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by order of Presidio County

Brewster County hires company to help with HOT tax enforcement

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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BREWSTER COUNTY — Brewster County commissioners on Tuesday voted to hire a software company to help tackle the ongoing problem of short-term rental owners evading tax payments.

Austin-based company GovOS will help the county collect hotel occupancy taxes — or HOT taxes — from delinquent operators by building a digital database of short-term rental properties that fall within Brewster County and outside Alpine city limits, according to Brewster County Judge Greg Henington.

"Hopefully from there, we can track that back to who's paying their taxes and who's not," said Henington.

It's a step towards addressing a long-standing issue for Brewster County, particularly Terlingua, where the presence of short-term rentals has ballooned and officials have struggled to collect the required taxes from all operators. The question of how to go about enforcement and overdue tax collection has been the subject of much discussion at past commissioners courts.

The GovOS platform will make it far easier for staffers to keep track of property owners in the county and correspond with them, said South County Commissioner Sara Allen Colando.

"The interface is gonna make it very easy and quick for our county staff to reach out to these hoteliers and AirBNB owners to click a button and send them a letter saying, 'Hi, you need to register,'" said Colando. "It should make their job so much easier."

GovOS was one of two vendors that submitted proposals to the county — a selection committee recommended commissioners hire GovOS. With commissioners voting to move forward with the hire, the process of implementing the new tracking system can begin. County Treasurer Julie Morton estimated that process could take 3-4 months.

Texas state law requires that HOT taxes, which are collected and enforced at the county level, be used specifically to promote tourism — but officials have been pushing to expand the scope of the taxes. A bill filed recently in the Texas House would allow cities to use HOT taxes to fund infrastructure projects. The Texas Hotel Lodging Association has opposed efforts to expand the use of HOT taxes outside of tourism promotion.



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Nurse Karen Ramirez assists Jo Reesing in drinking water during a home visit to the Reesings' residence in Alpine earlier this week. Jo and her husband Ernest are in home hospice care with Angels Care and receive visits twice weekly from Ramirez, who helps with everything from checking their blood pressure to medication management and emotional support.

Long-needed hospice services arrive in Alpine, with goal to expand to entire region

By MARY CANTRELL
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ALPINE — When diagnosed last May with heart failure, Dr. Ernest Reesing wasn't ready to leave his home in Alpine for a far-away nursing home. He and his family have deep ties to Alpine. His daughter, Susan Carroll, lives nearby. He had spent decades as a professor of veterinary technology at Sul Ross and served as the fire chief at the Alpine Fire Department. His wife, Jo, had been a second grade teacher at Alpine Elementary School — when she was diagnosed with dementia, Ernest became her caretaker, a role he struggled to fulfill as his own condition declined.

Until very recently, Ernest would have had little choice but to uproot and leave his hometown. Now, Angels Care Hospice, a palliative care provider with offices in Midland, is offering end-of-life care for Brewster County residents, who have been without access to crucial hospice services for over a decade.

Ernest and Jo are now both tended to by Nurse Karen Ramirez, also an Alpine local, in the comfort of their home. "It's been a godsend," said Ernest.

Ramirez visits Ernest twice a week, and the couple receives bi-monthly visits from a chaplain provided by Angels Care. Ramirez said it's important that locals like the Reesings are able to receive the care they need. "For people who have served their community, they shouldn't have to leave their home," she said.

For the couple's daughter, the guidance Angels Care provides on legal matters has been a source of comfort. "The social worker helps by making sure you have all of your legal paperwork — your will and power of attorney. They went through all of it to help me understand, really putting my mind at ease with everything else going on," said Carroll.

The entire tri-county area has lacked hospice care since previous provider Big Bend Hospice shuttered around 2010, citing financial difficulties. The region also lacks assisted living facilities. Without hospice, Big Bend residents in need of end-of-life care have relied solely on the support of their families, have been forced to leave their homes in order to receive care in cities like El Paso or Midland or have passed away in the hospital.

Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves, in a statement

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Marathon to receive ambulance, EMT training from Emergent Air

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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BREWSTER COUNTY — Emergent Air, the emergency services provider that has been serving North Brewster County since last summer, plans to contribute an ambulance and EMT training to the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department — a development that would significantly quicken response time and bolster the level of care available to the remote community.

The anticipated development was announced by Brewster County Judge Greg Henington at Tuesday's Brewster County Commissioners Court meeting. Henington, along with Commissioner Ruben Ortega, had been in talks with Emergent Air about the arrangement, which would allow first responders to serve Marathon patients in an ambulance and then transport them towards Big Bend Regional Medical Center in Alpine — either carrying them the whole journey or rendezvousing with Alpine responders midway.

"I think it's great for Marathon and great for Brewster County," said Henington.

Walter Kuykendall, program manager for Emergent Air, told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that the company already has an ambulance ready to deploy to Marathon — but first, firefighters with the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department will have to trained as emergency responders. Emergent Air has plans to sponsor that training, said Kuykendall — that includes paying for the necessary classes, books and testing to receive the requisite license.

Emergent Air would also provide medical equipment, including a cardiac monitor, so Marathon responders could provide a higher level of care before initiating transport to the nearest hospital.

"It would get a higher level of service there quicker. Currently their first responders aren't built for medical — they're a fire department," said Kuykendall.

Henington said the arrival of the new ambulance and accompanying training would be something all parties would work towards in the coming months. Kuykendall was unable to provide a precise timeline, but said he hoped the development would be a done deal in the first quarter of 2023.

Marathon Fire Chief Brad Wilson said the change would be a godsend for the community, which currently depends on ambulance services from Alpine.

"We generally try to get people out to a hospital

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Presidio Municipal Development District executive director and president resign

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At Friday's city council meeting, Executive Director Jeran Stephens and President Terry Bishop resigned from their positions on the board of the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD), alleging corruption in the city government.

PMDD was created by the Texas Legislature in a bill that took effect on September 1, 2013. The organization is a taxing entity with the goal of growing the town's economy — there are two executive positions and four member positions on the PMDD board who serve two-year terms and are officially appointed by Presidio City Council.

In their official resignation letter, filed jointly, Bishop and Stephens alleged deep corruption within the City of Presidio — corruption that they felt was inhibiting the city's economic growth. "That is why Presidio has experienced a shrinking population, loss of business and revenue for a decade and will continue to slide into oblivion," they wrote. "You cannot have progress or growth with poor ethics, nepotism, cronyism and personal bias."

More specifically, Bishop and Stephens alleged "violations of the Open Meetings Act," "violation of Executive Session confidentiality," "obstruction of necessary investigations by PMDD" and "collusion between certain PMDD board members and the City Secretary." They were disappointed in the priorities set by the board. "Each attempt to bring new jobs to town has been met with resistance and personal judgements about the type of business or type of work being created," they wrote.

They were also concerned about the future of the industrial park intended to one day become a part of a free trade zone (FTZ) — a resource tapped into by other border cities. Their research led them to believe there was a long paper trail of "incorrect titles and deeds" that could revert ownership of the park from the city to the state of Texas.

Both Bishop and Stephens declined to comment further on their resignations and the allegations contained in their letter.

The resignations followed a heated discussion earlier in the week, at a January 16 city council meeting, about how best to fill PMDD's vacancies. The agenda item invited discussion

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Shafter residents consider alternatives to water supply as potential mine sale looms

By SAM KARAS
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SHAFTER — On Tuesday, Shafter locals met at the church for the latest installment in a series of meetings about the future of their community's water supply. Shafter residents are currently provided with water free of charge through the Shafter Mine — but as news broke about the mine potentially being sold, locals became concerned that they would lose access to water entirely.

Former County Judge Cinderela Guevara held the first meeting between residents and county officials about the water supply back in August. Last summer, all the locals knew was that their neighbors who worked for the mine had been laid off — and that there were rumbles of a financial crisis at Aurcana Silver, the Canadian company that owns the Shafter Mine. In August, El Paso-based company Presidio Silver said a deal was in the works to purchase the mine from Aurcana; since then, the Tidewater and Big Bend Foundation has expressed interest in acquiring the mine. (Aurcana did not respond to a request for comment for this story by press time.)

The county is currently exploring grant-based options for funding water infrastructure projects in Shafter — though exactly what those projects will look like has yet to be decided. Gil Ybarbo of the Texas Rural Water Association attended Tuesday's meeting to help the community strategize about their next steps.

Shafter residents were worried about the potential of the electricity powering the water pump could be shut off, either because of Aurcana's inability to pay the bill or through the process of selling and transferring the ownership of the mine. "The pump is still running by the grace of God," said County Judge Joe Portillo.

Ybarbo made a map of local wells and potential water sources. There are private wells 2.5 and 5 miles away from town — but the 50 gallons a minute the nearest wells produce can't compete with the current well, which pumps 200 gallons a minute.

The process of rehabilitating the existing well would come with complications. "It's not as simple as buying the well or buying the water rights," said Ybarbo, citing state regulations that dictate how wells can be refurbished or reconstructed. "But if you can bring it up to speed, that would be the thing to do."

Tony Manriquez, who served as the well operator for 10 years, cautioned against trying to refurbish the existing well. He and his coworkers encountered chronic problems with the mine system — originally dug in 1979 — and had to replace key pieces every other year. "It's a fading well," he said.

To have a better shot at qualifying for grant-based funding and state assistance and ensuring the longevity of the water supply beyond the mine, Ybarbo walked residents through the process of forming a water corporation — the unincorporated community of Redford was cited as a case study. Shafter residents would have to manage and administer their own

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Hospice services

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to *The Big Bend Sentinel*, expressed relief and gratitude at the return of such an essential service.

"It is an incredible feeling to have hospice here once again. Now we no longer have to leave our beloved city, many of us with family and friends here, to receive palliative or end-of-life care," said Eaves. "This greatly improves the quality of life, not only for the patient, but also for friends and family."

Hospice is generally referred to as medical and emotional end-of-life care for terminally ill patients who may be suffering from cancer, heart failure, Alzheimer's or other diseases, but needs vary among patients, said Dr. Adrian Billings, chief medical officer of Preventative Care Health Services. Hospice care can extend for weeks, months or even years in some cases.

"When you think of hospice, you think of the days before death, but in reality, it can be anyone with a terminal disease that is in the process of passing away," said Billings, who estimates around 10 to 30 patients in the Big Bend region might be candidates for hospice at any given time.

Billings, who began practicing medicine in the region in 2007 when previous provider Big Bend Hospice was still in operation, said terminally ill patients often preferred to pass away in a familiar setting at home, but since local hospice care has gone by the wayside, individuals were left with fewer options for how to spend their final days. And grieving family members were left with fewer resources.

"Patients had to make difficult decisions of: 'Do I want to pass away in a hospital setting with comfort measures in place provided? Not at [my] home, but in an artificial hospital setting, in a foreign setting?'" said Billings. "There were none of the wraparound hospice services like pastoral care and respite care for the family members that are so important."

With new hospice provider Angels Care, Billings said patients will have more options available to them, and physicians will be less strained without the necessity of as many home visits. The long-needed shift is indicative of a much larger problem facing the region — that of limited access to healthcare.

"Having hospice again is an example of the expansion of the many healthcare services that are needed in rural communities like the Big Bend," said Billings.

Angels Care, which has locations in four states and is managed by AngMar Medical Holdings, Inc., is branching out to Alpine from their Midland office that also serves nearby Reeves and Pecos counties. Angels Care representatives said they have been active in Brewster County since November, taking on a handful of patients, and are currently working to grow their staff.

Tiffni Bird, an account executive with Angels Care acting as Brewster County's point person, and Lanae Lopez, executive director, said they saw a need for hospice care services in Alpine through their work with Midland-based doctors who have patients traveling from Alpine for healthcare.

"There's a major need for it there in Alpine," said Bird. "We're slowly building up our staff out there and providing hospice care."

The company has been posting on social media to recruit new hires and said it is interested in hiring locals. Angels has already recruited two registered nurses, including Alpine resident Ramirez. In addition to local employees, Angels sends certified nursing assistants from Midland to Alpine two times a week, with the goal of expanding to three days a week.

For now, Angels is focusing on getting established in Brewster County and is still seeking a part-time social worker and a chaplain to add to their new Alpine team. However, they would like to expand services to Presidio and Jeff Davis Counties eventually, said Bird. Individuals 65 and older make up 37% of the population of Jeff Davis County, 23% of the population in Brewster County and 21.4% of the population in Presidio County, according to U.S. Census data from 2021. While they are currently working as a satellite operation out of their Midland office, the possibility of creating an Alpine hospice office is being explored, she said.

"We decided to run with it and see how many patients we will generate out there in that area," said Bird. "We are fixin' to try to request to service Fort Davis and Presidio because I know some of those towns aren't very far from Alpine even though they may be in another county, so we will eventually try to venture out into those counties too. Once we do that, I'm sure it'll just blow up even more."

In the absence of local hospice care, some Big Bend residents take on the role of caretakers for their loved ones. Marfa residents Lionel Hernandez and Jimmy Maywald have been acting as full time caregivers for Hernandez's 86-year-old uncle Ruben Vasquez, a Marfa native, since 2019, and said they hoped to see the expansion of hospice care services to Marfa.

"It's almost an inherent right for you to be able to die in a home, in the city where you were born. It is probably a very common wish, amongst those facing the end of life," said Hernandez.

In addition to taking care of Vasquez, Hernandez and Maywald check in on an elderly friend in Fort Davis and see the need for hospice care and caregiver support in that area as well. Hernandez said those who wish to die in their homes should be able to do so with company and without pain. "These situations are present in our community on a smaller scale, but they're still there, and we should address them because nobody should ever die alone," said Hernandez.

Hernandez and Maywald — who expressed gratitude that their demanding roles as caregivers were at least shared by each other — said they are exploring the possibility of establishing a caregiver support group in the area. "There comes a time when we really need to go out there and talk to somebody about something we're struggling with at home with our loved one," said Hernandez.

The couple also sees a need for more social activities for local seniors in order to get them out of their homes and into the community. "[Hospice] is generally for people facing the last six months of their lives, right? But even those months should be special," said Hernandez.

In addition to providing financial assistance for medications and personal care supplies, hospice care seeks to provide emotional and spiritual support for families and patients while they are experiencing loss. Helping full-time in-home caregivers, which are often family members, by giving them a break to run to the store or take a nap, for example, are important aspects of hospice, said Bird.

"There's so much more to it than just nursing care and aid care. It's really a whole family taking care of a family," said Bird.

Marvie Burton, a retired hospice nurse living in Alpine who worked with Big Bend Hospice while it was still in operation, said the return of hospice services to the Big Bend was sorely needed. Now 81, she recalled how Big Bend Hospice, which operated with the help of both nurses and volunteers, struggled to recruit enough volunteers and failed to keep afloat financially.

As with the area's emergency medical services, providing hospice care to such a vast, isolated region is complicated by the driving time it takes to get to patients. Burton said they worked to have a few trained volunteers in each town, but traveled great distances to reach patients.

"Sometimes we'd have three or four patients here in Alpine and a couple in Fort Davis and maybe one or two over in Marfa," said Burton. "Out in rural areas it's a whole different ball game."

Bird said Angels Care will provide mileage assistance to their employees for their travel time, and the company may consider hosting educational community classes on hospice care in the area to help fill gaps in service. The company has been contacted by Sul Ross State University and may have the opportunity to get involved with the nursing school, allowing the students to complete clinical hours with them, said Lopez.

To date, the company's biggest challenge has been securing a reliable durable medical equipment (DME) provider to ensure they have the hospice supplies they need in Alpine, said Bird.

"Oxygen, that's definitely something that's dire. We really haven't run into too many options with that, it has been more like your other medical equipment that can take a week or two to even get it out there to them," said Bird.

Bird and Lopez said they are being clear with their patients about their current limitations and resources. They said they have been working with case managers at Big Bend Regional Medical Center to obtain referrals and have been contacted weekly by Alpine residents seeking hospice care.

"We've even had families that just heard through the grapevine that Alpine now has hospice. They've called us themselves to let us know what was going on with their loved one," said Lopez.

Material challenges aside, there is an emotional element to hospice care that the specialty workers are uniquely equipped to handle, said Burton — and that is helping families, and communities, learn to confront death.

"Our society, for some reason, is afraid of dying people," said Burton. "Not so much fear, but they don't know what to say. My answer to them was, 'Well, what did you talk to them about before you knew they were a hospice patient?'"

To contact Angels Care Hospice services for a consultation, call the main office line at (432) 208-5530 or reach Tiffni Bird at (254) 631-7734.

Sen. César J. Blanco appointed to key Senate committees for the 88th Texas Legislature

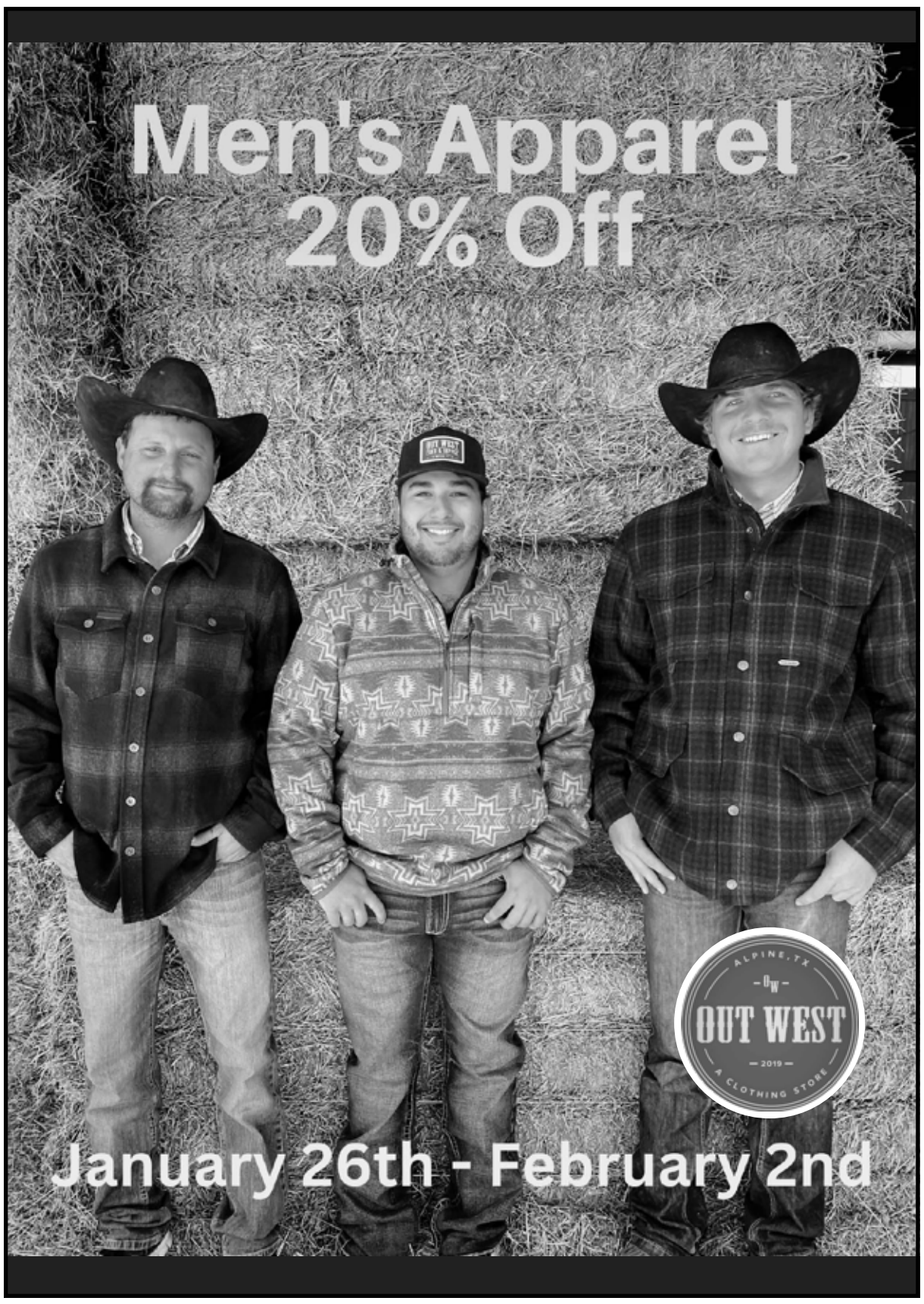
AUSTIN — This week, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced Senate committee assignments for the 88th Texas Legislature. Sen. César J. Blanco (SD29) was appointed to five key Senate committees — the Senate committees on Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security.

"I am honored Lt. Governor Patrick has entrusted me with these key appointments. Membership on these committees is a huge win for El Paso and Far West Texas. With these committee appointments, I will be able to keep the needs of our diverse and vibrant region at the forefront of major policy decisions this session," said Blanco. "On these committees, I will continue fighting for better healthcare closer to home, water infrastructure, energy security, resources for our veterans, smarter and humane border security, stronger rural communities, and a better economy for all Texans."

Senate District 29 encompasses eight counties in Far West Texas. It has both urban and rural communities and includes over 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico Border.

"Far West Texas is blessed with abundant energy resources and plays a critical role in supporting our state's energy security and keeping the lights on for all Texas Families. Our state parks and vast lands are also economic assets we need to protect and promote," said Blanco. "By sitting on NRED, I will work to ensure Texas builds on its status as the 9th largest economy in the world, a global energy leader, and a national leader in creating new jobs, while being good stewards of our environment.

Blanco also added, "I'm looking forward to serving on the Senate Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee and having a seat at the table to address issues rural communities and families care about such as water security, rural healthcare, broadband connectivity, and technology to prepare our kids for the workforce of tomorrow, while directly supporting our farmers, ranchers, and all agricultural industries. We must work to ensure no rural community is left behind. Texas is stronger when rural Texas is stronger."





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Presidio Municipal Development District

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and action on applications "to be received in person" by City Secretary Brenda Lee Ornelas-Acuña.

Before that Monday's meeting, Ornelas-Acuña had received four applications for two positions, intended to fill the seats of Nancy Arevalo and Terry Bishop, whose terms were approaching their expiration date.

Stephens said that she had only been aware of three applications. The ensuing discussion revealed widespread confusion about how new members should be appointed to the PMDD board — as the process stands, applications are forwarded to Presidio City Council, which wields the power to officially appoint new members.

The open positions were not advertised in the *Presidio International*, unlike positions like city secretary and administrator that are approved by Council. Other advertised positions include offices up for election — full-term mayors and council members fall under that umbrella.

Some council members were under the impression that the positions needed to be publicly advertised in order to be filled. Stephens disagreed — she argued that her predecessor, Brad Newton, had not left any trace in the organization's bylaws or financial records of required public postings.

Stephens then said that she needed the positions to be approved that week in order to wrap up important business that required a quorum. There would eventually be a third opening that was less urgent. "If we want to change the rules and post the third spot in the local paper, that's a conversation we can have," she said.

Stephens explained that the three openings were intended to replace board members who had resigned in October and November: former board Secretary Lizette Rohana, as well as members Christina Juarez and Patrick Manian. (Neither Juarez or Manian tendered their resignations with the city.)

As a result of the confusion about public postings, council members were hesitant to appoint any of the applicants, only two of whom were present at the meeting. "We don't even have the applications in our packets," Arevalo explained. "We want to give everybody a fair opportunity."

Council ultimately moved to take no action on the appointments and to call an emergency meeting later that week to help Stephens move forward with outstanding board business.

It was at the start of that meeting, held on Friday, that both Bishop and Stephens announced their resignations, handing over their post office keys and disconnecting their business phone lines.

The superquorum gathered at City Hall decided to proceed with the meeting as scheduled and considered the applications of Tiburcio "Butch" Acosta, Michael Darnielle, Juany Rodriguez, Lizette Rohana and Trisha Runyan. Acosta, Darnielle and Rohana attended one or both council meetings in person to demonstrate their commitment.

Darnielle told the *Presidio International* that he had been personally recommended by Bishop to join the board. He wasn't aware of the opening on the board before Bishop brought it up, but he jumped at the chance to serve the city — he has deep family roots here and came back after a few years in Indiana. "I love Presidio — I really don't want to leave again," he said.

Acosta said that he didn't hear about the vacancy through public postings but has a long history of public service and business ownership in Presidio. In addition to experience on City Council, he runs the UETA duty-free store as well as a successful barbecue food truck. "I've always cared for Presidio — I want to see Presidio grow more businesses," he said.

One applicant had recent experience on the PMDD board: former Secretary Lizette Rohana, who had resigned in October, asked city officials to be considered to re-join the board so she could finish out her term.

On her application, Rohana attributed her resignation as a "reaction due to stress," and that she wanted to continue to serve her community. "I was raised on the border and I would love to see this community flourish beautifully and responsibly," she wrote.

At Friday's meeting — a meeting that Stephens and Bishop were scheduled to attend before their abrupt resignations — Rohana said she had previously resigned over frustrations with PMDD"s leadership. "The decision I made to resign was due to issues that had been reoccurring for months with the [PMDD] board," she explained. "I was really frustrated and very stressed, and felt the board had lost its democracy and its voice."

She explained that the issue that caused her to quit was a perceived lack of board input on how meetings were run. She explained that some board members felt that items they had submitted weren't making it onto finalized agendas — agendas and meeting times were set by Bishop. "I responded by saying that that was an abuse of power and that I didn't feel comfortable being a part of this organization," she said.

When board members expressed concern about how decisions were being made, Rohana felt their complaints weren't given a fair shake. "We were continuously gaslighted and ignored by the executive director and the board president," she said. "Those positions of leadership are a big responsibility because we impact the community — we impact peoples' lives."

The council members considered the official PMDD bylaws before they made their final call, in an effort to play by rules that had been a source of confusion at the previous meeting. In order to be considered as official bylaws by the City of Presidio the document needed to be signed by all PMDD board members and approved by council.

Councilmember Arevalo said that the previous set of bylaws — written in 2017 — were submitted for formal consideration and approved, but the 2022 bylaws were not. Secretary Ornelas-Acuña agreed and said that the bylaws had never been submitted to her. "I had verbally requested them from Ms. Stephens, and she never followed up on that," she said.

Council ultimately voted to approve Rohana for a one-year term to fill out the position she had originally been appointed for, and to consider the two other vacancies at a later date.

Voicing her support for a fresh slate at PMDD, Councilmember Arian Velázquez-Ornelas shared her experience serving concurrently as the head of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Just because I'm the one leading those meetings doesn't mean that there's just one person making those decisions," she explained.

Velázquez-Ornelas felt the way forward was encouraging communication between branches of city government to make sure that everyone felt adequately supported — and so that there could be oversight and transparency in their day-to-day operations. "I'm glad we have a new group that can be guided," she said. "That's what we're here for as council members — to guide people."

Shafter residents

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water supply and pay utilities to foot the bill for its upkeep.

Not all Shafter residents were excited about the idea of being responsible for water bills. "I was sort of enjoying the free water," quipped longtime local Randall Cater.

Ybarbo said that the water corporation was likely the best path forward. "All good things must come to an end," he said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe attended the meeting to stand in for Precinct 1 Commissioner Brenda Silva Bentley, who represents Shafter on the county level. He advised that the process of maintaining a water corporation wasn't as simple as forming a committee — if the corporation couldn't sustain itself, there wouldn't be anyone to help keep it afloat.

Beebe said that difficulties in hiring contractors locally and keeping everyone involved in the corporation had to be the responsibility of the community — it couldn't be turned over to the county in a crisis. "The county doesn't have the manpower to run these systems," he said. "We can help you get it started, we can help you when you get in trouble, but we can't run it."

Shafter residents ultimately proposed having another meeting amongst themselves to designate officials for a potential water corporation. In the meantime, the mine hasn't officially changed ownership — and there are many questions left unanswered. "We've been — for lack of a better word — ghosted," said Portillo.

Emergent Air

(Continued from page 1)

within an hour — what we call a golden hour — when they're hurt or having heart attacks, and unfortunately right now, waiting on an ambulance to come from Alpine eats up every bit of that hour," Wilson explained. "Having an ambulance in town is going to step that up a lot."

WIlson's department consists of six volunteer firefighters — so far, four have expressed interest in receiving EMT training, he said. Being a volunteer department, the cost of EMT training had previously been prohibitive, he said. Emergent Air's sponsorship will make providing the essential service possible.

The lack of an urgent care facility in Marathon makes the presence of an ambulance and EMTs even more important, said Wilson — it will make it possible for first responders to provide certain forms of medical care to patients right away. And Marathon's current dependence on Alpine's ambulance has stretched emergency services in the region thin — if an ambulance has to be dispatched to Marathon, for instance, that means it would be absent from Alpine if needed.

"It'll help out both communities, and it'll definitely help the people we serve," said Wilson. "There's definitely a lot of progress being made as far as getting medical help here in town — as far as that goes, I think this is a step in the right direction."

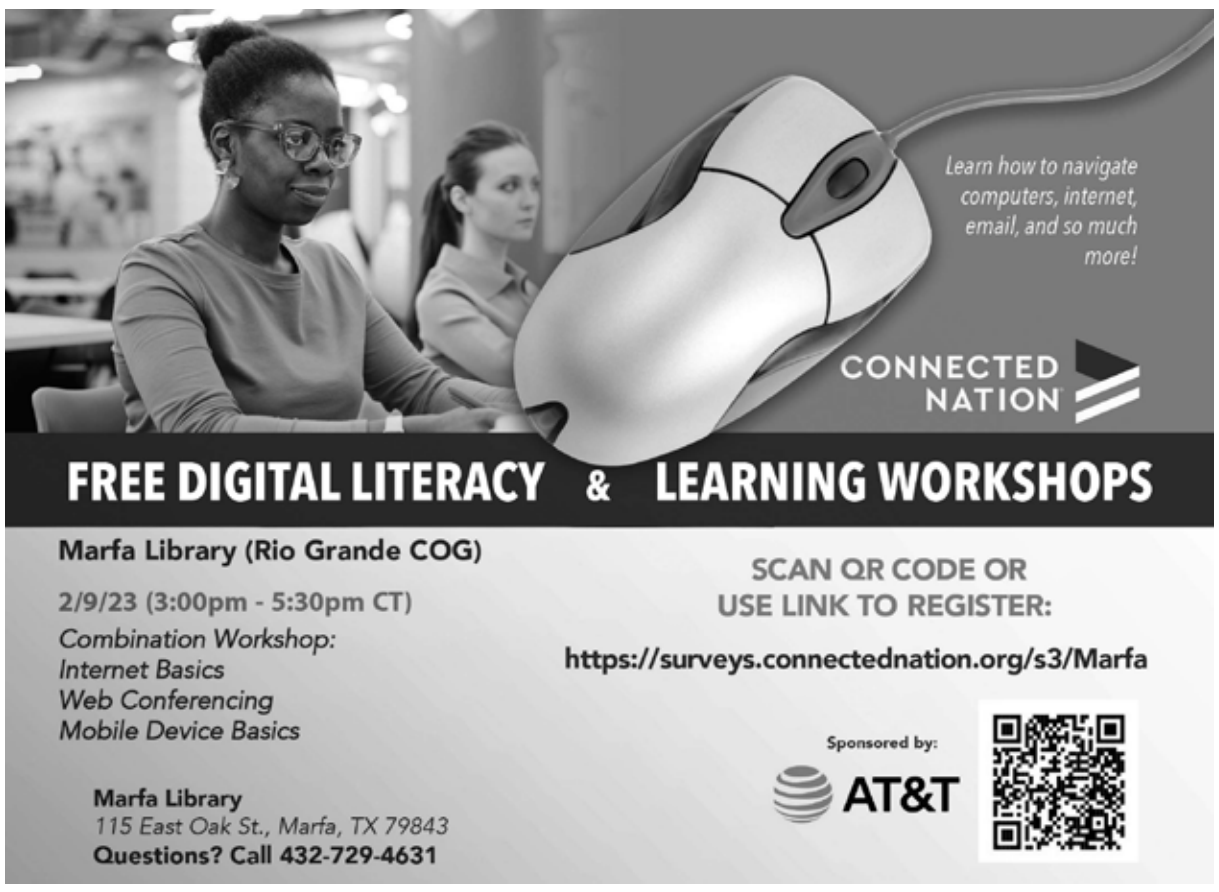
Big Bend Regional Hospital District appoints new board member

ALPINE — Big Bend Regional Hospital District appointed Reagan Reed, the superintendent of Terlingua Common School District, to its board of directors on January 19, 2023. Reed filled the unexpired term for Single Member District #3, representing the Terlingua area. The seat was previously held by Greg Henington who resigned from the hospital district board upon taking office as Brewster County judge at the first of the year.

Reed will be an important addition to the board of directors and will bring a wealth of experience in leading governmental and other community organizations. He has most recently served on the board of directors for Terlingua Fire and EMS.

"Preventative care and access to medical treatment remain a challenge for many in the Terlingua community," said Reed. "The mission of the hospital district is working towards solving these challenges — joining the board will allow me to advocate for our community members in need."





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

Opinion

THE BLACKWELL SCHOOL

The scholarship of Dr. Aurelio Saldaña sheds light on school's history

By GRETEL ENCK

Telling the story of the Blackwell School often feels like playing history detective. The Blackwell School Alliance spent efforts in the past investigating how and when the adobe schoolhouse was constructed. These days we regularly learn more about the historical context surrounding the school. Scholars like Dr. Aurelio Saldaña contribute to the conversation with new discoveries and insightful connections.

I met Aurelio Saldaña in 2016 when he was a student at UT El Paso and the Alliance was developing an oral history project with one of his professors. Saldaña was researching segregated schools of the rural borderlands for his PhD. He and fellow students visited Marfa, met with alumni and learned about the Marfa version of a "Mexican" school. Over the years, Saldaña returned to Marfa to dive into the library's Junior Historian Files and investigate the Marfa and Presidio County Museum. He remarked on one visit about the significant amount of material — documents, memories, photographs — available here to learn about the Blackwell School. So much so that in the end, Saldaña wrote his dissertation largely on the segregated school history in Marfa and its namesake Principal Jesse Blackwell.

Saldaña grew up in Fort Hancock in the late 1970s and early 1980s, hearing rumors about a past where ethnic Mexican kids attended a different school than Anglo kids. He eventually confirmed this looking through old yearbooks. Even more eye opening was when he found out this was not an isolated phenomenon. After years spent going back and forth between getting higher education and teaching in Fort Hancock, he paired his curiosity with scholarship to study the Blackwell School

Saldaña looked at the historical record of segregated schools in rural areas from a perspective of socialization. He examined the process of Americanization on students in the United States in the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, specifically ethnic Mexican students. He affirmed that Anglo American patriarchal efforts at segregating ethnic Mexicans from Anglo students were systematic, and deliberate, efforts to instill "American" identity into the ethnic Mexican students.

From the opening of the Mexican Ward School at the corner of Abbott and Waco streets in 1909 until Jesse Blackwell arrived as principal in 1922, the students, as recalled by alumni and teachers themselves, were receiving an "adequate" education. Once Blackwell arrived, though, it appears that pedagogical expectations were raised several notches. In addition to the traditional reading, writing and arithmetic, education came to include American cultural ideals. Not only was the English language enforced, but a holistic approach of socialization was implemented, including a rigorous academic curriculum, athletic competition and extracurricular activities such as Anglo-oriented musical programs and patriotic event participation.

Jesse Blackwell's economically-strapped and hardship-filled background in Rusk County provided the new principal with the needed experience and grit to engage the situation at the Ward School. He grew up on a farm, the oldest of 12 children, and took on added responsibilities as a teenager as his father became disabled. Saldaña suggests this background led Blackwell to exhibit leadership with significant levels of authoritarianism and benevolence — tough love, if you will. Blackwell's approach of rigor combined with a heartfelt appreciation of his students, and by extension the approach of Mexican school faculty under his leadership, prepared ethnic Mexican children to better negotiate an often unaccepting and even violent Anglo American society.

The experience of the segregated schools cannot be fully characterized as detrimental or "negative." Although there were instances where the ethnic Mexican students suffered maltreatment, received less-than-adequate education and endured substandard resources, it must also be acknowledged that there were positive effects stemming from the socialization received by these students. In Marfa, teachers at the Ward School were known to go out of their way to provide supplies and textbooks in the under-funded classrooms — providing rides, bringing reading materials from home, offering after-hours tutoring, and buying their own first aid supplies.

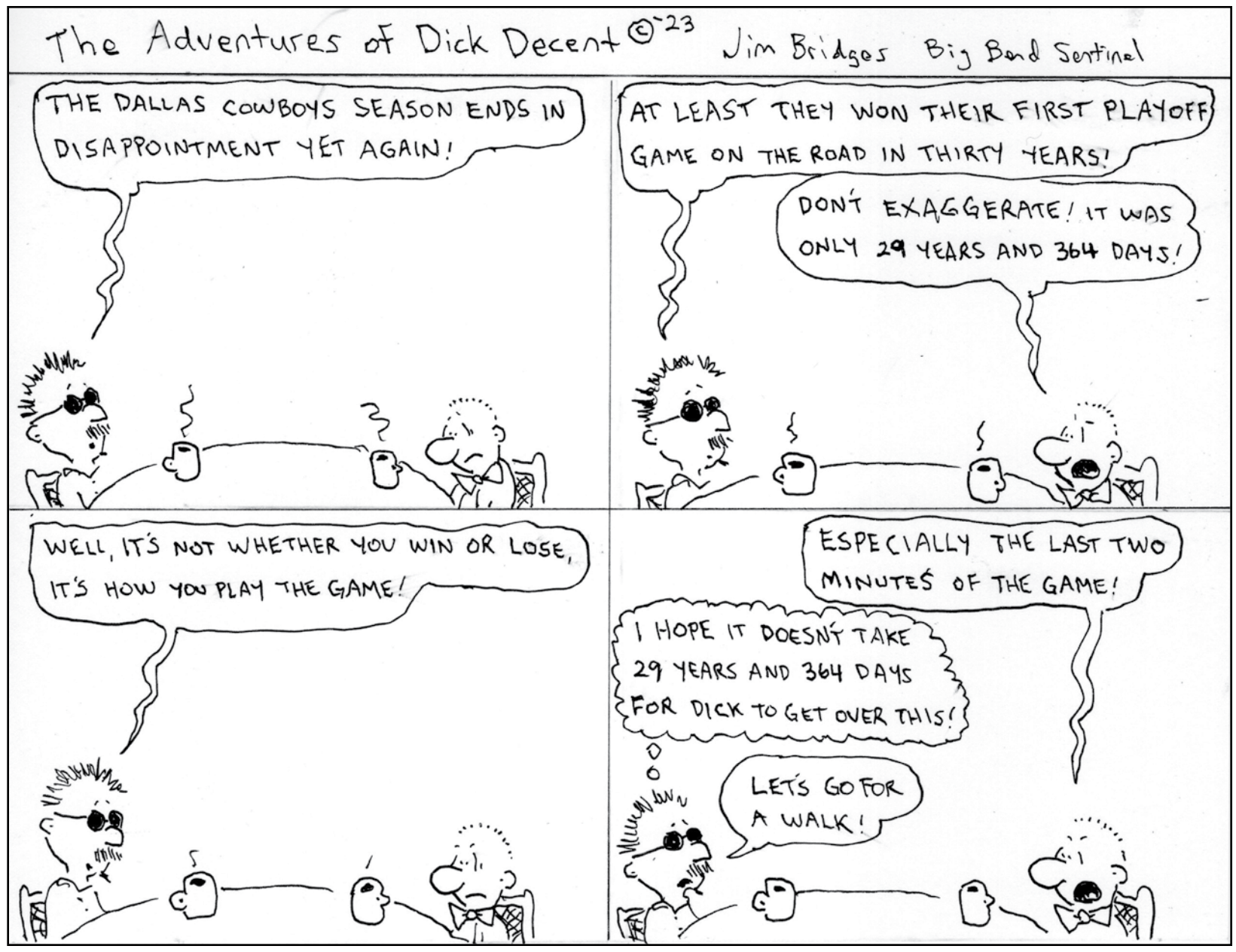
Saldaña argues that one can only understand the full spectrum of the Blackwell School experience by listening to the actual historical actors themselves. Firsthand accounts shine a light on the cultural conflicts that occurred. The lived experiences of ethnic Mexican students enrolled in the Presidio County education system, in both Marfa and other areas of the Southwest, offer glimpses of the day-to-day negotiations these children made.

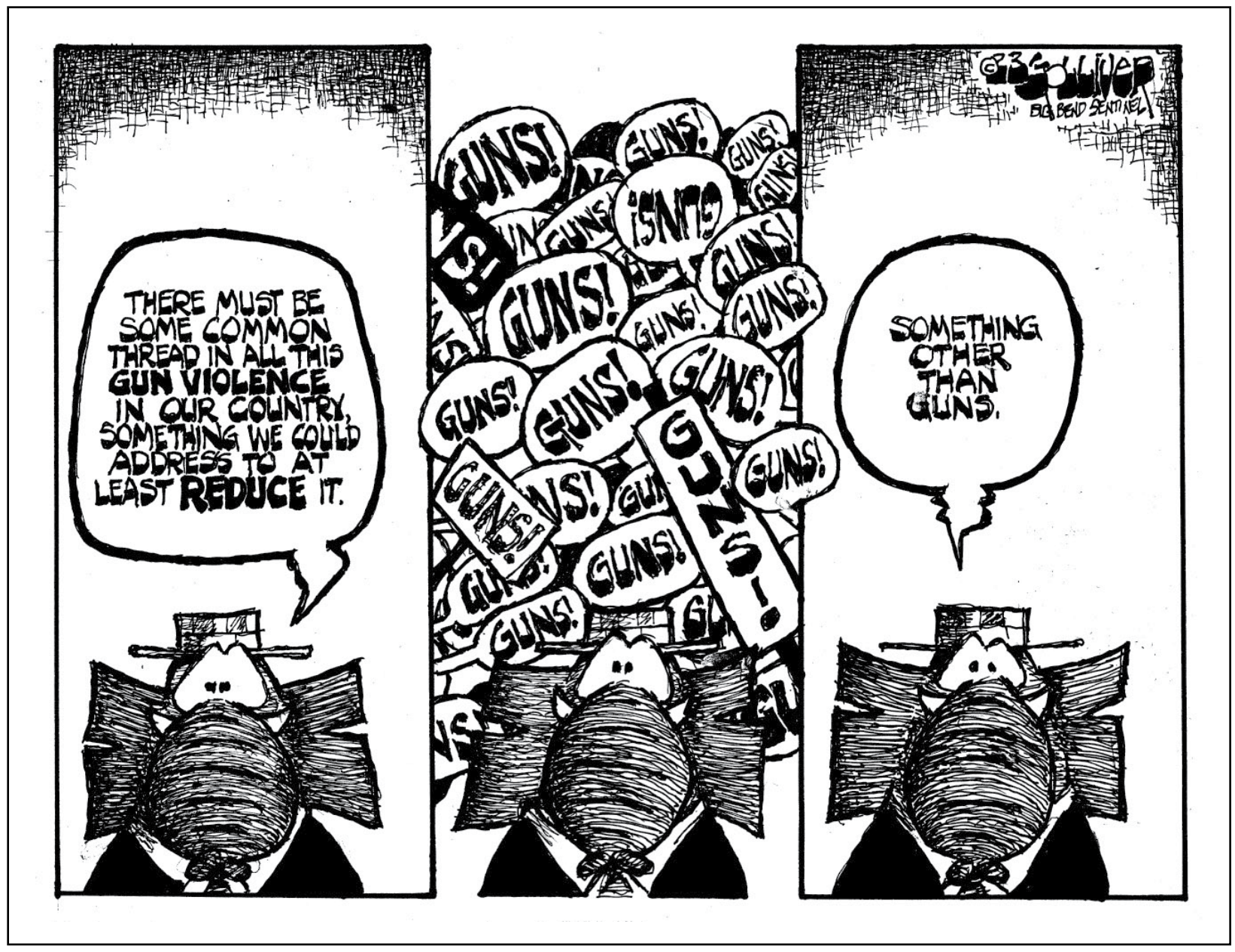
The byproduct of a successful education in democratic ideals impacted students. A significant number of ethnic Mexicans across the country, many of whom were educated in segregated ward schools, demanded accessibility to all the rights, privileges and responsibilities they had learned about in those segregated schools.

Dr. Saldaña finished his dissertation in May of last year and hopes to make it into a book. He applauds the designation of our new national historic site. "It is about time that this part of American history has been brought to the forefront." He predicts interested parties from within the community — like himself — will want to research even deeper and expand on this history because the detective work is never done.

Saldaña also applauds the resilience of the people of Marfa. He wants to learn more about the descendants of the many fascinating families he read about in historical documents — the faces, stories, personalities and dreams. "This was not just a project for my dissertation, it is a passion that I really hold close to my heart and I am truly grateful I have gotten the opportunity to learn a tiny bit about your wonderful community. Gracias Marfa!"

This begins a monthly column about Blackwell School history and memories. Gretel Enck is president of the Blackwell School Alliance and a longtime volunteer for the group.







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Tickets are required
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For tickets and tour information, visit chinati.org.

Community

DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

BREAKING NEWS
Prom confirmed for April 22 at Hotel Saint George
Kassandra Garcia turns 16 today!!!!!

New teacher!

By MESSIAH and TARYN

Since Mrs. Mackie left Marfa High at the end of last year, the high school has been without a history teacher, leaving Mrs. Marginot to supervise online world history and Coach Alferez, the junior high social studies teacher, to try to stretch himself to high school classes. But, as many students know, Coach Alferez can now become a full-time high school history teacher, because Aaron Luna, from the MHS Class of 2018, has joined the MJHS staff.

Last semester, Coach Alferez taught history classes to all junior high, plus the sophomores. This forced him to move between classrooms in the JH and HS wings, and to have extra lesson planning, so it was a lot of work for him on top of football and basketball coaching obligations. Coach Luna, who was a familiar face to many students as an assistant coach, was hired by the board after his graduation from Sul Ross in December. At the beginning of this semester, he started teaching history to the sixth graders and seventh graders.

Coach Luna graduated from MHS in 2018, and during his high school years he played football and basketball and ran track and field and cross-country. He also participated in welding and was on the homecoming court.

After graduating from Marfa High, Coach Luna went to Sul Ross State University and graduated in December of 2022 with a degree in history. During his studies at Sul Ross he was an assistant coach with Marfa ISD. He was also a P.E. teacher in Marfa Elementary.

Coach Luna says he wanted to become a teacher because he wants to educate the younger generation of children in sports as well as in history. In an interview, Coach Luna said, "I became a teacher to help y'all kids out, to help you become better people. Better men and women in our society. And also I became a teacher because of coaching; I love sports, they're my passion, all day every day!"

So far, Coach Luna says he's enjoying a few things about teaching, like learning new experiences that come along with this job, helping his students master their social studies subjects, and giving his opinion to students who ask for it.

Hopefully here at MISD, we will see an increase in the number of teachers like Coach Luna in the future. If we had more teachers, we would be able to add new classes that we currently lack, such as choir or cooking class. Plus, it's inspiring for students to have young, dedicated and excited teachers that are MHS alumni come back to do the hard work of teaching.

We can't wait to see what Coach Luna is going to do with his classes for this semester and how he will manage football next year.

ESDRAS IS IN ART CLASS

By SAM

Ms. Powers began the semester by holding me emotionally hostage along with other eighth-period art students. Recently, after Christmas break, we started the second semester and Esdras decided to try to transfer into art class. The only reason this even came to mind was because Esdras didn't have an eighth period on his schedule for some reason. And Esdras and I (mostly me) came up with the amazing idea of, "Oh, well just come to art!" (We thought Ms. Powers would kick Esdras out.)

After having this idea, Amber and I started scheming. Amber and I told Ms. Powers we had to have a serious talk with her. We begged her to let Esdras into our eighth-period class. For some background, Oscar Meraz is in this eighth-period class as well. So, Ms. Powers didn't quite think this was a good idea. She came up with this CRAZY agreement that if Oscar finished ALL his work over "a week of probation" she would let Esdras in. But then, out of nowhere, she also said to add Amber into that agreement. AND TENESSA!

I first started off by interviewing Ms. Powers.

"What was your first reaction when we asked you if you could let Esdras join art?

She laughed.

"Umm, well," she started, "I had Esdras in Art I when he was a freshman. I think he's a very good artist; he's talented at drawing and making things, his giraffe was one of my favorite sculptures during the Chinati collaboration. But, by the same token, um, sometimes he wasn't always the best behaved person in the classroom at that time. So, while I knew he could do the work, I was a little bit worried about whether he would fit into the culture of our eighth-period class, which is pretty chill."

"Did you ever think this transfer was going to happen?" I pressed.

"Yeah, I'm basically a pushover," began Ms. Powers, before continuing, "And I want people to want to be in art, because it's a fun class that teaches a bunch of great things! And it's a class where if you don't thrive academically, you can still thrive in art class, and I think everyone should have that opportunity."

"Do you think Esdras will last all year in this class?"

"I hope so, but I guess that depends on the choices he makes."

"Did you expect everyone to finish their work?"

"Hmmmmmm, I wasn't sure. I think sometimes in eighth period it's very hard for the kids in here to finish their work since it's almost the end of the day. Definitely the highest percentage of people who don't finish or don't attempt to finish their assignments are in eighth period. Having Esdras as an incentive definitely energized a few slackers."

I then went to go interview Esdras and get his point of view on this.

"Did you think that Ms. Powers was going to accept you in her class?"

"No, I did not," he replied.

"How long do you think you'll last in this class?"

"Until the end of the semester! I don't think she will kick me out, I'm well-behaved now. I don't even talk in her class actually."

"Why do you think y'all have beef?"

"She has beef with me. I know why she doesn't like me, because in my freshman year I ran away early."

Eric Martinez confirmed this story, because Ms. Powers couldn't remember the incident. He recollected, "Ms. Powers was making the class clean up at the end of seventh period, and so we snuck out of the room while her back was turned to go to athletics even though the room was still dirty. The bell rang like a minute later but then Ms. Powers came to athletics and took us out and then made us help finish cleaning her room by sweeping and washing brushes."

Overall, I guess we can see that the beef has been squashed, and they're both now fine with each other.

Let's see how long Esdras lasts in art class. And congratulations to Esdras for getting accepted into art. I wish you the best.

The prom scandal

By ZALEY

I was sitting in my Earth and Space class one fateful Friday when I heard a certain junior say the prom theme casually while they were talking about what they wanted to wear. My jaw dropped as I heard another junior tell the culprit to shut up. Then, Dimetrey Stewart, a senior here at Marfa High School, said it was fine because all the seniors already knew the theme.

As many reading this will know, the prom theme is supposed to be a secret every year until invitations get put out. The juniors, who come up with the theme, are in charge of keeping it a secret and putting on a special event for the class above them. So, as an intrepid reporter, I wanted to know, who spilled the tea? Who is responsible for this school-wide scandal?

I first interviewed Alex Luna and Tori Torres, both seniors at Marfa High School. I asked them, "Would you have liked the prom theme to be a surprise?"

Tori replied saying, "It would've been nice."

Alex agreed, and they both added that it is especially disappointing because it's so early on in the semester.

Then I asked the seniors, "Well, since the secret is out, do you like this year's theme?"

Tori nodded, and Alex replied, "I think it depends on how it's executed." The pressure is on, juniors!

The most important question that we all want to know the answer to is how did everyone find out??!

An anonymous senior explained that he was in homeroom when a junior came in and started talking about the prom theme like it was nothing! Tori didn't find out until later. She said, "I heard it in Earth and Space, I think he [the same junior] was talking to Kily and Maribel. Then they tried to cover it up and say the theme was actually Winter Wonderland …"

It was me. I tried to cover it up with Winter Wonderland, to save face and try to throw the seniors off the scent. It was a #fail.

I tried to interview Dimetrey Stewart, the first person I heard say the seniors "already knew" the theme, but he refused to talk about the matter.

Next I interviewed Amber Hinojos, a sophomore at Marfa High School.

"Do you know what the theme is or have any idea?" I asked her.

She replied, "I heard it was going to be a gala theme and also that it was gonna be a red carpet, like the Met Gala themed." She then frantically fled the room after one of her friends left without her in the middle of the interview.

With two failed interviews in a row, I will end it here. I won't say what exactly our prom theme is, so for those of you who don't know, you will have to wait until our invitations come out. But I will say we are having immense trouble finalizing the date. PROM IS NO LONGER ON APRIL 29. It will most likely be on April 1 (there is a track meet in Alpine that day, and it's also April Fools Day, but that just goes to show how busy and conflicting the schedule is). We won't put out invitations until our date is finalized, but we are thinking our prices will be one ticket for $10 and two tickets for $15.

Happy prom season everyone!

Second semester of senior year

By TORI

It's the beginning of the second semester! That means we have a couple of months left of school! Most kids are excited about it, but it's different for the seniors. This is our last semester of school, meaning it's going to be our last prom, our last everything before graduation. I decided to ask a couple of seniors some questions about how they feel about their final semester.

I kicked off the questions with Alex, who returned to Marfa ISD for his senior year. I asked him how he felt about this being his final semester of school. He told me that he was excited, but nervous because it's a big change. "A lot of people tend to be excited about leaving the nest and starting their lives," he explained. "The jump people take to different environments is scary."

I also asked him what his goals were for this semester. He listed two things; finishing his work and making memories. He also wants to prepare for when the school year ends. "I need to soak up what I have left of high school. Making memories with friends is the most important."

He's positive he can achieve these things by the time we graduate. He gave a shrug and said, "it won't be perfect, but it'll be done. Just as long as I try, that's what really matters."

This is the big question: do you have senioritis? He sighed and told me, "Yeah. Even if my work isn't the best, I just want it done and over with."

Aubrie was the next person I interviewed. She explained to me how excited and nervous she was because this is the last semester. "I have a weird feeling I can't explain. Not only am I nervous, I'm dreading it as well because I'm gonna miss you guys." What a heart-throbbing answer!

Her goals for this semester are to make it to the state semifinals for her animation. She also wants to keep her grades up because she's been slacking. "I know I'm turning in my work, but I'm so exhausted already!"

She also told me she has an extreme case of senioritis. As she said previously, she's exhausted "not because of the work, it's just — you know." Don't we all?

Finally, the last person I interviewed was Janelly, who also returned to Marfa ISD for her senior year. I asked her how she felt about her final semester, and she replied with: "So excited! I also freak out about it sometimes."

Janelly's goals for this semester are to continue working both between school and her job, and to work on who she is. She's also confident that she will achieve these goals by graduation. She also has senioritis like the rest of us!!

To tie all of this together, it seems like everyone in the senior class is excited but nervous for this semester because of what comes after. Like Alex said, we're all going to be leaving the nest very soon. It's going to be scary, but it's going to be a new step in life. We just have to continue fighting the senioritis and everything else that's stopping us from having a good time for our senior year.

Y2K baybay

By PIPER

Why does today's generation copy older generations? This question has been asked for as long as there have been generations, and parents, and culture, and teenagers who raid their parents' closets or go shopping at thrift stores. But, right now, grownups are clearly mystified by a new trend: teens embracing Y2K culture. Why do we like Y2K fashion and early 2000s trends? Why are teenagers at MHS going around singing songs like Fountains of Wayne's one hit wonder "Stacy's Mom" (released in 2003) and Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" (2008)? Why are students (myself included!) quoting the 2004 cult comedy Napoleon Dynamite in 2023, 19 years later? Going back even further, why does everyone at MHS seem to own that Poetic Justice shirt with Tupac and Janet Jackson? Or the one with the Nirvana smiley face logo? What is the deal with this nostalgia for the early 2000s that mystifies our parents and teachers?

Since most of us were born in the 2000s, I think Y2K nostalgia came to be because most of our generation grew up with this fashion. I have an inkling that this is our generation's trend, being the copycat for the early 2000s, as we copy our parents' generational trends, as they did before us. In the '90s, young people had raves with rainbows and parties reminiscent of the free loving 1960s, as well as a punk rock revival, a callback to the '70s. The early 2000s called back to the '80s, they were a neon mess of MTV and new reality TV shows featuring the first wave of celebrities famous for nothing besides being rich, which essentially began the now ubiquitous role of the "influencer."

I think we hear stories from our parents' childhoods and young adulthoods, and from our siblings growing up, and from this we build personalities and ideas of what entire decades were. It's nostalgia for a time we barely remember. Today, we have copycats of the '90s and early 2000s, but where most MHS students get their tastes from seems to be their parents. We're definitely repeating what our childhoods consisted of and the media we consumed as toddlers. We're regurgitating something that we grew up with and half-forgot but that comes back as fashion, music choices and movies like a fever dream because, when we were young and semi-experiencing it or hearing about it, most of it felt unreal.

Here at MHS, Jack, a junior, likes certain things that are distinctly early 2000s, like long sleeves under t-shirts, certain Green Day songs, and the idea of having a flip phone and "getting away from all the social media." But, Jack says, Snapchat helps keep students in touch and there are other bits of old tech that are equally interesting but of other eras, like Polaroids, Chucky movies, and cassettes and vinyl, saying of any Y2K nostalgia, "I feel like I'm into it because of my parents; I listen to the Offspring and Three Days Grace because of my mom and dad, the things they were into when they were teenagers, and their tastes haven't changed so they've influenced me."

Amber, on the other hand, is very Y2K-focused. Her favorite looks are banana clips with two strands of hair falling out, extra glossy lip gloss, quoting Mean Girls (2004) and wearing pink half-zipped hoodies with baby doll tanks underneath. Her favorite songs are all by R&B stars of the early 2000s, like Ray J and Baby Bash. If anyone at MHS would appear on the "Simple Life," it's Amber. She says her nostalgia comes from "my mom and even my grandma, who is young still. She knows all the Aaliyah bops."

So, it seems all this Y2K nostalgia is actually from our parents — so why are they so perplexed by it?

These are some of the January installments from Marfa ISD's Jounalism class. More to come!

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I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen is made possible through the generous support of the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Carl & Marilynn Thoma Foundation, and the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, with additional support from the Fort Worth Promotion and Development Fund. Pictured: Nam June Paik, *TV Buddha*, 1992. Buddha, monitor, CCT camera. 53 × 83 × 22 inches. Nicola Erni Collection

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JUDD

Sports updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — The Shorthorn basketball teams continue to battle their way through the district season. Currently the varsity girls and the boys share a 2-3 record. The girls squad picked up wins against Sierra Blanca and Fort Davis and two losses to Balmorhea and one loss to Van Horn. The boys team defeated Sierra Blanca and Dell City, but fell to Fort Davis, Van Horn and Balmorhea. Both teams still are in playoff contention with six games to go in the district season. Marfa now heads to Fort Davis on Friday for a 6 p.m. girls game and a 7:30 p.m. boys game.

Shorthorn powerlifters continue to make strong gains as they near the end of January's final meet. At the Andrews' Mustang Invitational Saturday, Marfa's lifters put forth a strong showing with Annalise Jack Marquez placing second in the 181-pound division and Nathan Pena placing fourth in the 242-pound division.

MEET RESULTS:

Marquez - 385 pound squat, 285 pound deadlift, 160 pound bench

Peña - 450 pound squat, 350 pound bench press

Diego - Jurado 355 pound squat, 250 pound bench press, 350 pound deadlift

Samuel Salgado - 240 pound bench press, 340 pound deadlift

Isaiah Ramos - 160 pound bench press, 305 pound deadlift

Upcoming events: Senior Night FRIDAY, February 3, 2023. Senior basketball players and powerlifters will be honored at the Marfa Shorthorn Gym beginning at 7:15 p.m.





Photos courtesy of MISD Athletics

Powerlifters Annalise Jack Marquez (R) and Jaidan Villa (L) attempt their squat lift during recent action.

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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

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Marfa 432-729-4534

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PAPER

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Kiko Rosas
10th Grade
Acrylic

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.

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

1/11

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

1/9

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 23, 2023

ACROSS
1 2023, e.g.
5 Skating leaps
10 Where some tend to work?
13 If not
14 Tallest peak in North America
16 D.C.'s country
17 "Tough noogies!"
19 Like a shrinking violet
20 Playfully
21 People to keep closer, in a saying
23 Without a doubt
27 "The weekend's almost here!"
30 Celestial spheres
31 Grumpy Cat or Conde-scending Wonka
34 Japanese money
35 Hearty bowlful
36 Salad type not named for a Roman general
38 Commands dogs to chase after
41 ___ Rift (virtual reality headset)
42 What can carry a tune?
43 Trauma ctrs.
44 Sushi seaweed
45 Flower stalk
46 "That true?"
47 Absorbed an expense
51 Top-tier athlete
53 She reports to Kirk
57 Seek the favor of
58 One who might chant the begin-nings of 17-, 23-, 38- and 47-Across?
62 Camper vans, briefly
63 Sing to, as the moon
64 Cell for color vision
65 "Definitely!"
66 Fixes run-ons, for instance
67 Colony insects

DOWN
1 Big name in coolers
2 North Carolina college town
3 Beginning on
4 Snub
5 Tack on
6 Important marks on treasure maps
7 Brian of ambient music
8 Light show lights
9 Bias
10 Mall tenants
11 Tennis legend Arthur
12 Sunbeams
15 Germ of a patent
18 "I'll take that as ___"
22 Played charades
24 IRA options
25 Native people of Canada
26 "Charlotte's Web" author
27 Supermodel Beckford
28 Insurer whose ads feature a gecko
29 Take a financial hit
32 New Zealand language that was only oral until the 19th century
33 ___ & Young
35 Name that sounds like 35-Across
36 Former New York governor Mario
37 "Your point being?"
39 Narrow cuts
40 Intl. oil cartel
45 Clever and practical
46 Home of Odysseus
48 Make an engraving
49 Lake between California and Nevada
50 Apt name for a lawyer
51 How things tend to go in a tragedy
52 What Meat Loaf would do (almost) anything for
54 Thick Japanese noodle
55 Lease
56 Greek god of war
59 Two-time Super Bowl champ Manning
60 Snitch
61 Sgts.' superiors

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/22

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☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

JAN/FEB	Thu, Jan 26	Fri, Jan 27	Mon, Jan 30	Tue, Jan 31	Wed, Feb 1
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	DUTCH WAFFLE, SAUSAGE	PANCAKES, BACON	BREAKFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWNS	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	HAMBURGER/ CHEESEBURGER, CHIPS, TINY TOMATO CUP, GARDEN SALAD, PEARS	X-TREME BURRITO, CORN, CUCUMBERS, ROSY APPLESAUCE, COOKIE	BREADED DRUMSTICK, BISCUIT, GARDEN SALAD, TINY TOMATO CUP, FRESH APPLE SLICES	FRITO PIE, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, GARDEN SALAD, FRUITY GELATIN

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, JAN 27: HS Basketball vs Fort Davis in Fort Davis. 6:00pm Girls, 7:30pm Boys
SAT, JAN 28: Powerlifting Meet at Crane
MON, JAN 30: JH Basketball vs Sierra Blanca in Marfa
TUE, JAN 31: HS Boys Basketball vs Dell City in Marfa

1/23

Rah-Rah *by Joe Rodini*

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			



Photo courtesy of Alpine Humane Society

The Far West Texas Rescue Coalition hosted a spay/neuter clinic in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa on Monday.

Far West Texas Rescue Coalition hosts spay and neuter clinics in Marfa and Presidio

PRESIDIO COUNTY — The Far West Texas Rescue Coalition, a group of area rescue organizations, recently hosted spay and neuter clinics both in Presidio and Marfa that served hundreds of pets. Vaccination and microchip services were also provided.

The coalition began with a vaccination and microchip clinic in Presidio on Friday, then provided spaying and neutering on Saturday and Sunday. The event served around 175 animals — both cats and dogs — in Presidio at the PAC building.

The coalition then held a clinic in Marfa on Monday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church that provided services to about 124 cats. That event was sponsored by the Hotel Paisano.

"It's quite a big accomplishment to hit both of those communities — they both have a lot of need," said Jeanine Bishop, executive director of the Alpine Humane Society, which is part of the coalition.

The procedures were performed by two veterinarians with the organization Animal Balance, plus five registered vet techs and seven volunteers from around the Big Bend region.

The coalition began hosting the clinics monthly last year, said Bishop, and has already planned a handful of future clinics. A clinic will take place in Alpine in mid-February, Fort Stockton in mid-March, Terlingua in mid-April, and will likely return to Marfa in May.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

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Fri Jan 27

Sarah Burton Live at the Starlight Theatre Restaurant
6:30pm in Terlingua
Come see this "folk-rock starlet" who has has released 5 albums, toured Canada and the U.S. extensively, playing 150-200 shows a year!

Granada Theatre presents Family Dance Series: Barn Dance
6:30pm - 10:00pm in Alpine
Bring the whole family to learn traditional dances! First hour is geared towards beginners of all ages. Dances grow more challenging as the evening progresses. $15/person ages 10+, $40/family

Alpine Public Library's Travel Talk
7:00pm at AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room at APL
Kathy & Albert Bork, Linda Hedges & Rick Reese will present Ultimate Africa: 5 countries, 4 people, 3 weeks.

Sat Jan 28

Community Clean Up
9:00am - 12:00pm in Alpine
The community is invited to come out and help clean up trash along ALPINE'S EASTSIDE. LOCATION: CACTUS GARDEN east of McDonalds. Come out and help KEEP ALPINE BEAUTIFUL!!

Sarah Burton Live at the Gage Hotel
7:00pm in Marathon
Come see this "folk-rock starlet" who has has released 5 albums, toured Canada and the U.S. extensively, playing 150-200 shows a year!

Girls Night Out at Chicas Shoppe
7:00pm - 9:00pm at 105 N 6th Street in Alpine
Chicas Shoppe is hosting their monthly Girls Night Out! January is Botox and Bling! Enjoy shaooping new inventory, connecting with new friends and why not some Botox!

Chris DeAnda Live at Old Gringo Bar & Grill
8:00pm in Alpine
A country music recording artist from Texas!

Thu Feb 2

Marfa Live Arts presents Winter Showcase Theater
6:00pm at Planet Marfa in Marfa
Local actors bring winning student monologues to life at this annual feel good theater event. www.marfalivearts.org

Plan Ahead/ Upcoming Events

Boot Camp Writing Workshop in Marfa with former Lannan Fellow Rick Bass
February 2022
Fiction, nonfiction, poetry: intense, supportive, focused. Up to 18 pages. Limit: 6 writers. Contact rickbass27@gmail.com

RB UNPLUGGED Big Bend Songwriters Festival at Rio Bravo Ranch
February 24-25 in Presidio
$200/ticket includes live music, all beverages and some food. Blan Scott Band, Drew Cooper, Mike McClure and Chrislyn Rose. Venmo @riobravoranchtx or PayPal @ LCecilPresidio to secure your spot at the event! Questions? Call Lauren 432-229-3302 or email riobravoranch1979@gmail.com

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

OBITUARIES



Holloway

Carmelina Franco Holloway passed away peacefully, surrounded by family early Sunday morning on January 15.

A memorial Mass was held in her memory at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Decatur, Texas, on Wednesday, January 18, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at Hawkins Funeral Home in Decatur, Texas.

Carmelina is survived by two brothers, Abelardo and Rede Franco; one sister, Yvonne Franco Hinojos; four children, Rosalinda Holloway Scott (husband Dennis), Bill Holloway, Rachel Records (husband Bobby), Bobby Holloway (wife Sonya); nine grandchildren; nieces; nephews; cousins; and many friends whose lives she impacted. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bob Holloway Jr.; daughter Tisha; her mother and father; sister Delfina; and brothers Armando, Al, and Rene.

She was born in Shafter, Texas, to Manuel and Lucy Rede Franco and attended public school in Marfa where she was active in athletics, playing volleyball and tennis. She attended Texas Western in El Paso (UTEP) and graduated with a degree in music education. She met her future husband Bob Holloway Jr. while they were both teaching in Presidio, and they married in 1959. They lived in Presidio, El Paso, Keller and finally moved to a farm near Greenwood in 1968.

A lifelong educator, Carmelina continued her teaching career in Keller, teaching second grade, then in Decatur, teaching music, reading, second grade, ESL and became the first Hispanic woman principal (elementary) in Decatur ISD. She completed her master's degree and Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University and taught at the university level at both UNT and TWU. She retired from Texas public education as a field agent for Region 11 Service Center where she worked for several years.

In 1956, while she was a summer school student at Sul Ross State University, she was cast as an extra in the movie GIANT, starring Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean. This was an incredible experience as she often shared stories of the cast and crew and their interactions on and off the set. She often said that her grades that summer were her worst in college because of the distractions of the film set.

While in college, Carmelina began playing the harp, which she continued throughout her life, bringing much joy to listeners. She traveled to Ohio and Maine to study with famed French harpist Carlos Salzedo.

After retirement from public school, she continued to be an advocate of the underprivileged and disadvantaged in many ways. She directed PROJECT LITERACY for the Ft. Worth Library which paired community members as tutors for adult students wanting to learn English.

An active member of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Decatur, Carmelina was also a member of the City of Decatur City Council for a time and a dedicated Meals on Wheels volunteer.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Wise County Historical Society and/or the Decatur Public Library.

• • •



Quintana

Socorro Nunez Quintana, 98, of Marfa, Texas, passed away January 7, 2023, at Big Bend Regional Medical Center in Alpine, Texas. Socorro was born October 30, 1924, to Celso and Amelia Nunez in Grandfalls, Texas.

Socorro worked as a waitress. She was married to Mateo Quintana Sr. and was the mother to Cruz Quintana. She was also the stepmother to Richard Willie and Mateo Quintana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Celso and Amelia Nunez; her husband, Mateo Quintana Sr.; stepsons Richard and Willie Quintana; brother Jose Nunez; and sister Jesusita Nunez.

Socorro is survived by her son, Cruz Quintana (wife Elvira); grandsons Ruben and Jason; and stepson Mateo Quintan as well as several nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa on January 28, 2023, with Rosary at 10 a.m. Church services and burial to follow.

Alpine Memorial FUNERAL HOME
CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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BIG BEND REPRODUCTIVE COALITION
provides educational materials and resources to West Texans that want more information about abortion and miscarriage management.

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition does not give medical or legal advice. This information is an educational resource.

COALICIÓN REPRODUCTIVA DEL BIG BEND ***proveé materiales y recursos educacionales a los habitantes de West Texas, los cuales quieran informacion acerca del manejo del aborto y aborto espontáneo.***

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