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Presidio City Council seeks legal advice on potential game room ordinance

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At Monday night's meeting, Presidio City Council returned to the topic of game rooms, which drew heated discussion during public comment at a meeting in November. Two game rooms have been quietly operating in Presidio, but after widespread shutdowns and negative media attention in Odessa, the city of Presidio has started considering regulating these businesses in case the industry continues to grow locally.

Gambling is illegal in Texas, but game rooms operate within legal loopholes to simulate some of the fun of slot machine-style gaming within the letter of the law. Proponents of game rooms insist that it's good, clean fun — and detractors say it's a thinly-veiled way of skirting the law in plain sight, with the risk of attracting other types of criminal activity.

Assistant City Attorney Nella Joseph joined the meeting via Zoom to offer her insight. The agenda as written scheduled a first reading of an ordinance regulating game rooms, but Joseph advised that the council didn't have to follow through and could instead talk through aspects of the proposed ordinance before initiating the formal process of passing a new law. "It's a hot subject, and a controversial type of ordinance," Joseph said.

The conversation then shifted into clarifying what game rooms are and what other cities have done to regulate them. Joseph explained that many game rooms operate on the "fuzzy animal loophole" — since cash prizes of more than $5 cannot be given out in Texas, game rooms can instead offer non-cash prizes that can be redeemed elsewhere for cash or other forms of payout above the limit.

Jeran Stephens, secretary of the Zoning Board, asked if the city could limit where game rooms can operate — in other cities, they cannot be located within a certain distance of a school or church, and can't be on residential property. City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez said that the proposed ordinance would prohibit game rooms from opening on residential property.

Councilmember Joe Andy Mendoza was concerned that Council's focus on the details could lead to the number of game rooms spiraling out of control. "It's good that we take our time with this, but what if many more pop up?" he asked.

Mayor John Ferguson agreed. "I don't see this as a pressing issue, but we want to limit a free-for-all in our community."

Joseph explained that there's

(Continued on page 2)



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Jeff Davis County Wildlife Biologist Olivia Gray with Texas Parks and Wildlife uses a flashlight to locate hibernating bats underneath a bridge. Bats are being tested for a fatal disease, white nose syndrome, across the state this winter.

Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists, volunteers work to monitor fatal bat disease

By MARY CANTRELL
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FAR WEST TEXAS — Local Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) biologists are working with the help of volunteers to test overwintering bats nesting under bridges and in caves and mines for a fatal fungal disease known as white nose syndrome.

The disease progresses from the presence of a fungus called *pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which can grow on bats when they are in torpor, an inactive state in which their body temperatures are lowered. Bats are irritated by the disease and come out of torpor to scratch themselves, burning precious calories, and die of starvation as a result.

TPWD biologists are currently swabbing bats for the disease around the state. In the tri-county area and in Terrell and Hudspeth counties, those efforts are led by Krysta Demere, TPWD wildlife diversity biologist covering the Trans-Pecos region. Demere was a part of the team that first detected the spores of the fungus in 2017 in the Texas panhandle.

White nose syndrome originated in Europe and was discovered in the United States for the first time in the winter of 2006-2007. An online map shows how the disease has since progressed from occurring primarily on the East Coast to spreading across the country.

"Since that point in time, bats all across the country, but mainly starting in New York, were falling out of their roosts during the winter. They'd find them on the landscape; the ground would just be littered with [dead] bats," said Demere.

By 2020, the presence of the spores led to the development of the disease in Texas, said Demere, primarily affecting bats in Central Texas where the majority of the state's cave systems are located.

"In 2020 we started documenting bats come out of hibernation and just fall across the landscape," said Demere. "People were calling into parks and wildlife: 'I found a dead bat on a hiking trail. What should I do?' 'I found a dead bat in a parking lot.' It was really in 2020 that we documented the actual diseases here — white nose syndrome itself."

Millions of bats have died in the U.S. due to white nose syndrome, according to the White Nose Syndrome Response Team, a group organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Demere explains that the mortality rate of colonies affected by white nose syndrome can be

(Continued on page 2)

Union Pacific hosts law enforcement safety course to prevent track fatalities

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Union Pacific on Tuesday hosted a course in Marfa for local law enforcement focused on public safety around the railroad tracks that run through the city and surrounding region.

Union Pacific hosts the course in communities along its tracks every few years — the company has done so three times in Marfa within the past decade, according to Union Pacific spokesperson Robynn Tysver. Marfa Police Chief Steve Marquez estimated the last course held in Marfa took place in 2018.

The course, though held in Marfa, is a regional affair. Tuesday's course was attended by officers with the Marfa Police Department, the Presidio County Sheriff's Office, the Presidio Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and by firefighters with the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department. Marquez noted that Presidio's involvement was especially vital given the anticipated completion of the city's rail bridge.

Mike Brucks, Union Pacific's public safety special agent in El Paso, said the company's goal is both to educate law enforcement officers and first responders and to increase public awareness about track safety. "It's for public awareness, so we can get the word out that the railroad tracks are dangerous," said Brucks.

The course's return is not in response to any one incident, he said — but a series of incidents.

"It's in response to a collection of incidents," said Brucks. "Every year, trains strike about 2,000 people — that's vehicles and pedestrians — and of those 2,000, probably 1,500 of them are seriously injured or killed." He was careful to note that was roughly 2,000 collisions total, not collisions involving Union Pacific trains.

The railroad tracks in Marfa have, in fact, been the site of several tragedies.

In 2013, Marfa resident Melaney Parker Rayburn was struck and killed by a train near Russell Street. Her death was ruled a suicide, though the family claimed her death was not properly investigated.

In 2016, Marfa teenager Jason Molinar was struck from behind and killed by a Union Pacific train in Marfa while walking on the tracks with headphones on. The child's mother sued the railroad company, alleging operators failed to properly notify her son or slow the train in a timely manner. A 2019 trial concluded with a jury verdict in Union Pacific's favor; last year,

(Continued on page 2)

Marfa ISD celebrates School Board Recognition Month at latest meeting

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — The Marfa Independent School Board of Trustees met Monday night for a brief meeting in which board members were acknowledged for their service on the school board.

January marks School Board Recognition Month for the state of Texas in which local school board members are highlighted for their volunteer contributions.

Imaginative posters expressing thank yous made by Marfa ISD students were hung on the white boards and board members received vibrant cards and letters of appreciation from students.

"They are very appreciative of you. You guys know that I'm very honored to work with you," said Superintendent Oscar Aguero. "Thank y'all so much for what we do."

Aguero promised gift baskets and a thank-you dinner were forthcoming.

The board will have two positions — one currently vacant seat and the other of Trustee Lori Flores — up for election in the upcoming May 6 General Election. Interested candidates are encouraged to pick up applications at the MISD Administration Office over the next month.

The board intends to call another bond election, which will appear on the May ballot, after their initial $57 million bond proposal for a new K-12 school failed to pass in the November General Election; they will need to meet before the February 17 deadline to do so. An exact dollar amount for the bond has not been determined.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Marfa students made colorful, creative posters and thank you notes to show their appreciation for Marfa ISD's board of trustees this month.

Legislative bills seek to expand cities' use of hotel occupancy taxes

By MARY CANTRELL
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BIG BEND REGION — As the Texas Legislature began its 88th legislative session this month, cities including Marfa and Alpine are tracking a bill that could allow municipalities to utilize hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds for city infrastructure projects.

The bill, HB550, was filed in November of 2022 by Texas State Representative Cody Vasut who represents counties along the Texas Gulf Coast. It seeks to expand cities' uses of collected HOT taxes — which are currently restricted toward specific tourism-driving initiatives — to include improvements to city-owned infrastructure including roads, streets and water and wastewater systems located within a mile of a hotel. HB550 proposes up to 20 percent of HOT taxes could be used on such projects.

Senator César Blanco, who represents Texas' 29th Congressional District, including Far West Texas, said in a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel* that he also intends to file a Senate bill on the matter soon for the Big Bend region.

"In Far West Texas, the tourism industry is booming, which is great for the economy, but it puts added pressure on our local infrastructure and local taxpayers. In recent years, for example, Marfa has hosted over 50,000 visitors per year, more than 25 times its population of 1,800 residents," said Blanco in a written statement.

The way the current laws are written, municipalities are very limited in how they are able to use HOT tax funds. The taxes must be used to promote more tourism through visitors centers, arts and cultural activities, historic restoration and preservation projects or advertising reimbursements.

The Texas Hotel Lodging Association — which held meetings in August on HOT taxes and short-term rentals for the local community where more creative uses of HOT funds among other legislative topics were discussed — states on their website they will oppose measures, as they have previously, that would allow for HOT taxes to be used for initiatives other than tourism promotion, including street repair.

This past year, the City of Marfa budgeted $2 million for street repairs — those funds will target a handful of city thoroughfares, but leave more to be addressed. This winter, the city of Alpine's residents have encountered city-mandated boil-water notices as a result of water main line breaks, prompting the city to turn its focus on repairing aging water infrastructure.

Blanco said the bill could help rural towns like Marfa and Alpine better levy the HOT taxes for sorely-needed infrastructure upgrades that could benefit both local and visiting communities.

"Our rural communities just don't have the local tax base to support needed improvements to our infrastructure to keep up with growing demand. After speaking to local leaders and residents, the hotel occupancy tax is something we are looking at opening up in our rural communities to help fund needed improvements," said Blanco.

Marfa City Manager Mandy Roane voiced support for the bill at last week's city council meeting. She said because short-term rentals

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 2
OPINION P. 4 - 5
COMMUNITY P. 6 - 7
CLASSIFIEDS P. 8

The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Fatal bat disease

(Continued from page 1)

as high as 90 to 100 percent, and there is concern that certain species, including cave myotis, which hibernate in large numbers in Central Texas over the winter, will be wiped out.

"We're extremely worried about that specific species, and we're doing everything we can to not only monitor that species but any other wintering bats we have in Texas," said Demere.

Demere began swabbing hibernating bats in West Texas for the first time in the winter of 2020-2021. Samples are sent off to Northern Arizona University for testing. Her first year, all of the samples she sent in came back negative for the fungus except for one Mexican free-tailed bat she swabbed in Big Bend Ranch State Park in Presidio County.

"That was the first documentation of the fungus anywhere out here in West Texas," said Demere. "Mexican free tails, even if they carry the spores, haven't actually developed the disease, so they could be more of a carrier. But it's the other bats that they could come into contact with that we're worried about."

This winter, Demere is out swabbing bats again, beginning with all of the bridges she visited two years ago, but expanding her reach to local caves and abandoned mines in Shafter, Big Bend National Park, Guadalupe National Park and more. Demere, with the help of Texas Master Naturalist volunteers and fellow Jeff Davis County Wildlife Biologist Olivia Gray, has been working to survey areas for dead bats, count roosting bats, fluoresce bats with an ultraviolet light to see if they can pick up any indication of the fungus, and swab the bats for samples.

"Any help that I can get from volunteers is great. This is all work that I can do by myself, but it goes by a lot faster and smoother having extra hands," said Demere.

Bats are often found roosting in cracks under bridges. Using what she calls the "bat tickler" — a dowel rod with a swab-sized hole drilled into the end of it — biologists and volunteers are able to get into the cracks too narrow for human hands in order to reach the bats. Bats often make noises in protest or open their mouths to bite the swab (researchers are often targeting their noses for the samples). Gray joked that she felt like she was brushing bat teeth.

So far this year, Demere said she has encountered significantly fewer bats than she did in the winter of 2020-2021. She said she has definitely seen less of the cave myotis species particularly. The first bridge she visited in Brewster County, the site of a known myotis maternity colony that has housed a sizable population of bats in the past, was almost entirely empty this year.

"I only found one bat in the entire bridge this year. That's a little scary for me," said Demere.

Other bridges recently surveyed showed declines from 1,500 to 133 bats and 500 to 121 bats over the course of two years. The severe winter storm that took place two years ago, after Demere visited the bridges, and the more recent December cold snap could be to blame for the struggling populations, said Demere. Most bat species have one to three young a year, meaning their populations are slow to recover.

Texas is known to be home to over 30 bat species. The majority of the bats Demere and volunteers have come across are Mexican free-tailed bats, with the exception of a singular bat of the Yuma myotis species, known to exist near water. Is it possible that the bats that remain in Texas for the winter are juveniles who are unaware they are supposed to fly south for the winter.

But even today, said Demere, little is known about the migratory patterns of bats — transmitter technology, which allows scientists to track animals' movements, has previously been limited.

"The bats are tiny, most of them are less than 10 grams. So having a transmitter that you can put on something that small — [the technology is] just now getting there," said Demere.

In addition to bats being a huge tourist attraction in the state of Texas — sites including the Congress Bridge in Austin, the largest urban bat colony in the world, as well as Bracken Cave in San Antonio, the largest congregation of any mammal on the planet, attract thousands of visitors — bats eat their body weight in insects every night and contribute to a balanced ecosystem.

Bats are estimated to provide $3.7 billion worth of assistance to farmers for their pest management services, according to the White Nose Syndrome Response Team.

"People do *not* realize how important bats are to the agriculture industry. Farmers already spend a ton on pesticides, and that is with the help of bats; the amount of money that would have to be spent to battle those pests without that would be astronomical because bats take care of a huge portion of insects that target our crops," said Demere.

The region is also home to a breeding population of the Mexican long-nosed bat, an endangered nectar-feeding bat which travels north from Mexico in the spring to spend summers in Emory Cave in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park. The Mexican long-nosed bat is the main pollinator of agave plants, which are used to produce tequila.

Other studies, including an agave and yucca study at the Chinati Mountains state natural area, have also taken place.

"We would not have tequila without that bat," said Demere. "Because the disease has not been found this far west and south before we have no idea what it's going to do to a nectar feeding bat like the Mexican long-nose."

They plan to continue monitoring efforts and may make management decisions based on this year's results, said Demere.

Fort Leaton State Historic Site in Presidio is another popular roosting site in the area for bats; its crosshatch wood ceilings are home to hundreds of Mexican free-tailed bats in the summer. The site also put in a giant bat house near the structure that is also utilized by bats, though nowhere near the level of the fort, said Thomas Forwood, the site's superintendent.

"Guano clean up is a daily morning routine for us once it warms up a bit," said Forwood, referring to the accumulation of bat excrement.

While there is a lack of day-to-day personal accounts from the early days of Fort Leaton in general, and none mentioning the presence of bats, Forwood said the flying mammals have likely been there since the site's inception; the layout of the site has remained the same throughout history.

"It's been a perfect roost site. We figure since the early days of Fort Leaton bats have definitely utilized this structure," said Forwood.

The fort's Mexican free-tailed population leaves the site to fly south during the winter months, meaning they do not have a large hibernating colony or "hibernacula" — this makes the population fairly low risk, so the fort does not actively swab for white nose syndrome. The fort also sees Yuma myotis and cave myotis species. Canyon bats, a species of concern for the disease, are also found at nearby Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Park employees keep an eye out for sick or dead bats and alert natural resource specialists as needed, said Forwood. While the populations of bats at Fort Leaton aren't of immediate concern for white nose syndrome, Forwood said there is still a lot to be learned about the disease and its spread in the West.

"There's a lot of question marks, so that's some of the reason that there's a lot of research and a lot of concern," said Forwood. "It's a concern for ones that have similar physiology to ones in the East that have been affected hard, but also for what's going to happen here."

Union Pacific

(Continued from page 1)

the Eighth Court of appeals in El Paso upheld the trial court's ruling.

And more recently, in 2021, a less severe incident took place at a crossing, resulting in two injuries. City of Marfa Public Utilities Supervisor Chuck Salgado was driving his truck over the railroad crossing near the cemetery when struck by a Union Pacific freight train. Salgado and his nine-year-old son, who was in the truck with him, were injured in the incident. Salgado was charged with failure to yield right of way at railroad crossing.

Chief Marquez said for his department, the local tragedies are top of mind. "We all know about the tragedies we've had along the railroad tracks," he said.

Brucks said the public should be aware that land within 25 feet of the rails is railroad property, and that anyone on that land is trespassing. That land is not labeled as such, he said — "Union Pacific owns 35,000 miles of straight line track — there's no way that we can mark all of that" — but police may enforce trespassing laws to keep the space around the tracks clear.

Marquez said his department's protocol is to inform anyone too close to the rails that they are trespassing, and to issue citations if necessary. Tuesday's course will not result in any new or increased enforcement, he said — it simply serves as a reminder of existing protocols and informs new officers who have joined the department since the railroad's last training.

Brucks said that Marfa, specifically, has a tendency to draw visitors who might want to trespass for a photo opportunity. "Marfa, because of its art draw, you have a lot of people — and the railroad tracks draw those people wanting to take pictures, those people wanting to be on those tracks and take pictures," he said.

Marquez said his department had dealt with people sitting on the tracks or getting too close for the sake of a photo — his officers tell those tourists to keep a safe distance. "We try to tell them to stay off the tracks — if you want to take a picture of the train on the other side, from the post office or from where the St. George parking lot is, that's fine, but we want everyone to stay away from the train. We explain to them that we've had incidents in town."

Following an overview of the laws and protocols, as part of the course, Union Pacific took officers on a train through Marfa, "observing motorist and pedestrian behavior at all four crossings in Marfa," said Tysver. Officers were also stationed along the tracks during the exercise to ensure safety rules were observed and enforced.

Tysver issued a few safety reminders for Presidio County residents: drivers should expect train traffic from either direction on the railroad, and trains can be "closer, faster and quieter than you think"; trains can take more than a mile to stop once operators have applied emergency brakes; drivers should never drive around lowered gates, and if their cars end up stalled on the tracks they should get out and notify the number on the blue sign near the crossing; lastly, Union Pacific urges drivers and pedestrians alike to only cross at designated crossings.

Game room ordinance

(Continued from page 1)

already a framework in state law that cities can adapt to be more specific — for example, the city of Alpine limits the number of game rooms to four and can keep track of how many game rooms there are by requiring yearly licensing and permits.

Stephens asked if the new ordinance would apply retroactively to existing game rooms or if they would be exempt from the new restrictions. Joseph advised building a grace period into the ordinance so that existing businesses could get into compliance. "You can say that we're going to give you time," she explained.

To cap off the discussion, Joseph advised that the state-level laws regulating game rooms are constantly in flux — with the beginning of a new legislative session, they could change even more. "This is an ever-changing issue," she said.

Hotel occupancy taxes

(Continued from page 1)

(STRs) also pay hotel taxes, she hopes the bill will be expanded to include them, not just hotels.

"I reached out to the representatives office to see if they can make sure that STRS were included, at least for small municipalities or rural municipalities," said Roane. "If that does look like it's going to move forward to the next step, maybe we can all write letters of support as a council."

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Roane said it is likely that the city would use the funds for street repairs — the number one complaint she receives from both tourists and locals.

"We could do a little bit every year," said Roane. "People complain about the streets, and I get that, but this would be an easy way for us to afford some of it."

Roane said she will continue to track the bill, as well as several others, to see how it progresses in the session. Last year, the city of Marfa budgeted to receive $700,000 in HOT taxes, and likely received that amount as the budget amount was based on what the city brought in in 2021. In the past, the city successfully lobbied for HOT taxes to be used to fund airport improvements.

Megan Antrim, city manager for the City of Alpine, addressed council members on Tuesday regarding potential shifts to the city's operations that could take place should the state allow for HOT funds to be used more broadly.

Antrim said that the bill, if passed, would allow the city to use HOT funds to repair a lift station — a piece of infrastructure that moves wastewater to higher elevations — near the Holiday Inn. (The station, which is in close proximity to both the inn and to Sul Ross State University, has been an ongoing problem area for Alpine, city secretary Geo Calderon clarified to *The Big Bend Sentinel*).

"The city has put money aside for the Holiday Inn station — it is within a mile of the Holiday Inn Hotel," said Antrim. "We would, if this bill passes, be able to use HOT funds to make that improvement to that infrastructure."

Antrim said the bill would further facilitate vital upgrades on Alpine's east side, due to the abundance of hotels in the area.

"This is really important if you're looking at the east side of Alpine and not having sewer infrastructure in place — you have the Holland, you have the Quality Inn, and you have Travel Lodge all along that area," she said. "You can replace infrastructure within a mile. That would just be wonderful for the City of Alpine, to be able to use HOT funds to make those types of improvements."

The Big Bend Sentinel will continue to track the progress of HB550 and other bills that relate to the tourism industry and the tri-county area more broadly in the coming months.

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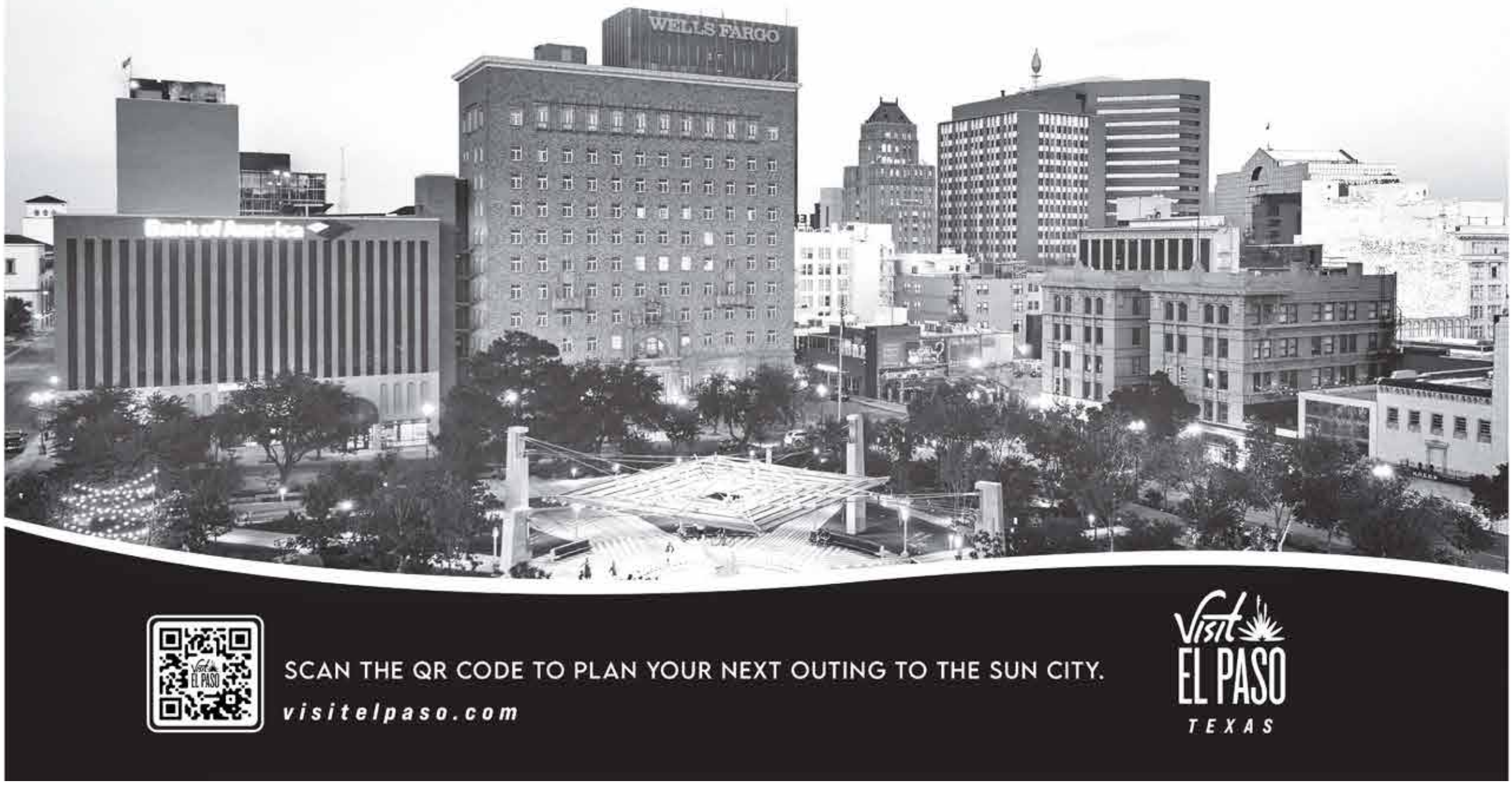




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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We want to take a minute to let Presidio County community, friends, colleagues and family know how much we appreciate everything that was done in honor of our father and community leader Felipe A. Cordero during his passing.

It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude for the support, sympathy and kindness everyone has shown us during this sad time.

The greatest comfort during our sorrow was the outpouring of moral support, sympathy, food, flowers, comradery and love displayed for our father. He always stated, "Marfa is God's country, and he would not trade the community's love and bond for all the money in the world." That love shined through and we felt what those words spoken by our father meant.

Special thank you to Nancy with Eternity Funeral Home, St. Mary's Church staff and Father Victorino Lorseca Jr. Your efforts during this time were remarkable — from organizing, listening and accommodating our family wishes and our needs.

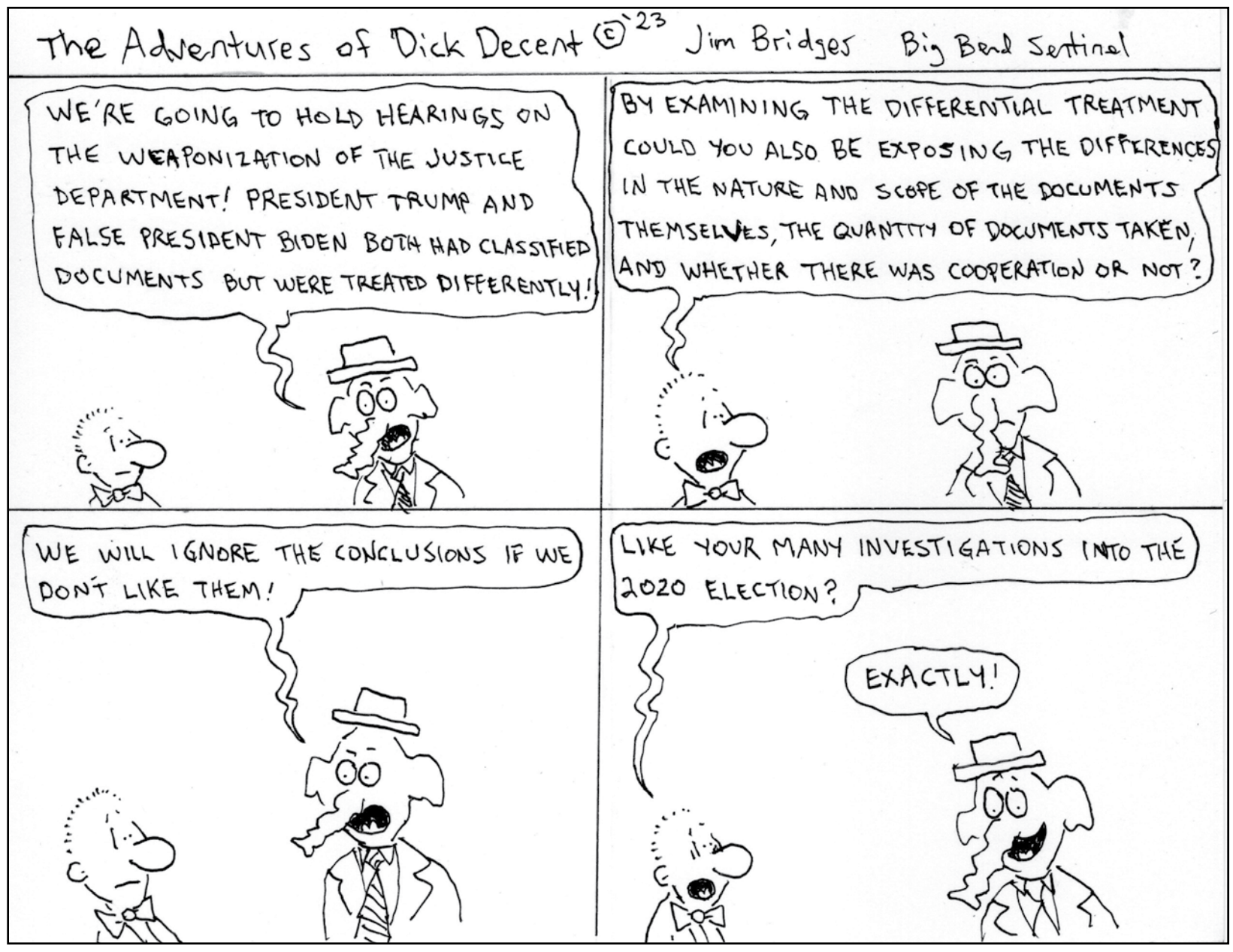
Thank you and God Bless you all,

Felipe A. Cordero Children & Family

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***



Val Beard, Anne Calaway & Liz Rogers

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DAVID KELLER

for his 21 years of contributions to the historical and archaeological preservation of the Big Bend Region



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO

394TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CAUSE NO. 8187

To: DEFENDANT UNKNOWN EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF NARCISA CONTRERAS, DECEASED; DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NARCISA CONTRERAS, DECEASED; AND DEFENDANTS KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF ANY INTEREST, RIGHT, OR TITLE IN: A portion of Lot 6, Block 62, Original Townsite of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas, described in that warranty deed recorded in volume 138, page 359 in the real property records of Presidio County, Texas.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION STATED THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2023, AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the petition of plaintiffs at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days, after the date of service of this citation stated this 10th day of February, 2023, before the Honorable Roy B. Ferguson, 394th Judicial District Court of Presidio County, Texas, at the courthouse in the city of Marfa, Texas.

Said petition was filed in said court, on the 31st day of August 2022, in cause number 8187 on the docket of said court and styled:

JOSE MARTIN GUTIERREZ and JESUS GUTIERREZ
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NARCISA CONTRERAS

The nature of this cause is to wit: **CLAIMS FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION AND QUITE TITLE OF THE REAL PROPERTY MORE FULLY AND PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS THE FOLLOWING: A portion of Lot 6, Block 62, Original Townsite of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas, described in that warranty deed recorded in volume 138, page 359 in the real property records of Presidio County, Texas, AND FOR A DECLARATION OF A FEE SIMPLE TITLE IN PLAINTIFFS JOSE MARTIN GUTIERREZ and JESUS GUTIERREZ AS IS MORE FULLY SHOWN BY PLAINTIFFS' PETITION ON FILE IN THIS SUIT.**

The officer executing this citation shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Marfa, Presidio County, Texas this the 5th day of December, 2022.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS:
SARAH SIBLEY KLEIN
121 N 6TH STREET
ALPINE, TEXAS 79830

Florcita Zubia, District Clerk
300 Highland Street
Marfa, Texas 79843

By: [signature]

District Court of Presidio County, Texas (Seal)

RETURN

This citation was received by me on the 11th day of December, 2022, at 930 o'clock A.m., and was executed by causing the same to be published in the *Big Bend Sentinel*, a newspaper published and of general circulation in Presidio County, in which said proceeding is pending, which newspaper is further described in the publishers affidavit, hereto attached and made a part hereof accompanied by a printed copy of the published citation and returned herewith. Said citation was published once each week for four (4) consecutive weeks beginning on the 12 day of January, 2023, and ending on the 4 day of Feb, 2023.

Authorized Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me on this the ___ day of _____, 202__.

By:_____, Notary

PRESIDIO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF ESTRAY

Case Number: 23-001

Date: 01/03/2023

Pursuant to the Texas Estray Law of the Texas Agriculture Code, Title 4, Subtitle B, Chapter 142:

On January 3, 2023, I impounded the following estray animal:

1. One five-year-old Charolais white bull, no brands, no lip tattoo, or chip, weighing 1700 lbs.

It was reported to Presidio County Sheriff's Office by Jaime Hernandez.

The estray animal described above was transported to a holding area (Fowlkes Cattle Co.) from the Lely Ranch by Richard Newell before being sold at auction. Newell claims the foreman of the Lely ranch gave him permission to clear the cattle off the ranch and keep the proceeds from the sale. Newell has no proof of ownership of estray bull. Reporting party claims the bull belongs to him.

The estray animal will be held at the Fowlkes cattle pens in Marfa, TX.

Notice is hereby given that if the ownership of this estray is not determined on or after January 17, 2023, it will be sold either at public auction or Sheriff's sale. Sale will be held at 10 am, January 21, 2023, at the Presidio County pens at Vizcaino Park in Marfa.

Danny C. Dominguez, Sheriff
Presidio County, Texas

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OP-ED

How Marfa, Texas came by its Russian name

Some afterthoughts and informed updates

By PETER A. FISCHER, PH.D.
With introduction by MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — No one can say with total certainty how the Far West Texas town of Marfa, established in 1883 as a water stop along the newly-extended Southern Pacific Railroad, got its name.

Recently, one scholar was motivated to develop his own theory, as the existing tales he found dominating the narrative just didn't ring true to him, he said.

"I had for a long time intended to really get to the bottom of it, because I wasn't satisfied with the answers I had been given for the origin of the name," said Peter Fischer in an interview with The Big Bend Sentinel.

Fischer is indeed uniquely situated to research the topic. He attended Indiana University in the 1950s and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Russian language and literature before attending Harvard to obtain his doctorate. Now retired, during his career Fischer worked as a university professor at a number of colleges including Amherst and Georgetown. He accompanied student groups on trips to Russia and worked as a professional tour guide in the country.

He first traveled to Texas in 1973 to work at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. After 15 years in that role, Fischer got a job at the American Embassy in Moscow, where he worked as an assistant to the ambassador until 1996. He now lives in North Carolina and was recently re-inspired to delve into the history of Marfa's name after a trip to the area.

Fischer's findings, detailed in an essay titled "How Marfa, Texas came by its Russian name: Some Afterthoughts and Informed Updates," which follows this introduction, describe a new, alternative Marfa name theory. Fischer agrees with part of the most popular existing theory — that the wife of a railroad executive was inspired by a Russian novel she was reading at the time of the railroad construction and establishment of the town and suggested the name to her husband. Yet his theory differs when it comes to specifics; in Fischer's theory, the novel being read was a fictionalized account of the life and legacy of a historic Russian figure by the name of Marfa Posadnitsa.

Fischer is unconvinced that the big Russian novels, such as The Brothers Karamazov *by Fyodor Dostoevsky, which has been believed to have inspired the town's name, contained any memorable Marfa characters. "It had to have been something that really stood out, not some secondary or tertiary character," he said.*

He felt with his deep knowledge of Russian history and literature he might be able to discover the true origin of the name. Marfa Posadnitsa, a well-known figure in Russian history, who lived in the 1400s, would have stood out to the wife of the railroad executive, Fisher thought, for she was unusually involved in politics for a woman of that time and a primary character in the novel.

For this and other reasons explained in the below essay, Fischer is convinced he's cracked the real story behind the small Texas town's Russian name.

"You can say it's speculation, but what I would say is, it's definitely informed speculation that's borne out by a number of contextual things around this story," said Fischer.

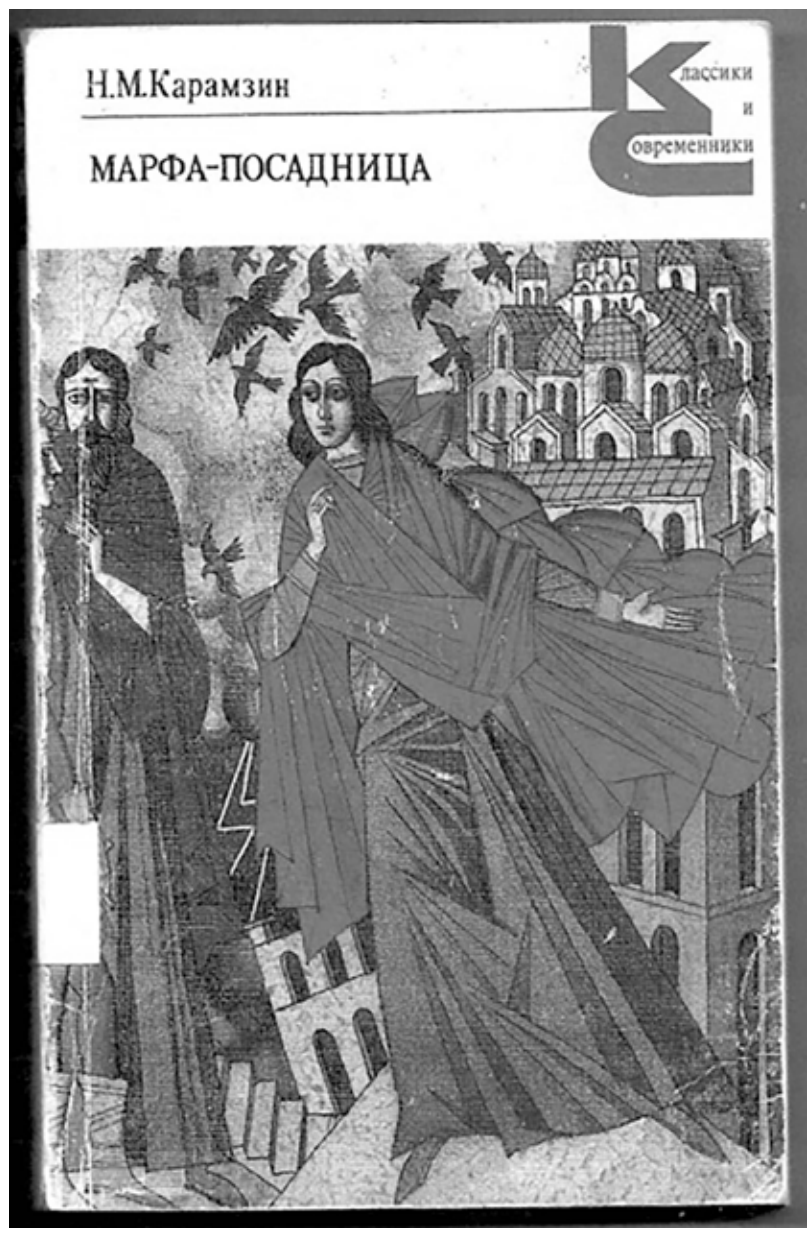
———

When I first heard the name Marfa — it might have been on "The Eyes of Texas" TV program — and got intrigued and curious about it, I looked it up on the map of Texas. Seeing its remote location, out in Big Bend country, I was further fascinated, and spoke to an aficionado of Texan lore and legends, who told me the basic story of Marfa's founding. I was told that it got its start in the early 1880s, during the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad across Texas and all the way to California; that the railroad planners chose the site to build a watering station to allow the steam locomotives to refill their water tanks as they chuffed across the vastness of West Texas.

And to top it off, as I was even more excited to learn, the water stop was named Marfa at the request of the wife of an executive of the Southern Pacific.

That mysterious executive was in all likelihood Charles Crocker, one of the famous "Big Four" railroad pioneers and tycoons responsible for the Southern Pacific and other connecting rail systems. The other three were Leland Stanford, Collis Huntington, and Mark Hopkins — all prominent personalities in Gilded Age America. Of the four, Crocker was the most "hands on" type, and probably the "executive" managing construction of the railroad across Texas and beyond. And since at his time the sonorous title of "executive" was not yet in use in the business world, Crocker more likely would have been known as the "Big Boss" on his massive construction project. And it would have been the Big Boss's wife, Mrs. Crocker, who should take credit for the initiative to give Marfa its name.

The reason we can reasonably implicate Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crocker in the naming of Marfa is that farther down the Southern Pacific's track, in New Mexico, another facility or settlement established by the railroad was named "Deming," which was Mrs. Crocker's maiden name. We can't say whether this naming was at Mrs. Crocker's behest, as was Marfa, or if Charles Crocker did it on his own, out of regard for his wife's family. In any case, Deming has since become a fair-sized city and an important crossroads on I-10, the 20th century super highway, much of its way paralleling the 19th century railroad tracks laid by Crocker's Southern Pacific crews.



Scan courtesy of Peter Fischer

A copy of the 19th century novel* Marfa Posadnitsa *by Nikolai Karamzin. Marfa appears as the character in the red cloak. The author's name is at the very top of the novel, followed by the book title in Cyrillic letters.

Identifying Mr. and Mrs. Crocker as the central actors in the establishment and naming of Marfa adds significant, and quite likely factual, information to the town's hand-me-down history. With that on the books, so to speak, we must now embark on the second, more problematic search: namely how and where Mrs. Crocker came across the Russian name Marfa (the equivalent of our Martha) and what made that Marfa so memorable that she chose to commemorate her by putting her name on the map of Texas. We can assume that a woman of Mrs. Crocker's social and economic position would have been well-educated, well- traveled, and in her case, widely read, because the source for her Marfa had to be Russian literature, not newspaper society pages. In the 19th century, Russian writers had become internationally famous, and many of their works had begun to be translated into French, German and English, and were readily available to interested readers. So it stands to reason that Mrs. Crocker's reading extended to books by Russian authors, and our task is to find the author and the book that ended up giving us Marfa, Texas.

So far, most people interested in tracing Marfa's literary ancestry have posited that she must be a memorable character from one of Dostoevsky's big novels, maybe *Crime and Punishment* or *The Brothers Karamazov*. (Alpine native Thomas Wilson posited in the *Journal of Big Bend Studies* that the name came from *The Brothers Karamazov*, noting another stop along the route held the name Feodora, which is Dostoyevsky's first name with an "a" on the end of it.)

But a check of these and other Russian classics that often appear on college reading lists shows them to be devoid of prominent, memorable Marfas; if any do show up, it is in minor roles as household servants or villagers. Someone who decided to dig deeper in where Marfa originated from proposed his alternative to Dostoevsky in a blurb on Wikipedia. He claims she comes from a novel by the French writer Jules Verne, entitled *Michael Strogoff*. Like other books by Verne, it is replete with fantasy rather than reality, and is Russian only insofar as he employs Russian names (many mangled) for his characters, and a plot that features the czar's courier, who takes off in a surreal gallop across Russia's geography, from Petersburg to the far reaches of Siberia. Among the book's characters there is a Marfa, but she doesn't show up until Chapter 14, and maybe twice after that, as a secondary character at best. Most likely Mrs. Crocker would not have bothered to read *Michael Strogoff* as far as Chapter 2, much less Chapter 14, and even if she had, this is not the Marfa whose name she would have remembered.

Having reviewed what looks like well-intended guesses at finding Mrs. Crocker's Marfa and coming up empty, it is now time to get down to serious business by delving more deeply into Russian history and literature for real answers. In so doing we are quickly drawn to a well-known historical Marfa who, moreover, appears also in Russian literature as the heroine of a short novel (or long short story) by Nikolai Karamzin (pr. karamZEEN) which, soon after its Russian publication in 1802, was translated into English and published under the title *Marfa the Mayoress, or the Fall of Novgorod*. Karamzin (1766-1826) was both an eminent historian and a writer of fiction – of the Sentimentalist school – who became popular with Western readers for his *Letters of a Russian Traveler* and *Poor Liza*, often published together with *Marfa the Mayoress*, both about tragic heroines suffering a cruel fate.

Before turning our attention to Karamzin's fictionalized Marfa, we need to get acquainted with the real historical Marfa, the time in which she lived, and the documented events she took part in. In her lifetime, the 1400s, Russia was not yet a unified country, but a patchwork of separate principalities that tended to squabble and feud with one another. Two of them, Moscow and Novgorod, are at the heart of the conflict in which Marfa made her mark on history. The rulers of Moscow, grand princes who traced their ancestry to the founders of the original Russian state in Kiev, had made it their historical mission to unify the disparate Russian principalities under Muscovite rule to become a state capable of confronting more powerful neighbors to the east, west and south. In that drive to gain control over more territory, Moscow's principal target was Novgorod, the westernmost Russian principality, bordering on Lithuania and with access to the Baltic Sea. Thanks to its strategic location on long-established trade routes extending south as far as the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, and to Germany and Scandinavia through its association with the Hanseatic League, Novgorod had become both prosperous and very proud of its independence. In addition, it was unique among the Russian principalities for having developed a republican form of government.

The citizens of Novgorod had a well-defined, medieval urban society: tradesmen and merchants organized in "guilds," clerks and officials, and the upper class "boyars," i.e. the nobility. The representatives of all groups, with the boyars in the lead, met and elected the official "chief executive" of the city and surrounding territory. His Russian title was "posadnik," a word unique to Novgorod's governmental structure. It derives from the Russian verb "to seat," so that "posadnik" means literally "seated man," leading logically to "the man put in the seat of power," as distinguished from a dynastic ruler who assumes the throne through heredity. The most fitting English equivalent for "posadnik" would be mayor (or possibly governor), but given the historical context, "lord mayor" sounds most appropriate.

At this stage let us look again at *Marfa the Mayoress* — the title of the English translation of Karamzin's historical novel. In the Russian original she is "Marfa Posadnitsa"; you can probably guess, at this point, that "posadnitsa" is the feminine form of "posadnik," and that is why the English translator made up the word "mayoress" as Marfa's title. The problem is that in Russian "posadnitsa" means the mayor's wife, not madam mayor, but we won't fault the translator for taking a small liberty with the book's title. Allowing ourselves much greater liberty, leaping across centuries and continents, we could describe Marfa as "the first lady" of Novgorod.

That makes clear that the historical Marfa was the wife of Isaac Boretsky, who had been elected posadnik or lord mayor of Novgorod more than once, a highly respected leader, champion of the republic and categorically opposed to the designs of Moscow's Grand Prince to bring Novgorod under his autocratic rule. Boretsky died while in office, and on his deathbed had his wife make a vow to step up and carry on his fight to preserve Novgorod's freedom and independence. Without holding an official position, Marfa rose to the challenge and became a passionate and influential public opponent of Ivan III and his efforts to annex Novgorod to Muscovy. But in the end Novgorod was defeated, losing its independence in 1478, and Marfa, having in addition lost two sons in the war, was exiled to a convent, spending the remainder of her life among nuns.

Such is the historical background and the known facts about Marfa Boretskaya. But what Mrs. Crocker read in *Marfa the Mayoress* was historical fiction. Building on the facts he knew, Karamzin reimagined them as a novelist, dramatizing, embellishing and creating events to make his tale more entertaining and gripping, and his heroine as admirable, her tragic fate as heart-rending, as he could. This is what happens in the novel: An envoy of Ivan III comes to Novgorod with an official message from the Grand Prince. He delivers it to Novgorod's leadership and citizens, assembled in the square where town meetings are held. He accuses Novgorod of violating the terms of a treaty it had concluded with Moscow and conveyed the Grand Prince's demand that Novgorod surrender its independence and submit to his autocratic rule or face the consequences. The crowd reacts with jeers and clamors for Marfa to speak for the people of Novgorod in response to Moscow's imperious behavior. She rises and delivers a fiery, defiant oration, defending Novgorod's freedom and independence and scorning the Grand Prince's promise of benevolence and good will if Novgorod accepts his demands willingly. The crowd cheers and roars as she throws down the gauntlet, pledging that Novgorod will not surrender, but fight to preserve what it lives by and prides itself on, its republican freedom and independence. Inevitably, both sides subsequently prepare for war and Marfa is in the midst of things as chief morale builder, encouraging and supporting the citizenry. But in the end the Novgorodians are defeated by the Muscovites, and Ivan III makes a triumphant entry into Novgorod, where now the leading citizens have to appear and prostrate themselves before the Grand Prince, pledging allegiance to him. Marfa, known to have been a vocal proponent of armed resistance and belonging to a leading Boyar family, defies Ivan's order to appear and kneel before him and is sentenced to death. The next morning Karamzin's heroine is beheaded in the public square as townspeople look on in silent defeat.

I believe Mrs. Crocker must have been deeply touched by Karamzin's novelistic portrayal of the strength and spirit of a medieval Russian woman who chose death over surrender, an intrepid freedom fighter, something near and dear to every American patriot's heart. And I am confident that this was the Marfa that moved Mrs. Crocker to ask her husband to put the name on the map of Texas.

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Community

Mami Ninas dishes up affordable Mexican food for locals at new El Cosmico spot

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Mami Ninas, a local family-run Mexican restaurant, is now operating seven days a week out of their new food truck parked at El Cosmico.

The bright teal food trailer sits adjacent to the campground hotel's outdoor seating area and continues to serve up the same menu items — breakfast and lunch burritos, chile verde and asado dinner plates, agua frescas and their ever popular menudo — that were offered at their previous location, a brick and mortar restaurant across the street from Dollar General.

The venture is a multi-generational family business, which started with its namesake Mami Nina, the mother of cook Celia Del Bosque, and involves Del Bosque's daughter, Mayra Williams, and her husband, Shawn Williams. Mayra's two sons even lent a hand as waiters at the old location.

Translating from Spanish for her mother, Mayra explains that Mami Ninas is the third restaurant Del Bosque has started in the state of Texas over the years; her first, called La Cabaña, was located in Kermit and later moved to Rankin.

Del Bosque, who lived in Marfa in the 2000s, said she was eager to move back and open the third iteration of her restaurant, regardless of the form it took.

"I always dreamed of coming back to Marfa. I wanted to put in a restaurant. I love this town," said Del Bosque in Spanish, translated by her daughter. "To me, it didn't really matter how, if it was a restaurant or a truck, I just wanted to continue to serve the community — that was important to me."

"She loves to cook and take care of people," Mayra added.

Del Bosque uses recipes passed down to her from her mother, Nina, who was originally from Mexico. "I try to honor her with the food and with the name," said Del Bosque.

The food offered at each of Del Bosque's restaurants hasn't changed throughout the years, she said, because people like it and keep coming back. She cooks up primarily Mexican food, including tacos, enchiladas and chile rellenos as well as hamburgers.

Mami Ninas first opened in Marfa in April of 2022, then moved into their food truck this past December, citing a high rental price at their previous location. Mayra said the family wanted to get the new truck up and running quickly so they could continue to serve their customers, who were disappointed to see them on a hiatus while they located a new space.

She said the food truck seemed like a feasible, more flexible option that would allow them to continue to run their business in Marfa, where affordable rental spots are scarce.

"Real estate here is so expensive. That was our best bet, to get a food truck that we can travel with. And if we decided to take a week off, the overhead wouldn't be so crazy," said Mayra.

In the future, Mami Ninas may consider moving back into a traditional restaurant space, should the right place become available, or may expand with additional food trailers, said Shawn.

"If it keeps going like it's going and we stay busy, then we were talking about eventually buying another one and putting it somewhere else," said Shawn.

Mayra and Shawn said they were grateful Mami Ninas is able to operate independently out of El Cosmico's grounds — some of the hotel's employees were Mami Ninas regulars and extended the offer.

"It's been such a pleasure hosting Mami Nina's at El Cosmico," said Mac Warren, general manager of El Cosmico. "We're honored to be in the orbit of such a beloved local business — and we're certainly not mad about our proximity to delicious nachos."

While the location gives Mami Ninas ready access to the constant flow of El Cosmico guests, they said their new spot has coincided with more requests for vegan and vegetarian options, presenting a challenge for their small business, said Mayra, for their beans and homemade tortillas include lard — a typical ingredient in Mexican cuisine. But they've been working to accommodate those customers by adding vegetarian tacos to their menu, she said, and are continuing to brainstorm specials and more.

Downsizing her kitchen has been another obstacle for Del Bosque, who likes to cook in large quantities to ensure she doesn't run out of anything and is adjusting to being in a more limiting 8-by-18-foot space. But the food truck is clean and well-organized, all of the ingredients in their place, and Del Bosque maneuvers the area with ease.

"She feels like she's playing dolls," said Mayra as Del Bosque laughs. "I think that's been the most challenging part, is not being able to cook in the quantities that she was able to cook over there. But people have responded really well whenever we tell them, 'Hey, we're out of this, or we're out of that.'"

In addition to Bee's Hive, which opened around a year ago, and Angel's, which recently took over the space across from Dollar General, Mami Ninas is helping provide affordable Mexican food for the local Marfa community, which has a tendency to get overlooked in favor of more options for tourists, said Shawn.

"There is a lack of Mexican food. A lot of the new restaurants that are here now are fancier style," said Shawn, who was born in Alpine and grew up in Marfa.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Celia Del Bosque, the woman behind the food and recipes of local Mexican restaurant Mami Ninas, stirs a big pot of menudo inside of the business' new food truck.

Mayra agreed. "It's just harder, I feel like they accommodate more of the tourists than they do our locals," she said.

"We're here for the community," said Shawn.

"We'll cater to both, but I think our forte would be our community and our locals," said Mayra.

Mami Nina's food truck will soon travel to provide food for this year's annual Valentines in Valentine celebration, as well as the Marfa Lights Festival and other big community events.

The family said they were stepping into the unknown by making the move to open up a food truck, but so far things are working out and they are thankful to the local community for their support. "The community has been a big help supporting everybody," said Shawn.

Mami Ninas is currently open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. and on the weekends on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m.

Bechtel Scholarship available for tri-county SRSU students

TRI-COUNTY — Sul Ross State University students who graduated from high school (or were homeschooled) in the tri-county (Brewster, Jeff Davis or Presidio counties) area are encouraged to apply for the Bechtel Scholarship. Eligible recipients will be awarded $750, which can be applied to college expenses of the student's choosing. The scholarship is non-competitive, meaning that all eligible applicants will be awarded the funding. Applicants must be full-time undergraduates, have earned at least 24 credit hours and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Deadline to apply is Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at noon. For more information or to receive an application, please email Matthew Walter at mwalter@sulross.edu or John Ferguson at jwferg451@gmail.com.

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First United Methodist Church

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

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White

110 W Washington Steet
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.

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

1/9

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

1/4

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 16, 2023

ACROSS
1 "Charlotte's ___"
4 Chopped into cubes
9 Beauty store chain
13 Be indebted to
14 Spanish for "friend"
15 Workers who want to go unnoticed?
16 Beer dispenser at a bar
18 "___ care" ("Whatever")
19 Loner's trio?
21 Response to an overshare
23 Dull photo finish
24 "Let me explain this ..."
29 Fraternal order
32 Competed for a seat
33 "Ah, OK"
34 Business mogul Lauder
35 QB's try
36 Sure winners
39 Reuben bread
40 What seniors sometimes skip
42 Turn over, as an omelet
43 Dart thrower's asset
44 Singer Fitzgerald
45 Diaper fasteners, once
48 Basketball net fabric, perhaps
50 Lee who directed "Life of Pi"
51 Expanding company's struggles, or the progression formed by the ends of 19-, 24-, 36-, 45- and 51-Across?
57 Like a ballerina
58 Prepared to snare prey
62 Surfer's playground
63 Respected octogenarian, say
64 In days of yore
65 Key ___, Fla.
66 Like a dive bar
67 Worshipper's bench

DOWN
1 Stir-fry cooker
2 She says "baa"
3 Say "pretty please," say
4 Challenge, or take the challenge
5 Muslim prayer leader
6 The ___ that never sleeps (New York)
7 Braggarts have big ones
8 Musical scale's beginning
9 Software changes
10 Tiny toy on a track
11 Care for, as a garden
12 Italian bubbly region
15 Search (through)
17 Give off
20 Vegas starter?
21 "___ be the day!"
22 Reminders to yourself
24 Remnant
25 React to the villain
26 "Kinda"
27 Prefix for modern times?
28 Name hidden in "change of fortune"
30 Typing (in)
31 Appears to be
34 Best Play award, for one
37 Island: Fr.
38 Inconsequential flaw
41 "Come again?"
45 Thor, to Odin
46 Acute or obtuse measurements
47 Archaeologist's focus
49 Claim on property
51 Shine like a halo
52 Paella grain
53 White-faced
54 Assistant
55 Verified the 60-Down of, informally
56 Not, quaintly
59 Genre for Kendrick Lamar
60 21, maybe, for a clubber
61 (Wham!)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	T	A			M	A	S			I	T	C	H
A	H	E	M		P	A	C	E	D		W	H	O	A
M	A	N	Y		H	A	L	L	E		A	I	N	T
		S	T	U	D	M	U	F	F	I	N	S		
B	Y	P	A	S	S				T	O	N	I	C	S
O	M	E	N	S		O	O	P		N	A	S	A	L
A	C	E			S	O	P	U	P			J	L	O
R	A	D		B	I	Z	A	R	R	O		U	M	P
		B	A	R	R	E	L	R	O	L	L	S		
R	H	I	N	O						D	I	T	T	O
R	A	C	Y		H	A	N	D	S		T	A	R	P
S	L	Y		M	A	N	B	U	N	S		T	A	T
	A	C	C	E	P	T	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	
	L	L	A	M	A	S		S	W	O	O	S	H	
		E	M	O						R	U	T		

1/15

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www.upuzzles.com

That Hurts! by Drew Schmenner

1/16

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

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LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	POPCORN CHICKEN, ROLL, CORN, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, FRESH APPLE SLICES, COOKIE	HOT DOG, BAKED FRIES, TINY TOMATO CUP, FRESH APPLE SLICES	ENCHILADAS, BEANS, CORN, SALSA, ORANGE SMILES, PUDDING	ROAST BEEF PINWHEEL, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, BAKED FRIES, STRAWBERRY CUP	PIZZA, BABY CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, GRAPES

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, JAN 20: HS Basketball vs Van Horn in Van Horn, GIrls 6:00pm, Boys 7:30pm
SAT, JAN 21: Powerlifting Meet at Andrews
MON, JAN 23: JH Basketball vs Dell City in Marfa
TUE, JAN 24: HS Basketball vs Balmorhea in Marfa

Sports updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Powerlifting

The Shorthorn powerlifting program continues to have strong showings at recent meets with seniors Nathan Pena and Samuel Salgado and junior Annalise Jack Marquez leading the way for the team. At Monahans' 27th Annual Sandhill Invitational Meet and season opener, Pena placed fourth in the 242-pounds weight division with 1,170 total pounds cleared, Salgado placed fifth in the 198-pounds division with 860 pounds cleared, and Marquez took home the silver in the girls division with 710 pounds lifted. Marquez also took home the gold at the Fort Stockton Meet Saturday, with 770 pounds cleared in her division, while also setting personal records along with PRs by teammates Jaidan Villa (845 pounds) and Pena (1,220 pounds).

Powerlifters now head to Andrews this Saturday for their third meet of the month before having an open week next week.

Shorthorns defeat the Vaquero in district basketball action Tuesday night

Tuesday night, the Shorthorns traveled to Sierra Blanca, and while the Lady Horns made light work of their opponent with a 58-18 score, the boys team treated the Shorthorn faithful to a thriller that took the game past the final buzzer.

Leading scorers for the Lady Horns included Aundrea Garcia (10 points), Liani Salcido (8 points), and Lesly Torres and Alexis Gonzales, who each had 7 points. Eleven out of 12 girls on the Marfa roster were able to score.

With a playoff spot hanging in the balance, Marfa's boys team knew getting a victory on the road against Sierra Blanca would be crucial for their post-season chances. The Shorthorns were up for the task. With steady scoring coming from the roster, several players chipped in offensively, with Dustin Martinez and Alejandro Rodriguez scoring 10 points and Zach Wilson scoring 6 along with Derrick Campos adding 9 points. The game went down to the wire with the Horns holding a slim lead heading into the final 15 seconds of the game. With time running out, Martinez was fouled and sank 1 of 2 free throws to give Marfa a 3-point lead. Off the second missed free throw, Sierra Blanca was down by three points with 5 seconds left in the game, and moved the ball toward their goal and shot and missed a three-pointer, but the shooter was fouled. After sinking the first free throw, the shooter missed the next two, and the Shorthorns walked off the court with a 38-36 win, and are now 2-1 in district play.

Marfa is on the road once again, this time to Van Horn. Varsity girls play at 6 p.m. and varsity boys at 7:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

Annalise Jack Marquez, Nathan Pena and Samuel Salgado pose with metals.

Texas Parks and Wildlife to host bear safety workshop in Terlingua

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — This Saturday, Texas Parks and Wildlife will offer two outreach sessions in Terlingua called "Living with Black Bear." The sessions aim to help educate South Brewster County residents about proper waste storage and disposal, minimizing bear-human conflict and other bear-related topics.

The workshops are partially a response to an uptick in bear sightings in Brewster County over the past few years. Most recently, a dumpster-diving bear took up residence in the densely-populated Terlingua Ghost Town, prompting widespread concern about how to keep humans and bears safe from each other.

The bear was relocated, but has since returned to the Terlingua area — a sign that Brewster County residents will have to permanently rethink their bear-friendly habits. Interested locals are encouraged to attend one of two sessions held this Saturday, January 21.

The first session will be held at the Bunkhouse at the Bad Rabbit Café, located at the end of Terlingua Ranch Road. That session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Later in the afternoon, TPWD will also be hosting a session in Study Butte at the Red Patillo Community Center, located down the road from the Chili Pepper Café and the post office. That session will take place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The sessions are offered free of charge and are open to any one curious to learn more about local black bears and how to protect them.

In Front of Us is proud to present 'All the Beauty and the Bloodshed,' a film By Laura Poitras, Monday, Jan. 23

Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras has made the triple-barreled documentary film, All the Beauty and the Bloodshed, which creates an unparalleled portrait of the renowned artist and photographer Nan Goldin told through her famed slide shows and intimate photographs of friends and partners, and audio interviews with Goldin by Poitras. Most importantly, the film documents the story of the activist group PAIN, which Nan Goldin founded and instrumentalized (and which famously did die-ins on the floor of the rotunda of the Guggenheim Museum in New York) in order to hold the Sackler family — makers of Oxycontin, on which they made billions and which Goldin herself had been addicted to — accountable for destroying half a million lives in America alone by enthusiastically marketing this drug while art-washing their crime by extravagant giving to all the major art institutions in this country. All the Beauty powerfully compares the devastation of the opioid crisis on communities with the story of the AIDS epidemic of the '80s and '90s, which took such a toll on Nan Goldin's artistic community and of course, on many of our friends and on people from all walks of life all over the globe.

The screening will be held Monday, January 23, at 7 p.m. at the Crowley Theater. Admission is free. In Front of Us thanks Marfa Live Arts as always for supporting these screenings.

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Thu Jan 19

A Few Too Many at Old Gringo
8:00pm - 11:00pm at 101 W. Avenue E in Alpine
Come see what the fun is all about on Thursdays at the Old Gringo!

LIVE Music at the Granada
8:00pm - 11:00pm at 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Live Music by Wes Tirey, Andrew Weathers, and The Marijuana Sweet Tooth Family Band! $10 suggested donation.

Sat Jan 21

Historian Donna Smith at Jeff Davis County Library
11:00am at 100 Memorial Square in Fort Davis
Historian Donna Smith will give a presentation on a new book, Frontier Medicine at Fort Davis And Other Army Posts: True Stories of Unglamorous Maladies*. The public is cordially invited to attend.*

Honey Mason Live at Brick Vault Brewery & BBQ
5:00pm - 7:00pm at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Playing a mix of psychedelic rock with indie folk, this singer/songwriter brings something different to each set.

Sentinel Saturdays
7:00pm - Late at The Sentinel in Marfa
Specialty seasonal cocktails. Pozole & Enchiladas. See you there!

Back to School Party
9:00pm - 2:00am at Ole Crystal Bar, 410 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Ole Crystal Bar is welcoming students for the new semester with a Back to School Partyand live music! Free for everyone!

Mon Jan 23

In Front of Us presents Laura Poitras "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed"
7:00pm - 9:00pm at The Crowley Theater, 98 Austin Street in Marfa
In Front of Us film series presents "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed," a 2022 documentary film directed by Laura Poitras which explores the career of Nan Goldin and her efforts to hold Purdue Pharma, owned by the Sackler family, accountable for the opioid epidemic.

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Mira Marfa
Monday: Yin Yoga at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Flexibility Flow at 9:30am; Dance Family at 6:00pm
Wednesday: Astanga Inspired Yoga at 5:30pm
Thursday: Asana Clinic at 6:00pm
Sunday: Primary Series at 10:00am; Dance Family at 6:00pm
105 W Texas St, $15 drop-in fee; no one will be turned away for lack of funds

Big Sky Yoga
Monday: All levels at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Beginner at 10:00am
Wednesdays: All levels at 6:00pm
Thursday: Yin at 6:00pm
Friday: Core at 12:00pm
Saturday: All levels at 10:00am
New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Step it Up (Step Aerobics)
Tuesday at 6:00pm, Thursday at 9:00am & Saturday at 9:00am @ Big Sky Yoga
All fitness levels welcome. New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Free Zumba Classes
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Mysore Yoga Classes
Monday, Thursday & Saturday at 9:00am at Marfa Public Library

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

Free Intro to Ashtanga
Tuesday at 9:00am at Marfa Public Library

Life Drawing with Model
Tuesday from 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Talent Studios in Alpine
Join this vibrant artist community, make new friends and hone your drawing skills. Reserve your easel by texting 206.619.4699

Baby & Toddler Storytime
Wednesday at 11:00am at Marfa Public Library

The Magic Around Us Youth Drum Circle
Friday at 4:30am at Marfa Public Library

AA
Saturday at 12:00pm at Marfa Public Library

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

Note: Schedules are subject to change. Please call or visit business websites to confirm that event is happening.

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

Historian to present 'Frontier Medicine at Fort Davis And Other Army Posts: True Stories of Unglamorous Maladies' at Jeff Davis County Library

FORT DAVIS — On Sat. Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. at Jeff Davis County Library, retired National Park Service ranger and historian Donna Smith will give a presentation on a new book, *Frontier Medicine at Fort Davis And Other Army Posts: True Stories of Unglamorous Maladies*. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Smith's book covers medical conditions and diseases that soldiers, women and children at the fort and in town suffered and died from when Fort Davis was an active U.S. Army post from 1854 to 1891. The book also includes other 19th century army posts including Fort Concho, Fort Stockton, Fort Quitman, Camp Pena Colorado, and more.

The library event will include a slideshow and powerpoint presentation by Smith about some of the people in the book. Most of the true accounts took place in Fort Davis, but Smith will include stories from U.S. Army posts across Texas and the American West.

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Traffic & Operations Coordinator

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Experience with traffic software isn't required.
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The City of Marfa is hiring for a part-time receptionist.

A job description and application is available at City Hall (113 S. Highland Ave.) or online at https://cityofmarfa.com/administration/page/employment-application

Application deadline is January 27.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ruidosa Water Supply hereby gives notice to the general public and water customers that the chlorinator system is down for repair and recommends boiling drinking water and cooking water before use until further notice. **Begin Notice: 1-01-23**

Ruidosa Water Supply
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LEGAL NOTICES

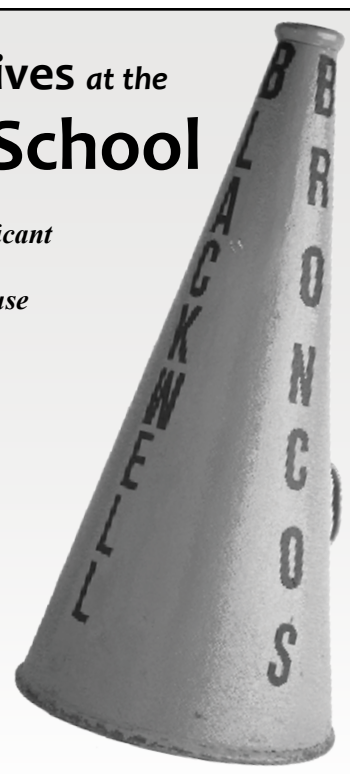
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