

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Presidio County declares state of emergency over water supply concerns

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — At Wednesday’s meeting, Presidio County commissioners voted to declare a state of emergency in response to concerns about public water supplies in Presidio County’s unincorporated communities. The state of emergency officially lasts for 30 days and Commissioners Court can indefinitely renew the declaration if concerns persist.

The item was originally sparked by a water crisis in Shafter: for decades, residents have received safe drinking water free of charge from the nearby silver mine. Aurcana Silver purchased the mine in 2012 and continued providing water — but recent rumors of bankruptcy and pending sale of the mine have sparked concerns that residents might soon be left high and dry.

Since then, problems with water quality in Ruidosa and Candelaria have also surfaced and may require serious and costly intervention. County Judge Joe Portillo reached out to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to confirm that he was able to broaden the declaration to include more than one community — the revised declaration is intended to prevent “hardship and suffering throughout the unincorporated communities of Presidio County.”

Portillo explained that the declaration of emergency was “preventative” — if needed, it provided the proper framework for the county to ask for help from the state. Temporary solutions to water quality problems could involve trucking or tractoring in mobile tanks of potable water, but commissioners agreed that isn’t a feasible long-term fix, especially if expensive new filtration and pumping systems needed to be installed in the county’s most remote communities.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Mitschke explained that the declaration isn’t an automatic trigger to receive services from the state and that the county would retain control. “The [Texas Department of Emergency Management] is simply a support,” he said. “As long as we say we’re in charge, we’re in charge.”

Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe expressed concern that the declaration might still be too broad, even with an initial green light from the state. Portillo said he was confident in their counsel — and that he would ensure that the county exhausted all its options for dealing with the problem independently before asking for outside assistance. “This is a unique animal,” he said.

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Photo by Katana Melendez / Courtesy of Marfa ISD
Underclassmen Fernanda Rivera, Loretta Rivera, Ava Flores, Maryfer Martinez and Raven Martinez prepare to give the Class of ‘23 Lady Horns their Senior Night gifts. SEE MORE ON PAGE 6.

After resignation of longtime leader, Blackwell School Alliance plans next steps

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Gretel Enck, who for years served both as president and director of the board for the Blackwell School Alliance, stepped down from both positions in January, citing a potential conflict of interest with her day job as a federal employee.

The shift in leadership comes amidst a period of transition for Marfa’s Blackwell School, recently designated a National Historic Site — placing it under the purview of the National Park Service — and for the Alliance of alumni and advocates that oversaw that long-awaited victory.

Enck tendered her resignation from her leadership roles on January 18, announcing the decision first in a February 2 Letter to the Editor in this newspaper, then on Blackwell School

Marfa’s public Facebook page.

“As you may know, I have a day job that presents a potential conflict of interest with representing a place now designated as a National Historic Site,” Enck wrote in the Facebook post. Enck works as an administrator for the Fort Davis National Historic Site.

She went on to clarify that her involvement with the Blackwell School is far from over, despite her notable change in title.

“I hope and intend to continue as a volunteer — hosting open hours, performing building and grounds maintenance, and seeing to other behind-the-scenes tasks that come up — until those duties are turned over to the National Park Service or to other volunteers,” she wrote.

While the imperative to avoid the appearance of any potential conflict may have hastened her resignation, Enck told The Big Bend Sentinel

that her plan to step down had been in the works for some time.

“Now that we’re turning it over [to NPS] I just feel like I want to move on to other things,” said Enck. “The timing of me resigning is only a little bit sooner than we had anticipated.”

Enck’s tenure at the helm of the alliance has seen the Blackwell School through a push for national recognition and awareness of the school’s history, an honorific designation to the National Register of Historic Places, and ultimately, designation as a National Historic Site. She first joined the board in July 2015, and went on to become president in May 2016 when Blackwell alumnus Joe Cabezuela stepped down.

Alumni and board members say her leadership was instrumental in seeing the long-sought-after designation through to its final conclusion.

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Marfa Chamber of Commerce Board advocates for local STR control through letter to legislators

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce Board recently announced public support for a letter penned by the Texas Neighborhood Coalition that urges state legislators to oppose any potential bills that seek to prevent cities from regulating short-term rentals (STRs) on the local level this legislative session.

The coalition’s co-founder said she hopes the letter serves as an incentive for lawmakers to rebuff short-term rental companies and their advocates.

“One of the goals of the letter is ideally, when these [Airbnb and Vrbo] lobbyists come calling, to give the legislators some cover to say, ‘I’ve heard from some constituents in my district who don’t support this so I can’t sponsor your bill,’”

said Jessica Black, co-founder of the coalition.

The Texas Neighborhood Coalition is a grassroots nonprofit organization formed in 2019 to fight a previous STR preemption bill which has grown to include chapters across the state.

“As short-term rentals become more prevalent, and more prolific, more and more communities are saying, ‘Hey, we need to do something about this.’ That’s why we keep adding cities that have residents that want to get involved,” said Black.

The letter enumerates, in strong terms, the many problems the coalition believes STRs inflict on communities. The coalition argues that STRs threaten communities’ sense of safety and security, threaten the private property rights of homeowners, disrupt residents’ peace and quiet with the intrusion of the “party house,” reduce the availability of affordable housing, and lead to spikes in crime. (Marfa Police Chief Steve

Marquez told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that he has seen little to no STR-related incidents in the recent past.)

“The misery STRs inflict on neighbors in single-family neighborhoods is writ large in the media, in countless hearings at cities across the state, and in independent studies — and it is inevitable,” the letter reads.

The letter argues fervently that the regulation of short term rentals should remain a local issue.

“Zoning is the quintessential land use issue, which is uniquely suited for decision-making by local elected municipal authorities who will be closest to the terrain and community, who know best what works for their citizens, and who are answerable to them,” the letter continues.

The 2019 bill the Texas Neighborhood Coalition opposed, HB 3778, sought to prevent

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Pilot in plane crash involving undocumented migrants pleads guilty to felony human smuggling charge

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Tobias Penner Peters, the Seminole man who in 2021 crashed a plane carrying undocumented migrants near the Presidio airport, has pleaded guilty to transporting undocumented citizens causing serious bodily injury, a felony that could land him in prison for up to 20 years. He is now awaiting an April sentencing.

Peters was accused of participating in a human trafficking scheme after crashing a plane just beyond the runway at the Presidio-Lely Airport on December 30, 2021. The crash injured five undocumented migrants — one so severely that

she was life-flighted to El Paso and “remains in a wheelchair today,” per a press release from the Western District of Texas U.S. Attorney’s Office.

On the day of the crash, Peters fled the scene — leaving behind a “substantial amount of blood” and taking with him handheld radios, a cell phone, paperwork and “what appeared to be a firearm,” per the deposition of Homeland Security Investigations Task Force Officer Coleman Boring.

Three months later, Peters turned himself in at the Presidio International Bridge. He was booked at the Presidio County Jail and eventually granted conditional release, allowing him to wait out the legal proceedings at his home in Seminole.

Peters last year was indicted by a grand jury

on one count of “conspiracy to transport illegal aliens” and one count of “transportation of illegal aliens causing serious bodily injury,” to which he entered a not guilty plea. He has now pleaded guilty to one of those two counts, a result of a plea agreement reached with the government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Greenbaum prosecuted the case. Peters retained two lawyers: Monty Kimball of Alpine and Antonio Rodriguez of Presidio. (None of the attorneys involved responded to requests for comment by press time.)

Peters is currently slated to face sentencing in Alpine on April 25, where he will face a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Deadline to file for local city government, school board is next week

Marfa sees only one candidate so far, as mostly incumbents file elsewhere

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — The candidate filing period for available local city and school board positions, which will appear on the May 6 General Election ballot, runs through 5 p.m. next Friday, February 17. Early voting begins Monday, April 24, and runs until Tuesday, May 2.

As of press time, only one incumbent candidate had filed for an available Marfa City Council seat and no candidates had yet filed for available Marfa School Board seats. Last May, the City of Marfa election, typically held in conjunction with the school board, was canceled due to a lack of candidates vying for the available seats. In Alpine and Presidio, mostly incumbents have filed to keep their seats so far.

In order to qualify to run, candidates must have resided in the respective city where the office is held for at least six months, must be 18 years of age or older, be a U.S. citizen, and must not have been convicted of a felony. A full list of qualifications can be found on the secretary of state’s website.

The Big Bend Sentinel spoke to area municipalities and school districts for details on which positions will be up for election this May and how interested candidates can apply for public office. It is free to apply for local city and school board positions. Council members and mayors serve two-year terms, while school board members serve three-year terms.

PRESIDIO COUNTY

Marfa City Council

The role of the mayor of Marfa, currently held by Manny Baeza, will be up for election in May. Baeza was first elected as mayor in 2019, then ran unopposed and was reelected for a second term in 2021. Before becoming Mayor, Baeza served as a city council member starting in 2008. Baeza told *The Big Bend Sentinel* he has yet to make a firm decision but is leaning towards running again.

The term of Councilmember Irma Salgado, who has served on city council since 2017, will also be up. Salgado currently serves as mayor pro tem for city council, a position which is appointed by fellow council members once a new council is sworn in. Salgado said she will not be running for another term.

The seat of former Councilmember Jason Ballmann, who tendered his resignation this past fall, will be up for election. Due to the timing of his previous appointment and exit from office, whoever fills Ballmann’s seat will serve a one-year term instead of a two-year term.

The seat of Councilmember Raul Lara — who has filed to run for reelection — is also up. Council members convene two times a month and are paid \$50 per meeting.

Interested parties may access applications in both English and Spanish online on the city’s website closer to January 18. Applications will also be available for pick up starting January 18 at City Hall. To submit applications, individuals may file in person at City Hall, mail their applications to City Hall at PO Box 787, Marfa, TX 79843, or email them to secretary@cityofmarfa.com.

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Blackwell School

(Continued from page 1)

“It’s a great loss for the alliance,” said Mario Rivera, Blackwell School alumnus and founding Blackwell School Alliance board member, who is now serving as interim president in the wake of Enck’s departure.

“Her efforts to help this group of alumni — who for the better part of a decade and a half have been working really, really diligently to save the site — her guidance, and her leadership and her knowledge are valuable to the efforts to make the school a National Historic Site.”

“Her efforts to help this group of alumni — who for the better part of a decade and a half have been working really, really diligently to save the site — her guidance, and her leadership and her knowledge are valuable to the efforts to make the school a National Historic Site,” said Daniel Hernandez, a descendent of school alumnus and a board member.

The alliance was first established roughly 16 years ago, when what began as an informal school reunion morphed into something much larger — that group of

alumni mobilized to preserve the adobe structure, which served as a school for Mexican American students from 1909 to 1965, and the history it represented. When the group got wind that the Marfa ISD Board might sell property, for instance, they struck a deal to lease it in order to ensure its preservation. In 2020, the group launched a letter-writing campaign to urge the National Historic Site designation; legislation to that end was first introduced in 2021. The yearslong campaign came to an end in October 2022, when President Biden signed the Blackwell School National Historic Site Act into law.

“It’s been a lot of work — and a lot of wonderful work,” Enck said.

Now, as the site and its maintenance is turned over to the federal government — the National Park Service is currently working to obtain the land the structure sits on from the City of Marfa — and Enck moves on to her next chapter (while continuing volunteer work) the alliance is left to reassess its role in the site’s future. What that looks like, exactly, has yet to be determined.

“We’re just waiting to see what our role is going to be now that the park system is taking over,” said Rivera. The group is currently embarking on a strategic planning process to craft a roadmap for its future, and plans to meet later this month for that purpose, said Rivera.

Hernandez said the alliance is currently evaluating a number of options for its continued role.

“There’s a potential for it to become a friends group, which a lot of times is engaged more in fundraising, but there are also ways that the organization can cooperate with the National Park Service and with other stakeholders, not necessarily in that friends group capacity, but in other ways to continue to support the development of the site,” said Hernandez.

The group will be ready to share more about its plans for the future at the Blackwell Block Party on April 22.

“It’s a big transition time,” said Enck. “As it should be, because we just achieved this kind of monumental, miraculous goal.”



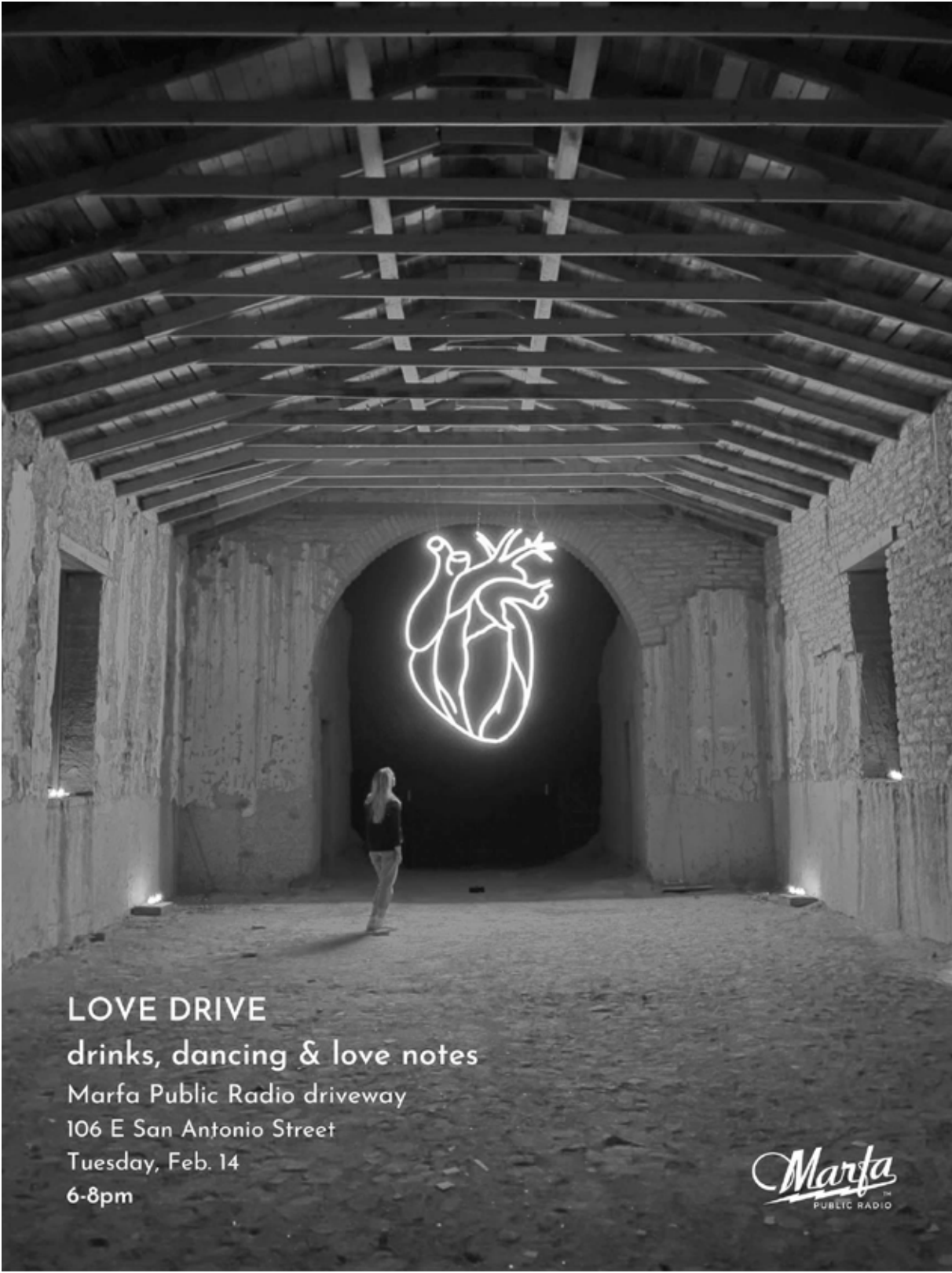
Courtesy of Marfa and Presidio County Museum

A vintage photo of the playground at the Blackwell School. The Blackwell School provided education to the Marfa students of Mexican descent from 1909 to 1965.



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Former Blackwell School Alliance president Gretel Enck spoke at a press conference at the Blackwell School in October after President Joe Biden signed the Blackwell School National Historic Site Act. Enck resigned as president in January after serving in the role since 2016.



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THIS PAPER

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Family Medicine



Bob Rice, NP
Family Medicine



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STR control

(Continued from page 1)

cities from imposing restrictions on the locations and density of STRs. The City of San Antonio, for example, currently has a limit on how many non owner-occupied STRs can exist per block. The City of Marfa does not currently regulate STRs beyond requiring a permit and safety check, but discussions as to how to regulate STRs through zoning have come up in the past.

Black, who is an Arlington resident, has been in recent conversations with Abby Boyd, president of the Marfa Chamber of Commerce, and previous Councilmember Jason Ballmann regarding how other cities around Texas regulate STRs and what Marfa’s options might look like moving forward.

“This is the beginning of a conversation we intend to have with our community that will go on for years,” said Boyd. “Taking away the right to make decisions at a local level makes it impossible to even have that conversation, so the letter was step one — securing that right, at least for this legislative session.”

Boyd said when the chamber became aware of the letter they were eager to show support for the initiative and took to social media to gather signatures. In all, the chamber gathered around 10 signatures in support of the letter from local businesses owners and citizens. Those Marfa denizens join various municipalities, neighborhood associations and more from around the state in backing the letter, which was delivered to representatives at the capitol last week.

Black said the coalition’s primary objection to any STR preemption bills, which the Marfa of Commerce Chamber board shares, are that they would impose broad-sweeping statewide legislation as opposed to allowing municipalities to regulate STRs as needed on the local level.

“Having citizens from all over the state [show support for the letter], whether they’re big urban cities like Dallas or suburbs like Arlington and Plano, or more rural towns like Kerville and Marfa. It shows the scope

of the problem and the diversity of the problem, because our biggest objection to a preemption bill is a one-size-fits-all fits none,” said Black.

The Association of Texas Realtors will likely come out in support of an STR preemption bill, according to its 2023 legislative priorities, said Black, noting realtors have financial incentives to support STRs because commercial investors pay higher prices for homes with earning potential, which can cause property values to increase in an area.

Boyd said from the chamber’s perspective, Marfa will continue to suffer without affordable housing options caused by an overabundance of STRs, arguing the economic success of the town hinges on its essential workforce — which is dominated by locals.

“Affordable housing is the most pressing issue in Marfa, and it is not being addressed,” said Boyd. “Folks who have grown up here hold some of the most essential jobs in this community. The city would literally fall apart without them. No one is moving to Marfa to work for the water department or at American Electric Power (AEP), and they can’t afford to live here.”

In recent years, the Marfa Chamber of Commerce has largely been run by individuals from multigenerational local families, who Boyd said the chamber still aims to serve. In addition to hosting community events, such as Marfa Lights and more, the chamber’s current board — which consists of Boyd, Patrick Rivera and Audrey Herrera — is working to expand job preparedness at Marfa ISD and to address affordable housing.

“We are thinking about what [the] future [of Marfa’s youth] may look like if they choose to stay in Marfa, and we want to make sure they are able to thrive in this community. They deserve a chance at homeownership, or at the very least will need homes to rent,” said Boyd.

When the chamber board’s support of the neighborhood coalition letter was made public on social media, it elicited some backlash among a number of local STR operators — in part due to the severity of

the language in the letter. One of the STR operators to engage with the letter on the Chamber’s Facebook page was Marfa resident Nina Dietzel. Dietzel, who moved to Marfa in 2016 and has been hosting travelers in her home for four years, said she resented the fact that the chamber’s leadership aligned with an “openly anti-STR organization” and felt like its public support for the letter got local conversations off on the wrong foot.

“It doesn’t say much for a ‘balanced approach,’ it feels one-sided to me. Also, isn’t the goal of any chamber to help to further the interests of small businesses in a local area?” Dietzel told *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Some questioned whether the support of Boyd — who is also Director of Tourism for the City of Marfa — was tantamount to the support of the city — but she asserts that she operates in a volunteer capacity for the chamber, and the chamber is not currently a part of the city government. (The Marfa Chamber of Commerce was originally established in 1912 and is classified as a 501c6, meaning its members are permitted to lobby.)

When it comes to the City of Marfa’s actions on the matter, the entity has recently begun enforcing its existing laws relating to STRs, sending out letters to 212 individuals they believe to be operating STRs in January in order to issue annual permits — for which the city is charging an increased base fee of \$500 and an additional \$100 per unit — and ensure routine safety measures are being taken. It remains unclear exactly how many STRs Marfa has, but STR data aggregate company Air DNA’s publicly accessible online platform currently shows 187 active rentals.

Dietzel, for her part, went on to say that she believes STRs do need some regulations and that the ordinance enforced by the city seemed largely reasonable to her.

“I’ve taken a cursory glance at the current STR ordinance sent to STR owners a few days ago, and don’t see anything major that I am opposed to, aside from an extremely high permit fee,” she added.

Dietzel rents out two bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms

Deadline to file

(Continued from page 1)

Marfa ISD School Board

The Marfa School Board will have two trustee positions up for election in May: Place 1 and Place 2. Place 1 has remained vacant since the resignation of previous Board Member Christa Marquez in July. Place 2 is currently held by Lori Flores, who told The Big Bend Sentinel she intends to file for reelection. Interested parties are encouraged to pick up an application packet at the district’s administration building, located up the stairs next to Martin Field’s Lincoln Street entrance.

Presidio City Council

Presidio City Council will see the position of mayor, currently held by John Ferguson, up for election, as well as two council member seats. Ferguson has served as the Mayor of Presidio since 2013. The seats of council members Arian Velazquez-Ornelas and Nancy Arevalo will be up. So far, incumbent mayor Ferguson as well as incumbent council members Arevalo and Velazquez-Ornelas have filed to run for reelection.

Starting January 18, those interested in applying may visit City Secretary Brenda Ornelas at City Hall, 507 W O’Reilly St., or email her at bornelas@presidiotx.us to pick up a packet. Applications will also be available in English and Spanish on the city’s website.

The City of Presidio will hold a joint election with

the Presidio Independent School District in May. Voting will likely take place at the Presidio Activity Center (PAC), per Ornelas.

Presidio ISD School Board

Over half of Presidio ISD’s school board will be up for election, with the terms of Yvonne Spencer, Ethel Barriga, Hugo Ramos and Fidel Baeza expiring in May. The superintendent’s secretary, Elizabeth Melendez, would not disclose whether any candidates had applied as of press time.

Melendez will have application packets available online and for pick up at the administration building, 701 E. Market Street, starting January 18. Completed applications may be submitted via email to e3melendez@presidio-isd.net, in person at the administration office and by mail to Presidio ISD, PO Box 1401, Presidio, Texas 79845.

BREWSTER COUNTY

Alpine City Council

Three Alpine City Council member seats will be up for election as the terms of Judy Stokes, Ward 1, Sara Tandy, Ward 3 and Jerry Johnson, Ward 5 expire in May. All are serving their first terms as council members.

Johnson also serves as mayor pro tem.

According to the city secretary, incumbents Judy Stokes and Jerry Johnson have filed for reelection. Darin Nance, director of technology at AISD and current chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, has filed to run for the Ward 3 city council seat. Applications may be picked up in person at City Hall, 100 N 13th St.

Alpine ISD School Board

The Alpine ISD School Board will have two seats up for election in May, District 2, currently held by Joe Portillo (of no relation to the newly-elected Presidio County judge of the same name) and District 6, currently held by Dr. Adrian Billings. Portillo has served on the school board since 2019 and Billings since 2017.

So far for District 6, incumbent Adrian Billings has filed for reelection and new candidate Richard Portillo has filed. Incumbent Joe Portillo has filed for reelection to continue to serve District 2.

Alpine ISD has held school board elections in the recent past, with at least one contested race on the ballot. Interested parties are encouraged to visit the administration building, located at 704 West Sul Ross Ave., to pick up an application from the Superintendent’s Secretary Marsha Roach.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Valentine City Commission

Due to its size, the City of Valentine is run by a city commission rather than a city council. The city commission consists of the mayor, Summer Webb, and two city commissioners, Laurel Coniglio and Danny Garcia. This May, the term of Garcia will be up. The mayoral seat will be up for election next year in May 2024.

According to the City Clerk Albert Miller, Valentine has not held an election in years as candidates have run unopposed, but if an election is held it will be in conjunction with Valentine ISD. Interested parties may contact Miller at the city in order to apply, (432) 386-3437.

Valentine ISD School Board

The Valentine ISD School board will have two seats opening up in the upcoming school board election. A seat held by Clay Webb — who has filed for reelection — and a seat which is currently vacant will be up for election. Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up and returned to Secretary Sylvia Lopez at Valentine Elementary School Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Presidio City Council talks new healthcare grant, funding for EMS training

By SAM KARAS

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PRESIDIO — At Monday’s meeting, Presidio City Council made strides in working to provide locals with quality healthcare. JD Newsom of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District and Troy Sparks of Presidio EMS both presented agenda items aimed at bolstering the city’s cash-strapped medical services.

Newsom updated the crowd on a large grant that was awarded last summer to improve access to healthcare in Presidio and Terlingua. \$5.5 million was set aside for both communities, in the hopes of opening a clinic in Terlingua for the first time in 20 years and to extend hours for the existing clinic in Presidio.

Presidio will receive the bulk of the funding. The package has two prongs: the creation of an after-hours clinic that will offer Presidians the opportunity to visit with a doctor on the weekends and a community paramedicine program that will equip existing EMS staff to provide preventative care. “It’s going to be transformative for how we think about healthcare in Presidio,” Newsom said.

The immediate goal of the grant is diverting south Brewster and Presidio county residents from long and costly ambulance rides to Alpine — the target is reducing transports by 20%, which would benefit both potential patients and the region’s ailing ambulance fleet. “If we’re taking care of peoples’ health here in Presidio, we won’t need to transport them,” Newsom said.

The community paramedicine program is an important part of meeting that goal. Such programs train local first responders to make home visits and provide medical services that are typically only offered in a clinic — the logic is that if EMTs are able to provide preventative care, their services won’t be needed in as many life-or-death situations.

Mayor John Ferguson and the council members in attendance agreed that this was great news for Presidio. “This is huge in the development of our community,” he said.

Next on the agenda, Presidio EMS Director Troy Sparks asked Council for help funding paramedic training for local EMTs. The request applied retroactively to

out of her house which do not include a kitchen or living room, meaning the space is not suitable for a long-term rental, she said. She said the extra income has been helpful for her in recent years as her industry has struggled during the pandemic.

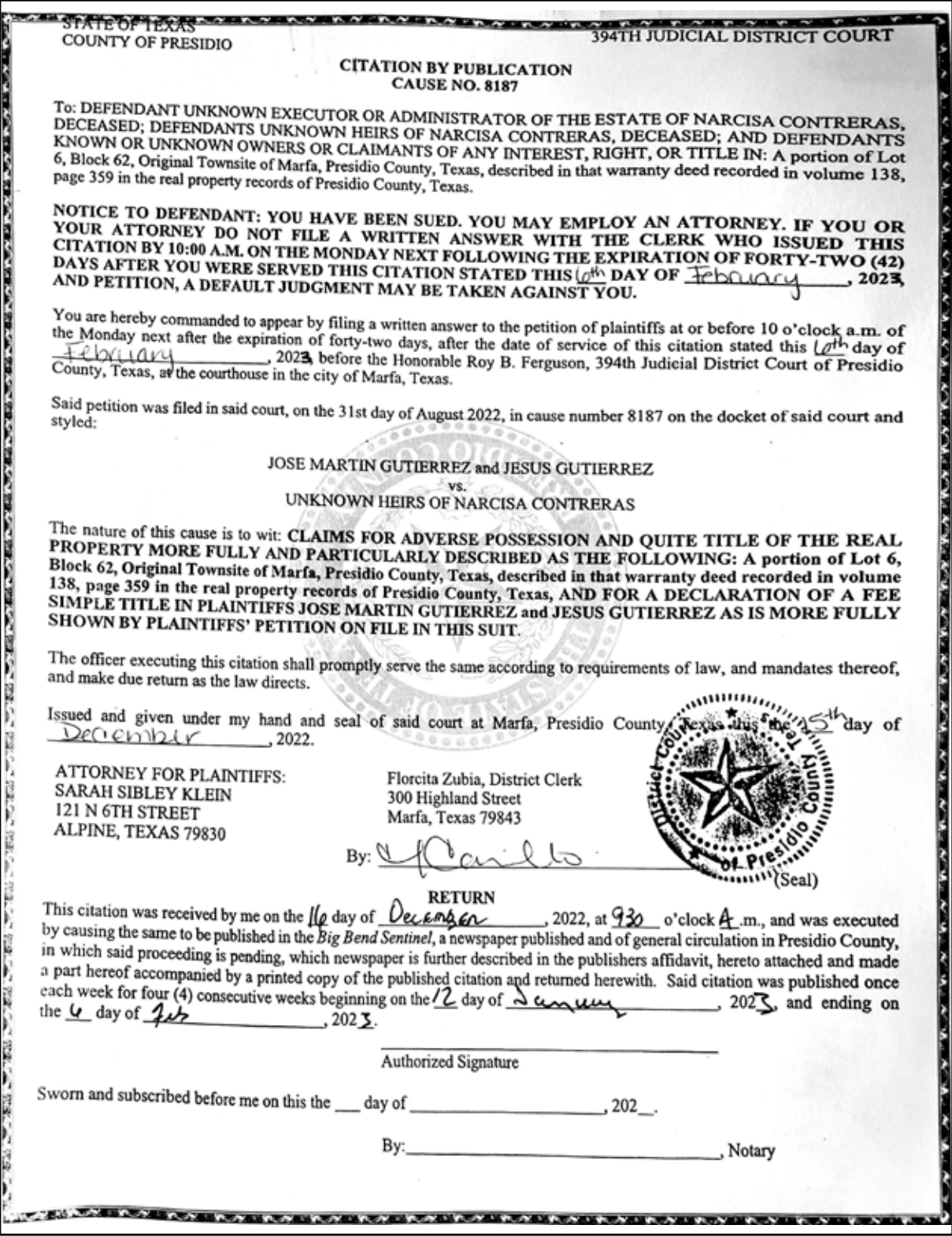
Dietzel expressed confusion as to how the City of Marfa settled on the \$500 permit fee, and was also unsure why she was required to pay a commercial, rather than residential, garbage fee. She said her and other local STR owners have experienced a substantial drop in revenue in the past year, perhaps due to too many rentals flooding the market.

“What I do want to see on a city level is respect and the acknowledgement that many of us STR owner operators contribute as best as we can to this place we love,” said Dietzel. “Running a good STR isn’t easy, keeping a top line rating, which you need to attract bookings, takes constant vigilance and hard work.”

In other areas across the state, and the country, cities have tried a variety of approaches to addressing local STR markets: only allowing a finite number of STR permits to be issued, assessing owner-occupied and non-owner occupied rentals differently, fining Airbnb and Vrbo platforms for listings that do not have city permits, and more.

The Marfa Chamber of Commerce said it intends to host a series of public town halls to further explore public opinion on the current situation of STRs in Marfa. It will continue to research solutions other towns have found successful to see what might be locally applicable, said Boyd.

“We are still learning about these issues ourselves, and as we feel prepared and find people who can answer our questions, we will take it to the community,” said Boyd. “We want people to hear for themselves and form their own opinions and advocate for the community they want to live in.”



Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

When a sudden cold snap came to Marfa, the Rotary Club of Marfa acted quickly to get “gently worn” coats gathered to keep students at Marfa ISD warm. Through various thrift stores and many kind generous folks, 16 students received coats for warmth. The project was met with such encouragement that the club hopes to continue this “coats for kids” project next fall in 2023 to get coats to each individual in need at Marfa ISD. And we want to say thank you to the thrift stores and individuals who helped us.

Martha Bumpus
Rotary Club

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Editor:

Great things are happening in Alpine thanks to a lot of hard-working, dedicated individuals coming together.

It was recently announced that there will be a new 50-spot day care opening this summer in Alpine. This was a collaborative effort among different Alpine nonprofit organizations such as Alpine Community Projects and the Alpine Business Alliance (formerly known as the Alpine Downtown Association). The Big Bend Regional Medical Center, Sul Ross University and the City of Alpine were also involved in bringing this child care center to Alpine, with Alpine ISD and Dr. Michelle Rinehart being the heavy hitters.

The increased partnerships between the different groups and organizations have been a refreshing change. The city and the county are working together more frequently also. I personally believe that we can do the hard things when we work together and that we should not accept the status quo for our city, our home.

In addition, Angels Care Hospice is now servicing Alpine. Plus, there are other exciting things going on currently with many of the aforementioned nonprofits. What they are working on is sure to make Alpine thrive again. Also, there are a lot of great community events in the works for 2023, and they will be certain to fill up your calendar. And I don’t want to fail to mention that the Granada has become an event center with a variety of different activities going on there weekly.

Our city government is also undergoing a much-needed and positive transformation. We held six town hall meetings between October and December in which residents were able to write down their thoughts and opinions regarding what priorities they felt the city should focus on and post them around the room under whichever broad topics they thought fit. Not surprisingly, after the two boil water notices, the top priority was infrastructure, particularly water and wastewater.

In addition, we have held three strategic planning prioritization town hall meetings so far this year to discuss how we should go about taking care of these priorities. During these town halls, we have also looked at long-term goals for the city and how we might realize them once we have our foundation and our water and wastewater systems repaired.

City transparency has improved drastically over the last couple of years. Not only is there more information available on the city website, but we are receiving more information from the city manager and city staff at each council meeting. Everything is being discussed — our strengths, our weaknesses, our opportunities, and the challenges that face the city.

Along with transparency comes an increased willingness for residents to get involved with what is going on. More people than ever are attending council meetings and are becoming active on our commissions and boards. Those who can’t attend city council meetings or town hall events are often opting to Zoom in or view the recording on the City of Alpine, Texas YouTube Channel.

During the formal city council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at 5:30, residents have the opportunity to speak on any agenda item during the three-minute comment period. This procedure has been in place going back at least 10 years. Residents are also allowed to speak during the public hearings portion of the meeting, and if time allows, also during the discussion section if they raise their hands and the council approves them coming forward to speak, which has occurred several times since May.

I urge everyone to get involved with moving Alpine forward. I believe we can have the Alpine we want if the residents are actively involved and we are persistent in reaching our goals.

Mayor Catherine Eaves
Alpine

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OP-ED

Far West Texas will have a strong voice in key Senate committees

By SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

Fully staffed offices, constituent-filled halls, eager lawmakers, and assigned Senate committees — The Texas Capitol is buzzing again and the 88th Texas Legislature is officially in session.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced Senate committee appointments for this session, and Far West Texas won big with our assignments! I am truly honored to have been appointed to The Senate committees on Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security. Membership on these committees will give Far West Texas a strong voice on key issues impacting our region.

Too often, rural communities are left behind — but I am committed to ensuring that that is not the case for our rural communities in Far West Texas. Texas is stronger when rural Texas is stronger!

While traveling across the district, I had numerous conversations with constituents and local leaders in rural Far West Texas who don't care about partisan issues, but kitchen table issues that impact them every day. In our region, the tourism industry is booming. Marfa, for example, has hosted over 50,000 visitors per year, more than 25 times its population of 1,800 residents. This wave of tourism is great for the economy, but it puts added pressure on our local taxpayers and infrastructure. Our rural communities don't have the local tax base to support needed improvements to our infrastructure to keep up with growing demand. By expanding the use of hotel occupancy taxes, we can fund critical infrastructure projects such as roads, drainage and water infrastructure for safer communities, property tax relief, and economic development. I'm looking forward to having a seat at the table on the Senate committee of Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs to invest in water infrastructure for our rural communities — who, to this day, still struggle with access to clean water — as well as fight for better healthcare closer to home, broadband connectivity and technology to prepare our kids for the workforce of tomorrow. All while directly supporting our farmers, ranchers and agricultural industries.

Across the over 15,000 square miles that make up Senate District 29, quality healthcare is not easily accessible for residents, making our region historically medically underserved. I've repeatedly heard from constituents that "West Texas is a great place to retire, but a bad place to grow old," because healthcare is often hundreds of miles away. By sitting on Health and Human Services for my second session, I will continue working towards meaningful solutions. A heavy focus will be placed on bolstering

our healthcare workforce to address the medical profession shortage; expanding healthcare for new moms to reduce the maternal mortality rate; addressing food insecurity; and expanding Medicaid.

Senate District 29 includes both urban and rural communities, vast natural resources, and beautiful landscapes. From the Franklin Mountains, Hueco Tanks, Big Bend, Balmorhea and others, our district has the most state park land in all of Texas, serving as a major economic engine in our region. We need to protect our public lands and invest in maintenance and acquisition efforts to grow our state park system for future generations.

Our region also produces abundant energy resources, and as a result, plays a critical role in supporting our state's energy security, keeping the lights on for all Texas families and driving down energy costs. On the Senate committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development (NRED), I will work to ensure Texas builds on its status as the ninth largest economy in the world, a global energy leader, and a national leader in creating new jobs, while being good stewards of our environment. Locally, I will continue to advocate for policies that bring investment and good-paying jobs to our communities.

Over 48,000 veterans call our region home, and I'm proud to be included in that number as a Navy veteran. For that reason, sitting on the Senate committee on Veterans Affairs is near and dear to me. We need to continue supporting those who have served and ensure veterans make a successful transition from service to civilian life by providing better access to healthcare, housing, higher education, employment, food security and economic security. Two sessions ago, I passed a law that added mental health first aid in the Texas Veterans Mental Health Program, and we will build on that progress to continue to address mental health and veteran suicides.

One of the more defining traits of Senate District 29 is the fact that we are a border community that spans over 350 miles along the Texas-Mexico border. In recent years, Texas has been ground zero for the immigration and border security debate amongst record migrant crossings and drug seizures. Although immigration and border security are the responsibility of the federal government, Texas has prioritized border security spending with little oversight and accountability. But despite record state spending, crossings are at a record high. If Texas is going to be in the business of border security, we need to make sure that we are being good stewards of rural Texans' tax dollars.

As a member of the Senate committee on Border Security, I will continue to push for smart border security, NGO support and private property owner protections. By modernizing our ports of entry and implementing smart strategies supported by fiber optic technology, drones, motion sensors and cameras, border security could be accomplished at a fraction of the cost of a physical wall while bolstering real time monitoring. By the same token, we need to ensure border communities and NGOs on the front lines have the support and financial resources needed to provide humanitarian assistance and to compensate private property owners who are victims of property damage caused by human traffickers and smugglers.

These committee appointments are a huge win for Far West Texas, and I look forward to delivering results for our families and communities. Let's get to work!

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

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Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Donaldson
Marfa ISD scientific studies students head to the regional science fair held at the University of Texas Permian Basin this weekend. From left, Samuel Salgado, Dimetrey Stewart, Juan Bautista, Jack Marquez, Samantha Martinez, Fern Rivera and Lesly Torres.

MISD students head to regional science fair competition this weekend

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The regional science fair competition takes place this Saturday, February 11, at the University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa, and Marfa ISD will have five competing projects by teacher Elizabeth Donaldson’s scientific studies students.

Competing junior scientists include Dimetrey Stewart and Samuel Salgado, Lesly Torres, Juan Bautista, Samantha Martinez and Jack Marquez. The students used skills developed in their scientific studies course to research, hypothesize and run experiments. A recent field trip to Sul Ross State University’s microbiology lab and library included lab work to fluoresce yeast and buccal swabs with Professor Anne Hilscher.

Samantha Martinez, whose science fair project involved the processes of dyeing fabrics, including the use of temperature and electricity to achieve different techniques, said she is ready to show off what she’s been working on in class to the judges.

“I am very excited for this upcoming science fair at UTPB,” said Martinez. “I’ve never done anything like this, so it’s very cool to be able to try something new. My project is about absorption properties of dye. I am testing how wool absorbs Kool-Aid with electricity.”

Senior Juan Bautista explored the effectiveness of mint versus cinnamon in oral healthcare products, which involved swabbing participants’ mouths before and after using dental hygiene products to test bacteria levels.

“I incubated for 48 hours, and cinnamon had more colonies than mint did. After that I put the colony onto a slide and did a gram stain on them. Found out that there were Eikenella corrodens, Fusobacterium, and Streptococcus in the four subjects’ mouths,” said

Bautista of his findings.

Dimetrey Stewart and Samuel Salgado worked as a team to create a model for cost-effective prosthetics for young children. Stewart said the pair’s ambitious project has had them working up until their deadline this weekend.

“The prep for the upcoming science fair has been absolutely hectic. Samuel and I have been having fun designing and making our project, a bionic hand, but we have been crazy busy trying to meet the deadlines,” said Stewart.

Salgado agreed the project turned out to be more complicated than the duo originally planned, but he was feeling optimistic about their recent progress and competing.

“We are really far along, and I wouldn’t doubt if we do quite well, as our effort seems to be paying off in these last couple of days,” said Salgado. “The process has been stressful at times, but also surprisingly fun, especially now that everything is finally coming together in the physical world, not just in [computer aided design].”

Last year, a Marfa ISD science fair team which competed in regionals was selected by judges to bypass the state competition and attend the national competition held in Atlanta, Georgia. Jack Marquez, who worked to compare the star glow surrounding Marfa, Alpine and Fort Davis, was hopeful all of the Shorthorn science fair submissions would succeed this year.

“We have been working very hard on our projects, and it has been a lot of fun to research and learn new things about the area I live in,” said Marquez. “I feel confident about my project, and I hope to make it past regionals. I feel that my classmates’ projects are also very well done, and I know they’ll do great at the regional science fair. Go Horns!”

Shorthorns honor Class of 2023 basketball and powerlifting athletes with recent Senior Night

MARFA — Last Friday, Marfa ISD High School seniors participating in basketball and powerlifting sports were honored with a Senior Recognition Night in the Shorthorn Gym following the varsity girls basketball game.

The Class of 2023 was joined by family members and friends as they celebrated their athletic accomplishments for the season. Students were showered with balloons,

posters, flowers, treats and gift baskets. Seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cheer and cross-country were honored this past fall.

“We do it at the end of each season, it’s just a great time to recognize our seniors and all the work that they have put into their events and the commitment that they’ve made to Marfa ISD,” said High School Principal Luane Porter. “They will certainly be missed.”



Courtesy of Marfa ISD
The varsity girls basketball team celebrates Senior Recognition Night with a basketball cake and more, commemorating the season.



Courtesy of Marfa ISD
Powerlifting team member Samuel Salgado with family and teammate Jack Marquez on Senior Recognition Night.



Courtesy of Marfa ISD
Charlize and Jade Martinez with their dad last Friday at Marfa ISD's senior recognition night.

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DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

This is a continuation of the MISD Journalism Class installments from our January 26, 2023 publication.

Documentary now!

By ALEX

You may have seen students walking around the hallways or interviewing people in between class periods with cameras and microphones. Have you been a victim to getting your outfit checked? With this newly-found interview buzz going around from the journalism class you may already know that we're up to something. The journalism class is making documentaries to submit to the UIL film festival. The students have the creative liberty to choose their own topics to cover. From interviews to audio clips, we've been working hard getting footage on our desired topics. Editing footage is a new experience to most of us, and it's amazing to watch our pieces come to life from just an idea. Transitioning from writing articles to making a documentary with a camera and lines is a big intellectual leap, but I would go as far to say it's a good change. Besides my own experiences on our project, I decided to ask another student a few questions. Piper Donaldson was in the middle of editing footage when I asked her if I could ask a few questions, to which she happily agreed.

"What's your interview about?" I asked.

She immediately responded "The gentrification of Marfa."

Intrigued, I then asked, "What made you want to document this?"

She fidgeted with her hands while explaining, "My mother sparked the idea when she was talking about it, and later in the week I heard about Jack's interest — that finally led me to decide."

"Is this something you think people are going to want to see?" I questioned, and she laughed before replying, "I truly believe it depends where you live. The topic is about Marfa, so it's especially important to the locals before anyone else."

I agreed and moved to my next question.

"What would you say was the most difficult task?" I asked, to which she thought for a moment and shook her head before saying, "Traveling between Marfa and Alpine. I live in Alpine and it's difficult to interview locals when I don't know many besides the students."

I finally thanked her for her time and parted ways.

Christopher: A satirical personal essay of failure and sadness

By CHRIS and ISAAH

Hello, my name is Christopher Huerta and I can't seem to do anything right. It seems like the whole world is against me. Any time I try to do something, it seems like I fail. The only thing I enjoy is being a troll and arguing with anyone who has an opinion even slightly different than my own. But, I'm not even that good at that because, as Ms. Powers says, I'm actually a really nice kid.

The thing I struggle with the most is school. Math, English, history, science, Spanish, you name it, I'm not good at it. Even though I didn't fail a class this last semester, I still think my whole vibe is "failure." And yeah,

the time I did fail my classes it was a global pandemic, and I really wasn't trying, but I still think it's because I just can't seem to get anything right.

One thing I like is cooking. I am good at that. My favorite thing to cook is steak. I eat it rare. Give me a steak that's basically still mooing. I mostly just cook for myself, after school. I make elaborate meals in my kitchen, mostly just for me. A lot of my friends joke that if I had a normal metabolism I'd be obese. I guess that's one of the only ways I'm a lucky guy.

I don't have any friends, either. Except for all my friends like Isaiah, who is actually my best friend and who loves me a lot, even though he doesn't like to admit it and he does make fun of me almost constantly. But I'm pretty mean to him, too. And I have other pals, like Messiah, Taryn, Ayven and Darren. That doesn't mean I'm not unlikeable, though! Even though Ms. Powers says I'm a "secretly nice kid."

Ms. Powers also recently told me I'm a "ding dong" because I poked myself with a straight pin and I have a lot of trouble meeting the journalism deadlines she imposes. In general, even though I think I'm kind of a foolish person, I am pretty good at getting other people, like Isaiah and Ms. Powers, to help me execute and finish all my work.

In conclusion, Isaiah says I'm a "special" boy, and everyone "loves" me. But I know that I'm just a big, useless failure with lots of friends and a fast metabolism who hasn't actually failed a class recently.

District games are underway

By DARREN

For this month's article I'm writing about the district games that Marfa is going into.

Pre-season games ended a few weeks ago, and now we're playing games against schools in our district, or games that actually count. There are six teams in our district: Marfa, Fort Davis, Dell City, Sierra Blanca, Van Horn and Balmorhea. As everyone knows, district games determine whether or not we go to the playoffs, so the MHS basketball teams have been buckling down to advance! Starting on Friday, there are five games left, one this Friday in Fort Davis, and then four more next week, all in Marfa. On Tuesday, January 31, the boys play Dell City at 6. On Friday, February 3, both teams play Sierra Blanca beginning at 6. On Tuesday, February 7, both teams are up against Van Horn, also at 6. Finally, the boys play Balmorhea on Friday at 6.

The Marfa Shorthorns need to win a total of four games in district to go to the playoffs and, thus far, the Shorthorns have won a total of two games each, meaning we only need to win two more games to make it to playoffs.

So far, the boys have beaten Dell City and Sierra Blanca, and lost to Fort Davis and Van Horn. On Tuesday we play Balmorhea. On Friday there is a game against Fort Davis.

The girls have won two district games, too. They've beaten Fort Davis and Sierra Blanca, but fell to Balmorhea. Additionally, please let it be known that all Piper wants for her 15th birthday is for the Lady Horns to beat the Indians for a third time on Friday, so that the Horns can have a clean sweep against her former (now rival) school!

I believe both high school basketball teams can make it to the playoffs, and if we keep up the good work I think we can make it past the playoffs and win the whole thing and add one more trophy to our trophy case. Let's go Horns!!

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Tom Lea paintings will be on exhibit in new Museum of the Big Bend annex

ALPINE — El Paso native Tom Lea’s series of 11 paintings, Western Beef Cattle, will be on display when the new Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building at the Museum of the Big Bend opens to the public on Saturday, March 11.

The museum is located on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine. Commissioned by Life magazine after World War II, the paintings depict the origins of the beef cattle industry in North America. Lea conducted first-hand research, traveling to Mexico to spend time on haciendas and on to Illinois as he followed the life cycle of beef cattle. He spent a year studying cattle and painting what he saw, according to the catalog from the exhibition Tom Lea: Paintings/Western Beef Cattle, October 7, 1950–January 14, 1951, at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts for the State Fair of Texas.

The detailed artwork portrays events such as how the first cattle in North America made the overseas journey from Spain in the 16th century and the logistics of getting them from ship to shore. Lea’s brush examines how Mexicans moved herds each day from pasture to an enclosure and illustrates the tools, clothing and other trappings of the vaquero. He follows the progress of selective breeding as other European cattle, primarily from Great Britain, are bred with Spanish cattle to provide beef for the North American palate.

Viewers will notice a marked difference in the appearance of the cattle as the bloodlines of Spanish and Mexican cattle become diluted when modern European breeds are introduced. Lea completes the collection with representations of the life cycle of a beef steer from weanling to fat and ready for harvest. The realistic details of each painting beckon the viewer to participate while cattle industry insiders will appreciate a truthful and thoughtful depiction of their business.

The Western Beef Cattle collection is only one of the many series and types of art Lea created. He may be best known for his work during World War II, when he worked as an artist correspondent, also for Life magazine. During his time in the South Pacific, he observed and recorded the action beside troops under fire, putting himself in danger so he could later create art to accurately reflect what soldiers experienced.

The prolific artist used his talent to paint murals for public spaces such as the R. E. Thomason Federal Building and Courthouse in El Paso, U.S. Post Office buildings including Seymour and Odessa in Texas, and the Benjamin Franklin Post Office in Washington D.C. He collaborated with friend and prominent Texas writer J. Frank Dobie, providing illustrations for three of his books. Lea also penned four novels and illustrated all of them himself, earning an Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement in Western Literature.

Lea considered himself an eyewitness. Through his art, he strived to record and communicate the feelings of others using visual media. According to Adair Margo, founder and president of the Tom Lea Institute in El Paso, “Tom wanted to communicate what other people felt about things, not bring himself into it. It’s not a style of art; he could not care less about style. He used the style his subject demanded.”

Margo recorded Lea’s life history and wrote a book about him published in 1993. The pieces he created as a war correspondent have been displayed in the Smithsonian and other museums as well as the White House.

While attending the 2007 Texas Book Festival in Austin, Margo met Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Robert Caro who said to her, “Tom Lea was an unsung genius of our time, and he made it purely on the quality of his work.” Thus began her work to educate the public about Tom Lea and his contributions to the world through his art, writing and research.

“Tom never lived in the art world. He lived in the whole world. He devoted himself to experiencing what he communicated. Whether it was living with soldiers on the battlefield or interviewing vaqueros, he remained a classicist because he didn’t get wrapped up in style. Tom Lea exemplifies the highest calling of a true artist — to express a sense of comradeship with others while communicating the wonder of life,” she said.

Valentine Post Office announces 2023 Valentine’s Day Postmark

VALENTINE — The Valentine Post Office will again offer a customized pictorial postmark to add a unique touch to Valentine’s Day greeting cards.

Every year, starting in early January, the Valentine Post Office receives an abundance of cards to be stamped and sent to valentines all over the country and around the world. According to Valentine Postmaster Ismelda Ornelas, an average of 10,000 to 12,000 valentines are received annually. Ornelas hand-cancels every single one herself.

“I look forward to seeing where all the valentines come from and where they are going. Knowing I play a role in sending someone a small token of love from another person, with a hand-stamp from Valentine, TX, is truly special,” says Ornelas.

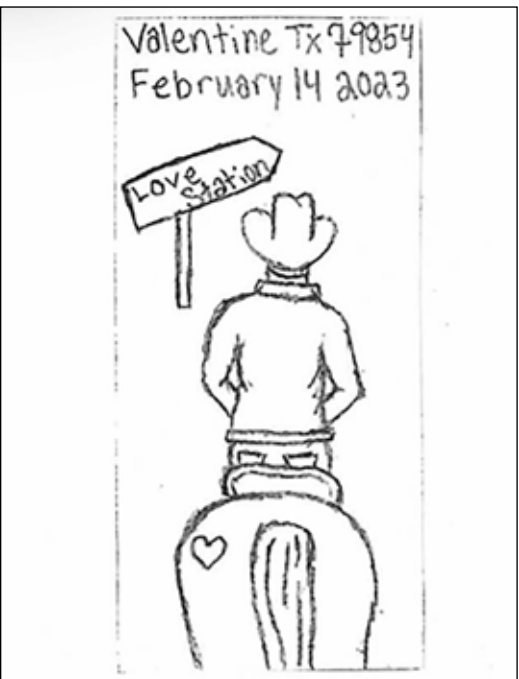
The 2023 postmark design was drawn by 12th-grader Jordan Miller, winner of the annual postmark drawing contest held among local Valentine Independent School District students. She is a repeat winner, having won the contest

in 2019. Miller grew up on a ranch and said her inspiration came from riding behind her father and uncle during family trail rides. Miller raises cattle and horses, and recently won Grand Champion Mare at the 2023 Big Bend Livestock Show with her horse Spider John.

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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

PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS
PAPER

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Piper Donaldson
9th Grade
Comics Character Study

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

SOLUTION:

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 6, 2023

ACROSS

1 Walk and talk, e.g.?

6 Repeated sound

10 Oval Office VIP

14 Folding words in poker

15 One has crusty heels

16 Long sandwich

17 _____ Dame (Note the last 2 letters of this answer + ...)

18 Part of a model's resume (... the first 4 of this one)

20 Green birthstone

22 Orchestra tuners

23 Delete

24 "Here's a tip ...," letters

25 "____ or that?" (Last 3 letters + ...)

28 British politician Rishi Sunak, e.g. (... first 4)

33 Healthy

34 Fly high

35 In-flight guess: Abbr. www.yale.____

37 Word after "fruit" or "vampire"

40 Raises

41 Common batteries

42 "True Life" network

43 Skin care brand

45 "Right away, boss!"

46 Restaurant special in a bowl (Last 4 letters + ...)

50 Beyonce's role in "The Lion King" (... first 3)

51 Deep sleep letters

52 Lawn ornament

54 Author Larsson

57 They're waged over drinks

59 "I don't want to hear your excuses!" (Last 2 letters + ...)

61 "Schitt's Creek" matriarch (... first 4)

64 _____ fide

65 "Sadly ..."

66 Goad

67 Like a pretentious painter

68 Lightbulb unit

69 "That outfit is stunning!"

8 Taco shell option

9 Frequently, in poetry

10 Extreme fear

11 Move, in Realtor lingo

12 Shallowest Great Lake

13 Petting _____ (places for kids, in two ways)

19 Theater lobbies

21 Pizza-toting rodent in a 2015 video

24 Licked envelope part

25 "____ the breaks!"

26 Couldn't back out

27 Candy heart words

29 _____ are here

30 Brooklyn artist Lawson

31 Online commerce

32 Jamaican who worships Jah

37 Spanish grocery

38 Grad

39 _____ Mahal

44 Surface for a Child's Pose

45 "Just about finished!"

47 Settle up in advance

48 Turmoil

49 Burglarize

53 Bits of internet humor

54 Buckwheat noodle

55 Norse thunder god

56 "____ She Lovely"

57 Lugosi of "Dracula"

58 Express relief

60 Unrefined

62 Aussie hopper

63 Colony insect

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

2/5 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

FEB	Thu, Feb 9	Fri, Feb 10	Mon, Feb 13	Tue, Feb 14	Wed, Feb 15
BREAKFAST	OATMEAL, CINNAMON TOAST	BREAKFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, YOGURT	CHEESE OMELET, TOAST	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH Menu courtesy of  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, MIXED FRUIT	CHICKEN-N-WAFFLES, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, HASH BROWN, ORANGE SMILES	ENCHILADAS, BEANS, CORN, SALSA, , STRAWBERRIES & BANANA, COOKIE	ASIAN BOWL, EGG ROLL, BABY CARROTS, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, GRAPES *Power Breakfast: Biscuit, Gravy, Egg, Bacon

CELEBRATION LIQUOR MARFA

Mon - Thu 11:30 am - 9 pm
Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-837-7479 • Marfa

Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-729-4682 • Alpine

**RAUL LARA
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Cell# 432-249-1189
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com

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432-729-4315 / fax 432-729-3158

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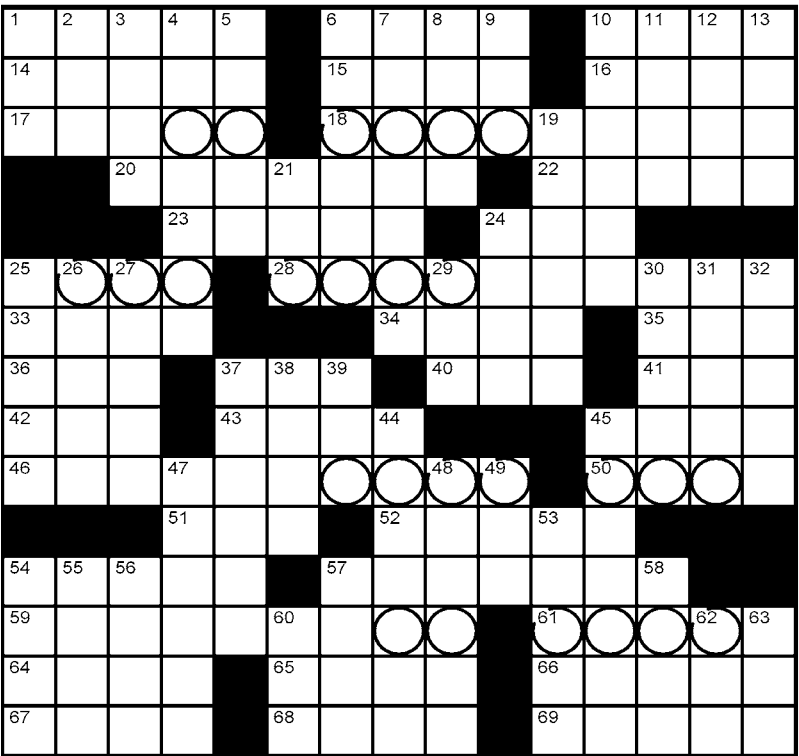
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**MARFA SHORTHORNS
SPORTS CALENDAR**

FRI, FEB 10: HS Boys Basketball vs Balmorhea in Balmorhea, 6:00pm
MON, FEB 13: Girls Basketball Bi-District

Breaking the Record by Taylor Johnson



Former ‘Great Debater’ to perform one-man show at SRSU

ALPINE — Welcome to Melvin Tolson High School. It's summer school, it's hot, the barbed wire fence is fixed, and a young African American boy has been shot, leaving his group of friends reeling from the loss and wondering if their voices will ever be heard.

Enter a former Great Debater to teach a master class on public speaking and challenge this group of boys to speak out and give voice to their hopes and fears. This is the story of “Black Book,” an award-winning one-man play by actor/playwright Austin Dean Ashford.

Filled with pressing issues, inspiring characters, and comedy, “Black Book” debates what happens to young minds when our educational spaces begin to resemble a prison more than school and a place to learn and grow.

Playwright and actor Austin Dean Ashford is a Ph.D. candidate in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts at Texas Tech University. Born and raised in the Bay Area, he competed with The Great Debaters of Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he earned 21 national championship titles. He

earned a dual-MFA in acting and playwriting at the University of Arkansas, graduating in 2019. He has received top honors at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C., the United Solo Festival in New York City, the San Diego International Fringe Festival, and the Dunedin and New Zealand Fringe Festivals.

Recently, he was nominated for a Latin Grammy and became a Hip Hop Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. Embassy.

This special engagement of “Black Book” happens Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Studio Theatre in the François Fine Arts Building on the Sul Ross Alpine campus. Admission is free. Seating is limited. To make reservations, visit www.bit.ly/sulross-theatre.

For more information, contact the Sul Ross Visual and Performing Arts Department at 432-837-8218 or finearts@sulross.edu.

OBITUARY



Ramirez

Eusebio Ramirez gained his angel wings on January 29, 2023.

He was born in Marfa, Texas, on March 5, 1938, to Jose and Sista Ramirez. He attended Marfa High

School and was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Eusebio worked at Safeway for 29 years and American National Insurance for 24 years. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army Reserve with a rank of sergeant.

He is survived by his wife, Lupita, of 46 years; sister Mary Brisenio, five children and several nieces.

Eusebio is preceded in death by his parents, mother-in-law, and son Albert.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu
Feb
9

WTex Talks: Amanda Holstien

6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Granada Theatre in Alpine
LEARN, CONNECT, AND BECOME INSPIRED! Amanda Holstein, poet and spiritual worker from Marfa, will be presenting the Mysticism of the Psalms. Entry is \$10, with \$5 going to a local charity.

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!

Fri
Feb
10

Latin Dance Lessons at the Granada Theatre

6:00pm - 7:00pm in Alpine
Bring your partner and learn some new moves! Instructions provided in both English and Spanish.

Lexi Weege & JJ Slater Band

8:00pm at the White Buffalo Patio at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Seating is first come, first serve!

Pistol Creek at Old Gringo

8:00pm at 101 W. Avenue E in Alpine
Old Gringo welcomes Pistol Creek to the stage Friday February 10th! Music starts at 8pm! Cold drinks all day and night!!

Sat
Feb
11

Valentine PJ Party

6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Allpine Public Library in Alpine
Alpine Public Library is having a Valentines Pajama Story Time! Come at 6:30 for stories, games, and crafts for kids aged 4-12.

Mary-Charlotte Young

7:00pm at 12 Gage Restaurant at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Mary-Charlotte Young, is a Southern singer-songwriter steeped in Texas Americana troubadour tradition with a punk rock edge. Dinner reservations are recommended for this show.

Sentinel Saturdays

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

Mae Churchwell at Old Gringo

8:00pm at 101 W. Avenue E in Alpine
The Old Gringo welcomes Mae Churchwell back to the stage!

Sun
Feb
12

The Big Game - Super Bowl Watch Party at The Granada Theatre

1:00pm - 11:00pm in Alpine
Come watch the game on a 20 foot screen and ground shaking sound system. Finger licking food provided by Go Ghana! Doors open at 1:00pm and kick-off is at 5:30pm. Beer and wine available for purchase. For more information and to save your spot go to <https://www.granadatheatre.events/product/2-12-the-big-game/50>

Tue
Feb
14

Marfa Public Radio Love Drive

6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Marfa Public Radio driveway in Marfa
Drinks, dancing and love notes.

Wed
Feb
15

Show Rodeo - Lone Star Cowboy Poetry

6:00pm - 8:00pm at Sul Ross University S.A.L.E. Rodeo Arena in Alpine
Come enjoy a show rodeo as Alpine kicks off the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering! Two hours of rodeo events (non-competitive) by members of the SRSU Rodeo Team and poetry from David Richmond and music from Jim Wilson. Proceeds benefit the SRSU Rodeo Team. \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth 12 - 17, free for children under 11.

Live Music at the Granada Theatre

8:00pm - 11:00pm in Alpine
The Granada Theatre is hosting live music organized by local artists. Performances by Natural Lite, Ross Cashiola, and The Marijuana Sweet Tooth Family Band. Drinks provided by Chateau Wright.

Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

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Free Meditation Classes for Local Law Enforcemtn, City, County, and Healthcare Workers

Thursday at 5:30pm at Marfa Public Library

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.

Valentine's in Valentine

Saturday, February 18 at 2:00pm - until close at the Old Mercantile in Valentine
11th Annual West Texas Extravaganza; Rain or Shine, Snow or Swelter! Shane Smith and the Saints are the music headliners this year. More info at valentineinvalentinetxt.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

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Administrative Assistant

Marfa Public Radio is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant locally. Candidates should live in Marfa or within commuting distance. The Administrative Assistant will provide support in three areas: visitor services, administration, and membership. They will be supervised by the Business Manager and work closely with the Membership Department. They will support management and/or operations through their work in various capacities. **This job pays \$20/hour.**

Tasks for the Administrative Assistant include:

- Welcoming visitors at front desk, answering phones
- Handling merchandise sales, premium fulfillment, and inventory
- Assisting with administrative tasks, including filing, picking up the mail, and making deposits
- Supporting membership with customer service, database entry, and member drive planning
- Assisting with event coordination

About You:

- Ability to organize and manage multiple priorities
- Excellent interpersonal skills and expertise in customer service
 - Cash register skills and interest in radio
- Experience with data entry and database systems is a plus
 - Must adhere to organizational standards of confidentiality and ethics
- Candidates bilingual in English and Spanish are strongly encouraged to apply.

To apply, email resume and letter of interest to:
work@marfapublicradio.org.

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Bachelors required, Alpine Location

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Preferably Medical Software

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

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

Please call first before arrival.

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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

ALL SHAFTER RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

There will be a community meeting and voting on starting an independent water corporation on **Tuesday, February 21, 2023** at 6:00 PM at the Catholic Church parish hall. All Shafter residents and property owners are encouraged to attend.

STORYCORPS IN MARFA

StoryCorps, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of people from all backgrounds and beliefs, is coming to Marfa from **Feb. 16 to March 10** to record interviews, in-person and virtually, as part of its Mobile Tour.

To sign up to record a conversation with a loved one, either in-person at the Marfa Public Library, or virtually, call StoryCorps' 24-hour toll-free reservation line at 1-800-850-4406 or visit storycorps.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF MARFA

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Marfa will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on February 14 2023, at Marfa City Hall located at 113 S. Highland in Marfa, Texas regarding the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for one or more Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grants for Program Year 2023. The City of Marfa may be eligible to participate in the Community Development Fund, Colonia Fund Construction Program, Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program, Fire, Ambulance & Service Truck (FAST), and/or Downtown Revitalization Program. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City of Marfa encourages citizens to participate in the development of TxCDBG application(s) and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to the City Manager at P.O. Box 787, Marfa, Texas 79843. Persons with disabilities who may require auxiliary aids or services to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (432) 729-4315 at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements.

AVISO PÚBLICO CIUDAD DE MARFA

PROGRAMA SUBVENCION PARA BLOQUES DE DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO DE TEXAS

La ciudad de Marfa llevará a cabo una audiencia pública a las 5:30 p.m. el día 14 de febrero de 2023, en la sala municipal, 113 S. Highland, en Marfa, Texas sobre la presentación de una aplicación al Departamento de Agricultura de Texas para programas sobre la Programa Subvencion Para Bloques De Desarrollo Comunitario De Texas (TxCDBG) en 2023. La ciudad de Marfa puede ser elegible para participar en TxCDBG Community Development Fund, Colonia Fund Construction Program, Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program, Fire, Ambulance & Service Truck (FAST), o ell Downtown Revitalization Program. El propósito de esta reunión es permitir a los ciudadanos la oportunidad de hablar sobre el plan de participación ciudadana, el desarrollo de las necesidades locales de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario, la cantidad de fondos disponibles de TxCDBG, todas las actividades elegibles de TxCDBG y el uso de fondos anteriores de TxCDBG. La ciudad alienta a los ciudadanos a participar en el desarrollo de esta aplicación TxCDBG y dar a conocer sus opiniones en esta audiencia pública. Los ciudadanos que no puedan asistir a esta reunión pueden enviar sus opiniones y propuestas a la administradora de la ciudad la dirección P.O. Box 787, Marfa, Texas 79843. Personas con discapacidades y otras personas que requieren ayuda o servicios auxiliares para participar en esta audiencia pueden hacer arreglos con la ciudad al 432-729-4315 al menos de dos días antes de la audiencia.

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Notice:

Dr. Katie Rays last day of seeing patients at
Preventative Care Health Services (dba)
Presidio County Health Services, Inc.
is February 28, 2023

**“It has been my great pleasure getting to know you and
be a small part of your life for these last 10 years.
Wishing you the best,
Dr. Katie Ray”**

Her patients may:

- Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic.
Make an appointment with Dr. Edith Simmons,
Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Mark Dwinell, Dr. Emily Sliz and
William Mason-FNP today.
- Obtain your medical records from this office.
- Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

AVISO:

El último día de la Dr. Katie Rays de ver a los pacientes en
Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County
Health Services, Inc. es 28 de febrero de 2023

Sus pacientes pueden:

- Permanecer como paciente en PCHS y ser cita con otro proveedor practicante en esta clínica. Haga una cita con la Dr. Edith Simmons, el Dr. Patrick Daly, el Dr. Mark Dwinell, la Dr. Emily Sliz o William Mason-FNP hoy.
- Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
- Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

**“Ha sido un gran placer conocerte y ser una pequeña
parte de tu vida durante estos últimos 10 años.
Deseándole lo mejor, Dr. Katie Ray”**



Notice:

Dr. John Rays last day of seeing patients at
Preventative Care Health Services (dba)
Presidio County Health Services, Inc.
is February 17, 2023

His patients may:

- Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic.
Make an appointment with Dr. Edith Simmons,
Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Mark Dwinell, Dr. Emily Sliz and
William Mason-FNP today.
- Obtain your medical records from this office.
- Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

AVISO:

El último día de la Dr. John Rays de ver a los pacientes en
Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County
Health Services, Inc. es 17 de febrero de 2023

Sus pacientes pueden:

- Permanecer como paciente en PCHS y ser cita con otro proveedor practicante en esta clínica. Haga una cita con la Dr. Edith Simmons, el Dr. Patrick Daly, el Dr. Mark Dwinell, la Dr. Emily Sliz o William Mason-FNP hoy.
- Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
- Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Big Bend Sentinel (ISSN 1076-1004 USPS 055-800) is published weekly, on Thursdays, 50 times a year by West Texan Media Group LLC, Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843. Annual subscription rates are \$50 in Presidio, Brewster & Jeff Davis counties, and \$60 elsewhere in Texas and the United States. Special rates apply abroad. Periodicals class postage paid at Marfa, Texas 79843.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843.