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Documents reveal plans for new Crowley hotel on US 67

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Hotelier Tim Crowley plans to construct a new 47-room hotel on the southernmost edge of town along U.S. Highway 67, according to documents obtained by The Big Bend Sentinel through an open records request. The project is slated to be built on a 1.8-acre tract of land abutting the Cordero Trailer Park land and directly across from Marfa's Border Patrol Station.

Design schematics by Houston-based firm MCS Architects show a fairly minimal design, devoid of guest amenities save for a laundry room. Per the plan, the 47 guest rooms would be spread across three floors, with private patios facing east and west. The development will include 75 parking spaces, per the plans.

Records show that a building permit application was first filed with the city in September of 2021 — which was approved — then was renewed in October of last year. The most recent permit is good for two years.

Records show that the property was owned by Felipe Cordero until 2008, when he sold it to developer Sammy Bhakta. According to detailed meetings notes kept by then-Marfa City Councilmember David Beebe, Bhakta appeared before council in 2009 requesting zoning on the land be changed from residential to commercial, which council approved.

Bhakta sold the land to current owner Cordero Property LLC — the registered agent for which is Tim Crowley — in September of 2021, weeks before the initial building permit application was filed with the city. Crowley Development LLC is listed as the contractor on the permit application.

Crowley could not be reached for comment by press time. Employees at the hotelier's development company referred The Big Bend Sentinel to a representative for Crowley, who did not return a request for comment. MCS Architects also did not return a request for comment on the project.

Marfa's public utilities supervisor, Chuck Salgado, said that the city had connected the property to sewer lines late last year after being contacted by the developer, and plans to connect it to the city's water infrastructure this month, and plans to install a fire hydrant at the site soon. He was unsure when construction on the building would begin, but anticipates it may begin in the near future.

"They haven't given me [a

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Staff photo by Allegra Hobbs

Malinda Beeman, an Antelope Hills resident of 17 years, has expressed concerns over the potential impacts she believes the planned El Cosmico expansion may have on the quiet subdivision.

After El Cosmico announces Antelope Hills move, reaction from residents is mixed

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — When hotelier Liz Lambert announced the relocation and expansion of El Cosmico, the "nomadic hotel" and campground home to the annual Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love, the news made headlines far beyond the little West Texas town it calls home. The grand, futuristic bent of Lambert's vision — to build the first-ever 3D-printed hotel, right here in the desert sprawl, plus 3D-printed homes to line the expansive property — made it an object of fascination for its architectural innovation.

But in conversations with neighbors of the prospective resort — planned for 61 acres off Antelope Hills Road, abutting the Gage Ranch — the cutting-edge technology of the venture hardly comes up. Those who own land in the quiet, sparsely-peopled subdivision outside Marfa city limits are struck more by the scale of the proposed project, which would include 120 units for hotel guests (a total number that includes tents and yurts from the old property), a restaurant, an infinity pool, and a yet-unknown number of homes. They wonder, mostly, about the development's impact on the area's water infrastructure, and on the one worn down, unpaved road that provides access to the neighborhood; the unprecedented traffic that could traverse that road; the potential crowds and noise that could interrupt the solitude that brought them to Antelope Hills in the first place.

Longtime Antelope Hills resident Malinda Beeman, an artist who runs local dairy Marfa Maid Goat Cheese, is worried about all of these issues — but for her, the expansion also signals the loss of something less tangible. She sees it as an "inflection point" in Marfa's slow transformation from a place marked by authenticity — where folks came in search of a way of life that was "simple" and "pure" — to a place that increasingly exists to manufacture an experience for visitors who are here today, gone tomorrow.

"The town's becoming a service community — not even necessarily a community, a town of service workers to tourists and second-home owners," said Beeman.

The explosion of tourism, she noted, has "enhanced" the town in many ways — when she first moved to Marfa 24 years ago, there was only one place to eat; Highland Avenue was a far cry from the shop-lined thoroughfare of local businesses it is today. But the scales are tipping too far, she believes, and this project is symbolic of that shift.

"I think at some point, someone — or a group of people — needs to say, maybe this is enough," she said. "Maybe we try to keep this at this level,

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Marfa City Council selects Gilberto Carrillo as new police chief

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — In a meeting last week, Marfa City Council announced the selection of Gilberto Carrillo as the Marfa Police Department's new chief of police. Carrillo had been serving as interim police chief since the sudden resignation of Steve Marquez, who had been in the role since the department's reconstitution in 2017.

Carrillo has also been with the department since its 2017 reformation, noted City Manager Mandy Roane, making him a natural fit for the leadership position.

"Gilbert Carrillo is an excellent officer and has been with the PD since it was reinstated, so he's very invested in its success," said Roane. "He has a deep love of the community, especially our kids, and I think he will be a great fit for the role."

Marquez tendered his resignation as chief on March 9, citing personal family matters when reached by *The Big Bend Sentinel*, stating that his "personal life and chief life were getting intertwined" and that he needed to "put [his] family first and fix some things."

In the wake of Marquez's departure, Carrillo said he plans to uphold the previous chief's tenants of community engagement and transparency.

"The department's going to run the same way — everything that he had and he started, we're just going to keep doing the same thing," said Carrillo in an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "The community, that's our biggest concern. The office is open for everyone to walk in at any time and speak to us. We will keep that same transparency with the community."

Carrillo, who is originally from El Paso, will serve as the department's second official chief of police. He said he had been effectively acting as an assistant to Marquez for years, since he became a lieutenant with the department — a promotion that came just seven months after he first joined the force.

Marfa PD Officer Nichole Fuentes, who has several years of law enforcement experience, will now move up into the lieutenant role as Carrillo takes over as chief. In addition to officers Arturo Alferez and Adriana Rodriguez, the PD recently hired and oversees a Marfa ISD school resource

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After bust at Presidio International Bridge, concerns about fentanyl resurface

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last month, the office of the Fiscalía General del Estado de Chihuahua (State of Chihuahua Attorney General) launched a campaign with the slogan "Despierta: fentanilo está cerca" ("Wake up: fentanyl is close"). State officials sounded the alarm after over 430 million fentanyl pills were seized by police in 15 months, mainly concentrated along the border in Ciudad Juárez.

Information about fentanyl flooded TV and radio stations across the border state — including in Ojinaga. Before the end of last year, there was little reason for Presidio-Ojinaga locals to be concerned about the powerful narcotic, an opioid 100 times stronger than morphine. "Fentanilo mata — no te riesgas," one ad broadcast hourly Ojinaga's La Poderosa implores. "Fentanyl kills — don't risk it."

But the drug has now surfaced in Presidio County, albeit in smaller quantities than in seizures farther west. On November 23, a driver on the Presidio International Bridge was flagged by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A secondary investigation revealed 32 pounds of methamphetamine and two pounds of fentanyl — marking the first time that fentanyl was recovered by local authorities.

On January 12, CBP personnel at the Presidio Port of Entry pulled another vehicle into secondary for a search that would yield 15.43 pounds of fentanyl — once again transported alongside a shipment of methamphetamine.

"This is a sizable amount of two very dangerous drugs that will not reach their intended destination," said Acting Port Director Ronnie Raulston.

Back in October, when Presidio County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Joel Nuñez gave a presentation at Presidio High School for concerned parents, the drug's appearance in the county was purely hypothetical. He offered information about warning signs of narcotics abuse, but also stressed that fentanyl had not yet entered the local supply. "We have not had any cases here, but it's very close," he said. The port's first fentanyl bust occurred a few weeks later.

The Presidio Port of Entry has only just begun tracking data, but trends at other ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border show alarming increases in the quantity of fentanyl seized. Over

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City of Presidio to charge $1,000 permit fee for game room machines

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — The City of Presidio is continuing to draft an ordinance that would institute official fees and regulations for the city's game rooms. At this week's City Council meeting, officials decided to institute a $1,000 permit fee for each machine in the rooms — a move that elicited protests from one local game room operator, who insists such fees are punitive and would hurt her legal business.

There are currently two game rooms open within city limits, but widespread crackdowns in the Permian Basin have left city officials wondering if more could set up shop on the border. Amidst pushback, officials have been working to solidify an ordinance aimed towards stricter oversight of the businesses, though no such ordinance has been passed after months of deliberation.

Game rooms offer slot machine-style gaming and other diversions intended to simulate gambling. Gambling is officially illegal in the state of Texas, but game rooms operate within the bounds of the law by not offering cash prizes on site.

In bigger Texas cities, some government officials have started to associate game rooms with an uptick in crimes such as prostitution, armed robbery and DUIs. The City of Odessa recently opted to not renew game room licenses, effectively banning the businesses after December 2022.

The City of Alpine currently has four game rooms, and the City of Presidio has looked to their ordinance for guidance — with a few exceptions. Alpine put a cap on the number of establishments, but Presidio's counsel advised that that might not be the best way of culling their numbers. "If it's a legal business, then why would we limit the number of legal businesses?" wondered City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez.

The city ultimately decided to model the text of their ordinance on the text of a game room ordinance in Dilley, Texas — in Rodriguez's words, a "little bitty town" with 10 game rooms.

At the City Council meeting on March 21, game room owner Flor Montoya passionately defended her business and decried the new requirements. In the proposed ordinance, she would need to pay $1,000 a year per machine — after years of not paying for permits in Presidio at all. "It's way steep," she said.

She said that her business had a right to exist just as any other legal business and that she provided an important entertainment outlet for the community. Her chief contribution: providing a public place to have fun that isn't a bar. "It's a place to have fun, have friends and get a lot of stress out," she said.

Montoya also owns a game room in Fort Stockton — she had previously owned one in Odessa as well before their city council voted not to renew any permits. She believed that the rules in Fort Stockton were much more lenient.

Councilmember Nancy Arevalo said that the introduction of fees and regulations were an attempt to generate money for the city — money perhaps needed much more

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El Cosmico

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that we maintain what's important here and what people came here for, what's valued here, instead of just adding more and more and more and more and more."

She has practical concerns too — chief among them is how the resort's water usage will impact locals' wells. "It seems like that's a lot of water to run in a little community in one spot," she said. "How does that impact our aquifer, our water table?"

She wonders how travel to and from the site will be made possible along that one dirt road that pools with water when it rains, and how noise and light could impact her quality of life and the environment. She questions the safety of increased traffic along the state highway that leads to Antelope Hills Road — a poorly-lit stretch of highway that includes a sharp curve.

She doesn't believe Antelope Hills is the best location for such a venture but acknowledges she can't halt the project — she can, however, bring her questions and concerns to county officials, and she can organize with like-minded neighbors.

"I'm just trying to know more about it, trying to understand more, and trying to find allies, other people who share those concerns," she said.

In fact, the formation of a neighborhood association is currently in the works — if formalized, it may bring together neighbors with varied perspectives to lobby for the community's future, beyond Lambert's project. Beeman is involved in talks about that group's formation, but stressed that her opinions were hers alone, and she did not speak for anyone but herself.

Organizer Deirdre Hisler emphasized that the fledgling association was not initiated in response to El Cosmico — it first began forming months prior to the announcement, with the goal of bringing residents together to form, hopefully, a "harmonious community" that could more effectively work with county officials when it comes to shared concerns.

Hisler introduced herself at a recent commissioners court meeting as "temporary president" of the group — in conversation with The Big Bend Sentinel, she clarified the title was a stopgap measure as they register as a Property Owners' Association with the Texas secretary of state, after which board members will be formally appointed. She said that while she has concerns about the project, her goal is not to protest or stymie its development, but to facilitate a dialogue with the developer directly. She has spoken with Lambert over the phone and was left heartened by the conversation, she said.

"I just asked that we have a place at the table to chat about what our concerns would be," she said.

In response, said Hisler, Lambert affirmed her team had been discussing the concerns raised by residents — including concerns around the water supply and dark skies conservation — and wanted to stay in touch. "The team has been wonderful about getting back to us and having a two-way conversation," said Hisler. They plan to meet in person when Lambert is next in town.

"I don't think we'd get that from a Holiday Inn or whatever else might move out here," she said.

It remains to be seen how large the group will be — Hisler estimated that they'd received responses to about a half to three-quarters of questionnaires they'd sent gauging interest.

Antelope Hills resident Kristal Cuevas was among those who received a survey and expressed interest in joining. Once news of the El Cosmico expansion broke, the group's formation took on a new urgency — she received an email from organizers indicating, essentially, the time to band together and make their collective voices heard was now.

"We're not entirely against it," said Cuevas, adding that Hisler's recounting of her conversation with Lambert made her feel hopeful about the project's handling. Still, she was not without her concerns: "There are things that have caused us to be disappointed as residents and nearby neighbors."

Cuevas lives in Antelope Hills full-time — a choice she and her family made due to the relative solitude. She wonders how the arrival of a 120-unit hotel with events and an annual music festival, plus the expected influx of visitors, could pierce that solitude.

"We left a big city because we wanted a more quiet space, and we found that quiet space," said Cuevas. "This has been like a respite, a sanctuary where we can just enjoy the quiet, and we are somewhat concerned about what kind of noise this is going to bring to the area."

Cuevas enjoys walking the neighborhood loop with her family, basking in the silence, the landscape and the surrounding wildlife; she enjoys the dark skies untouched by light pollution; she worries about the incursion of non-residential traffic and its potential to make the roads less safe for her children; she is concerned the resort's entrance will be on Antelope Hills Road, flooding the road with visitors' vehicles.

Then there is the matter of the area's water supply — top of mind for residents who depend on their wells. Cuevas hoped her family would not have to pare down its water usage once the space was up and running.

The formation of a neighborhood association, she believes, will be useful in soliciting answers to her outstanding questions and addressing her concerns about the project. But it will also give residents the tools to mobilize in the future, as Marfa and the surrounding land continues to grow.

"I'm hopeful that the organization of a neighborhood association will just give us a platform to speak our minds and share our opinions, whether it be with Liz or any other concerns that come up in the future with our neighborhood," she said.

Like Hisler and Cuevas, other residents refrain from taking a hardlined position on the matter. "I'm not freaking out," said George Hinckley, who lives part-time in an airstream in the neighborhood. "People have a right to buy land to develop. But it is concerning. I enjoy the peace and quiet out here, and I suspect that will change some."

Others, on the other end of the spectrum from Beeman, are more inclined to feel positively about the development. Resident Mary Lou Saxon balked at the negative sentiment she'd seen from other locals — after all, she said, Antelope Hills was already changing, becoming home to new commercial enterprises, including several gallery spaces. She appreciated Lambert's decision to publicize her plan in advance.

"What makes this one raise the ire of folks? Is it because they came out ahead of the project with transparency in the paper rather than just buy the land and install what they wanted?" she asked, alluding to Lambert's open letter to the community, published in this newspaper, announcing the plan. "I personally think that El Cosmico is a unique and creative concept."

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentine*l, Lambert affirmed her commitment to being open with the community as plans solidify, and providing information as plans become more concrete — as it stands, she said, many of the practical questions on the minds of locals are still being explored.

"It's a process of, we've got to figure it out," she said. "We've got to figure out roads. We have to figure out water. We have to figure out sustainability on many different counts." An investment in dark skies, she said, was among the reasons she was excited about the move — away from the bright lights of the Border Patrol building adjacent to the current site.

Part of the process moving forward, she said, is taking into account the concerns of residents. "We're interested in feedback," she said. "We've thought about feedback, we've thought about what the community might want and need." She said she plans to make regular trips to Marfa, and to make herself available for feedback.

"Marfa is the home of this business," she continued. "[El Cosmico] has been a part of the community, and an active and engaged member of the business community and the community overall — and so of course this would be our process."

In some ways, tackling the concerns of neighbors will be a matter of applying lessons learned from 15 years of



Courtesy of Liz Lambert

A map showing the approximate perimeter of the proposed El Cosmico site off Antelope Hills road.

operating at the current site, said Lambert — neighbors to that site had also raised concerns about noise. "It's not going to be that different. We're going to be a little farther from town," she said. "Of course, it will affect a different set of neighbors. We've learned a lot in the last 15 years about what the community is concerned about and, sometimes, what the community wants more of, so I hope we can apply all of those lessons."

As for concerns about attracting or promoting more tourism, Lambert disagreed with the idea that building more hotel space will attract more visitors — in her experience, she said, Marfa's current hotel capacity has failed to match existing tourism demands, feeding the creation of more short-term rentals. "The demand of tourism is there already, and has been for at least the last 10 or 15 years," she said. "It's been in short supply for hotel rooms."

Lambert said her team is still in the process of securing the funding for the project — "we have an equity partner, and we are going through the machinations to finalize our partnership and that could take a few more months," she said. If all goes according to plan, they plan to break ground on the development in early 2024.

County Judge Joe Portillo said he anticipates more public discourse on the matter before the project moves forward in earnest — for one, he noted, officials will likely consider the potential pavement of Antelope Hills Road, which is maintained by the county. In any case, constituents will remain informed on the development's progress before its construction.

"There's going to be public meetings on it," said Portillo. "I know in discussing just the initial idea with the commissioners, they have the same questions as constituents, and they have concerns. So I don't think they're just going to act willy-nilly and just [say] 'We're going to do this.' I don't think that's going to happen."

Permit fee

(Continued from page 1)

urgently in Presidio than cities in the oil-rich Permian Basin. "We need money," she said. "But you've opened our eyes and we need to think about this."

Council considered lowering the fees and ultimately stuck to their guns. At Tuesday's meeting, they decided not to scrap language detailing a $1,000 per year per machine fee, and considered designing a pay schedule to increase fees for owners with higher numbers of machines.

City Secretary Brenda Lee Ornelas-Acuña chimed in to discussion to voice her support for the fees — she pointed out that the only money the city takes in from the game rooms currently is the water and waste services all Presidians pay for. "If these game rooms weren't making money they wouldn't be here," she said. "I don't understand why Presidio would have to be different."

Councilmember Arian Velásquez-Ornelas agreed — especially as Presidio's economy grows. "We're trying to generate something for the future," she said

New police chief

(Continued from page 1)

officer, Ian Martinez, who will serve as an officer for the city while school is out for the summer. The department also has an opening for a new officer.

Carrillo said his short stint as interim chief of police was likely due to the fact that the department requires a permanent leader in order to function properly. He gathered that council members preferred to hire from within the department than attempt to attract a new chief of police, as the cost of living in Marfa makes it difficult to attract outside hires. (Roane noted that a chief must be in place in order to abide by grant and reimbursement requirements, but declined to comment further. Mayor Manny Baeza did not return requests for comment).

Carrillo is up to date on necessary training, in accordance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, which requires all police officers undergo 40 hours of training every two years. He estimates he's amassed over 2,000 hours of training — both fundamental and additional supplemental training — throughout his career.

Before entering into his profession in law enforcement, Carrillo worked as a general manager of his father's restaurant in El Paso starting at age 18 and ultimately owned his own restaurant — experiences he said helped develop his leadership skills.

Future of Presidio County Annex uncertain as mold problem worsens

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — After rain and snow hit the Big Bend region on March 18, a familiar foe resurfaced at the Presidio County Annex: a mold problem that has been growing with each weather event over the past few months. Building B has been besieged by brown, stained walls and soggy carpet since the fall of last year, leaving Presidio-based officials to wonder when repairs will begin in earnest.

The issue was brought to the attention of Presidio County Commissioners Court in August after weeks of sustained flooding left water leaking from the roof and pooling on the carpet. "Water is coming in from the walls, the doors, everywhere," Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Juanita Bishop told the commissioners.

Presidio officials' request for funding came just after the county dedicated its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds — an infusion of federal stimulus cash to local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic — to the Marfa firehouse. After months of deliberation, the county had decided to use the funds to help make necessary repairs to the building, to the tune of $224,000.

Former Precinct 3 Commissioner Eloy Aranda originally moved to rescind the funding from the Marfa Fire Station and divert some of the allotted cash to fixing the annex building. Then-County Judge Cinderela Guevara quickly nipped that idea in the bud, but sent William Helm of El Paso's in•situ architecture to inspect the building.

In the process of his inspection, Helm discovered that the metal roof on Annex Building B was the roof original to the building — the gaskets holding it in place had been rotted by the sun, allowing water to seep in and pool beneath the shingles.

In the past few weeks, conditions deteriorated to the point that the office of Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Juanita Bishop was shifted from Building B to Building C, which had formerly been used only as a polling location. Her courtroom hasn't moved — the highest concentration of damage was done to the office itself.

The process of moving all of the furniture out of the building revealed a crime scene outline of mold under Bishop's desk. She and her two part-time employees said they'd been suffering from headaches since the heavy rains in August and September.

After the heavy rain, they worked with their doors open — which wasn't ideal with the gusty desert winds. When the mold worsened, she moved from carrying out her duties as justice of the peace at her desk to a cramped couch. "My head was pounding," she said.

For now, the building's future is up in the air — Precinct 2 Commissioner Margarito Hernandez brought up the possibility of repairs at the last Commissioners Court meeting. "With all that water coming into the building, the walls could collapse," he said. "I think we have to take priority on it and take care of the roof."

County Judge Joe Portillo didn't yet have a firm timeline — but promised that discussion would continue. "It's going to get more expensive if we don't address it now," he said. "I'll spend some time looking at it and put it on the agenda again."

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Fentanyl

(Continued from page 1)

the past two fiscal years, the amount of seized fentanyl has doubled. CBP estimates that seizures will surpass last year's count by April.

Fentanyl was originally formulated as a palliative drug, but has since flooded the black market as a cheaper, lab-produced alternative to drugs like heroin. Many people who sell fentanyl or overdose on fentanyl aren't aware they're doing so — an *LA Times* investigation revealed that many border town pharmacies selling opioids under the counter were actually selling knockoffs laced with the drug.

In bigger American cities, the prevalence of fentanyl in street narcotics has spiraled into a full-blown epidemic. In Nashville, 79% of forensic toxicology reports conducted after overdose deaths reflected the presence of fentanyl; in New Orleans, that number was 95%.

Fentanyl is the agency's most-frequently seized synthetic opioid. Last year, 31 fentanyl "analogues" were also detected — meaning that there are more attempts than ever before to reproduce the drug's effects in impromptu labs.

The bulk of CBP's fentanyl busts are initially discovered by canines — in fiscal year 2022, canine teams detected 10,736 pounds of fentanyl at the border. Suspected shipments are then sampled and tested to determine their precise makeup. Staff at the Presidio Port of Entry use a "presumptive testing glove box" — a clear plexiglass cage with built-in gloves that staff can use to test substances safely.

Facility protocol dictates that the "glove box" be used outside in a ventilated area with Narcan on hand. The policy is intended to pre-empt the ever-evolving narcotics market rather than reflect actual risk — contrary to urban legend, coming into contact with fentanyl isn't automatically dangerous. (One study estimated that it would take 200 minutes of inhaling fentanyl at high airborne concentrations to yield a therapeutic dose.)

Around half of all CBP field operations staff are trained in Narcan, or naloxone, intervention. Naloxone is a user-friendly drug that can rapidly reverse opioid overdose — anyone interested in learning how to use the drug can learn to do so in as little as 20 minutes.

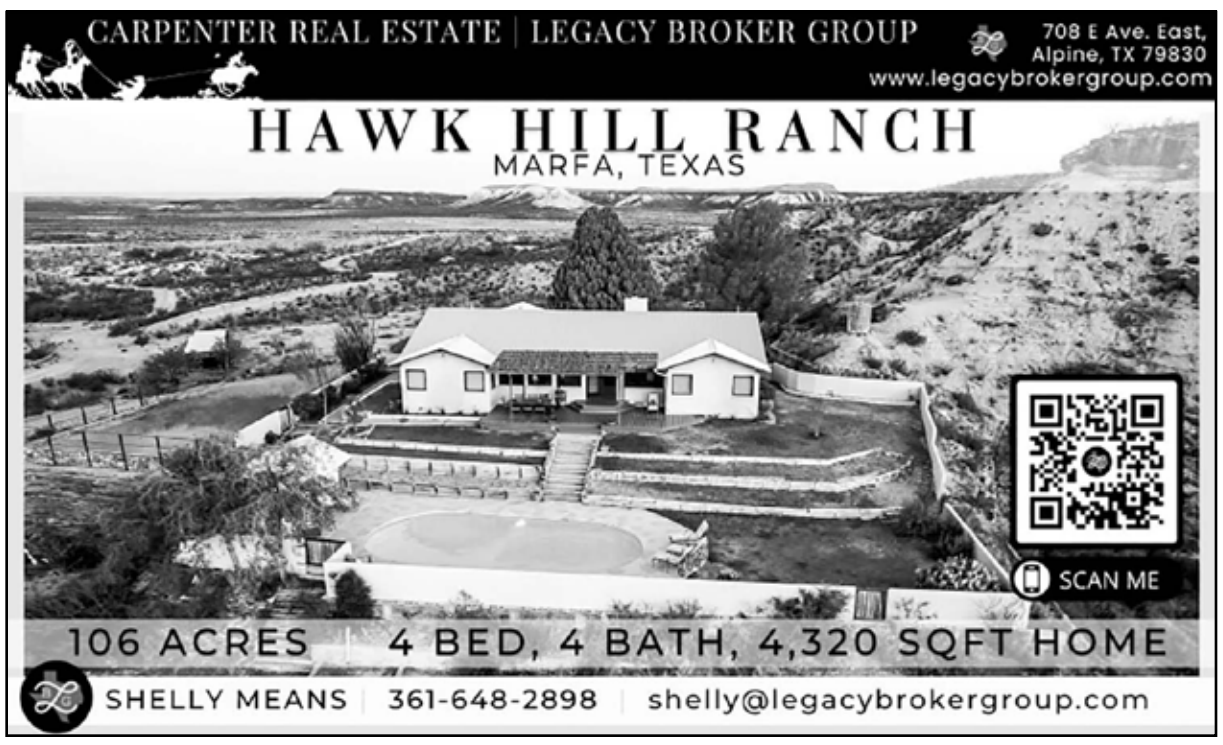
Presidio POE staff carry Narcan, as do the Presidio County Sheriff's Office and the Presidio ISD Police Department. Margarito Hernandez, chief of the Presidio Police Department, recently started stocking his patrol vehicles with the drug as well. So far, local federal officials are the only law enforcement who have had to deal with fentanyl — but he feels it's better to be safe than sorry. "It's kind of scary — I hope it doesn't come across," he said.

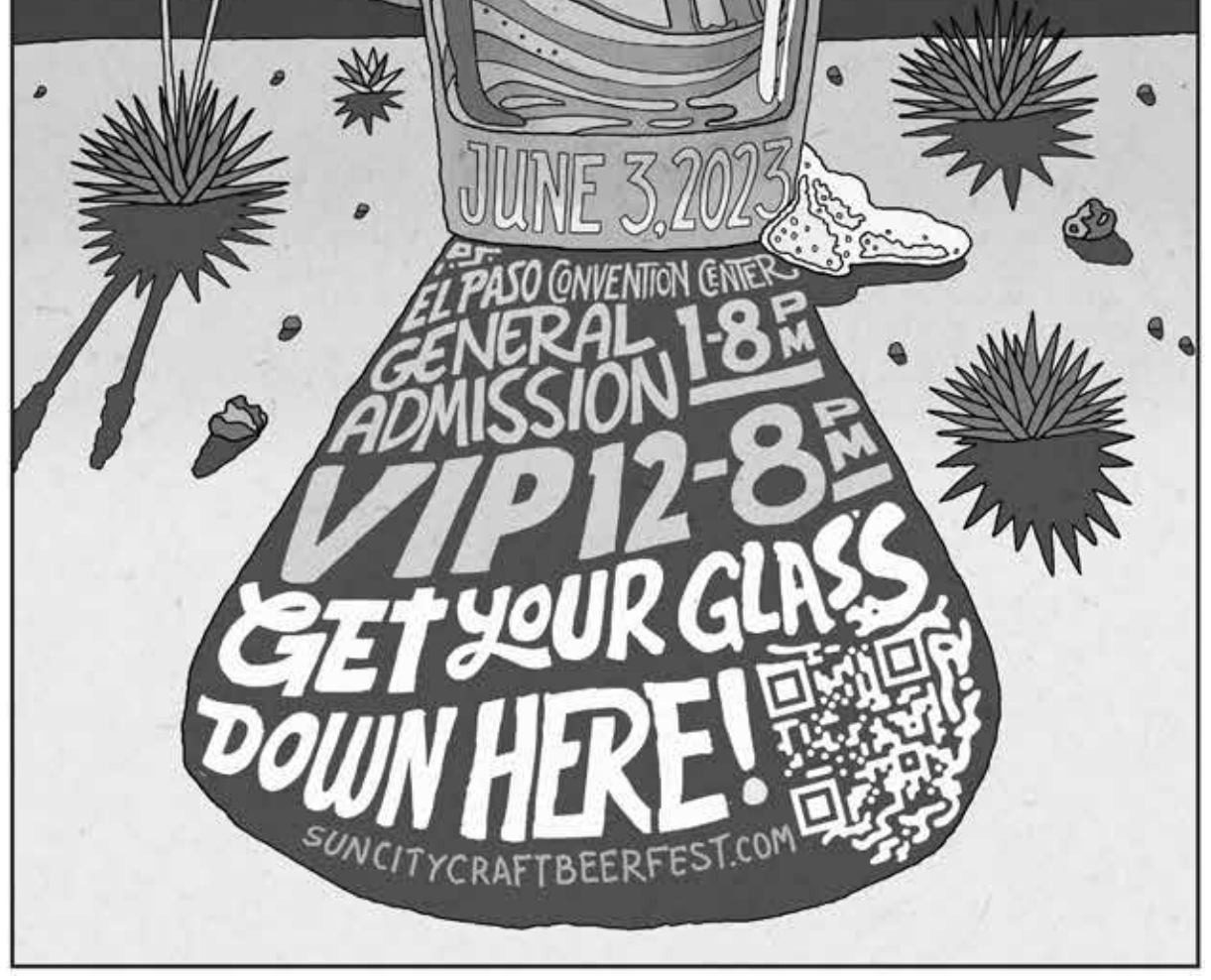
Crowley hotel

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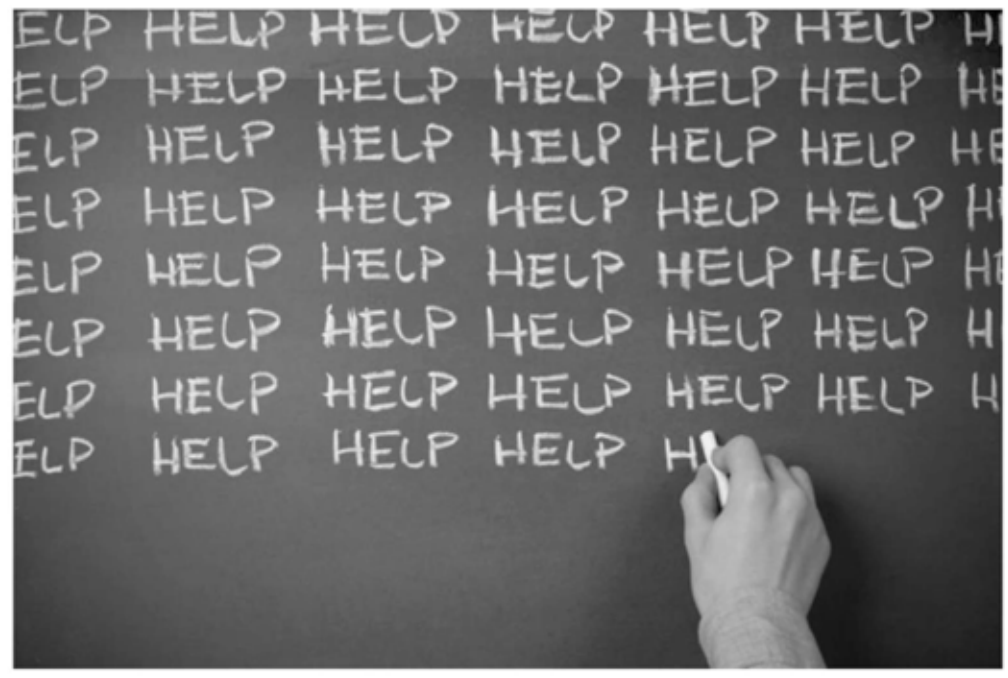
timeline of] when they start building," said Salgado. "I think it's going to be soon, because we're going to be putting in a fire hydrant there as well — I know they really wanted that hydrant in before they started construction."

Crowley has also planned to build a 47-room hotel, equipped with a pool and spa on U.S. Highway 90, at the former site of the Apache Pines RV Park and the Stardust Motel. The status of that project, which sits just outside Marfa city limits, was not immediately clear.









Public Schools in Crisis

Join the Forum for Solutions

John Porras, Regional Advocacy Director with Raise Your Hand Texas will offer a public education update on the 88th Texas Legislative session and speak about the importance of advocacy in West Texas rural communities. Open to all.

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: Cueva de Leon Restaurant patio

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Alpine is the happening place in West Texas. There are a lot of good things going on. The City of Alpine just submitted a large grant application to Tony Gonzales' office for a community grant to repair our aged and ailing wastewater treatment plant. We also recently broke ground on updating Pueblo Nuevo Park after receiving a matching grant. The Zoning and Planning Board has a workshop and historic district walking tour coming up on April 24 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Holland Hotel, and the hotel occupancy tax grant applications open up on April 6. More information for most of these items can be found on the homepage of the City of Alpine Website. The city is one of the sponsors of a pet adoption and fundraiser at the Granada on April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and meet your new best friend. There are many other great things going on around town in conjunction with the city. For residents of Ward 5, voting will be in Alpine City Council Chambers.

The City of Alpine is required by the state of Texas to hold the Ward 5 council member election in May between Rick Stephens and Jerry Johnson. If the late Councilman Jerry Johnson wins, the city council will appoint someone to fill his seat until another election is held next May 6, 2023, with early voting being April 24, 2023 through April 28, 2023, and May 1, 2023 through May 2, 2023.

Alpine is also home to a lot of active nonprofits that are working on some great initiatives. The Alpine Historical Association is the organization that plans and implements things such as our mural tours, the Christmas Stroll and the Ghost Tours. There are three Ghost Tours coming up this month. One on Thursday, April 13, Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15. This is also the organization that will place flags on your property for various patriotic holidays.

Of course, you don't want to miss out on the Gem and Mineral Show opening on April 14, and running through April 16 at the Civic Center. Another exciting event coming up the following weekend is the Second Annual Spirits of the West Festival starting on Friday, April 21, and going through Saturday, April 22.

The nonprofit Alpine Community Projects is working on putting a summer activities schedule together for ages 3-18 so that everyone will know what is available. In addition, this group has moved into Phase 2 of the Green House Nursing Home Project with funding from the hospital district. Within the next few years, it is quite possible that we will have a nontraditional, innovative nursing home facility in Alpine.

The Alpine Business Association (ABA) is working on determining what business in Alpine needs in order to thrive and succeed. Volunteers from the group went out and surveyed various businesses throughout Alpine to determine what the greatest needs are and what they need from the ABA.

The Kiwanis is having their annual Easter egg hunt this Saturday at 10 a.m. at Kokernot Park. At 10:30 a.m. the Farmer's Market will hold their annual Easter egg hunt. The Lion's Club is looking to donate a park bench or bicycle rack to the city, possibly for Pueblo Nuevo Park.

There are so many other wonderful events and activities going on in Alpine over the next several months that I didn't mention here. So, be sure to listen to KVLF, check out the newspaper, and watch for postings on the Alpine Facebook Community pages so that you don't miss out on the fun.

Catherine Eaves
Mayor of Alpine

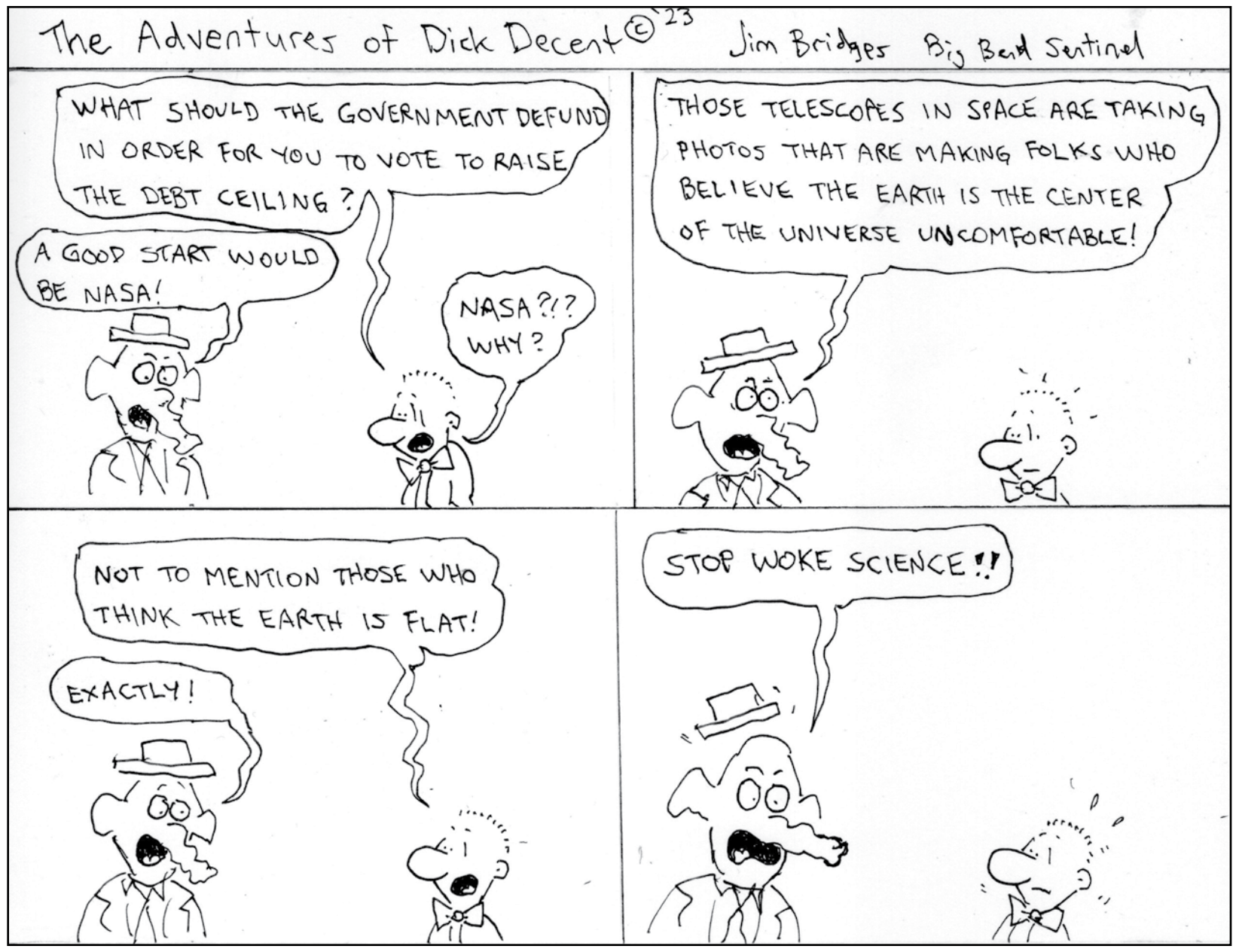
• • •

Dear Readers of *The Big Bend Sentinel*:

In my January 19 opinion piece, "How Marfa, Texas Came by its Russian Name," I expressed doubts about a previous explanatory claim, published in Wikipedia, that Marfa derives from a novel by Jules Verne, *Michael Strogoff*. I knew Jules Verne as a writer of science fiction, not about Russia, and so made sure to read the book, which had been translated into English soon after its French publication in 1876. It is an entertaining, sort of madcap adventure tale, but in its depiction of supposedly Russian historical events it might as well be science fiction. The Marfa character, although the mother of the novel's hero, makes few appearances, and I found it very unlikely that she was memorable enough to readers to have become the namesake of Marfa, Texas.

Mr. Barry Popick, apparently the author of the Wikipedia entry (whose name I regrettably didn't know because I didn't see it mentioned in connection with the entry) has written a letter to the editor (March 29) defending his claim that Marfa comes from Jules Verne, not Karamzin's *Marfa the Mayoress*, which is my contention.

Mr. Popick and I agree on one thing: that the often-heard explanation of Marfa coming out of Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* is unsustainable because the novel only appeared in English translation in 1912, while Marfa got its name in 1882. Concerning the likelihood of Jules Verne being the source of Marfa, Mr. Popick makes a strong case by citing contemporary newspaper references to *Michael Strogoff*, arguing that Jules Verne was a popular author, and adding, more significant to his argument, that the novel had also been made into a stage play in which Marfa is a much more prominent character than in the novel. He believes these circumstances surrounding *Michael Strogoff* fit into the time frame of Marfa's naming and support his claim that this is where the name has its source. Notwithstanding my negative evaluation of Jules Verne's novel as the source of Marfa, I have to grant Mr. Popick that with his citation of the stage adaptation of the novel, and its mention in the Galveston newspaper, he makes a credible case for a Jules Verne-based naming of Marfa.



But when all is said and done, the question of Marfa's naming can't be answered with absolute certainty; we can make educated but, in the end, speculative guesses based on the circumstantial data that can be produced. With all due deference to Mr. Popick's claim to have found the definitive answer, I still prefer the claim I make: namely, that the name came from a venturesome, perceptive reader — my hunch being it was the wife of Charles Crocker, one of the Big Four railroad tycoons bankrolling the Southern Pacific's construction project — who in her reading, including English translations of Russian literature, comes across *Marfa the Mayoress*, one of the most celebrated women in Russian history and the heroine of Karamzin's historical novel. Mr. Popick makes light of my choice of this book as a possible source for Marfa and even claims the Russian original was never translated into English, which is not true – how else would I have found *Marfa the Mayoress* without its having been first translated from *Marfa-Posadnitsa*?

I'll leave it at that and humbly ask folks in Marfa who care to reflect about the origin of their town's name to choose for themselves which of the proposed storylines they find more appealing and believable.

Peter Fischer
Clayton, NC

• • •

Friends:

Do you love swimming? Do you want to support those in the Marfa community who need swim lessons?

Here's your chance!

Swim season is approaching, and the Marfa pool is in need of two things: lifeguards and the funding to recruit them.

Those of us who organize the annual Summer Shake Up program for local kids want to add swim lessons to the calendar of month-long activities offered this June. Local swim lessons have been available only sporadically over the years, and none in recent memory. Many Marfans both young and old lack this important life skill. Likewise, it's been difficult to hire and retain lifeguards to stay for the entire summer.

We've located seasoned, qualified instructors from Alpine who are eager to teach our kids. The City of Marfa has agreed to open the pool for these lessons, which is great. Now we've got to locate lifeguard candidates and pay their wages for the Summer Shake Up lesson time.

Our goal is to recruit four lifeguards. Lifeguards will make $13 per hour; the supervisor earns $15. Training will be provided and participants will be paid. Lifeguards are expected to keep the pool open all of June, July and into mid-August. If the lifeguards stay through the end of the summer, we'll throw in a bonus of up to $500 ($550 for the supervisor).

The total expenses for swim class is projected to be $5,300. We should be able to accommodate four to eight students per class, twice a day with a potential of reaching 32-64 children.

The Marfa Parks and Rec Board has kindly offered to contribute $2,000 toward this endeavor, and we have approximately $1,500 in in-kind donations pledged. That leaves $1,800 we must raise.

If you want to be a lifeguard, contact Mandy Roane, mroane@cityofmarfa.com, 432-729-4315.

If you'd like to donate, contact Michael Roch via email, mroch@chinati.org. All donations will be made to the Marfa Education Foundation (501-C3), which will gift donations to Marfa ISD to pay instructors and guards for the June programming and summer end bonuses.

Thank you so much for your help! Through fostering new and newly improved swimmers, Marfa can impart a skill that will benefit our community members for all their lives.

Sincerely,

Michael Roch
Chinati Foundation education director & Summer Shake Up provider

We want to hear from YOU!

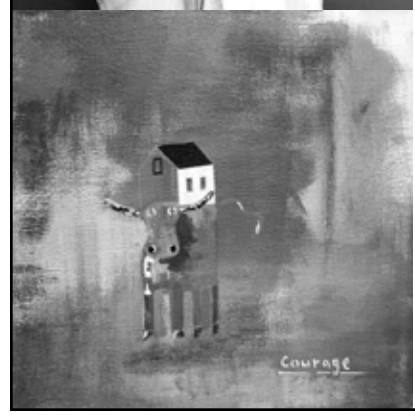
- Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@bigbendsentinel.com, and must provide the writer's full name, city of residence and an email or phone number, so that we may follow up and verify information as needed.
- Your letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. While opinions of all kinds are welcome, when it comes to claims of fact, we strive to only publish what is verifiable.
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*- **The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff***

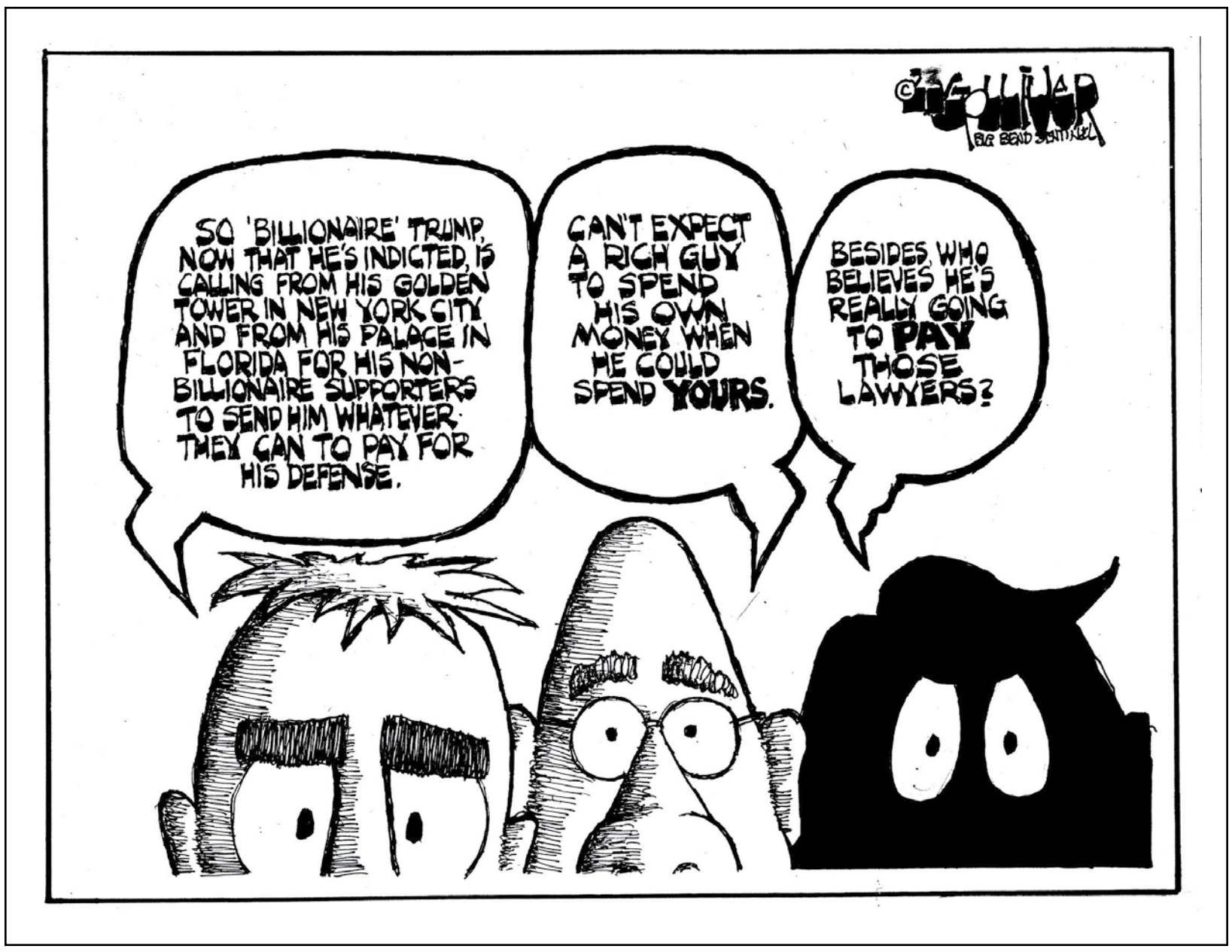
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I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen is made possible through the generous support of the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Carl & Marilynn Thoma Foundation, and the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, with additional support 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

Ethan Azarian visits the Big Bend this week!
Hopelessly original, refreshingly out of touch, Ethan Azarian, raconteur from Vermont, has become an entirely respectable Austin singer, songwriter, painter and muralist.
His 'On the Fringe Tour,' with son Francis Knight, visits the Big Bend this week. 4 towns, 4 free musical performances, iconic artwork for sale.
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OUR WATER MATTERS

Thinking globally. Acting locally.

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

In a landmark report titled "Turning the Tide: A Call to Collective Action," the Global Commission on the Economics of Water recently warned that "we now face the prospect of a 40% shortfall in freshwater supply by 2030, with severe shortages in water-constrained regions." The authors emphasize that the world is "seeing the consequences not of freak events, nor of population growth and economic development, but of our mismanagement of water." The water crisis "is now systemic. One that is both local and global."

The report was released ahead of last month's United Nations Water Conference in New York, the first such global gathering on the topic of water in nearly 50 years. As with so many of these kinds of events, the proceedings were long on talk and short on action. Hardly any world leaders attended, and the conference received very little press coverage. Gloom and doom seem to be the only takeaways from these sorts of reports, and it is this preponderance of bad news that can make water issues seem overwhelming.

Readers will have experienced this elsewhere in the press and on the internet. A water issue is presented, such as the global freshwater shortage, and the reporting always seems to follow the same formula. It goes something like this: "Here's something really messed up. Look at all these insurmountable obstacles. Look at all the people in authority doing nothing about it. Look at the many actors obstructing any progress or solution. Isn't this terrible? Oh well, have a nice day!"

The good news in our arid region is that we are blessed with abundant freshwater in the aquifers beneath our county. But when thinking about the water challenges facing our region, it is important to keep in mind that we are entirely dependent on these aquifers for our freshwater. In other words, all of our freshwater comes from the aquifers beneath the ground, and the protection of these aquifers will be indispensable to ensuring the continued prosperity (and survival) of our communities.

One of the most powerful tools available for the protection of groundwater in Texas is a local groundwater conservation district. These districts are the preferred method of groundwater management in Texas because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation. But groundwater protection is about more than just rules. Data and science are also necessary to ensure wise decision-making and dynamic management practices.

The Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District has been working hard to incorporate data and science into its approach to groundwater management. With the development of a county-wide system to monitor water levels, the district is gaining a better understanding of the health of our aquifers. The district has also been successful in creating partnerships and securing grants to get this important work done. These partnerships and grants will ensure that the district can continue to operate on a very conservative budget.

Another step on the path toward protecting our groundwater for the future is the upcoming election on May 6 when the voters will be asked to approve the groundwater conservation district's authority to levy a tax. In order to ensure that this new taxing authority will not raise net property taxes, the district has entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Presidio County Commissioners Court. The agreement establishes the framework for a "tax-rate swap" in which the county will decrease its tax rate to offset the increase in new taxes levied by the groundwater district. This will provide a dedicated revenue stream for the protection of our groundwater while bringing the groundwater district into compliance with the law.

In order to educate the public and raise awareness of the importance of the election on May 6, the district has launched a series of short films, including "How Groundwater Works," "Groundwater Law in Texas," "The Role of Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas," "Origins of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District," and "Vote Yes on Proposition 1!" These short, shareable films are available on the district's website: pcuwcd.org.

This election is an opportunity for Presidio County voters to move beyond the gloom of the latest news cycle and act locally to protect our future. If the voters fail to approve the district's taxing authority, the groundwater district — and the protections it alone can provide — could cease to exist in Presidio County. Visit pcuwcd.org to learn more.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as Board Chairman of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He earns his living as a translator of technical documents from German to English for the German and Swiss pharmaceutical and medical-science industries. Trey has lived in Marfa since 2013.

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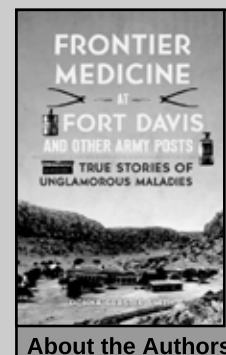
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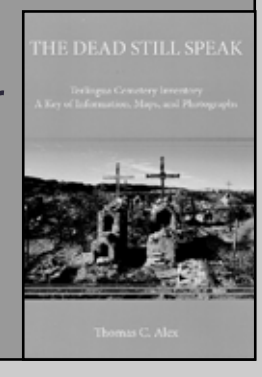
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About the Authors: *Donna writes of curious maladies; Tom writes of the dead buried in Terlingua Cemetery*

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Community

Webb Gallery two-artist show, 'Sparkle Town,' opens April 8

FORT DAVIS — Webb's Fair and Square art gallery, located in the old Masonic lodge on Front Street in Fort Davis, will open a new exhibition titled Sparkle Town, featuring the work of Heather Sundquist Hall and Jane Reichle from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8.

Both artists will be in attendance at the opening, and there will be cold beer and record spinning.

The show will be up until April 21. Works for sale and the gallery's hours will be posted online at webbartgallery.com. While it will be Reichle's first time exhibiting with Webb Gallery, Sundquist Hall is a "longtime gallery favorite," according to owner Julie Webb.

Reichle, born in 1998 in Bryan, Texas, is a Texan with a love for the fancy hand embroidery of the past found on vintage suits of Western wear. Webb said the artist's style differs from what most people think of when they hear the word embroidery.

"She uses embroidery to express her fascination with irreverent subcultures, strange objects, grandiose fashion, anarchist music, and colors that blow our hats off," said Webb. "She often draws on cult classic music and films in her work as well as other eccentric media. As an artist, Jane's practice is focused on creating art at the intersection of pleasant and peculiar."

Sundquist Hall is an artist based in Smithville, Texas. Her paintings are drawn from memories, nostalgia and narratives. Much of the focus of Sundquist Hall's work is on the details and quiet aspects of life.

"It's the subtle shift in light at sunset she pays homage to, or even the kind of plaid [that donned] a couch that was in her grandmother's house in 1986. These often overlooked details become characters in her stories and illuminate memories through new eyes," said Webb.

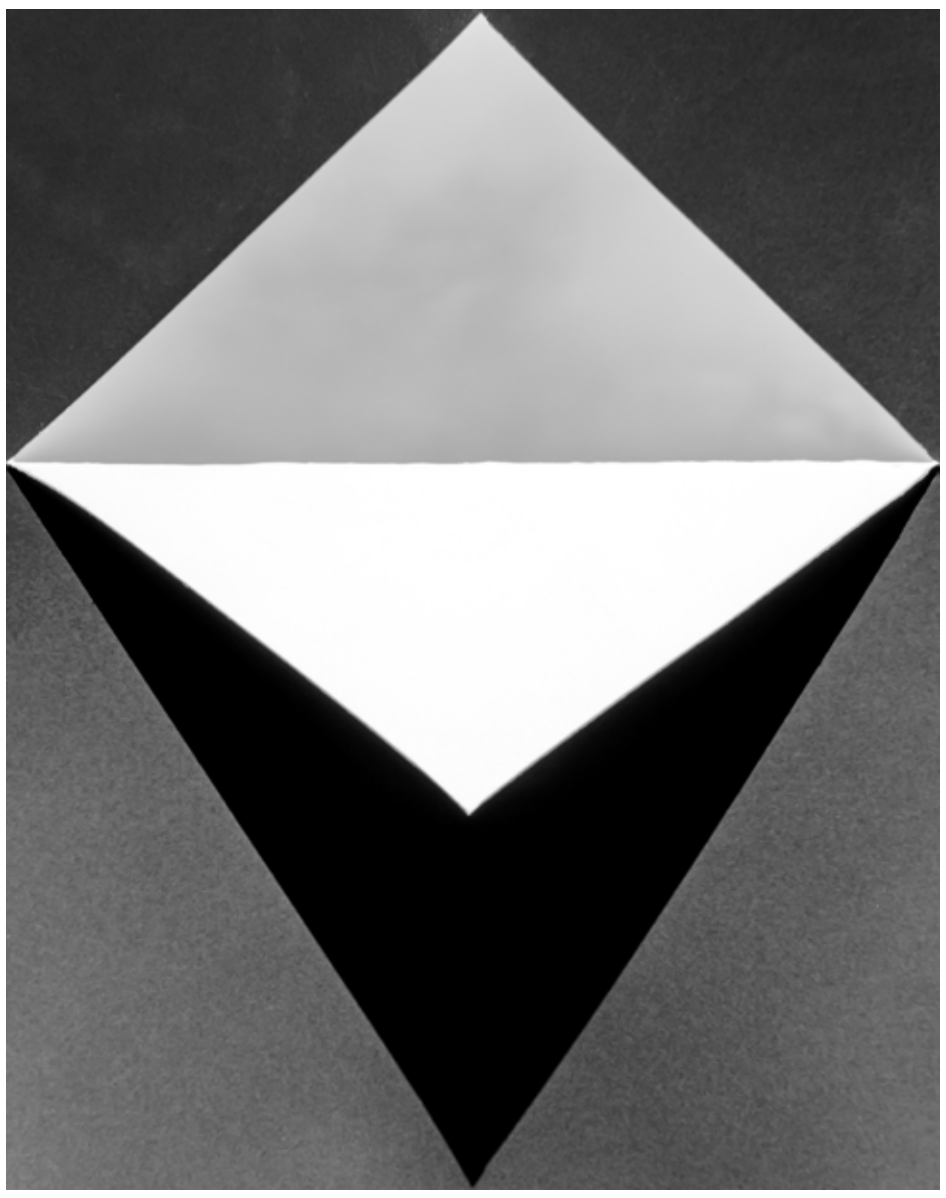
"We look forward to showing both of these ladies with their wit and humor," she added.



Courtesy of Webb Gallery

L to R: "Giddy UP," gouache & ink on paper, by artist Heather Sundquist Hall. "Nudie Suit," embroidery, by artist Jane Reichle.

Art Exhibit Opening and Fundraiser



Please join us for an opening reception with Marfa - and Colorado - based artist Brenda Biondo.

Saturday, April 8, 6pm-8pm
Roaster Gallery, 510 W San Antonio St, Marfa

Brenda creates large-scale abstract photographic work influenced by the Light & Space movement and mid-century modern painting.

At the same time and location:
Pop-up fundraiser for *Friends of the Ruidoso Church*
Music provided by Rick Ruiz & A Few Too Many

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



Photo by Conley Rasor

Historic Alpine ghost tours, benefiting the Sul Ross Theatre Department, will take place next weekend.

Historic Alpine ghost tour and theatre scholarship fundraiser back for 2nd season

ALPINE — Historic ghost tours of downtown Alpine will take place at 8 p.m. on April, 13, 14 and 15.

The event, a collaboration between the Alpine Historical Association (AHA) and Sul Ross State University's theatre program, is appropriate for children 8 and up. All proceeds from the tours will be donated to Sul Ross State University Theatre scholarships — last year, the program's inaugural year, a little over $5,000 was raised.

"When I started AHA in January 2021, it was one of the first things on my agenda, as it is a great way to share the history of Alpine's historic buildings and families with our visitors," said Abbey Branch, president of the Alpine Historic Association. "While initially we intended to provide a traditional ghost tour, it has evolved to a historical and theatrical production with some comic relief."

Tours begin at the Reata Alpine with a "spooky drink" from the Reata bar, and are led by Bret Scott, associate professor of communications at SRSU, who spent a decade at Second City in Chicago. Stops at historical landmarks such as the Brewster County Courthouse, the *Alpine Avalanche* building and the Ritchey Hotel are enlivened by occasional glimpses of restless spirits, some of whom gain the courage as the tour progresses to share their recollections of some of the dramatic historical events of Alpine and the region.

"The tours promote the rich history of Alpine while also enjoying some ghost stories from the

Big Bend region," said Marjie Scott, ghost tour director and chair of the Sul Ross Fine Arts Department. "And there may be some actual ghost sightings too."

Following the tour, guests are invited to enjoy a complimentary nightcap at The Holland, one of the four famous Far West Texas hotels designed by Henry C. Trost, who designed the Gage in Marathon, The Paisano in Marfa and Hotel El Capitan in Van Horn as well as the first floor of the famous Driskill in Austin.

The Alpine Historic Association and Sul Ross' theatre department have another collaboration planned this fall that will tell the story of Alpine's Hispanic Heritage.

Ticket prices for the ghost tours are $20 for adults and $18 for children 8 years and up, students with student ID and seniors 65 and up.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit historicalpine.org/ghost-tours/

This weekend's drag races double as casting call for music video shoot

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — This Saturday, Presidio Drag Racing will kick off its 2023 season in high style with bracket racing for drivers and food, fun and music for spectators. This weekend's race will also double as a casting call for a music video shoot.

Lauren Wilkins of Austin's Side Label Productions explained that her team will hit the dragstrip around 5 p.m. to start scouting cars and talent for a music video that will be shot on Monday evening. "We're looking for West Texas racers and lovers of cars and country music," she explained.

Up-and-coming country star Zach Bryan will be starring in the video. Bryan is a young Navy veteran who hails from a small town in Oklahoma. Known for alt-country hits like "Something in the Orange" and "Heading South," Wilkins describes his style as "a mix of classic folk melody and outlaw country with a raw edge that cuts to the bone."

Wilkins said that her team was excited to come to Presidio and get in on the action. "[Bryan] actually wrote a lot of the creative concept for the video himself and included a drag racing scene," she explained. "We already knew we wanted to film in the Presidio area for the unmatched beauty, and when we found the Presidio International Raceway, it was a no-brainer."

The team will record time trials at the Presidio International Dragstrip on Monday night — folks hoping to appear in additional scenes or compete in the filmed races can email zbcastingtx@gmail.com. Finalized details will be announced on Presidio International Drag Racing's Facebook page.

Gates will open for Saturday's drag races at 1 p.m. — entry for spectators is $10, and children under 10 get in free. Racers can register for $75 a head.

SPARKLE TOWN
*paintings by Heather Sundquist Hall
*embroidery pieces honoring vintage western wear by Jane Reichle

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Marathon Public Library receives $1 million gift, announces capital campaign

MARATHON – Marathon Public Library announced this week that it received a $1 million capital gift from the Dallas-based Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Brown Foundation for its Heart of Marathon campaign, a $2+ million fundraising initiative to enlarge the Marathon Public Library and revitalize the Marathon History Museum. The campaign launched in late 2019, just prior to the pandemic, which delayed the campaign's public announcement.

"We are so grateful to the Dallas-based Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Brown Foundation for its extraordinary commitment to our library," said Library Director Dara Cavness. "While it's been fun to boast that we are the smallest accredited library in Texas, it's even more exciting to think about what will be possible once our new library is built. There is simply no more room for one more book, computer or even visitor in a building that is a mere 723-square feet!"

The library anticipates breaking ground on the expansion in late 2024, said Cavness. An additional $1 million, approximately, will likely be necessary to complete the project — the library will continue fundraising efforts to that end.

In 2022, the library attracted 13,623 patron visits, a 40% increase since 2019, and 7,129 computer users, a 29% increase. While Heart of Marathon was developed in part to address the size of the library, the library board of directors was equally committed to help meet the growing and changing needs of its small community. As a result of their planning efforts, the board launched a campaign with an expansive vision: "To connect, inspire and empower people to make a difference in the world."

In Phase I of Heart of Marathon, campaign funds will build a new library to meet this increasing demand, particularly among children, for library services and programs. The new library, designed by award winning Dallas-based architect Dan Shipley with Shipley Architects, will include an adult reading room, three distinct areas for infants, children and teens, expanded stacks for the collections, increased numbers of computer workstations, a multi-purpose community room, and covered porches for outdoor seating and an outdoor garden.

"We believe that education is the key to success in life," said Cavness. "We strongly believe that these investments in our library, as well as the museum, can help improve learning outcomes for our children, help adults and families achieve work and life success and encourage one and all to gain a greater understanding of the past in order to better embrace the future."

The campaign also will transform the History Museum, which is housed in an adjacent 1888 adobe structure that is the oldest school building in Brewster County. Its new exhibits and touchscreen presentation will focus on the Trans-Pecos region, Native Americans, exploration and settlement, Big Bend National Park, and the history of Marathon. Upgrades to the museum will likely require around $1 million, said Cavness.

"I am inspired by what this gift will help make possible for this community and its residents and visitors," said Cavness. "This gift, when joined with the generosity of others, will help us meet our growing and changing needs. We aspire to set the standard for strengthening a community and its people."

When asked whether she anticipates the library closing during construction, Cavness said, "Not if I can help it!" Because the construction will be for an addition to the library, not on the current space, the library should remain open and functional throughout.

"I think we're going to build on the addition but not connect the two until the very last thing, so we can at all times have a working library," said Cavness.

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Thu Apr 6

Ethan Azarian Concert
5:00pm - 6:30pm at Cedar Coffee, 103 N 4th St in Alpine
Hopelessly original, refreshingly out of touch, Azarian, raconteur from Vermont, has become an entirely respectable Austin singer, songwriter, painter and muralist. This is the first of four free shows in the Big Bend Area.

Fri Apr 7

Music from Eternal Braid, Days of Summer and Joe Salinas at Marfa Open
8:00pm at 102 South Plateau Street in Marfa
Eternal Braid will begin his electronic melodic call to the show around 8. 9 PM - Days of Summer - "new new indie folk rock" - Sharon Van Etten meets Yo La Tengo. 10 PM - Joe Salinas - acoustic/electronic elements as eclectic as his travels, always heartfelt, a friend of Dino Jr. With live painting by Art from Confusion! No cover. Tip your bartenders and musical artists!

Sat Apr 8

Presidio Drag Racing
1:00pm at Presidio International Raceway off FM 170 in Presidio
Spectators $10; Children under 12 free; Racers $75. Helmets required.

"Sparkle Town" Opening at Webb's Fair and Square
5:00pm at 105 N Front St in Fort Davis
Opening of new exhibition titled Sparkle Town, featuring the work of Heather Sundquist Hall and Jane Reichle. Both artists will be in attendance at the opening, and there will be cold beer and record spinning.

Art Exhibit and Fundraiser
6:00pm at Roaster Gallery at 510 W San Antonio St in Marfa
Please join us for an opening reception with Marfa- and Colorado-based artist Brenda Biondo. At the same time and location: Pop-up fundraiser for Friends of the Ruidoso Church Music provided by Rick Ruiz & A Few Too Many.

Sun Apr 9

Marfa Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt
11:00am - 1:00pm at Coffield Park in Marfa
The second annual community Easter celebration is free and open to everyone. This year, volunteers scaled up from last year's well-attended operation and stuffed over 4,000 eggs for the event.

Granada Theatre Easter Egg Hunt
12:00pm - 3:00pm at 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Granada Theatre is hosting an Easter event for the whole family! There will be plenty of prizes and an egg-hunting activity for children!

Cameron Knowler at the Gage Hotel
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the 12 Gage Restaurant in Marathon
"Knowler specializes in the art of the conceptual record, putting forth instrumental works that Folk Radio UK has referred to as "Western sound-painting."" Reservations recommended.

Mon Apr 10

Free American Sign Language Class
3:00pm on Mondays for 6 weeks at Jeff Davis County Library in Fort Davis
For more details, call Library Director, Erin Ray at 432-426-3802.

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Free Meditation Classes for Local Law Enforcement, 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: Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Hatha at 9:00am
Wednesday: Restorative at 3:00pm; Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Thursday: Yin Yoga at 6:00pm
Friday: Breathwork at 9:00am; Vinyasa & Core at 12:00pm
Saturday: Vinyasa 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 Meditation Classes
Tuesday at 6:00pm 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

AA (online & sometimes in-person)
Saturday at 12:00pm at https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2 & in-person at Marfa Public Library

Saturday Farmer's Market
Saturdays at 9:30am at the pavillion behind he Visitors Center in Marfa

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



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Amina Gonzales, MISD kindergartener, gets some help from her dad, Tony Gonzales, at the Easter egg hunt on the Presidio County Courthouse lawn hosted by the Marfa Chamber last year.will take place next weekend.

Marfa Chamber hosts Easter egg hunt this Sunday

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — This Sunday, April 9, the Marfa Chamber of Commerce will host an Easter egg hunt from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Coffield Park.

The second annual community Easter celebration is free and open to everyone. This year, volunteers scaled up from last year's well-attended operation and stuffed over 4,000 eggs for the event.

"Every year we try to learn from our community, what people need and what the scope is and then do better the next year," said Chamber President Abby Boyd. "That's what we're doing this year. We're trying to make sure everybody has a lot of fun and leaves with a happy memory."

This year, there will be Easter egg hunts by age group, starting with children 7 years and younger at 11:30 a.m., followed by children 8 years and older at noon. A late hunt for everyone will take place at 12:30 p.m.

There will also be games and a cake walk, and Tara Salgado will be selling brisket sandwiches, fried oreos and drinks. Boyd said while the courthouse lawn, which hosted last year's event, is a nice, central venue, they were looking forward to what Coffield Park had to offer.

"Because it's specifically for kids, [we thought] having access to a playground and being off the street in a park setting would be a better venue. We just want everybody to be able to fully enjoy their afternoon together," said Boyd.

The Marfa Chamber is looking for volunteers to help with Sunday's Easter egg hunt, to hide eggs and more. Email marfachamberofcommerce@gmail.com for more information.

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"Medical experts agree that the epidemic of stress is damaging our physical and emotional health at younger and younger ages. While there is no one single cure for this, the Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique is a simple practice that dramatically changes how we respond to stress and life's challenges. With scientifically proven benefits – TM reduces stress and anxiety, improves focus, sleep, resilience, creativity, and memory. This five-thousand-year-old technique has a clear and direct impact on our very modern problems." (Strength in Stillness, Bob Roth, 2018)

To ensure enduring success with the technique, TM is taught one-on-one by a Certified TM Teacher. You can meet with a certified TM teacher in a free online introductory class on **April 24th at 6:00 PM**. In-person instruction will be held by appointment in Alpine at the end of April.

Register now for this free online intro class by emailing to acowan@tm.org, or calling 575-635-5046, a link will be provided with registration.



DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Superintendent news

By SAMANTHA

As I'm sure many of you all have heard, Mr. Aguero has resigned from his job as superintendent.

Mr. Aguero has been here since 2015. He has been with my junior class since fourth grade: first as a principal for two years, and since the 2016 departure of Mr. Peters, he's been our superintendent.

Mr. Aguero is very loved around the campus. You will see him in the hallways, and he will always tell you hello and ask you how you are doing. He's also always at the sports events sitting front row in the stands cheering for his students.

As students learned of the news of his departure, I decided to interview them. These are some of the things his fellow staff and students have to say about Mr. Aguero. A junior at Marfa High School, Liani Salcido, was a fourth-grader when Mr. Aguero arrived.

I asked her, "What are your thoughts on Mr Aguero leaving?"

"It's sad because he did so much for the school, he's definitely been one of the best superintendents," she said.

"How long have you known him for?" I asked

"Eight years!"

"How do you feel about the new rumored superintendent?" I then asked.

"I'm excited because I think he's going to do a great job!"

Since the initial writing of this article, Coach Alferez, the history teacher and a former administrator in Presidio ISD, has been appointed interim superintendent, but before that there was a lot of speculation, hence "rumored" at the time of interviewing.

"I think Coach Alferez will be a wonderful superintendent," says Joel Martinez, a junior. "He's a real doer, he just gets things done, and he knows us really well on a personal level since he's been our classroom teacher!" He went on to add, "And, Alferez has been getting a lot of phone calls from former Presidio staff, which means we might get a lot of new teachers."

But back to Liani. "What is one of your favorite memories with Mr. Aguero?" I asked her.

"Seeing him in the hallways and always checking in on me and making sure I'm doing okay," she responded.

Other students also said stuff like, "I'm sad to see him leave so soon, with our class graduating this year."

Another student said, "He is a very nice person who always says, 'Hi,' to me. He also always attended my basketball games. He made sure this year that our school was a safer environment for us."

A senior at Marfa High School said, "He always gave the best speeches about how he loved us kids, how he'd always be here for us. He really stuck through with that and was very helpful. He was very respectable, we will definitely miss his presence in the hallways."

Mr. Aguero will be missed in the hallways of Marfa High School, wherever it is that he goes to next, they are lucky to have an amazing school administrator.

Staff changes at MISD

By ISAIAH and MESSIAH

In this month's article we will be discussing the possible departure of some of Marfa ISD's teaching staff.

As everyone knows, at this time of year, rumors begin to fly about what teachers are coming back next year. The teachers that will be possibly leaving, according to those rumors, are Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Salgado; the teachers that we know of so far that will for sure be leaving is Mrs. Aguero and Superintendent Mr. Aguero. We decided to investigate.

First, we interviewed Mrs. Aguero about her thoughts and feelings about leaving.

Mrs. Aguero said, "Yes, Mr. Aguero and I are leaving. We put in our resignations. I'm not sure what I will be doing after this. I have been debating whether to retire or keep teaching. We are currently trying to find somewhere in-between where all of our family can be closer together." (The Agueros have family in Odessa and Oklahoma.)

Next, my partner and I decided to interview Mr. Salgado, who has been thinking about moving.

He told us, "At the moment I'm not sure if I will be leaving the school district now that my son is going to graduate. I am back and forth on what I want to do now — whether to move closer to my family and relatives that I have from my hometown. But, to be honest, I do enjoy the community here and have made a lot of friends during my time here in Marfa. I also enjoy the district and my students that I have."

Mrs. Murphy, the school guidance counselor, said, "It is a possibility I will be leaving next year.

My husband is looking for a promotion, so if he does end up getting one, we will be moving."

She went on to confirm, "I did put in my resignation, but if his promotion doesn't come through, or if I come back, I would love to stay at Marfa. I would look for another position in the district."

She then continued, "I think what our district will look like next year is that teachers will move here because of the four-day week."

Spring sports in full swing!

By TARYN and DARREN

The spring sports season has started! That means everything is super crazy. In high school, students are able to pick softball, golf or track to play along with practices for the upcoming season of football, volleyball and cross-country. Everything is SO busy.

Softball is having a game this Friday, March 31, and we all wish the Lady Horns luck! There was also a golf tournament Monday, March 27. Basically, this week, just like last week, has been insane. And that's what it will be like until the end of the year: lots of kids will be absent while participating in some spring activity, from sports to regional UIL, one-act, or state VASE or science fair. There are so many people in all the sports/activities! My partner and I decided to interview his brother, Derick Campos, and Memo, both sophomores at Marfa ISD.

First, we asked Derick, "How do you feel about this track season?"

He replied, "It's mid, it started off bad but not as bad as I thought it was."

My reporting partner Darren Campos agrees with that statement.

The next question Darren asked was, "Do you think we're going to state this year?"

Derrick replied, "I think some guys we'll make it, and some girls."

Next, we asked Memo how track season is going, and he said, "I was just telling Ms. Powers this — like, at first I thought it was gonna be so bad, but I'm actually enjoying it a lot now."

After that I inquired about our state prospects and he replied, "Probably? But also maybe not. I don't know about the boys, but the girls will." I wish the track and field teams good luck, and I hope Memo and Derick can believe in themselves enough to go to state!

Also, there was a UIL competition in Fort Davis that happened this past Friday, March 24. It went very well, and it was honestly fun! UIL competition is a lot of waiting for your event, which is tiring, just sitting there for hours. But, for journalism students Piper, Messiah, Isaiah, and I, it was our first high school meet since becoming freshmen. We all put up a lot of good effort and two of us freshmen will be going to regionals in San Angelo! We also have a few alternates, so we'll see if they make it as well.

In UIL, everyone has different opinions about it all, and the first person I interviewed was Piper, a fellow freshman at Marfa who participated in a lot of the competitions.

I asked her, "How did the UIL meet go?"

She said, "Insane, off, and just all-out crazy." (For those who don't remember, the Friday UIL meet was preceded on Wednesday by one-act play regionals, whose bus returned at midnight, then a Thursday track meet that also got in late, and so by Friday, many students were VERY tired.) Piper continued, "But, for the people that did go, we did amazing considering that we really didn't practice that much for it."

The next question I asked was, "How did you feel about the results of the meet?"

She said, "I thought I would've done way better than I did, and I hope I'll do better next year."

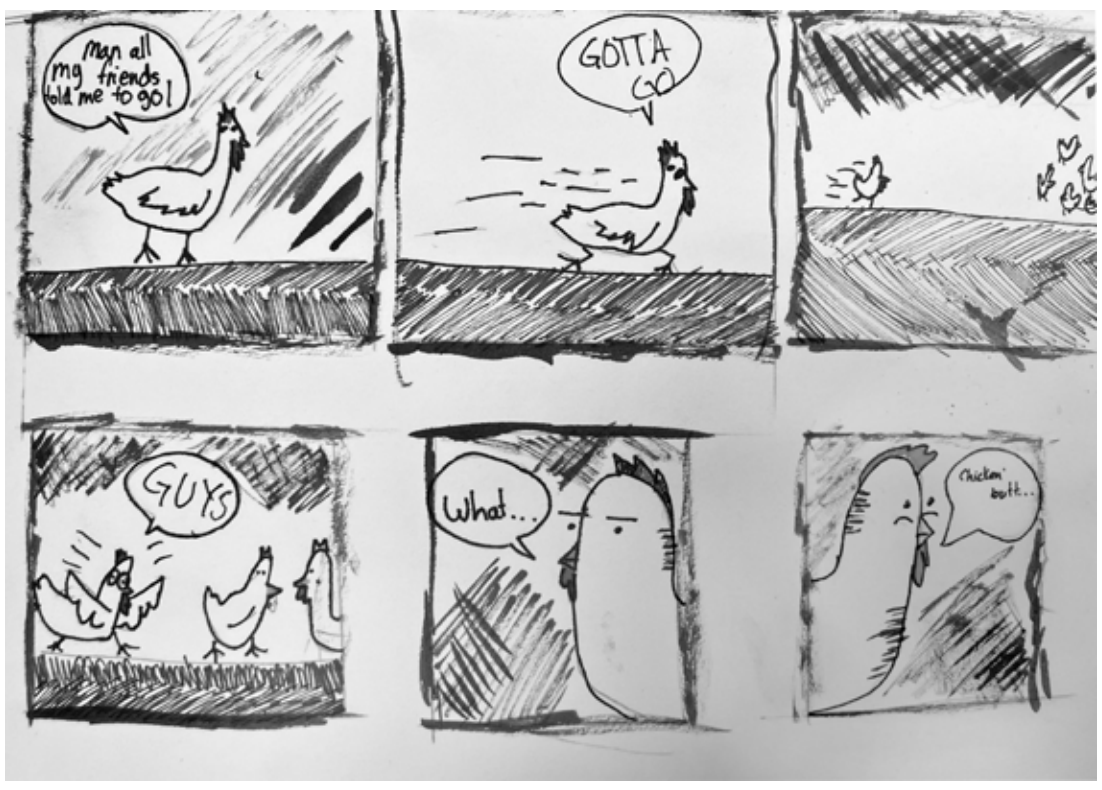
Then I spoke to Messiah, another freshman at Marfa ISD. When I asked her how she thought it went, she said, "It was fun but it was so tiring to just sit there all day."

Messiah advanced to regionals in news writing for journalism (Ms. Powers is SO PROUD), and she said the accomplishment made her feel "good! But I'm still so sleepy," she said, with a yawn.

In conclusion, the next nine weeks (all that's left of this school year!) are going to get crazy with all the track meets, regionals, golf tournaments, softball games and prom coming on April 22. But I'm sure we're all gonna get through it, and then it's summer break!

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

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Isaiah Ramos
9th Grade
Comic

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.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 3, 2023

ACROSS
1 Round of applause
5 "The Princess and the Frog" princess
10 Alternative to suspenders
14 Grammy winner India.___
15 French water brand
16 "As coroner, I must ___ / I thoroughly examined her" ("The Wizard of Oz")
17 With 19-Across, detailed analysis ... or a hint to what can follow the ends of 30-, 31-, 33- and 35-Down
18 Name that anagrams to "Diana"
19 See 17-Across
20 Place in an envelope
22 Some have punny names like "Slow Burn" or "Smells Like Teen Spirit"
24 Took the wheel
25 Makes happy
26 ___ Talks
27 Took a chair
28 Royals might steal them
31 Halloween cry
34 Easily annoyed
38 Does something
39 Pituitary or pancreas
41 "You bet!"
42 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
43 Pursue
45 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
46 Make a mistake
47 Start of the alphabet
48 Tee-___
49 Piece of band gear
50 Puzzle cube inventor
52 Fire remnant
54 "Herb puns are at an all-___ low"
56 Tax ID
58 Like some committees
61 Civil rights activist Parks
62 Hawk's descent
64 Fish's breathing organ
65 Lodge members
66 Employee's reward
67 Big name in waffles
68 Alicia at the piano, or piano parts
69 Cove, e.g.
70 Thick carpet type

DOWN
1 Underworld god
2 "___ you glad?"
3 Persephone, to 1-Down
4 Uses up
5 Back-combed
6 Like vine-covered walls
7 Help
8 Org. whose 2023 Image Awards were hosted by Queen Latifah
9 Chronicles
10 Frog-kissing outings?
11 Lesser of two ___
12 Flood barrier
13 Lock of hair
21 Mine finds
23 Shipshape
28 "Honey"
29 Dell competitor
30 Night vision?
31 Graceful character played by Mila Kunis in 2010
32 Bumbler
33 Perfectly accurate
35 Trick-or-treater's rush
36 Mine car
37 Restaurant review site
39 Mongolian desert
40 Consider to be
43 Nickname that rhymes with 28-Down
44 Country singer McEntire
51 Amherst sch.
53 Cube's dozen
54 Arduous journey
55 Golfer's target
57 Product sold at thedirtbag.com
59 Actress Kurylenko
60 Shoe with a wooden sole
62 ___ Lankan rupee
63 Cat or chinchilla

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

4/2

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www.upuzzles.com

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

APR	Thu, Apr 6	Fri,Apr 7	Mon, Apr 10	Tue, Apr 11	Wed, Apr 12
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	TEACHER WORK DAY	PANCAKES, BACON	BREAKFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN	MUFFIN, YOGURT
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	BREADED MOZZARELLA STICKS, TINY TOMATO CUP, GARDEN SALAD, PEARS	TEACHER WORK DAY	BREADED DRUMSTICK, GARDEN SALAD, TINY TOMATO CUP, APPLE SLICES	FRITO PIE, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	CHEESY BREADSTICKS, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, MARINARA SAUCE, CINNAMON APPLESAUCE

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Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-837-7479 • Marfa
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-729-4682 • Alpine

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, APR 6: District Track Meet @ Van Horn, HS 9:00am, JH 4:00pm
FRI, APR 7: Softball vs Van Horn @ Van Horn, 5:00pm

Going Under *by Lisa Senzel*

4/3

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

OBITUARIES



Bermudez

Catalina Urquietta Bermudez, age 92 years old of Alpine, Texas, passed away at Focused Care in Fort Stockton, Texas, on March 30, 2023.

Catalina Urquietta Bermudez was born on May 1, 1930, to Juan and Mauricia Urquietta in Terlingua, Texas. She attended Centennial School in Alpine, Texas. She married Angel Moralez Bermudez on June 29, 1958. They were married for 42 years. They have one son, Martin Urquietta Bermudez, born on November 28, 1965. Martin served in the United States Air Force for 20 years, from October 18, 1993, to October 31, 2013. Martin attained the Rank of technical sergeant and retired at Langley Air Force Base in October 2013.

After marrying Angel, they embarked on their military life that took them to Alabama throughout Texas, New York City, Germany, Oklahoma, then Virginia where SP5 Angel Bermudez retired in December 1975.

Highlights of her life as a military wife include living in NYC for three years while SP5 Bermudez was stationed at Fort Hamilton Army Base. Catalina cherished her life in NYC and enjoyed attending the World's Fair in 1965. While living in Kaiserslautern, Germany, she enjoyed attending festivals, castle tours, and visiting petting zoos.

Upon returning to Alpine after her military life, she began working with prominent families in the community as housekeeper/caretaker. These families included Carolyn and Grady Melon, Carlos and Faye Dunn, and Keith and Jeanette Morrow. These familial bonds resulted in a close friendship with Linda Harris, who is also grieving the loss of Catalina, whom she considered a sister.

Catalina is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Vicente Urquietta, Anastacio (Tocho) Sanchez of Odessa, Jose Maria (Chema) Gutierrez of Alpine; her sisters Lucia Macias of Oracle, Arizona, Andrea Villalva and Delores (Lola) Rivera of Seminole, Texas.

She is survived by her son, Martin; sisters Maria Molinar of Odessa and Hortencia Cordova of Alpine; and many nieces and nephews.

Church services for Catalina are pending with Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. She will be laid to rest in Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, Texas, next to her spouse Angel Bermudez.

Pallbearers will be Leo Lara, Steve Olazaba, Juan Carrill Jr., Fermin C. Salas, Robert Carrillo and Eddie Sanchez.

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

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

• • •



Keith

Richard Bruhn Keith, 66, of Alpine, Texas, passed away at his home surrounded by loved ones on March 25, 2023. Rick was born in Pasadena, Texas, on July 3, 1956, to Sarah Charter Bruhn and Stan Bruhn and was raised by Sarah and Duane Phillips. Rick served in the Army in the late '70s and was stationed in Germany. After graduating with a master's in German studies from the University of Texas, Rick moved to Alpine, where he worked for the Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University.

He began a career as a teacher and coach and served the Alpine community for almost 30 years. During his time at Alpine High School, he taught government, economics, U.S. history, and German. Rick coached volleyball and took many teams deep into the playoffs and the 2002 team to the state tournament. He was voted to coach the state all-star volleyball team twice. Rick developed the Alpine Running Bucks Cross-Country program, taking runners all the way to the state cross-country meet. He was inducted into the Cross-Country Coaches Association of Texas Hall of Fame in 2020, where he also served as a board member for several years.

He worked as a seasonal park ranger at the Fort Davis National Historic Site for 20 years, and was well known for his living history interpretation. The official logo for the FODA is an image of Rick and his beloved horse, Soldier. He served as president of the Friends of the Big Bend Ranch State Park. Rick was a member of Our Lady of the Peace Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus; he served as a lector and choir member.

Rick and Kim Keith married in 1987 and celebrated 36 years of marriage. He was the proud father of Wyoming Jade (Chris) Schofield and Lakota Sage (Mike Naccarato) Keith, and grandfather to Sawyer James Schofield and Finn Richard Schofield. Rick is preceded in death by his first wife Lisa Bruhn, his parents Duane and Sarah Phillips and Stan Bruhn. He is survived by his wife, daughters, grandsons, and sister Kelly (Kirstin) Phillips and niece Aurelia Phillips.

He was a devoted husband and father. Rick impacted the lives of not only his students but many others. He was a lifelong runner, history enthusiast, and friend to all.

The funeral services will be held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine at 11 a.m. on April 11. The family is planning a Celebration of Life and memorial run to be announced on a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Friends of the Big Bend Ranch State Park, Friends of the Fort Davis National Historic Site, and Knights of Columbus Council 5096.

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

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

• • •



Kountz

The family of **Shirley Williams Kountz** hosted a gathering of family and friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers. A service to celebrate her life of 79 years is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at Lake Ridge Chapel, followed by a graveside service at 3 p.m. in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Ft. Davis, Texas. She passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023. Please visit www.memorialdesigners.net for a service broadcasting schedule, floral purchasing, and an area to share stories of Mrs. Kountz with her family.

Shirley Vonn Williams Kountz was born August 17, 1943, to the late Covie and Effie (Cave) Williams in Lamesa, Texas. She married Van Kountz on August 25, 1961, at her parents' home in Ackerly, Texas. Shirley earned her master's degree from Texas Tech University and taught for 39 years before retiring. Following her retirement, she worked for an insurance company, The Gibraltar Group, for 10 years. Shirley was a member of the First Baptist Church, Lamesa, as well as many teacher organizations. She served as a motivational speaker for many years.

Mrs. Kountz is survived by her husband, Van Kountz; daughters, Debra (Russell) Leonard and Sandra (Russell) McCorkle; grandchildren, Rhea Lynn (Kyle) Leonard, Ashley K (Matt) Roche, Weston Caleb (Hailey) Leonard, Ryan George (Jordan) Pease, Amy JaVonn (Nolan) Waggoner, and Austin McCorkle; great-grandchildren, Kollins Rhea Kaufman, Kash Buddy Kaufman, Kaden J Roche, Hudson Reed Roche, Coleman Jett Waggoner, Turner Drew Waggoner, Kate Ryan Waggoner, and Grayson George Pease; and sisters Dorothy Harry, and Wanda Chapman.

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Lattner

On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, **Bobbie H. Lattner** quietly passed away at her home in Midland, Texas.

Bobbie was born April 27, 1926, in Sweetwater, Texas to Jessie and Honor Hallard. The family moved to Pecos in 1930 when Bobbie was four years old.

Bobbie married Buford Chesney on September 20, 1945. They were married for 18 years before his passing in 1964.

Bobbie married Travis Lattner in 1966. What a blessing it was for all of us to have such a wonderful blended family.

Bobbie was employed at the Security State Bank for over 30 years before retiring in 1992. She formed many friendships throughout the community. Bobbie was a member of the First Baptist Church, active in several civic organizations and a volunteer at the hospital.

Bobbie was preceded in death by her parents, Jessie and Honor Hallard; husbands Buford Chesney and Travis Lattner; twin sister Billie Nichols; brothers Curtis and Pete; and grandson Jon Steinmetz.

She is survived by her daughters, Linda Myers, Carole Steinmetz, Teri Moore (Hardin); and sons Tip Chesney and Bill Lattner (Wendy); grandchildren Shannon Glenn, Caron McMichael (Dave), Ross Moore, Allison Szempruch (Paul) Travis Lattner; great-grandchildren John and Samantha Moore, Teagan and Stella Szempruch, and Chloe McMichael.

There will be a graveside service on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Mount Evergreen Cemetery in Pecos.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hospice of Midland or a charity of your choice.

Special thanks to caregiver Nancy Hernandez of Visiting Angels, and nurses Jennifer and Andrea of Hospice of Midland.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

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Martinez

Letha Ann Martinez of Midland, Texas, went to her heavenly home on March 24, 2023, after a battle with cancer. Letha was born November 14, 1956, in Sweetwater, Texas. She enjoyed her horses and dogs, hunting, fishing and camping. Letha graduated from Lindsborg High School in Kansas. She was employed by Midland Reporter Telegram for many years. She was a gifted artist. She is survived by: Frank J. Martinez, husband of 33 years; step-daughter Leslie Cheshire and husband Jason and children, Hailey, Kaleb, Kylie and Dylan of Argyle, Texas; parents, Delmer G. "Cotton" Prescott and Lelda P. "Polly" (Raines) Prescott; sister Linda Melson and husband Michael and family of Midland; two brothers, Eric Lin and Mark Fuqua and family; and many special aunts, uncles and cousins. She will be missed by all her family and friends. No services are scheduled. In lieu of flowers, and in thanks for their services, you may donate to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Ave, Midland, Texas 79701, 432- 682-2855.

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Tejada

With heavy hearts, we are sad to announce that on April 2, 2023, at the age of 88, **Lorina Tejada** passed away. She was predeceased by her husband, Camilo Tejada, Oct 12, 2012. She's survived by her brother, José Manuel Prieto (wife Luz Olga), of Alpine, Texas; her children Jaime, Maria, Mario, Teresa and José Antonio; and seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Lorina was born in Marfa on July 30, 1934. She was the granddaughter of Jose Prieto, a homesteader of Pinto Canyon in the early 1900s, and the daughter of Jose Prieto and Francisca Vasquez. She lived her early life In Carrizo and Ojinaga, Mexico, and eventually moved back to Marfa. She married in 1960 and went on to raise five children. She was a caring mother, aunt, sister and friend to everyone. She was a woman of faith and lived by the Catholic religion.

The greatest achievement was raising her children and leaving a nurturing gift of family and love.

The Rosary and Mass will begin at 1 p.m. April 5 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa, Texas. Burial will take place at Merced Cemetery, with Reception following soon after at the Parish Hall.

Arrangements were made by Mobile Mortician of Texas of Fort Davis, Texas.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.mmoftexas.com

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BLACKWELL BLOCK PARTY
Saturday, April 22, 2023
11 am to 4 pm
Marfa, Texas
Join us for a free, family-friendly festival celebrating the rich culture and heritage of Marfa and the borderlands, and honoring the designation of the Blackwell School National Historic Site.
Everyone is invited. Everyone is welcome.
The Blackwell School is located at 501 South Abbott Street in Marfa. From the 4-way stop, go two blocks west and three blocks south.
Learn more about the Blackwell Block Party and the history of the Blackwell School at www.theblackwellschool.org
Schoolhouse art by Clint Alvarado
BLACKWELL SCHOOL 1909-1969
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MARFA

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Marfa Clinic
is thrilled
to announce that
Dr. Marco Garcia, DO
will be joining our
clinic on **April 10**

Dr. Garcia will see
patients at the
Marfa Clinic on
Mondays and Tuesdays

We are excited to
welcome a shorthorn
graduate back in his
hometown to practice
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serve Marfans!

Call our clinic
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Marco Samuel Garcia, DO is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician. Dr. Garcia completed residency at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO, after graduating from William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg, MS. He attained a Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate from Montana State University in Bozeman, following a B.A. in English from Texas A&M University, College Station. Valedictorian of the Marfa High School Shorthorn Class of 2004, he is the grandson of Armando and Lucy Garcia, and the son of Glenn and Leticia Garcia, all of Marfa. Dr. Garcia is honored to join the Marfa Clinic and practice medicine in his hometown.

MARFA CLINIC
105 East Oak Street, Marfa, ph(432)729-3000, marfacountryclinic@gmail.com

Classifieds & public notices

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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.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

A bill to create a Special District Local Law, to create the Presidio International Port Authority, to manage, develop, and operate ports and related infrastructure to facilitate International trade in Presidio, Texas, will be submitted to the Texas Legislature in this session of the legislature.

MARFA CLINIC

Don Culbertson PA-C will be at the Marfa Clinic seeing patients through the weeks of April 10th and 17th.

Call 729-3000 to make an appointment.

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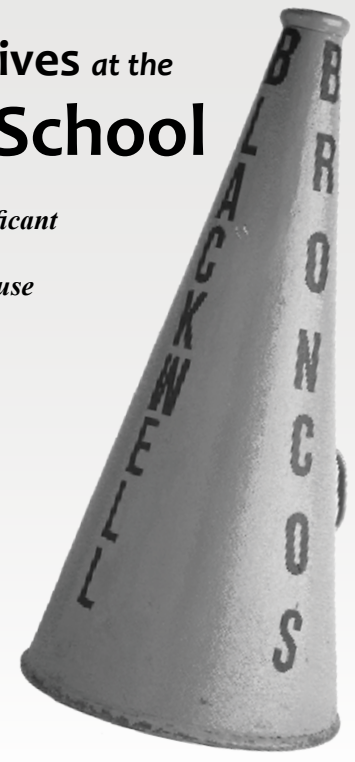
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Judd Foundation

Judd Foundation offers direct engagement with Donald Judd's art and vision in the Chihuahuan Desert. These formerly private living and working spaces provide firsthand experience of his ideas of permanent installation.

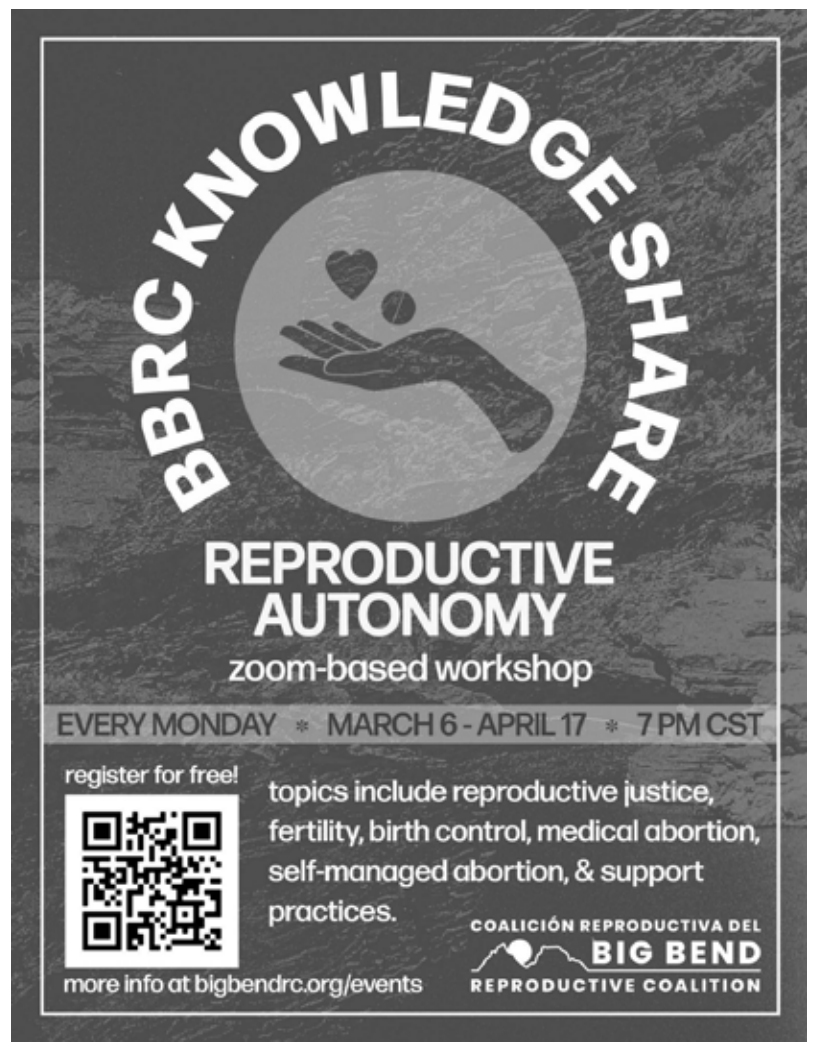
Advance reservations are required.

The Studios
Visit Judd's Art Studio, Architecture Studio, Cobb House, and Whyte Building.

Guided visits are available every day except Wednesday and begin at the former Marfa National Bank at 101 North Highland Avenue.

Visit juddfoundation.org to book reservations. For more information please contact: marfa@juddfoundation.org or 432 729 4406.

JUDD



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(202) 224-2934 (D.C. office)

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

la fundación the CHINATI foundation

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

Indoor Viewing by guided tour only.
Outdoor Viewing throughout the day.

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

Visitor Center, Bookstore, and Outdoor Viewing: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Full Collection Tour at 9:15 A.M.
lasts 4½ hours plus a 2-hour lunch break

Selections Tour at 9:45 A.M. and 1:45 P.M.
lasts 3 hours and covers 2 miles of walking

Open Viewing of the Artillery Sheds from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dan Flavin's *untitled (Marfa project)* and the Special Exhibitions Gallery with installations of work by John Chamberlain and Sarah Crowner from 2 to 5 P.M.

Tickets are required.
Reservations are encouraged and capacity is limited.

For tickets and tour information, visit chinati.org.

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