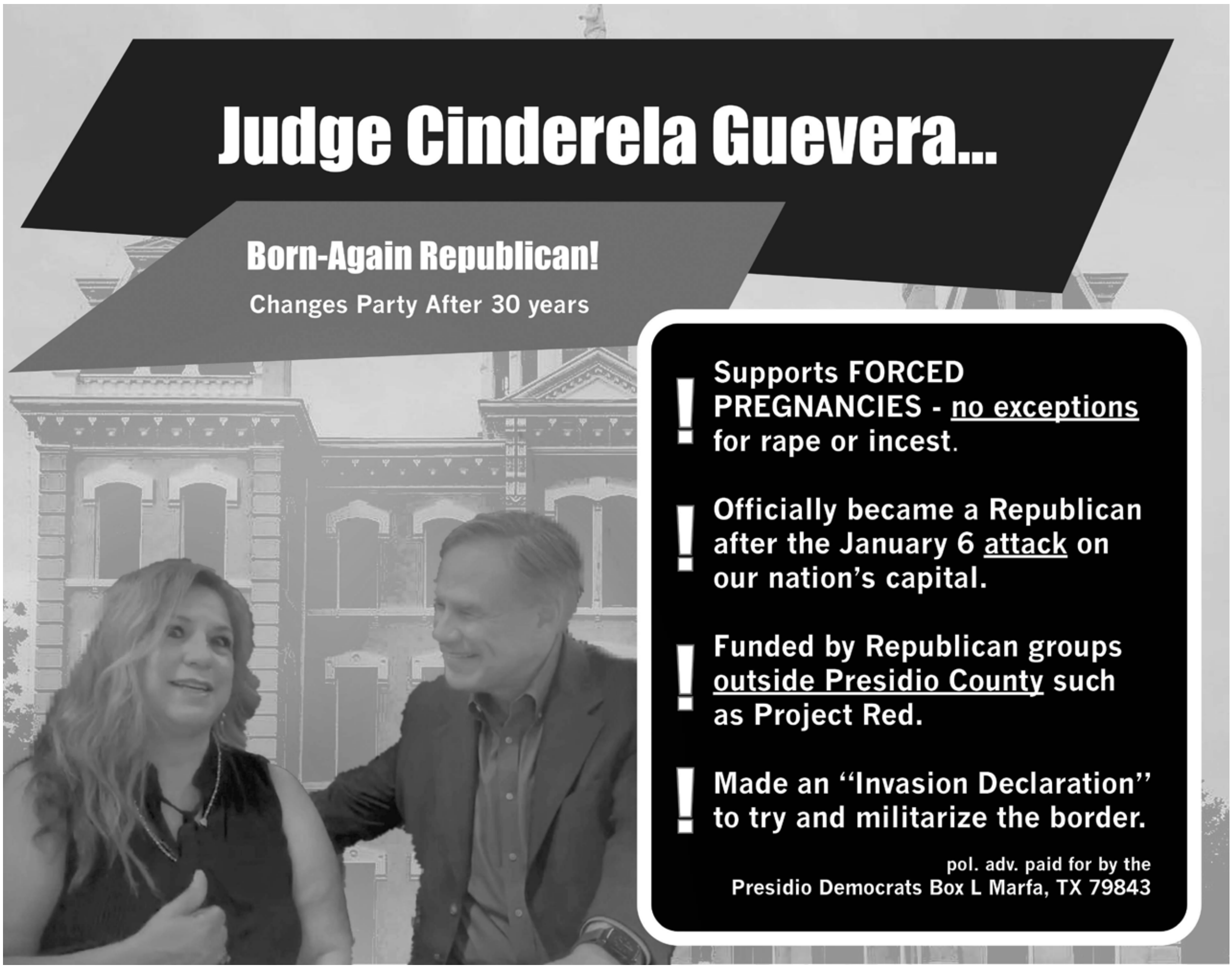
Though most of Ruidosa's born-and-raised residents have moved away, the group hopes that the restored church will serve as a community space for years to come. "The much bigger goal is to create this cultural site on the border," Bensen explained. "It's very meaningful to see everyone come together out there."

*The Ruidosa Church Community Day will take place from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 5. The church is located in Ruidosa on FM 170, just south of the junction with Pinto Canyon Road. Folks coming from Marfa in high-clearance vehicles can take Pinto Canyon Road to the site; otherwise, the church is best accessed by taking FM170 north from Presidio.*









# *CineMarfa co-directors to premiere Robert Irwin documentary next week at DOC NYC Festival*

**By MARY CANTRELL**
***mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com***



Film still courtesy of Director Jennifer Lane

***Contemporary American artist Robert Irwin inside his installation* untitled (dawn to dusk) *on the Chinati Foundation grounds. A new biographical documentary on the artist titled,* Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling*, involved many Marfa residents and will premiere next week at the DOC NYC Festival. The film will be screened locally this spring.***

MARFA — *Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling*, a documentary eight years in the making chronicling the life and work of contemporary American artist Robert Irwin, directed by CineMarfa's Jennifer Lane, will premiere at the DOC NYC Festival next week on November 12.

The co-directors of CineMarfa, Lane and David Hollander, are the film's director and producer, respectively. CineMarfa, a film festival focusing on artist-made films which originally started in 2011, has been on hiatus for a few years due to the pandemic, but the organization plans to put on a full festival in spring 2023 which will include a screening of the Irwin documentary.

The film contains sequences of the 2016 installation of Irwin's *untitled (dawn to dusk)* at the Chinati Foundation, and many Marfa residents were involved in the making of the documentary, including producer and cinematographer Joseph Cashiola and executive directors Nancy P. Sanders and Carolyn Pfeiffer.

Lane said after many years working on the film, the finished documentary was well received by Irwin and his team, and she is elated to be able to release it soon for public viewing. "We're excited to finally have it done. We're thrilled that Irwin got to see it. [We're] just really grateful for everyone in Marfa who helped us when we were shooting there and our team," said Lane.

The journey of piecing together the full-length film initially began as a project to document the construction of Irwin's large scale work, *untitled (dawn to dusk)*, on the Chinati grounds. But upon discovering more about Irwin's rich life and work history, and heeding a recommendation from Arne Glimcher of PACE Gallery, which represents Irwin, Lane decided to expand the film to be a fully-fleshed out biography of Irwin, who is now 94 years old.

"That's when we decided to expand and incorporate the Marfa footage into a larger biography of Irwin and all of his stages and phases," said Lane.

The film documents Irwin's life in chronological order, touching on his early life growing up in Long Beach, California, his education as an artist, his fondness for horse-track racing and betting, and pivotal moments in his career, including the creation of his 1970s installation of *Scrim veil—Black rectangle—Natural light* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. The film ends with the Marfa project and artfully details the artist's visit to a quarry in rural Oregon to select basalt, his on-site conversations with Director Emeritus Marianne Stockebrand and his meditations on the Marfa sky and West Texas landscape.

Lane dug into preexisting archival materials, including the Robert Irwin papers at the Getty Research Institute, oral histories collected by author Lawrence Weschler drawn from the UCLA Center for Oral History, and old footage as sources for the film. A number of interviews, including two with the artist himself, and many more with art critics and personal acquaintances, shed light on the artists' practice and legacy.

Irwin's thoughts on the artistic process and his continual questioning of the roles of form, space, light and architecture — many of the key elements in his work — round out the comprehensive look at the artist's life. The artist is well-known for his site-specific, temporal exhibitions which challenge one's perceptions of what an artwork constitutes and stir varying reactions from viewers. Lane said she was inspired by the depth of his ideas and sought to present them dynamically.

"You don't necessarily get the whole story from just experiencing his work," said Lane. "There are these two vectors, which is his project of thinking and philosophizing, and then there's the physical artworks that he makes. His thoughts, his ideas, his way of looking at the world intrigued me enough to keep going deeper into it and crafting a story."

In perusing the archives, Lane made a fortuitous discovery that helped guide her approach to the film — Irwin had, in fact, answered the question, "If we were going to make a movie about your life what would it look like?"

"Irwin says, 'Well, it would have to be the whole thing. Everything would be in there. You'd have to show how one thing led to another led to another,' so I kind of took my cue from that," said Lane.

While Irwin is celebrated as a happy-go-lucky, all-American guy, Lane began empathizing with him through his vulnerability and willingness to open up about his struggles while she was sifting through archival material. In one candid scene, Irwin diverts from giving an art lecture to students to discuss how he feels disconnected from his peers and friends.

"Every great artist really, most of them, have an equally well-crafted persona to go along with their art and Irwin is no exception," said Lane. "I think it's just very real and not bound up in ego. I think the questions that he's asking are for everyone, not just for himself, and that's why I think it's important."

Lane noted that Irwin had made the difficult, yet brave, mid-career decision to stop making abstract paintings, which had garnered him success, in order to dive into the unknown territory of site-specific installations.

"That's a really big thing for an artist to go out there like that, to go away from something that is wanted into something that you don't know if it's wanted. That's what impressed me: his willingness and his ability to change," said Lane.

The story is driven by Irwin's own powerful quotes and is coupled with footage of his permanent installations, including *Varese Portal Room*, part of the Panza collection in Italy, *Nine Spaces Nine Trees* in Seattle, *Light and Space III* at Newfields, Indianapolis Museum of Art, and DIA Beacon in New York, where he assisted in the design of the facilities.

Hollander, who has a background in filming art installations, shot most of the artwork using a system which allowed the camera to move through the installations similar to how a person would walk through a space. Cinematographers also utilized drone perspectives to show people an aspect of Irwin's work they don't typically get to see. Irwin himself strives to see more, to see things as a whole, and is interested in exploring aerial views, said Lane.

"We came up with a system for supporting a moving camera so that we could move through these pieces as you would move through them as a person, moving your body through it, so that we weren't just looking at it with a static camera eye," said Lane. "I think that really brought it up to the level where you feel like you're there."

"I really also tried to have the form mimic the content to some extent so that by the time you're at the end, you've been talking about these immersive artworks, but by the time we're in Marfa, we're actually experiencing it as an immersive artwork," she added of the film's arch.

A lot of thought and care also went into selecting the music for the film, which Lane said she used to emphasize feelings and cues. Lane's vision for the soundtrack primarily consists of classical minimalism and features piano music by artist Roedelius, among others.

For Lane, who also works in experimental film, the first time directing a full-length feature documentary was at times a daunting, unfamiliar task, but Irwin acted as her guiding light and his tenets helped inform her throughout the process, she said.

"I really tried to hang on to that idea of trusting my sensibility and knowing that I had the vision of what the film was going to be in my head. As difficult as it was to execute it, it was Irwin that gave me that faith in myself," said Lane.

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# *Big Bend Community Band to perform this Sunday at the Granada Theatre*

ALPINE — The Big Bend Community Band will perform a salute to movies and TV this Sunday, November 6, at 2 p.m. The concert will be in the Granada Theatre in downtown Alpine. The Granada is offering concessions during the concert. Attendees are encouraged to come early and enjoy music and video clips from scenes in Star Wars, Toy Story, M*A*S*H, The Lone Ranger, Cars, and other movies and television shows. The community band consists of musicians from all over the Big Bend area and offers our concerts free of charge.


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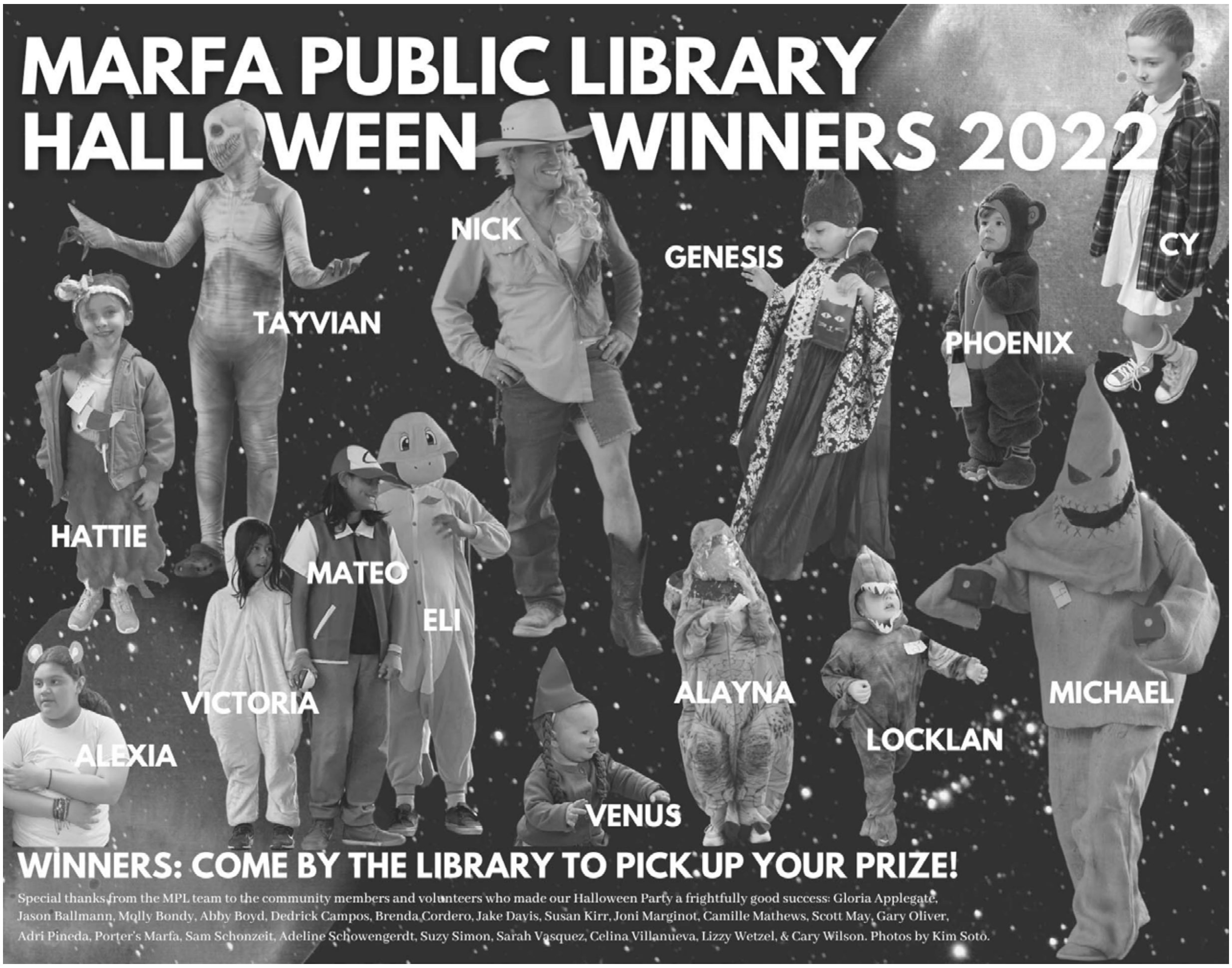


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# *Sports updates from MISD athletic director*

**By LINDA OJEDA**

**Football**

The Shorthorn Stampede fell short Thursday night in their district home game against Fort Davis, 14-64, but the team came out with two consecutive scores in the second half to avoid the shutout. Marfa's go-to running back, Derrick Campos, powered through the Indians' defensive line behind Shorthorn blockers Nathan Pena, Diego Jurado, and Andru Bentley. Zach Wilson put Campos into striking distance after leaping over Fort Davis defenders for a 35 yard reception, followed by a few short out routes to lead all Horns in reception yards. Freshman trio Manny Dominguez, Alejandro Rodriguez and Darren Campos had several solo tackles and assisted tackles for stops, resulting in lost yardage for the Indians.

The Shorthorns will play tonight, against Buena Vista, in Imperial, Texas. JH Horns start at 5:30 p.m. and varsity kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

**Volleyball**

The bi-district championship trophy returns to Marfa for a second straight year thanks to a sweeping victory over Balmorhea Tuesday night by the Lady Horns. Everything was going the team's way against the Bears with kills, aces, blocks and passes happening methodically for the Horns. Front row attacks by Ummi Chanez, Raven Martinez, Alexis Gonzales, Maryfer Martinez and Lesly Torres simply overpowered the Bears at every angle, while Emily Hernandez, Ava Flores and Aundrea Garcia set up attackers for points at an almost 90% success rate, which is a team best for the season. Charlize Martinez and Loretta Rivera each had one kill for Marfa. Making their playoff debut, alongside Flores and Martinez, were fellow freshmen Amaya Gomez and Kayla Vasquez and sophomore Janaya Villa.

Second-year head coach, Priscila Serrano, stated that she was proud of her team's performance and hopes this win will give them momentum heading into tonight's area round game against Klondike. The Cougars come in as the number one team in their district and a first-round bye in the UIL playoffs. At the helm, Serrano's teams have brought Marfa two straight first-round gold trophies, and look to add an area round trophy as well. Serrano stated the support by Marfa's Maniacs boosted the team's confidence and was thankful to Coach Alferez for driving the spirit bus. The Shorthorns will face Klondike at Rankin with a 6 p.m. start. Admission is $2 students $3 adults.

**Cross-country runs Saturday**

If anyone asked these runners back in June how far away the UIL State Championship Meet was, Marfa's cross-country girls might have responded, "It's hundreds and hundreds of miles away!" The team dedicated itself to weight lifting and running and running and running since the first day of Marfa ISD's strength and conditioning workouts. The team has since accumulated over 350 miles during their training these last five months and team members stated they were too disappointed about missing a state qualification at the end of the 2021 season to not commit to making their hard work pay off heading into their final year as Shorthorn runners. Under the veteran leadership of Aundrea Garcia and Ummi Chanez, both of whom have been individual state qualifiers for three plus years, they knew this year would be THE YEAR. The team has consistently had their number three runner in the form of freshman Ava Flores, and a 4th-6th finish in Emily Hernandez, Liani Salcido and Lesly Torres.

Three-time state qualifier Garcia said at a recent school interview that she's running more confidently than ever before and is running with a sense of excitement. "It feels amazing that we finally made it as a team and I'm proud of my teammates for making school history. It's even nicer that it's happening my senior year, and I believe we can place as a team. I've ran at the state meet before. This time, I'm there to make a statement."

2021 State medalist Chanez stated she looks forward to this weekend's meet and is excited to run out of the starting box with a full team. "My experiences running the state course have prepared me mentally and physically, and now I'm determined to place higher than in all years past. We've worked hard as a team to get to this point. I'm grateful for one last chance to run with my teammates and am ready to leave everything on the course."

Good Luck at State, Lady Shorthorns Cross-Country!



Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

***Shorthorn stampede takes the field one last time this season tonight against Buena Vista.***

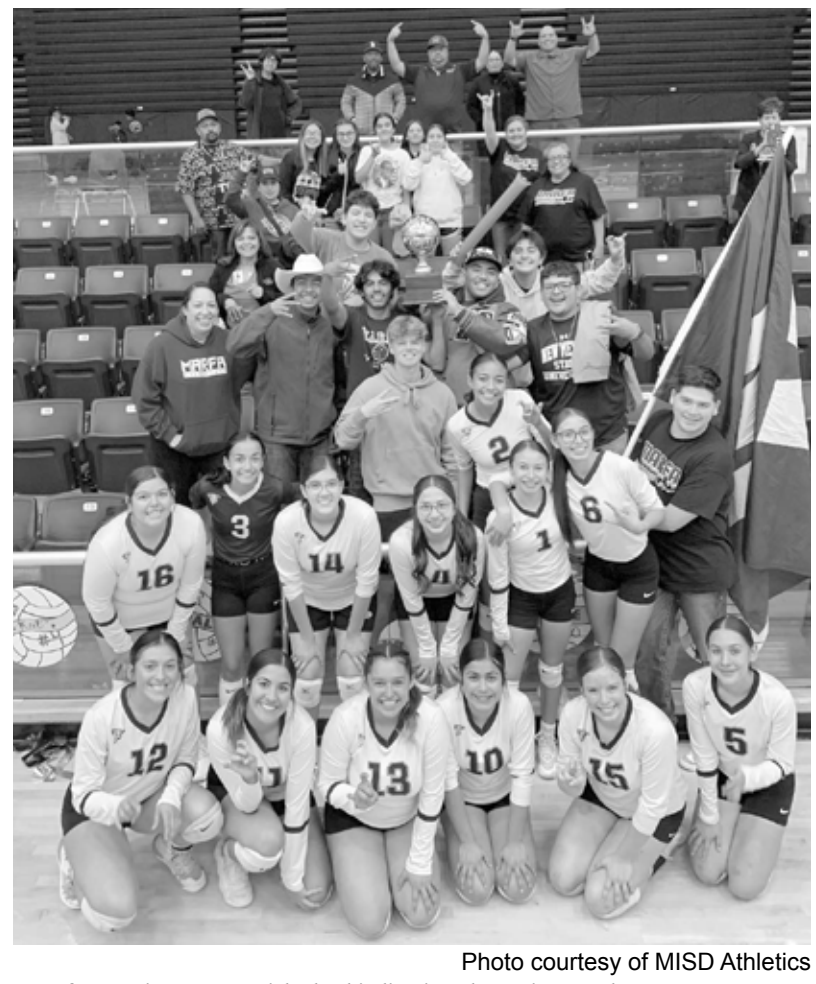


Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

***Marfa Maniacs pose with the bi-district champion Lady Horns.***

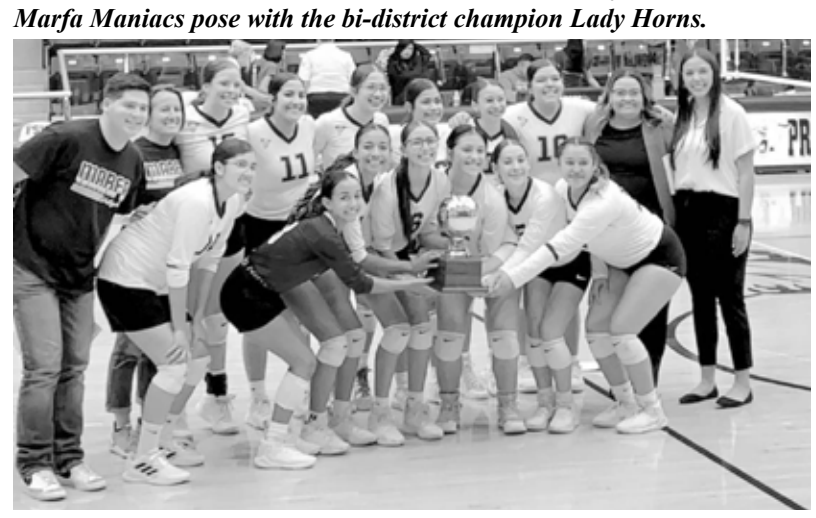


Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

***Lady Shorthorns pose with their first gold ball of the playoff season!***


*Come worship with us*



*First United Methodist Church*

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
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I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
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Marfa 432-729-4534


## DRAWING OF THE WEEK



**Aubrie Aguilar**
***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.

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

10/18 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

### *Solution from last week's puzzle:*

SOLUTION:

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

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## Universal Crossword

*Edited by David Steinberg October 31, 2022*

**ACROSS**
**1** Hang glider's launching point, perhaps
**6** "What's Going On" singer Marvin
**10** Made a meal for
**13** Punishment-related
**14** ___ the moment
**15** Rival of Bama
**16** *Old pro's opposite
**18** $20 bill dispenser
**19** Pencil ends
**20** Stairs unit
**21** Turkey tools
**24** Comes up
**26** Fill in for
**27** One paying a retainer
**29** "The doing is often more important ___ the outcome" (Arthur Ashe)
**30** Bunches of chicks
**32** Vaccine spot
**35** Minor worker
**36** *Put the pedal to the metal
**37** "The Matrix" character whose name anagrams to "one"
**38** Break some ground?
**39** Badminton need
**40** Actor Cumming
**41** Congregations
**43** Take, as questions
**44** Can't-lose
**46** Proposer's proposal
**48** Fail to mention
**49** Perplexed
**52** Mattress label
**53** Good in a crisis ... or like each starred clue's answer, based on its first word?
**57** Silencing noise
**58** Fill with glee
**59** What fogs up a bathroom mirror
**60** Granola grain
**61** Sicilian peak that grew 100 feet in early 2021
**62** Wilderness shelters

**DOWN**
**1** Lifesaving skill, for short
**2** Perrins' partner in sauce
**3** Quaint place to stay
**4** Artificial skin color
**5** Stranded drivers' signals
**6** Slalom obstacle
**7** State positively
**8** "That's exactly right!"
**9** Mess up
**10** *Children's book character who was inflated with a bicycle pump
**11** Makeup maker Lauder
**12** Garbage destinations
**14** Cheeky comebacks and such
**17** Dent or ding
**20** Religious offense
**21** Homemade cookies' unit
**22** Sneeze noise
**23** *New actor's hurdle
**25** Musician's break
**27** Makes a meal
**28** Tales of old
**30** Karate expert
**31** Dependable partner, metaphorically
**33** Britain and its territories, for King Charles III
**34** Le ___ (Paris paper)
**36** Some big 'dos
**40** Time to tune in
**42** Like a fun party
**43** Least constrained
**44** "Au contraire!"
**45** Poker variety, or a Nebraska city
**46** Symbol of stubbornness
**47** Powder from 61-Across
**50** Name within "televangelist"
**51** Referring to itself
**53** Harper or Spike
**54** Bear necessity?
**55** Nosh on
**56** Private chats, briefly

***PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER***

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

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VOTE


**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER**

## ☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

| NOVEMBER | Thu, Nov 3 | Fri, Nov 4 | Mon, Nov 7 | Tue, Nov 8 | Wed, Nov 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BREAKFAST** | CEREAL, CHEESE CUBES | BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT | SAUSAGE KOLACHE, YOGURT | CHEESE OMELET, BISCUIT | POWER BREAKFAST |
| **LUNCH** | TURKEY, DRESSING, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, SAVORY GREEN BEANS, SNOWBALL SALAD, CRANBERRY SAUCE, ROLL, PUMPKIN PIE | HOT DOG, BAKED FRIES, TINY TOMATO CUP, FRESH APPLE SLICES | HAMBURGER/ CHEESEBURGER, TINY TOMATO CUP, GARDEN SALAD, ORANGE SMILES, PUDDING | CHICKEN-N-WAFFLES, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, HASHBROWNS, STRAWBERRIES & BANANAS | PIZZA, BABY CARROTS, SAVORY GREEN BEANS, GRAPES |

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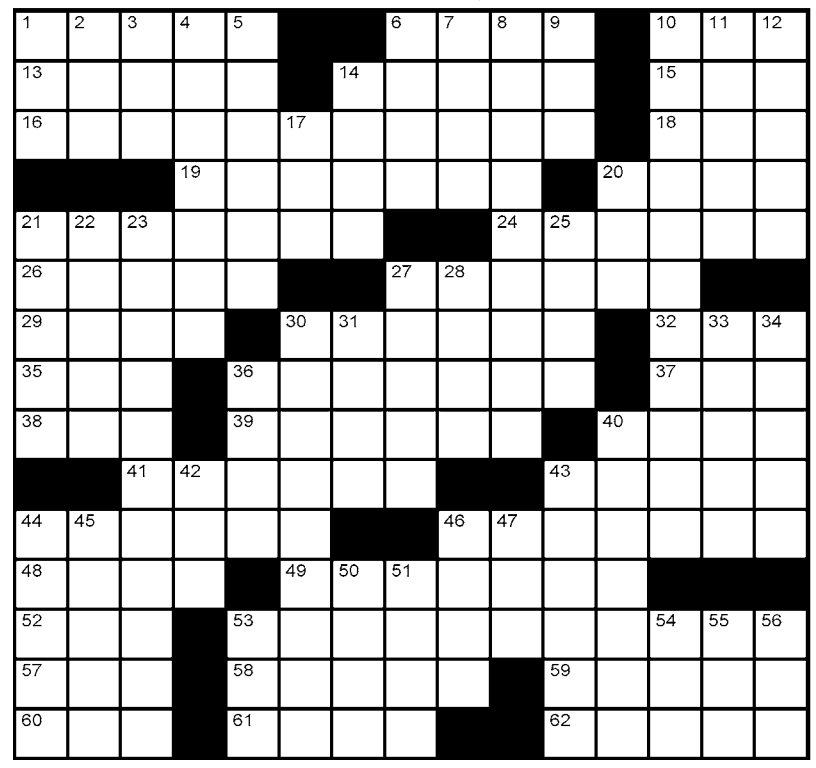
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## MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

**THU, NOV 3: Football vs Buena Vista at Buena Vista, JH at 5:30pm, Varsity at 7:30pm**
**SAT, NOV 5: State Cross Country Meet at Round Rock**
**TUE, NOV 8: HS Girls Basketball vs Terlingua in Marfa**

***10/31*** **Cool as a Cucumber** ***by Trent H. Evans***



# Costume contest livens up library courtyard with Halloween spirit

**By ALLEGRA HOBBS**
***allegra@bigbendsentinel.com***

MARFA — An eclectic mix of witches, princesses, dinosaurs, Power Rangers and many more unearthly creatures turned up at the Marfa Public Library courtyard Monday afternoon for the annual costume extravaganza.

Costumed locals paraded across the stage for a panel of judges that handed out accolades by age group for scariest, funniest and best homemade costumes. Locklan Bruttomesso was revealed to be a shoo-in for the scariest costume category in his age bracket, 0-4, when he let out a blood-curdling roar, frightening MC Abby Boyd and judges alike.

Jason Ballman, Sarah Vasquez and Gloria Applegate served as judges this year. The return to live judging signaled a return to normal procedure after a pandemic-induced disruption — there was no costume contest at all in 2020, and last year the library hosted a drop-in contest with winners revealed after the fact.

And the return to normal was a lively affair. The courtyard buzzed with activity as kids and adults alike enjoyed cupcakes and taking their photos at the library's pumpkin patch.

"There were so many people, it was really coming back to life," said Library Director Nicki Ittner. "It was really exciting."

Ittner added that the library is considering reinstating the drop-in model for future contests, in the interest of saving time, with winners announced in the newspaper.

The winners for each age group and category are as follows:

**Ages 0-4**
Best homemade costume: Venus Cashiola, Little Witch Hazel
Scariest costume: Locklan Bruttomesso, T. rex
Funniest costume: Phoenix Fazio, Monkey

**Ages 5-8**
Best homemade costume: Cy Watts, Eleven from Stranger Things
Scariest costume: Genesis Johnson, Vampire Queen
Funniest costume: Hattie Jo Roane, Flamingo

**Ages 9-12**
Best homemade costume: Alexia Ramos, Carebear
Scariest costume: Tavian Valenzuela, The Rake
Funniest costume: Alayna Vasquez, T. rex

**Adults and groups**
Best homemade costume: Nick Fazio, Brandice/Brandon
Scariest costume: Michael Camacho, Oogie Boogie Man
Funniest costume: Eli, Mateo and Victoria Grajeda, Pokemon Team
Honorable mention: Abel, Romeo, Kathy and Jacob Fuentes, West Texas Black Skeleton Cats

# Alpine's Hillside Baptist Church serves as Operation Christmas Child box drop-off

ALPINE — Hillside Baptist Church in Alpine is now serving as the drop-off point for filled Operation Christmas Child boxes for the tri-county area.

Anyone can pack a shoe box gift! Organizers say that individuals, families, clubs and churches can send this tangible expression of God's love throughout the world and help bring hope and peace to children and families of all nations. Anyone willing to give can simply pack a box for a boy or a girl ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and use any standard sized shoe box or a pre-printed one ordered from samaritanspurse.org/occ-resources. The boxes can be filled with new school supplies, toiletries and toys!

All items that are liquid, fragile, food items or toys such as army men, knives or guns are prohibited. Ten dollars should be included for shipping costs. The booklet "The Greatest Gift," published in over 80 languages, will also be included in every box. Local Christians in each village, settlement or town will share the Gospel with the children and family members at an outreach event.

Organized in 1993, Operation Christmas Child, under the umbrella of Samaritan's Purse, has sent over 198 million shoe box gifts to children in over 170 countries. Operation Christmas Child has a network of more than 15,000 volunteers — 9,000 in the U.S. and 6,000 worldwide.

More than 10.5 million shoe box gifts were collected worldwide, 9.1 million coming from the United States. Shoe box gifts are also collected in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Finland, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea.

Those seeking more information can contact Karen McGuire at 432-386-3071.

## AROUND THE BIG BEND

**Sat Nov 5**

**Makerspace Saturdays**
10:00am - 12:00pm at the Alpine Publich Library
*Come create with us! This program is for ages 6 - 11 years old.*

**55th Annual Terlingua International Chili Cook off**
Rancho CASI de los Chisos in Terlingua
*A Texas tradition of epic proportions. Visit https://www.casichili.net/ for more information.*

**Matt Castillo at Ole Crystal Bar**
8:00pm in Alpine
*Matt brings a lively show that will keep the crowd entertained and leave them wanting more. From his upbeat honky-tonk tunes to shining your buckle to soft tender ballads you'll feel like you're back in a 90's bar where country music is alive and well.*

**Sun Nov 6**

**Name Twin Picnic**
5:00pm - 7:00pm at 908 W El Paso Street in Marfa
*Bring your name twin and a dish to share!*

**The Big Bend Community Band at Granada Theatre**
2:00pm in Alpine
*A salute to movies and TV! The community band consists of musicians from all over the Big Bend area and offers our concerts free of charge.*

**Tue Nov 8**

**Election Day - VOTE!**
Polls open at 7:00am
*For more information and to find your polling place, visit votetexas.gov.*

**Wed Nov 9**

**"You Saw What??!" What every parent needs to know anout dangers online**
6:00pm at Alpine ISD Auditorium
*Join us for an important discussion! Learn how to protect your kids from dangers online and talk openly about scary stuff online. Parents and students invited. Led by The Padres Presentes Program*

*Presented by...*
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**Email ads@bigbendsentinel.com**

**Thu Nov 10**

**Alzheimers, Dimentia or Memory Impairment Webinar**
9:00am - 4:00pm in Alpine (location TBD)
*There is no fee, but donations will be accepted. For information call or text 432-386-2833.*

**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 in Marfa

**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

**The Alpine Farmers Market**
Saturdays at 9:00am on historic Murphy Street in Alpine

**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**

# OBITUARY



## Everett

**Jean Espy Everett (Nene)** — wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, a friend and mentor to many — passed away peacefully on October 28, 2022, surrounded by her family. Jean was born on March 9, 1939, in Fort Davis, Texas, to Pansy and "Big" Jim Espy. She is survived by her husband Tommy Everett of Fort Davis; sister Pat Smith of Hobbs, New Mexico; sister Ann and Jim Duncan of Lake Whitney, Texas; and brother Jim and Sally Espy of Fort Davis. Jean is survived by her three children, Debby McIvor of Fort Davis; Rick McIvor of Fort Davis; and Scott McIvor and wife Julie of Fort Davis; and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Jean was always busy with her children and all their activities as they were growing up, whether it be working on family ranches, football, basketball, stock shows, and any other activity they participated in. In the late 1980s, during the Big Bend Livestock Show, she ran into her old friend Tommy Everett and their 30-plus-year friendship and love story began. After they married in August 1989, they began their life together. They blended two families with Jean's three children and Tommy's children, Cody Bob Everett and wife Shana of Tarzan, Texas, and Connie Voss and her husband Skipper of Waco, Texas. In the mid-1990s the first grandchild arrived, Locke Ann McIvor of Fort Davis, and then came Hadley McIvor of Dallas; Mae McIvor of Portland, Oregon; Maverick McIvor of Abilene, Texas; Casey Voss of Waco, Texas; Jessi of Tarzan; and just recently the first great-grandchild, Rhodes Reed of Dallas. Jean and Tommy loved all their grandchildren and tried to attend every activity they could.

Jean lived a full life. She touched and blessed many with her teaching, coaching and jewelry fairs. She began her coaching career in Fort Stockton, then on to Marble Falls, Llano, Northern California, Presidio, Del Rio and then "retired" in Fort Stockton in 2001, and was also inducted into the Tennis Coach Hall of Fame in New Braunfels, Texas. She then began her jewelry business and traveled to arts and craft shows across the Southwest. Her love of tennis and coaching called her back and she began coaching tennis at the Fort Davis Independent School District and was actively coaching at 83 years old while still running her jewelry booth.

Jean was always dedicated to living life to its fullest. She loved making jewelry, cooking, canning, rodeos, stock shows, coaching, tennis, fishing and playing the slot machines. She was well known to have three slot machines going at once, and when fishing, three poles going at once. In youth, she loved rodeos, sports, and showing the Espys' Rambouillet sheep. She later enjoyed showing sheep and steers with her kids and grandkids and placed at many of the major shows. She loved to cook, especially when she was cooking for others — birthdays were very special — and she loved making people their favorite desserts. There was always homemade fudge, divinity and caramel at every Christmas and Bloys Campmeeting. Spring and summer were spent canning and preserving everything she could find from every fruit tree in the area. You may have found her in your backyard picking fruit, in the middle of a local ranch harvesting apples off a tree, or plucking a few of the Davis Mountain wild cherries off of the side of the road. She passed on her love of and her skills for all these things to her kids, grandchildren as well as many others.

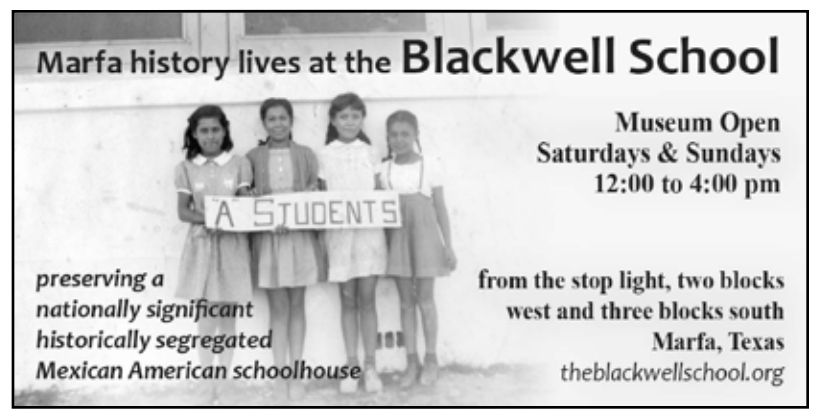
Anyone who met her never forgot her. We, her family, can't say how many times we have randomly met someone that she has touched. In everything she did she loved her family, her friends, her community, and she had a tremendous faith in God. She put her heart and soul into everything she did, 120%. She will be missed by many.

In celebration of Jean Espy Everett's (Nene) life there will be a memorial service at the Fort Davis High School Tennis Courts at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1. The graveside will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery. Lunch will be served at Fort Davis Baptist Church for those who would like to visit with the family. While flowers are appreciated, memorials can be made in her honor to the Fort Davis FFA, Jeff Davis County 4-H Club or the FDISD Tennis program.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: Mobile Mortician of Texas web page at www.mmoftexas.com or our Facebook page.

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# Classifieds & public notices

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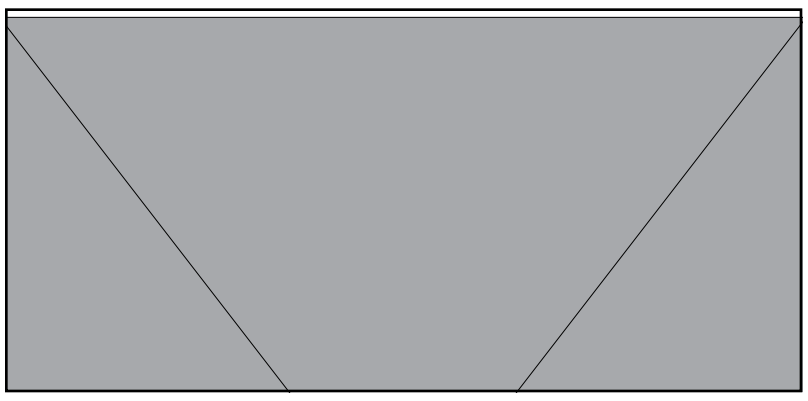


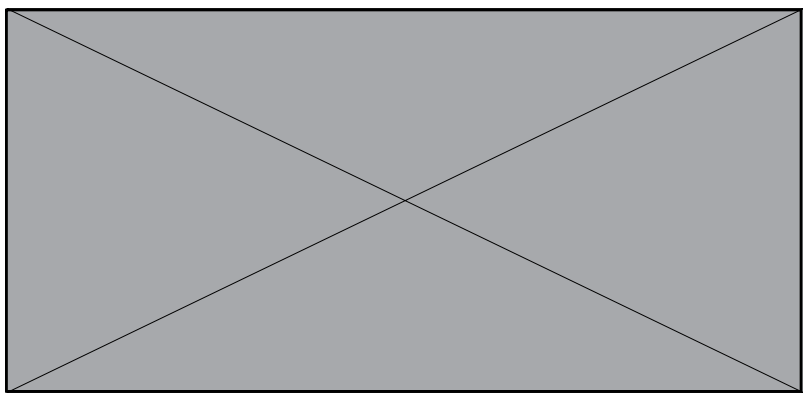

**MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES**

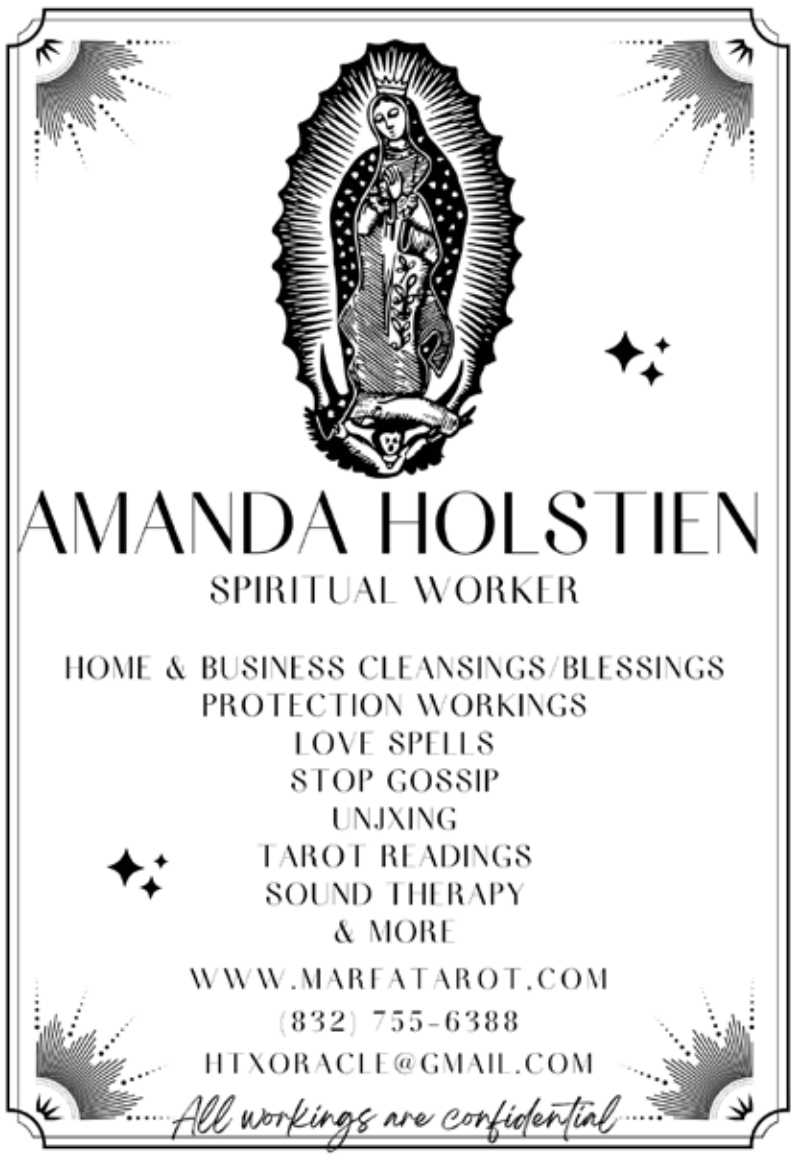
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**ENGINEERING/ARCHITECTURE/SURVEYING SERVICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Presidio County plans to apply for the upcoming 2022-2023 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Accordingly, the County is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering/Architectural/ Surveying Firm to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the County in its application preparation and project implementation of a TxCDBG contract, if awarded, to carry out public infrastructure improvements within the County.

**Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below:**

**Presidio County Auditor**
**Patricia Roach, CPA**
**PO Box 423; Marfa, TX 79843**
**300 N. Highland; Marfa, TX 79843**

Proposals shall be received by the County no later than 3:00 pm CST on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. All respondents must be registered with SAM.gov.

***The County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.***

**INVITATION TO BID**

Presidio Independent School District is requesting competitive sealed proposals for the construction of Multi-Purpose Gym and Weight Room located at corner of Santa Fe Blvd and Second Street, Presidio, Tx. Proposed building consists of a total of 13,021SF. Work land area for this phase will be approximately 33,809.37 SF. Scope of work to be considered under this project proposal shall only include building sub soil and pad preparation, building foundation, Building slab, underground plumbing and electrical rough-ins, metal building erection and exterior windows and doors. All remaining exterior and all interior work shall be done under a separate contract and shall not be included as part of this proposal.

Request for proposal will be available beginning **Thursday, November 3, 2022.** This solicitation is only available electronically. To receive the solicitation and design documents please send a written request to Eric Perea – eric@cire3.com. The proposal documents and general information concerning the property, including the Proposal Form, Selection Criteria, Statement of Qualification Form, Scope of Work may be obtained by general contractors only. Sub-Contractors are required to coordinate with general contractors to receive the solicitation information and submit their bids.

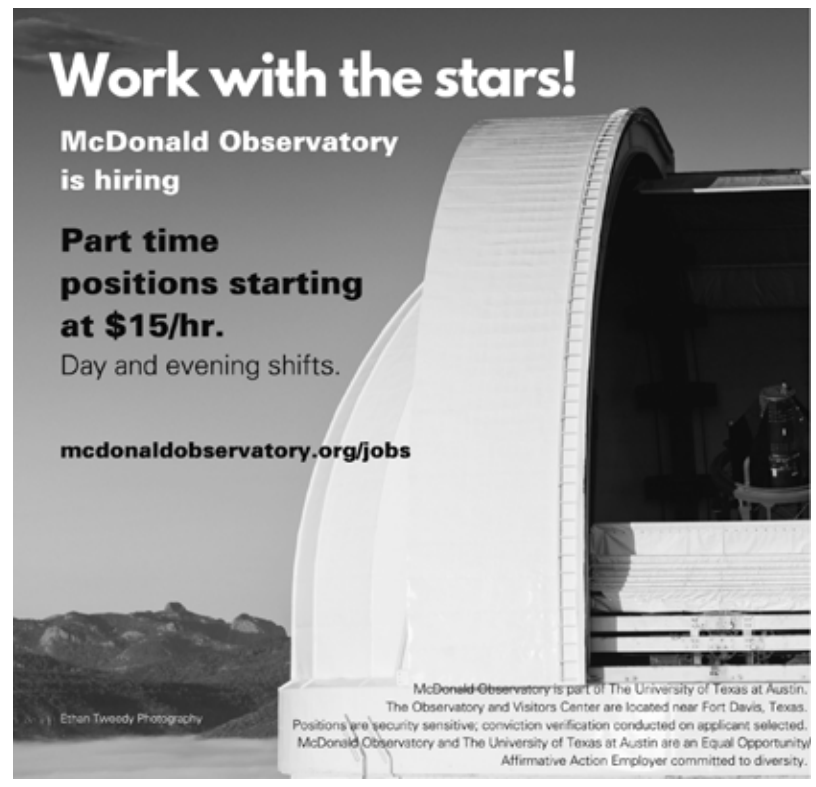
Responses must be received by Presidio Independent School District no later than **Monday, November 14, 2022, by 3:00 p.m.** Please follow the instructions set forth in the RFP package regarding the delivery of proposals Presidio Independent School reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. All questions regarding this RFP may be directed to Eric Perea – eric@cire3.com.

**Deliver Sealed Bids to:**
**Presidio ISD**
**Business Manager's Office**
**701 E. Market Street**
**Presidio, Texas 79845**

**Presidio ISD Contect Personnel:**
**Ruben Armendariz**
**PISD Facilities and Operations Director**
**rarmendariz@presidio-isd.net**
**# 432-295-2803**

***EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM FOR ADVERTISING RATES***

## JOBS




**PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**•FULL STAFF ACCOUNTANT•**
Bachelors required, Alpine Location

**•PART TIME FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST•**
Marfa Clinic

**•PROGRAM COORDINATOR•**
Collaborate with team to ensure program process and outcomes.

**•HUMAN RESOURCE REP•**
Bachelors required

**•FULL TIME IT SPECIFIC SOFTWARE TECH•**
Preferably Medical Software

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

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

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

Please call first before arrival.

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

**VILLAGE FARMS - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Shipping/Receiving Clerk with **NEW PAY RATE OF $15.00 per hour to start**. Opportunity to earn $16.00/per hour upon competent completion of training.
Fast Track to Management

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties.

Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred.
Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the first 6 months of employment.
Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

***Interested candidates should email or fax resume to (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or texashr@villagefarms.com, applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.***

**GOVERNMENT CONTACTS**

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

**CITY OF MARFA**
**Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor**
*mayor@cityofmarfa.com*
*(432) 295-0048*
**Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem**
*councilmembersalgado@cityofmarfa.com*
**Mark Cash**
*councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com*
**Raúl Lara**
*councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com*
**Eddie Pallarez**
*councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com*
**Jason Ballmann**
*councilmemberballmann@cityofmarfa.com*

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

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

**Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:**
*City Hall: (432) 837-3301*
*Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us*

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

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

**U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz:**
*(202) 224-5922 (D.C. office)*

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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