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

City of Marfa hires company to track short-term rental data

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Marfa City Council recently voted to approve the hiring of a Colorado-based company called AIR DNA that tracks data relating to area short-term rentals (STRs).

Despite recent efforts by the Marfa Chamber of Commerce and some citizens to encourage the city to more aggressively regulate STRs, the move to hire AIR DNA is more centered around effective advertising, said City Manager Mandy Roane, than regulation.

"We do have to spend money on advertising every year. This will really help the other companies that do the marketing for us see when people are coming in, how long they're saying and where they're coming from," said Roane.

As Roane explained in the April council meeting, AIR DNA will help the city's tourism department — now headed up by new Director Jennifer Conners — better grasp existing visitor patterns overtime and, in turn, target advertising to ensure those dollars are being spent effectively.

Still, through the platform, the city will have access to local AirBNB and VRBO occupancy rates and revenue information for individual properties — thanks to an add-on feature called "property performance data" the city chose to pay for — which will help city employees double check that STR operators' self-reported taxes are accurate.

"We'll double check against paperwork when people turn it in," said Roane in a follow up call with *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "We can make sure if people tell us that they're not renting, it would show us if they were — but that's not the primary use of [AIR DNA]."

AIR DNA will work in tandem with existing companies the tourism department contracts — TheoryPraxis for marketing and Zartico for personal data collection — to maximize marketing efforts, said Roane. By figuring out low and high visitation rates, as well as where visitors are coming from and why — for art, nature — the city can place ads in the right places at the right times that appeal to specific demographics.

"AIR DNA gets who is staying and where, Zartico gets what they're doing while they're here, and TheoryPraxis takes all that information and makes sure we're sending ads to the right people at the right place," said Roane.

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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Newly re-elected Councilmember Raul Lara campaigns across the street from Marfa City Hall during the May 6 General Election last weekend.

Here are the General Election results for Presidio County

By SAM KARAS
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By MARY CANTRELL
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — On May 6, Presidio County residents turned out to vote in local races that included a proposition determining the future of the local entity overseeing and managing groundwater conditions, city council members and school district board members. Here are the results.

Presidio County

Proposition 1, regarding whether or not to allow the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (PCUWCD) to become a taxing entity passed handily, with 668 votes cast in favor and 101 against.

PCUWCD General Manager Trey Gerfers said the district's hard work campaigning had paid off. "I think we really gave it the best shot that we could and the results speak for themselves," said Gerfers.

Gerfers attributed the landslide to the district's efforts to get information to voters in a variety of ways: through videos, bilingual informational sheets, letters to the editor, social media and word of mouth. Gerfers canvassed heavily, greeting locals outside of the post office to promote the election and holding public forums in Marfa and Presidio.

Since its inception in 1999, the PCUWCD has operated from a budget from the county commissioners, but will now levy its own tax in order to be compliant with state law. The district has entered into a tax swap agreement with the county which will see no increase in taxes from the public. And Gerfers will now work with the county tax-assessor collector in order to determine what tax rate to set in order to fund the district's modest $50,000 annual budget.

It remains unclear whether the district will levy the tax as early as this coming fiscal year, which begins in October, or the following year.

Gerfers said he contacted the district's many grant funders, all of which were relieved to hear the groundwater district wouldn't be abolished. It's a loose end that should have been tied when the entity was formed, said Gerfers, and he and the district board were ready to get back to normal operations post-election.

"This has now been passed, this should have been passed 30 years ago, but this unfinished bit of business is now finished," said Gerfers. "I'm really excited to move beyond electoral politics back to what I'm supposed to be doing, which is

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With fentanyl closer to home, local schools stock Narcan out of abundance of caution

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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TRI-COUNTY REGION — The Alpine Independent School District had never stocked Narcan until roughly one month ago, when the Big Bend Regional Hospital District distributed a few doses of the lifesaving overdose reversal medication to area schools. Now, the multi-campus district of fewer than 1,000 students has a total of four doses of the medication in nasal spray form — two at the middle school and two at the high school.

So far, its novelty to the staff and a lack of protocol means it remains cloistered in the nurse's office, awaiting a formal training and policy change that will make it just another part of the administration's arsenal by the fall.

"I have it locked up and nobody even really knows that we have it yet," said District Nurse Gayla Owen, also the nurse for Marathon ISD, which received two doses as well. "I mentioned it to our superintendent and our principals, but we're getting in the process of having it available for this next school year."

Educators simply aren't familiar with Narcan — the brand name of the medication naloxone — explained Owen, who hopes to bring in someone with Border Patrol to conduct training for staff. And as every such change requires a codification in school policy, Owen is currently writing a policy to support Narcan administration.

"We will all be ready if needed," said Owen, though she hopes that day never comes. To date, Alpine ISD has not had an overdose on its campuses — but Owen would rather be safe than sorry, and is grateful to have even a limited supply of the medication classified aptly as an "opioid antagonist."

"I'm glad that it's available, so if it were to happen, we would be ready for it," she said. "You just never know anymore."

Spurred by a worsening statewide opioid crisis and accompanying proliferation of illicit fentanyl — a synthetic opioid roughly 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, per the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration — board members of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District, which encompasses Presidio and Brewster counties, took it upon themselves to procure a supply of Narcan to ensure local schools were stocked in

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Marfa ISD School Board weighs district needs with budget limitations, seeks new trustee

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — At a Marfa Independent School District board meeting last week, trustees undertook a preliminary review of the 2023-2024 school year budget.

The chief financial officer for the district, Rosela Rivera, had been actively meeting with district leaders to formulate the upcoming budget and imparted one common theme across departments to the gathered school board members: "These budget meetings — it was a lot of needs, needs, wants, wants, wants, and I'm like, all we need is money," she said.

Over the course of the meeting, board members discussed upkeep of the district's aging campus, upgraded security measures and new transit, but found themselves up against the familiar dilemma of limited funds, exacerbated by state policies and dwindling emergency relief.

Facilities updates were highlighted as the district's big ticket items this coming budget cycle. The district attempted to pass a $57 million school bond for a new K-12 campus this past fall, with trustees and school leaders arguing facilities were outdated and failed to provide an adequate environment for contemporary learning — ultimately, however, the measure failed to sway voters, a fact lamented by one board member during discussions.

"If only the bond would have passed," said Board President Teresa Nuñez.

For now, the district cafeteria needed to be prioritized for several projects, said Rivera, chief among them a new HVAC unit and new flooring. The district offers the cafeteria as a rental venue for the local community, one of the few truly affordable options in town, said Board Member Lori Flores — but with a subpar facility that lacked HVAC, it wasn't seeing any bookings in the heat of the summer. The district may need to tap into its $300,000 facilities fund balance, a reserve account, for the necessary upgrades, said Rivera.

Things weren't much better over at the elementary school campus, said Principal Amy White. Heating and cooling systems were continuously failing to perform, she said. The problematic boiler had a "mind of its own," not shutting off once it got going in the winter, she said, and classroom windows only barely cracked open. Junior High and High School

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After a year of delays, Title 42 lifted

By SAM KARAS
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Title 42, the controversial pandemic-era policy that called for the immediate expulsion of migrants as a public health measure, is set to end on Thursday after a year of court battles over its suspension. The change in policy has prompted questions about how local law enforcement should respond — and how the landscape of American immigration policy might shift in its wake.

Title 42 has been a law on the books since 1944, authorizing the United States surgeon general to restrict immigration if deemed necessary to prevent the spread of infectious disease. The law was invoked for the first time in its 76 years by the Trump administration in March 2020, which hobbled the asylum process and authorized immigration officials to "immediately expel" migrants from the country.

Proponents of the law have fought to keep it in place, anticipating a significant surge in migration to the U.S.-Mexico border. The number of migrants attempting to cross the border, both at ports of entry and illegally, has steadily risen as the deadline approaches. Over 244,000 migrants have been "expelled" from the United States into Mexico so far this year. By contrast, the number of migrants returned to Canada was 159.

While El Paso has already declared a state of emergency in anticipation of the policy's end, expecting a massive influx of asylum-seekers at the crossing from Juarez, officials do not foresee a similar surge at the Presidio Port of Entry.

"There's no indication that we're going to have any kind of numbers that they're seeing in other areas," said Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo, noting the remoteness of the location and inhospitable nature of the terrain. "We're not an attractive place to cross. The desert is hot. We don't have a lot of resources. It's very difficult to traverse."

Landon Hutchens, public affairs officer for CBP's El Paso Sector, said he expected "normal operations" in the Big Bend region in the coming days. The remote region has seen a downtick in migrant crossings, contrasted with other spots along the border.

"The Big Bend Sector as a whole has had less numbers than last year," said Hutchens. "And so it's been one of the few sectors that have actually been down in traffic."

Nevertheless, the Presidio County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) took to Facebook on Tuesday to say that it "will be increasing patrols along highways and U.S.-Mexico borders due to the concerns of Title 42 ending," in a post that also showcased the apprehension of six undocumented immigrants 25 miles south of Marfa. The PCSO did not return multiple requests for comment from *The Sentinel* requesting details on the department's expanded presence.

In neighboring Brewster County, Sheriff Ronny Dodson didn't share their concerns. "We don't have a port of entry or anything, so I don't see us getting inundated," he said.

Dodson explained that the biggest difference he'd observed before and after the implementation of Title 42 is that his office had less involvement with processing immigration-related offenses — individuals under arrest for entering the country illegally or for human smuggling were immediately turned over to Customs and Border Protection.

Though he didn't anticipate a major influx with the expiration

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General Election results

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groundwater."

City of Marfa

Incumbent Manny Baeza won the mayoral race with 261 votes to opponent Stephen Salgado Boelter's 100. This will be Baeza's third term as the Mayor of Marfa.

"Thank you so much for your continued support," said Baeza of the election results, addressing the Marfa community. "I'm looking forward to serving the community to see [that] our plans and goals come to fruition."

Salgado Boelter had withdrawn from the race on April 19 — too late to have his name taken off the ballot, per state law. Had he won, he would have had to decline the office, leaving City Council to fill the vacancy.

For City Council, voters were asked to cast their ballots for two out of three candidates — Incumbent Raul Lara, Travis Acreman and Christa Marquez — for two available seats, previously occupied by Lara and by Irma Salgado, who chose not to run for reelection after serving on council for six years.

For those seats, Raul Lara has won re-election with 293 votes, while Travis Acreman has won election with 158 votes. Christa Marquez garnered 102 votes. Lara and Acreman will serve full two-year terms.

"I'm just blessed, I'm humbled. I am grateful for my community. I will keep working for my constituents," said Lara, who will now enter his third term on city council. "I'm just over the moon."

"Thank you to all of the voters and candidates for participating in this election," said Acreman. "I am honored by my fellow Marfans' trust and support, and I look forward to serving the community."

Mark Morrison ran unopposed for a third available seat, previously occupied by resigned Councilmember Jason Ballmann, and was declared elected for a one-year term. That seat will be open for election next year for a full two-year term.

Marfa City Council canvassed the election results as a meeting on Tuesday night, making results official, and new council members Acreman and Morrison will officially join council for their next regular meeting on May 25.

City of Presidio

Incumbent John Ferguson won re-election with 311 votes to challenger Angel Campos' 59 votes. This election marks Ferguson's 10th consecutive year as mayor — in addition to serving as mayor from 1991 to 1994.

Ferguson was honored to continue to serve his community in the coming years — earlier this year he announced in September via social media his plan not to run for re-election, but changed his tune in March after "personal reflection" and the advice of his wife, Lucy.

"I'm very happy the community wants to keep me on board for a couple more years," he said. "I always want input from everyone to make sure we're doing the best we can."

He was also excited to continue to bolster the friendship between Presidio and its sister city, Ojinaga — the two towns are home to many dual citizens, have conjoined fire departments and are constantly working together to grow the local economy.

Just this week, Ferguson — alongside Ojinaga Mayor Andres Ramos — met with the governor of Chihuahua, Maru Campos, in her first visit to the area. "She spoke to me and referenced the great relationship between Presidio and Ojinaga," he said. "It was very nice to have her say that because it is real."

Incumbents Arian Velazquez-Ornelas and Nancy Arevalo kept their seats with 235 and 268 votes, respectively. Both women are heavily involved in city governance — Velazquez-Ornelas also serves on the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Arevalo was just tapped as president of the Presidio Municipal Development District.

Challenger Todd Beckett won 109 votes in total.

Presidio ISD School Board Trustees

Brenda Witty, Jaime Sanchez, Marco Lujan and Perla Natividad were selected by voters to fill seats on the Presidio ISD School Board. Witty earned 232 votes, Sanchez earned 229 votes, Lujan won 235 votes and Natividad won 337 votes.

Contenders Steve "Nicky" Alvarez and Carlos Reyna garnered 141 votes, Jeremy Velsquez won 188 and Jessica Acevedo Nuñez won 79.

The four empty seats this cycle replace board members serving as president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. On Thursday, the board will hold an election to decide who will fill those leadership positions.

This year, voters got to choose from a particularly crowded field. New Board Member Perla Natividad was thrilled to see so much engagement from the community. "Having so many candidates — it's exciting, to be honest," she said. "Especially so many well-qualified ones."

MISD School Board

(Continued from page 1)

Principal Luane Porter even said the district nurse has experienced "kids going to her that are sick because of the temperature."

The district would also soon need to financially tackle leaks to the science wing roof and damage to a teacher housing roof as a result of extreme wind.

Safety and security upgrades were also a major theme of preliminary budget talks. The district recently received $200,000 in grant funds from the state to spend on school security and is exploring installing a card entry system for doors. District leaders who met with company Calian IT & Cyber Solutions out of El Paso recently said the technological upgrade would allow them to quickly lock down campuses, customize security and would alert them if doors were left open.

The key card access system would work in conjunction with their current security camera system, but would be costly — coming in at over $200,000 — when considering the wiring and addition of electrical cables to doors, said Rivera. Security camera monitors for the new school resource officer were also on the wishlist.

Regarding budget priorities for the athletics department, trustees, Rivera and Athletic Director Linda Ojeda discussed potential adjustments for coaching stipends — whether to up the one-sport stipend from $1,000 to $1,500 or explore further breakdowns by sport and grade level, similar to other districts.

Making additions to the district's new track, including a timing system, in order to get it up to snuff as a hosting venue for visiting districts was also discussed, and roughly budgeted to cost around $60,000.

A new bus — another big ticket item — was also going to be needed very soon, said Rivera.

Nuts and bolts aside, board members also considered an initiative in response to current teen trends — $10,000 to install bathroom sensors that would alert administrators to vaping activity.

They would also like to construct a therapeutic sensory room for special education students at the elementary school, a project that would cost around $15,000 to $20,000, likely to be funded in phases.

The meeting acted as the initial review of the overall budget, with an emphasis on general comments and requests from trustees, said Superintendent Oscar Aguero — much of it amounted to a wishlist from faculty. It remains to be seen, in the remaining budgeting process, what can actually be funded.

Marfa ISD isn't alone in its ongoing struggles for adequate funding. School leaders around the state are declaring "Mayday," urging citizens to advocate that lawmakers allocate more of the $32.7 billion budget surplus to public schools, which they say are $7 billion under funded.

With the current legislative session concluding at the end of the month, the district was following a number of bills related to school district funding, explained Aguero, including SB3 which would allow for $30,000 increases to current homestead exemptions for over 5 million Texans — money not able to be taxed by school districts.

As it stands, Marfa ISD is already getting the short end of the stick regarding how property values contribute to its state-mandated funding formula. Marfa's high property values mean Marfa ISD is considered a wealthy district, meaning a portion of its annual budget gets taken and redistributed to areas with less wealth, a policy referred to as recapture or "Robin Hood."

Last year, Marfa ISD's recapture payment amounted to around $1 million out of its $4.8 million budget, this year, with the Presidio County Appraisal District's preliminary valuations coming in at over $623 million for properties in Marfa ISD's jurisdiction, the district was projected to pay $1.7 million in recapture next year. Those numbers are preliminary and are likely to change, explained Rivera.

Emergency COVID relief funds from the Texas Legislature, referred to as ESSER funds, will also run out this coming year. In 2020, the district received over $1 million in ESSER III grants, which are restrictive and can only be used for certain purposes, to be spent by fall 2024. The district had already received and spent nearly $500,000 in a previous round of funding through the program.

In Marfa ISD's case, ESSER monies help fund counselor, custodian, interventionists and district nurse salaries, retention stipends, student tutorials, technology and more. Without the COVID relief funds, the district will need to find a funding source for those essential positions and services.

Solicitation of new board member

In other news, trustees decided to put out a call for letters of interest from citizens willing to serve on the school board. The open position is for Place 1 on the board, a seat which has been vacant since the resignation of Christa Marquez last July. A previous open call for letters of interest this past January did not result in any applicants.

Letters of interest may be emailed to the superintendent's secretary, Griselda Hinojos, via email at gghinojos@marfaisd.com or dropped off at the district administration office, located up the stairs next to the Martin Field Lincoln Street entrance. The deadline to apply is Monday, May 15. School board members will review letters the evening of May 15 at their regular meeting. School board members meet regularly once a month and additionally for training. They serve three year terms.

If the board opts to appoint someone to the Place 1 position, they will serve a one-year term then be required to run in the General Election next May.

Summer break to start earlier than planned

Junior High and High School Principal Luane Porter addressed the board to discuss shortening the school year to end on May 19, as opposed to the original date, roughly a week later on May 25. She explained that the district would still meet its state requirements of 75,600 minutes of instruction per calendar year.

The district's original calendar included a total of 18 extra days, and even with the extensions of the Christmas and Easter holidays and lack of school cancellations due to extreme weather events, the district still had around 13 extra days, she said.

All of the end of year events will take place as planned, said Porter, including graduation on May 26, and teachers would still work the last week. The decision was approved by the board.

Short-term rental data

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While the AIR DNA data will be accessible for city employees only, there is limited data available for general free account users on local STRs. The platform shows that the area's top property manager, Trans Pecos Realty Management, has a total of 35 listings, that there are a total of 200 active listings in the area, the fact that 90% of listings are private homes, and that the average rental size is around two bedrooms for four guests.

Zartico, which the city first hired last year, utilizes personal location data collected from mobile devices — through the Apple weather app, for example — to show municipalities very specific information about individual visitors via a dashboard.

"It will say people in this income bracket are spending this much money on average, this many people are coming with kids," Roane said during the recent City Council meeting, listing out the data points.

"That's scary," replied Councilmember Irma Salgado, which was met with laughs from other council members and council meeting attendees.

"It's a bit big brother-ish," agreed Roane. "But it does really help us know what to do."

All of the services, which cost a total of $40,200, are paid for with Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue. By law, the city is required to use HOT revenue to promote more tourism, and out of the roughly $700,000 it's projected to receive this year in HOT taxes, around $100,000 will be used for advertising.

Roane also argued that more data would also be useful for new Tourism Director Jennifer Conners as she gets up and running in the role, allowing her to better understand trends and formulate accurate visitor numbers. As it stands, the city's tourism department is unable to provide a number of visitors that attended last weekend's Marfa Invitational, for example, but may be better equipped to do so with AIR DNA data.

"We know people are staying, but it's really hard to pin down how many people are here," said Roane. "It won't be perfect because some people will be in hotels, some people are staying with friends, some people are in Alpine, but it will give us a better idea of how many people are actually coming out. Because that's something we don't have right now."

Title 42

(Continued from page 1)

of the law, his office would remain vigilant. "We've still got our smuggling and our trafficking going on," Dodson said.

The policy, and its continued use ostensibly as a public health measure, has been controversial since its implementation at the start of the pandemic. Detractors say that the virtual shutdown of the asylum process puts people in danger — the organization Human Rights Now counted 13,000 incidents of torture, rape and violence against people returned to Mexico under the law.

The Centers for Disease Control announced in April 2022 that it would be suspending the order on public health grounds, pledging instead that the Department of Homeland Security would be assisting in making sure proper COVID-prevention measures were enacted at the border.

In May of last year, 24 states — the majority of which were not border states — sued the Biden administration in an attempt to block Title 42's expiration. The law pinballed through the courts until November of 2022, when a federal judge ruled to lift the ban, arguing, among other points, that the law unfairly targeted the relatively small percentage of immigrants who cross the border on foot.

Just days after it was set to expire, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of keeping it in place a few months longer, and a final date of May 11 was eventually set.

In Texas, all eyes were on El Paso this week as immigration authorities handed out flyers to a thousand recent migrants encouraging them to turn themselves into Customs and Border Protection, in order to continue "on the correct immigration path."

The surge of law enforcement along the Texas-Mexico border has been in the works for years. In 2021, the state government launched Operation Lone Star, a rolling cash infusion for local governments along the border that to date has cost the state government over $4 billion,including around $360 million diverted from the state's prison system. Local law enforcement agencies in Texas also receive funding from the Department of Homeland Security's $90 million Operation Stonegarden program. Local governments in the Big Bend region have applied for those funds to finance a multitude of projects, from new vehicles and security equipment to legal aides to help county officials with casework.



Schools stock Narcan

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case of emergency.

In March, the district filled out a request form via morenarcanplease.com, an initiative to distribute state-funded naloxone by the UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing. They received a few doses, which they were then able to distribute to area schools in Alpine, Marathon, Marfa and Presidio. "There wasn't a lot," said Director J.D. Newsom, "But it was some." (Owen said she hopes to procure more of the nasal sprays in the future.) The hospital district also distributed 32 doses to Sul Ross State University.

Newsom said the initiative had turned out to be an opportunity for education, and hoped it prompted school districts to think proactively about overdose prevention. For some administrators, it was a completely foreign topic.

"I'd like to think that our efforts spurred some thought, because some of the school districts we gave it to didn't really have any idea what it was," said Newsom. "I'm hoping this spurred some of the school districts to think about what happens if we do have a fentanyl issue."

Nationwide, overdose deaths have increased among teens and adolescents since the start of the pandemic. Median monthly overdose deaths among people ages 10 to 19 increased 109% from July–December 2019 to the same time period in 2021, per the CDC; 90% of those deaths involved opioids and 84% involved illicitly manufactured fentanyls. Deaths involving illicitly manufactured fentanyls in that age group increased by 182%.

In Texas alone, more than 5,000 people died of drug overdoses between October 2021 and October 2022, per CDC data. From 2019 to 2021, overdose deaths involving fentanyl in the state rose 399%, from 333 deaths to 1,662.

Many of those who die from fentanyl overdoses do not know they are consuming the drug — it is more often the case that a person will unknowingly consume an illicit substance or counterfeit pill laced with fentanyl. Law enforcement seizures of fentanyl-laced pills increased dramatically from 2018 to 2021; the DEA's "One Pill Can Kill" initiative stresses the increase in fatal doses of fentanyl in fentanyl-laced pills, according to a lab analysis.

In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott in April launched a $10 million information campaign called "One Pill Kills," geared towards raising awareness among Texans about the dangers of fentanyl, and announced a plan to distribute 20,000 doses of Narcan to county sheriff's offices across the state.

When it comes to combating the crisis, Texas lawmakers have set their sights on schools in particular. There are currently eight bills making their way through the state Legislature aimed at facilitating the distribution and use of Narcan by school staff and educators.

"I'm glad that it's available, so if it were to happen, we would be ready for it. You just never know anymore."

It remains unclear how immediate a danger fentanyl currently poses in the tri-county region, but news of fentanyl seized at the border crossing into Presidio County has caused some alarm. In November of last year, U.S. Customers and Border Protection seized 32 pounds of methamphetamine and two pounds of fentanyl from a driver on the Presidio International Bridge — the first time fentanyl was seized by local authorities. In January, authorities seized 15.43 pounds of fentanyl along with a shipment of meth.

Overall, the amount of fentanyl seizures at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border have roughly doubled over the last two fiscal years. Of course, that's only one method of entry — in February, a California man was arrested at the Sierra Blanca CBP checkpoint when a search revealed he was carrying 1.005 kilograms of fentanyl.

It's enough to prompt a heightened vigilance among law enforcement and healthcare workers.

"Of course it's in our communities," said Newsom. "It's coming across the border."

Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson said his officers are equipped with Narcan but have never had to use it. Their only encounter with fentanyl so far was approximately six months ago, when an abandoned backpack stashed with bags of the drug was found outside Marathon.

"Whoever was bringing it got scared, dumped it and took off," said Dodson.

Joel Nuñez, who serves both as Presidio County Sheriff's Office chief deputy and the chief of Presidio ISD's Department of Public Safety, has anticipated the drug's appearance in the county for some time — he first hosted a presentation on the dangers of fentanyl at the high school for concerned parents in October.

When reached for comment on Narcan distribution in Presidio ISD, he clarified that the school had been stocked with the medication prior to the hospital district's donation, thanks to Emergence Health Network out of El Paso.

"All school nursing staff, medics, and police officers are well stocked with Narcan in case of emergency," said Nuñez.

Sul Ross State University Health Services Coordinator Danielle Bell said that while the University Police had been carrying Narcan for two years, the university was in the process of expanding its stockpile of the medication and training for staff. With the hospital district's recent donation of 32 nasal spray doses, the university will be training administrators to recognize signs of an overdose and to administer the medication.

"The people who will be the most likely to be on scene first in an emergency situation will carry at least one dose," said Bell. "Those include designated people in Residential Living, Health Services, and University Police."

Training for staffers is expected to wrap up this summer.

As with Alpine ISD, Bell clarified that there had never been an overdose on Sul Ross campus — but she was grateful to have life saving medication on hand just in case.

"I would never want to have an overdose incident on campus, but I am sure glad that we are prepared with the medication and knowledge to help prevent a death," she said.

FRIDAY, May 12
@ 6 pm
Live Author Event!
C.E. Hunt

FRONT STREET BOOKS



The author of
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CE Hunt is inspired by the culture and the beauty of West Texas.

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50-195 (Rev. 2-23/23)
[41.41,41.70]

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

Property owners have the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the appraised (market) value of your property;
- the unequal value of your property compared with other properties;
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal records;
- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB) to send a required notice; or
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, county appraisal district (CAD) or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review
(Insert description of CAD's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

Presidio County Appraisal District
P O Box 879
Marfa, Texas 79843
(432)729-3431
info@presidiocad.org

Review by the ARB
If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the CAD, you have the right to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the time, date, place and subject of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest,* to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. Evidence may be submitted for any hearing type either in paper or on a small portable electronic device (such as a CD, USB flash drive or thumb drive) which will be kept by the ARB. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. The ARB's hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device must be reviewed.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your designated agent may appear in person, by telephone conference or videoconference call or by submission of a written affidavit to present your evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate the type of hearing you request on your written notice of protest filed with the ARB not later than the 10th day before the hearing date and provide your evidence and written affidavit before the ARB hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, *Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board,* to submit evidence for your telephone or video conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the CAD representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the ARB's decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If you chose to appeal through binding arbitration, you must file a request for binding arbitration with the CAD not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. If you chose to appeal to the SOAH, you must file an appeal with the CAD not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order. Appeals to district court, binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

If you believe that the ARB or chief appraiser failed to comply with an ARB procedural requirement, you may file a complaint with the local taxpayer liaison. If it is not resolved by the ARB or chief appraiser, you can request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or the chief appraiser to comply.

Tax Payment
You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

More Information
You can get more information by contacting your CAD at *(insert CAD name, address, telephone number).*

Presidio County Appraisal District
P O Box 879
Marfa, Texas 79843
(432)729-343

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline
Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

Special Deadlines
For change of use (the CAD informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

Deadline to file protest is June 6, 2023

If you believe the CAD or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

50-195-S (Rev. 2-23/23)
[41.41,41.70]

Procedimientos para la protesta y apelación de los impuestos de la propiedad

Los propietarios tienen el derecho a protestar las acciones acerca de sus tasaciones del impuesto de propiedad. Puede seguir estos procedimientos de apelación si usted tiene alguna preocupación acerca de:

- el valor (del mercado) tasado a su propiedad;
- el valor desigual de su propiedad en comparación con otras propiedades;
- la inclusión de su propiedad en la lista de tasaciones;
- cualquier exención que se puede aplicar a usted;
- la calificación para una tasación de agricultura o de trastería;
- las unidades de impuestos que están gravando su propiedad;
- la titularidad de la propiedad;
- el cambio de uso del terreno recibiendo una tasación especial;
- el fracaso del jefe de tasaciones o de la junta de revisión de tasaciones (ARB por sus siglas en inglés) para enviar una notificación requerida; o
- cualquier acción tomada por el jefe de tasaciones, distrito de tasaciones del condado (CAD por sus siglas en inglés) o ARB que se aplica y le afecta negativamente.

Revisión Informal
(Insert description of CAD's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

Presidio County Appraisal District
P O Box 879
Marfa, Texas 79843
(432)729-3431
info@presidiocad.org

Revisión por el ARB
Si usted no puede resolver su problema de manera informal con el CAD, tiene derecho a que la ARB escuche su caso.

El ARB es una junta independiente de ciudadanos que escucha y determina las protestas sobre las tasaciones de propiedad y otras preocupaciones listadas arriba. Tiene el poder de ordenar al CAD a hacer los cambios necesarios sobre la base de los testimonios oídos durante la audiencia de el ARB.

Si presenta una solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB (aviso de protesta) antes de la fecha límite, el ARB establecerá su caso para una audiencia y le enviará un aviso por escrito de la hora, fecha, lugar y tema de la audiencia. Si es necesario, puede solicitar una audiencia por la tarde o un sábado. Usted puede usar el formulario del Contralor 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, para presentar su solicitud por escrito para una audiencia de ARB.

Antes de su cita con el ARB, puede pedir a revisar la evidencia que el CAD planea introducir a la audiencia para establecer cualquier asunto en cuestión. Antes de una audiencia en una protesta o inmediatamente después de que comience la cita, usted o su agente y el CAD están obligados a intercambiar copias de cualquier material (evidencia) destinada a ser ofrecido o sometido al ARB en la cita. La evidencia se puede presentar para cualquier tipo de audiencia ya sea en papel o en un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil (como un CD o memoria USB) que será guardado por el ARB. No traiga la evidencia en un teléfono. Los procedimientos de audiencia del ARB con respeto a todos los requisitos para presentar adecuadamente evidencia sobre un pequeño dispositivo electrónico portátil deben ser revisados.

En la mayor medida posible, la audiencia será informal. Usted o su agente designado pueden aparecer en persona, por conferencia telefónica o videoconferencia o mediante la presentación de una declaración jurada por escrito para presentar su evidencia, hechos y argumentos. Debe indicar el tipo de audiencia que solicita en su notificación de protesta o por escrito antes de 10 dias antes de la fecha de la audiencia y proporcionar su evidencia y declaración jurada por escrito antes de que comience la audiencia del ARB. Puede usar el Formulario 50-283 del Contralor, Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board, para presentar evidencia para su audiencia por teléfono o videoconferencia o para una audiencia por declaración jurada.

Usted y el representante del CAD tienen la oportunidad de presentar evidencia sobre su caso. Puede interrogar al representante de CAD. El ARB rendirá su decisión basado en la evidencia presentada por ambas partes. En la mayoría de los casos, el CAD tiene la carga de establecer el valor de la propiedad por una preponderancia de la evidencia presentada.

En ciertas protestas, el jefe de tasaciones tiene la carga de probar el valor de la propiedad por evidencia clara y convincente. Usted debe revisar los procedimientos de audiencia de ARB para aprender más sobre la evidencia y asuntos relacionados.

No debe tratar de contactar a los miembros del ARB fuera de la audiencia. Los miembros del ARB están obligados a firmar una declaración jurada diciendo que no han hablado de su caso antes de que el ARB lo oiga.

Revisión por Corte del Distrito, Árbitro o SOAH
Después de decidir su caso, el ARB debe enviarle una copia de su orden por correo certificado. Si no está satisfecho con la decisión del ARB, tiene el derecho a apelar ante la corte de distrito. Como una alternativa a la corte de distrito, puede apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio o a la Oficina Estatal de Audiencias Administrativas (SOAH por sus siglas en inglés) si se cumplen los criterios de calificación.

Si decide ir a la corte de distrito, debe iniciar el proceso presentando una petición ante el corte de distrito dentro de los 60 días siguiendo la fecha en que reciba el orden del ARB. Si decide apelar a través del arbitraje obligatorio, debe presentar una petición del arbitraje obligatorio con el CAD no más tarde del 60º día después de que recibe el aviso del orden de el ARB. Si decide apelar al SOAH, debe presentar una apelación con el CAD no más tarde que el 30º día después de que recibe el aviso del orden del ARB. Las apelaciones a la corte de distrito, el arbitraje obligatorio, y SOAH requieren el pago de ciertas tasas o depósitos. Si cree que el ARB o el jefe de tasaciones no cumplió con un requisito de procedimiento de ARB, puede presentar una queja ante el enlace del contribuyente local. Si no es resuelto por el ARB o el jefe de tasaciones, puede solicitar un arbitraje vinculante limitado para obligar al ARB o al tasador principal a cumplir.

El Pago de los Impuestos
Usted debe pagar la cantidad de impuestos debido por la parte del valor imponible no disputado, la cantidad de impuestos debido sobre la propiedad bajo la orden de que se han adoptado la apelación o la cantidad de impuestos debido en el año anterior.

Información Adicional
Usted puede obtener más información poniéndose en contacto con su CAD en: (*Insert CAD name, address and telephone number*).

Presidio County Appraisal District
P O Box 879
Marfa, Texas 79843
(432)729-3431

Puede obtener formularios del Contralor e información adicional sobre cómo preparar una protesta en el sitio web del Contralor en comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

Fecha de vencimiento para presentar protestas al ARB*

Fecha de Vencimiento Común
No puede ser más tarde del 15 de mayo (o dentro de 30 días después de que un aviso del valor tasado fue enviado a usted, cualquier es más tarde).

Las protestas tardes son permitidas si usted falla de cumplir la fecha de vencimiento común por causa justa. El ARB decide si usted tiene una buena causa. Las protestas tardes no son permitidas después de que el ARB apruebe las evaluaciónes de tasación por el año.

Fechas de Vencimiento Especiales
Para el cambio de uso (el CAD le informó que usted está perdiendo la tasación agrícultar porque cambió el uso de su terreno), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso de la determinación fue entregado a usted.

Para los cambios de ARB (el ARB le ha informado de un cambio que aumenta su obligación de impuestos y el cambio no resultó de una protesta que usted presentó), la fecha no es más tarde que el trigésimo día después de que el aviso del cambio fue entregado a usted.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

JUNE 6, 2023

Si cree que el CAD o ARB le deberían haber enviado un aviso y no lo hicieron, puede presentar una protesta hasta el día antes de que los impuestos se vuelvan delincuentes (usualmente el 1ero de febrero) o no más tarde del 125º día después de la fecha en que usted afirma que recibió una factura de impuestos de uno o más entidades que gravan su propiedad. El ARB decide si oigan su caso basado en la evidencia sobre si un aviso requerido fue enviado a usted.

* El límite de fecha se pospone al siguiente día laborable si cae en un fin de semana o día de festivo legal, estatal o nacional.

MAC Pool to open for summer season, pending staffing, facilities hurdles

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Marfa Activities Center Pool is slated to open the first week of June, pending lifeguard training and necessary repairs to pool wiring, shared City Manager Mandy Roane in a council meeting on Tuesday.

As of late, the city has struggled to attract lifeguards as the 1960s-era facility, the only fully public pool in town, continues to deteriorate. Public discussions held over the past year or so relating to how to reimagine the future of the town's aquatic facilities have since stalled.

Roane said the city received six applicants this summer for the MAC lifeguard positions, having extended the deadline after only one was turned in — but none were over 17 and there were no candidates for the supervisor position.

"It's not a huge deal. It's just in the past, we've had someone who's a little bit older to oversee scheduling and things like that," said Roane.

For now, the six lifeguard candidates are scheduled to attend lifeguard training in Presidio at the end of the month. In order for the pool to remain open throughout the summer, it will require four certified lifeguards, but preferably more to allow for flexibility for time off, said Roane. And adequate training would be paramount for the applicants.

"I have talked to some of the kids, and some of them are maybe a bit worried about their swimming skills," said Roane.

In addition to pending lifeguard certification results, repairs needed to be made to the wiring which controls the pool's lighting, said Roane, something that needs to be fixed by an electrician for insurance purposes for the pool to be open to the public. Should those repairs be completed and enough lifeguards properly certified, the pool will open for the summer, said Roane.

"That is the very, very, very rough plan. Everything has to line up just right to make that happen," she said.

Marfa ISD's Summer Shake Up Program is hoping to have the pool open for the summer and has helped campaign for lifeguard candidates and funds. If the pool opens, the program intends to offer swimming lessons for local children, for which they have located qualified instructors and could accommodate up to 64 pupils.

Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado exits office after 6 years on council

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Tuesday evening's regular City Council meeting marked the last for Marfa resident Irma Salgado, who has served the city a total of six years, as a council member then later as mayor pro tem.

"Well, Mrs. Salgado, it's been an honor working with you, we're really going to miss you," said Mayor Manny Baeza. "We've agreed, disagreed, but for the most part it's been fun, and I think we've done a great job, and you really will be missed."

City Manager Mandy Roane echoed the mayor's sentiments, and joked that without Salgado's scrutinization of the accounts payable reports — for which she almost always has questions and comments — the task would be left up to her.

"I've enjoyed working with you. And now I'm gonna have to actually read all the AP reports," joked Roane.

"I enjoyed working with everybody," said Salgado. Fellow council members thanked her for her service and welcomed new incoming council members Travis Acreman and Mark Morrison, who were in the audience.

Also in the audience were previous council members Buck Johnston and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, who served on council alongside Salgado. When Salgado was presented with an orchid by Councilmember Raul Lara, Johnston, who cried at her last council meeting, remarked, "No tears?"

"We're here to see the tears," Ben-Yehuda and Johnston joked. And with that, the motion to adjourn the meeting was made with Salgado seconding the motion for the last time.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Marfa City Council members gather for a group photo at Tuesday night's meeting as Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado exits council after six years of service. From left, Raul Lara, Mayor Manny Baeza, Irma Salgado, Mark Cash and Eddie Pallarez.



Photo courtesy of the Brewster County Sheriff's Office

Brewster County first responders have battled a series of brush fires over the past week, preventing serious wildfires from taking off.

High spring winds bring brush fires to Brewster County

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

BREWSTER COUNTY — Over the past week, Brewster County first responders have consistently battled clusters of brush fires. With conditions likely to remain dry, hot and windy over the next few weeks, officials are hoping that public awareness and extended burn ban restrictions will help keep county residents safe.

On May 5, multiple brush fires broke out around the county. The largest and fiercest fire was along Highway 118, spanning about 20 acres. Luckily, the fire was remote enough that no people or structures were injured — but the Alpine Fire Department advised caution through social media.

On May 8, a storm system moving through the area brought lightning strikes that ignited several small fires. A more severe fire broke out near the Paisano Baptist Encampment between Marfa and Alpine — the Marathon, Marfa and Alpine Volunteer Fire Departments responded alongside the Texas Forestry Service and the Brewster County Sheriff's Office.

The first responders successfully put a stop to the blaze — only for onlookers to report a reignition early in the evening. An hour and a half later, officials considered it officially snuffed, saving several homes and hundreds of acres of property.

At press time, Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson said that all of these scattered fires were contained — but that county government was taking extra precautionary measures.

The county's burn ban can be renewed by the Brewster County Commissioners Court every 90 days — both Brewster and Presidio counties have been in lock step throughout the spring to help prevent disaster.

Typically, county residents can still have controlled burns on their property if officials are properly notified in advance. Dodson said that's no longer the case in Brewster County — windy conditions have shifted vegetation enough it's hard even for savvy landowners to make safe decisions. "You just can't tell how dry it is," he explained.

Dodson stressed that it wasn't just lightning strikes and intentionally set fires that could quickly spiral into something else — tossed cigarette butts and parking over dry grass can also ignite wildland fires. He'd even seen instances of a chain dragging behind a trailer sparking a blaze.

For now, he's just grateful for the local network of fire departments and other emergency personnel that have been able to stave off disaster. "We've been really lucky that our response has gotten out there so quickly," he said. "I'm just knocking on wood right now."

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RICK STEPHENS



Looking Forward to Working Together for a Better Alpine

One of the great attributes of Alpine is its diversity...diversity of the land we live on and around, diversity of climate, the diversity of wildlife and flowers and fauna. We also enjoy the diversity of thinking, perspectives, capabilities, and skillset of the people who live, work, learn and play in a place we call home.

With the Ward 5 city council election complete and the preliminary results in, I look forward to joining the other members of the Council, the Mayor, and City leadership in mapping out the way forward. The diversity of perspectives and capabilities of the elected leaders, in my view, provides a strong capacity for creating the go forward plan. The City Manager and employees have plenty to do as they utilize the financial resources that residents, businesses, and visitors provide to meet what everyone expects: A clean and smooth-running city providing the services that are important to all.

Council plays a critical role in supporting the City by setting top level strategies, establishing key performance measures, monitoring progress against those measures, and ensuring that city ordinances and policies are consistent with the expectations of the residents and good governance. I look forward to being a member in that group.

One of the most important opportunities I've enjoyed these past few weeks has been the wide- ranging discussions with residents of Ward 5. There were several concerns raised, and a number of recommendations made. In the end, I know I walked away from those discussions much better in tune with issues and better educated about the needs of Alpine and Ward 5. I believe many walked away with a better sense of who I am and put to rest rumors that they may have heard.

Based on those discussions, I've already started making a list of key performance measures for Ward 5. I look forward to discussing those measures and sharing them regularly and widely across Ward 5. A key recommendation shared by many was establishment of more face-to-face forums and events at different locations in Ward 5 so that we can share, talk, and discuss. In my view, that's what community are all about. Not always agreeing, but always willing to talk, to share, to debate and hopefully align. The Ward 5 list, along with the list of key performance measures for the City, will provide us all with a sense of how we are doing together. And while it is the Mayor, Council and City leadership and staff that provide the oversight and insight about the way forward, success depends on all of us "Working Together for a Better Alpine".

Many thanks to the residents of Ward 5 for your confidence in selecting me to represent you. And, many thanks to those who took the time to share your thoughts with others so that voters could make an informed decision.

Sincerely,
Rick Stephens

Political ad paid for by Rick Stephens

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I keep hearing about how the people of Texas are grieving over the latest mass shootings in Allen and Cleveland, Texas. The truth is that the majority of people in Texas don't care.

To many of us that is a horrible and outrageous statement, but if the majority of Texans really cared they would not continue to elect and reelect Republicans at all levels of government who we know — WE KNOW — will do nothing about gun violence.

Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over (electing Republicans) expecting different results. Until the majority of Texans understand that, we will never have different results.

Fred Gossien
Terlingua

• • •

Dear Porter's:

I just want to say how much I enjoy the Marfa store. I think of Porter's as one of the things that ties our community(s) together. Porter's is always a big donor to area charities. I understand they support employee continuing education. Porter's has also been making major community investments with three new stores in the area.

I also want to put in my two cents on any changes to the Marfa store in the future. I like the look and layout of the current store. Please keep it light and airy. I find the new stores to be dark and claustrophobic. I am totally behind an expansion of the produce section. I salute your daring choice to include healthy, organic and top-tier items in the inventory. I find the employees to be helpful. Even the parking lot has a better layout than others I have had to navigate.

So, in closing, there is always room for upgrades and improvements, but our local Marfa store continues to be a welcoming, open, and nourishing place for locals and visitors alike.

Thank You,

Scott May
Marfa

• • •

Editor:

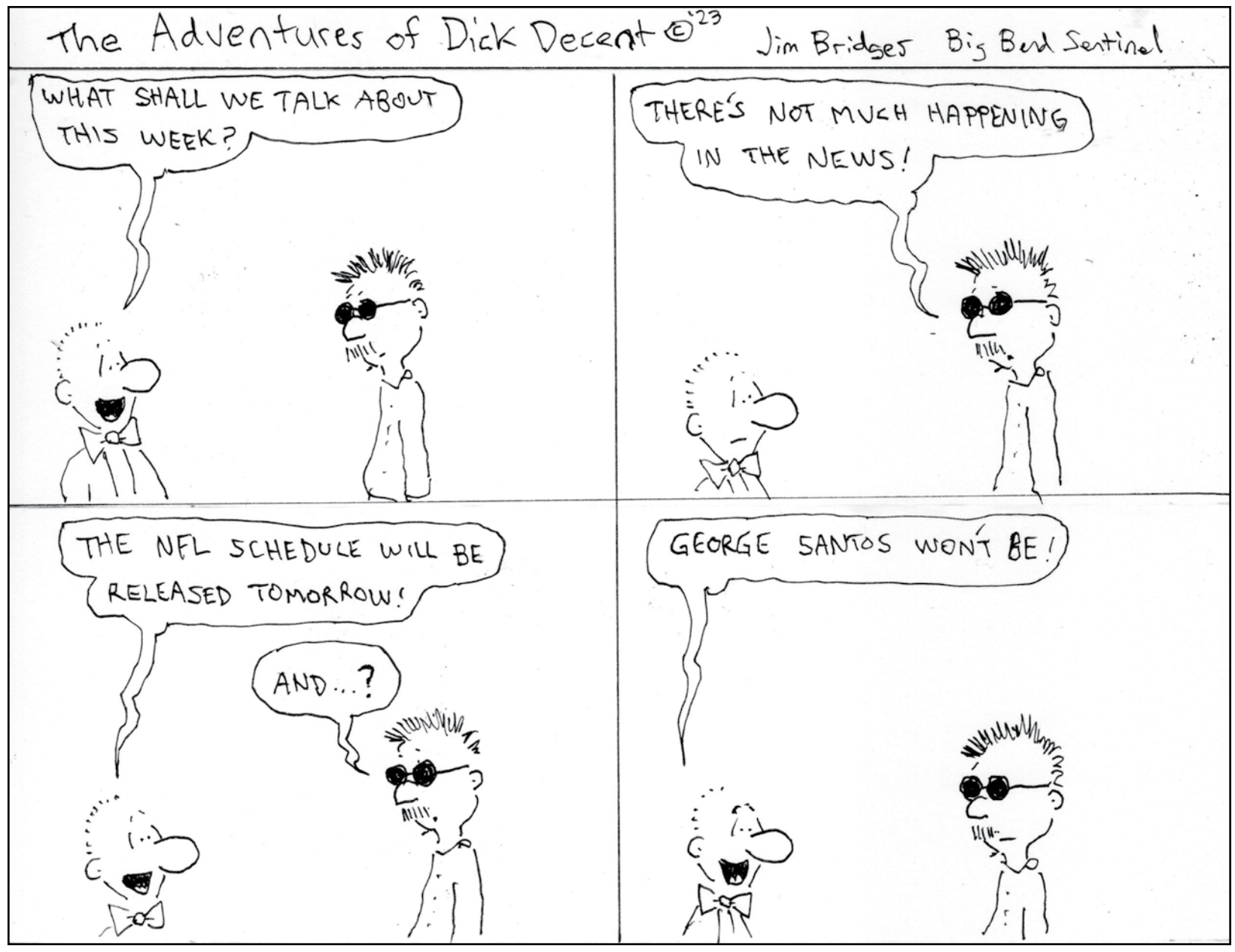
The Rotary Club of Marfa would like to say thank you to everyone in our community who helped support our golf tournament last Sunday. Your support makes it possible for us to provide college scholarships and leadership camp scholarships to our high school students and to serve our community in every way that we can. In particular we want to thank our sponsors and raffle donors: Marfa National Bank, Livingston Insurance Agency, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, Marfa Realty, The Sentinel Marfa, Skiles Properties LLC, The Hotel Paisano, Livingston Ranch Supplies, Cactus Liquors, Mayor Manny Baeza, Fowlkes Cattle Co., Action Heating & Cooling, Lilliana Fields Architect, El Muerto Springs Ranch, Eddie Pallarez, Triangle Quarter Horses, Frances & Eugenia Wright, The Austinite Guest House, Carmen's Boutique Hotel, Trey Gerfers, Marfa Yards, Barbara Love, Ben Deluca, Oscar & Cheri Aquero, Moonlight Gemstones, Marfa Burrito, Marfa Chamber of Commerce, Cristina & Hector Martinez, Marfa Rent Tools, International Women's Foundation, Para Llevar, Planet Marfa, Silla, Susan Kirr & Rusty Martin, Mark Morrison & Patrick Daly, The Lincoln Marfa, The Marfa Store, Presidio County Community Fund, Robert & Hillary Summers, Margaret's In Marfa, Bill Bryan, Lajitas Golf Course, Joe Williams for the Cloudcroft Lodge golf package, Virgina Platt, Marjo Skiles, Genevieve Bassham, The Get Go, Dairy Queen, Josie & Eliseo Martinez. Last but certainly not least, all the golfers who entered the tournament, purchased lots of raffle tickets, and came out to play a little golf and have a lot of fun.

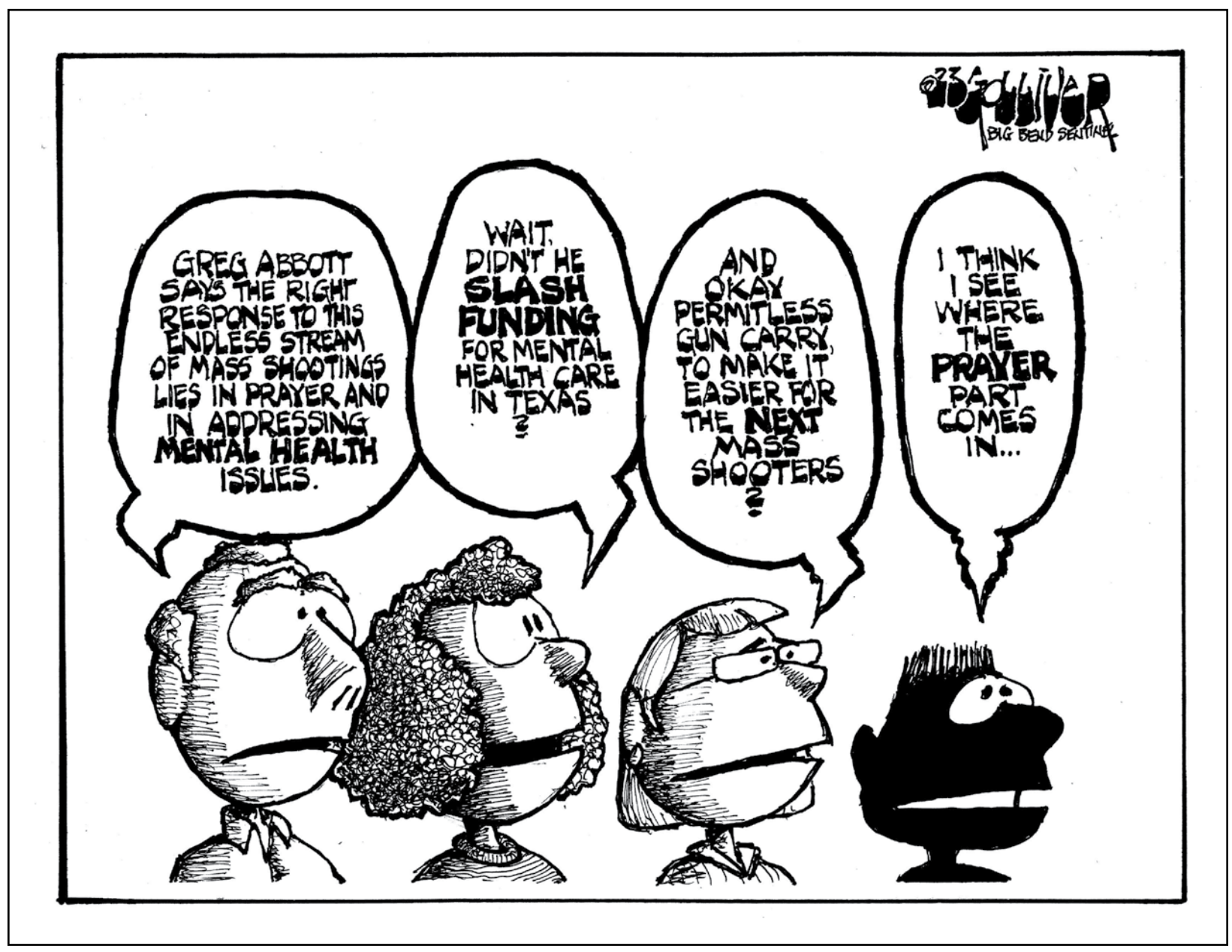
Marjo Skiles
The Rotary Club of Marfa

We want to hear from YOU!

- Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@bigbendsentinel.com, and must provide the writer's full name, city of residence and an email or phone number, so that we may follow up and verify information as needed.
- Your letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. While opinions of all kinds are welcome, when it comes to claims of fact, we strive to only publish what is verifiable.
- We have limited staff capacity to fact check unsubstantiated claims, so letters that include those may be held or remain unpublished if information is not easily verifiable.
- We may reach out to ask questions and verify the identity of the sender. We do not run letters anonymously unless the sender is privately identified and has a reasonable claim to anonymity.
- We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

- ***The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff***





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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 Exhibition 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.

Community

At 4th Marfa Invitational Weekend, a more expansive affair emerges

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — On Thursday evening, at the opening reception of the Fourth Annual Marfa Invitational, VIP guests for an all-inclusive four-day pass to cocktail soirees and private viewings milled about the St. George Hall, gazing at the art that had traversed the globe to be in the desert arts mecca before reclining poolside.

A total of 10 gallerists from around the world set up booths within the space. Works on view included the surreal mixed-media compositions of Mark Whelan with Over the Influence gallery; colorful, dynamic oil and pastel pieces on large swathes of linen from Cindy Phenix of Nino Mier Gallery; and the bold, highly-stylized portraiture of Koichi Sato of Bill Brady Gallery.

Apart from Thursday night's opening, the hall was open and free to the public throughout the weekend, as was a talk from featured speaker Jerry Saltz, senior art critic for *New York Magazine*, and a screening of documentary *The Art of Making It*.

The fair is only one part of Michael Phelan's vision for the future of art in Marfa, where he is now breaking ground on an exhibition hall on the edge of town, a place that will host yearlong programming — artists in residence, exhibitions, performances and more. The annual event, noted Phelan's wife and co-organizer Melissa Bent, serves as something of a preview for the forthcoming permanent space.

Around town, local events and artists hosted an adjacent Marfa Invitational of sorts — outside of the scope of the official events, but inviting attendees to experience more of what Marfa has to offer. Local artist Julie Speed hosted open studio hours through the weekend. RULE Gallery premiered *Sharp Pause*, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Diego Rodriguez-Warner. Hetzler Marfa chose the start of Marfa Invitational to premiere *Indoor Paintings*, a solo exhibition of massive paintings by Grace Weaver, created while an artist in residence at the Antelope Hills space. Marfa Book Co. hosted the stained glass window panes of artist Katie Newby.

Artist Krissy Teegerstrom premiered her show *EXQUISITE SELF* — an exhibition of wearable capes made from secondhand materials — at Wrong Marfa that weekend, her reception taking place on the first day of the Invitational. She felt the momentum of the Invitational had birthed all the surrounding creative output.

"Once an event establishes itself, then it naturally gets events in response, and I think it's cool," said Teegerstrom. "It kind of stirs everything up and gives an inspiration and an impetus for people to do their own thing in response or reaction."

Teegerstrom's show is the second phase of an initial pop-up hosted at Do Right Hall, also of wearable capes — a show that had been about "recovering fragments of myself," she said. The capes she made for this show sprung from the question, what does it mean for the self to be exquisite?

"The way I understand it is, it represents the work I'm doing on self-worth," she said. "After you get some recovery and some post-traumatic growth, then you can get to work on the self and self-worth. It's just asking what can you put on that would make you feel special, exquisite, rare, worthy?"

In a small space behind the public library, local artists Leslie Wilkes, Diana Simard and Martha Hughes showcased their paintings at the "Martha Invitational," a tongue-in-cheek response to the overarching event. Mostly locals came through, they said, though some visitors had been directed by locals to pop in.

Simard noted that while adjacent events had sprung up in previous years, this one felt more expansive — the number of galleries hosting their own exhibitions had seemingly grown.

"This is the first year that I've seen that there were a lot of other things going on, like little satellite events," said Simard. "The other [Invitationals], it was pretty contained."

Wilkes agreed — this year's Invitational weekend felt more lively than previous iterations. There seemed to be more room to do one's own thing.

"It's more inclusive now, I think, because of people doing things around town," she said.

Hughes felt this year's Invitational was "lighter and more interesting and just all-around better." She was enthusiastic about the local spaces she'd visited.

"I loved going around town, to Marfa Book Co. I loved the show at Max Hetzler. And I went to Glitch — the show there is beautiful. It was just fun," she said.

Saltz, the featured speaker, made note of the showings that expanded beyond the Saint George Hall. He had stopped into the Crowley Theater to see the work of Texan artist Elizabeth Hohimer, on display within a pop-up by the Gerald Peters Contemporary gallery. At his Friday talk outside St. George Hall, he gave a shout out to the art of Christopher Blay, chief curator of the Houston Museum of African American Culture, whose daring sculpture — an amalgamation of a slave ship and a spaceship — was housed at The Studios at Crowley Theater, an adjacent newly-opened gallery space.

Saltz spoke of Marfa as an arts destination and its continued evolution as such, beginning with Donald Judd's breaking off from the New York art world to embed his architectural works in the Far West Texas landscape — a "primary act of contention," said Saltz.

Of course, Marfa has transformed quite a bit since Judd's arrival — a fact that also did not go unnoticed by Saltz.

"When you come to Marfa, you're coming to several places — one is this art anti-mecca that then turned into this mecca," he said. "That, to me, makes this a site of continued contention, insofar as it's like flash floods come through Marfa, where you have a lot of money influxing in and building and then dropping off and then building higher and then dropping off and building."

At The Studios at the Crowley Theater, Blay was pleased to have received a brief visit from Saltz and a public acknowledgment, though his exhibition is not technically part of the Invitational itself. He was the first artist to be showcasing work in the new gallery, where construction was still not quite done.

He explained that the spaceship structure, made of canvases painted with bodies in close proximity — as a slave ship would have been inhabited — was an exercise in combining the traumatic past with futuristic exploration, creating a third vessel, one that "recognizes the history but propels the history into the future."

"In my mind, it's transforming this technology of genocide into this global aspirational movement to outer space," he said.

When asked how he saw Marfa in the landscape of the art world — the place it holds now, the place it might hold in the future, Blay said it seemed unclear where the desert town lies in the predictable ebb and flow of the fringe becoming mainstream.

"It's outside of the big scope of art, and then the art world always sort of pivots and says, 'Oh, what's that new thing over there, let's put it under the giant art umbrella.' The thing that's sort of on the edge and away from everything else becomes canonized as art until the next mysterious outsider thing is happening, then that gets consumed."



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Gallerists and Marfa Invitational goers view and chat about the displayed contemporary art at the annual art fair.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Art critic Jerry Saltz gave a talk and took questions from a gathered crowd at last weekend's Marfa Invitational art fair at Saint George Hall.

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Photo by Sarah Vasquez, courtesy of The Chinati Foundation

Chinati will host an open house community day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, with entertainment and dinner in the Arena afterwards.

Chinati Foundation to welcome locals for free Community Day this weekend

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation will be open for free for visitors from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, May 13, with the Fort DA Russell grounds, Robert Irwin installation, John Chamberlain building and associated collections all available for viewing on behalf of the museum's annual Community Day.

After the open five hours to explore the collection, a community celebration will be held starting at 4:30 p.m. in the Arena. The foundation's new director, Caitlin Murray, will give remarks, Marfa ISD's Ballet Folklorico will perform, as will Presido's Molly Ferguson Rodriguez of Tequila Sound Machine, and barbecue and beverages will be served.

"We absolutely do hope that folks join us, all of our neighbors from Fort Davis, Presidio and Marfa," said Visitor Services Manager Julie Carey. "We're looking forward to welcoming all of the members of our community to come and enjoy the artwork, the day, each other's company."

For the full schedule of events and more information, visit chinati.org/community-day-2023/



Photo courtesy of Davis Mountains State Park

Davis Mountains State Park will host a special day of hikes and talks to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Texas State Parks this Saturday.

Davis Mountains State Park to host centennial celebration amidst lodge, trail renovations

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

FORT DAVIS — Davis Mountains State Park will host "Mile-High Mountains Fest," a free recreational bash to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Texas State Parks system from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. this Saturday, May 13.

Reservations are not required and the entire community is welcome. Special programming includes guided hikes, tabling by local organizations, live music, face painting, crafts, and talks from area experts on geology, bears, the history of the Indian Lodge and more. Picnic areas will be available, but attendees will need to bring their own food and drinks.

Park employees Charlie Ewing, interpretive ranger, and Aimee Oliveri, assistant superintendent, said the welcoming spirit of the centennial event and varied activities is purposefully in keeping with Texas State Parks' recent efforts to broaden its reach to new audiences.

"Getting people outside who may have never been to our park before or to a state park at all, just expressing that there is something for everyone here [is our goal]," said Oliveri. "There's a state park out there for you, and that's really the message we're trying to send."

Davis Mountains State Park, a 2,000 plus square acre public recreational area and the highest elevated park in Texas, is also undergoing restorations to one of its main trails and to the Indian Lodge, visitor accommodations originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935.

Reconstruction of the CCC trail, which has been closed for an extended period of time, is slated to be completed in time for this Saturday's event, said park employees. While the portion of the trail that features old stonework built by the CCC was still holding up, other parts of the trail experienced continual washout due to rain events, and park employees and volunteers were working to solve drainage problems and reopen the route.

The historic Indian Lodge, which underwent additions of a pool, restaurant and two newer lodging wings in the 1960s along with other periodic renovations, has been closed for renovation since early 2023. Oliveri said the much-needed renovations that were occurring would hopefully be completed by early 2024.

"We're getting new water lines, new boilers, key cards for the doors — things that will make operations there much easier and much more comfortable for our guests," said Oliveri.

Funding for the renovations, in part, comes from a Texas State Law passed in 1993 which allocates a portion of sales tax on sporting goods to the state park system for park operations.

See the full schedule of the Davis Mountains Centennial Celebration below:

9 a.m. — Guided Hike #1 (Easy, 30 min. round trip) Headquarters Trail to Emory Oak Bird Blind. Meet at Park HQ/Front Office.

9 a.m. — Guided Hike #2 (Moderate/Challenging, 2 hours round trip) Skyline Drive Trail to Scenic Overlook. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Local partner group table presentations, face painting, and craft station at tent area (sites #86-94) including Sul Ross Center for Big Bend Studies, Master Naturalists (Tierra Grande Chapter), Fort Davis National. Historic Site, Grand Companions (Pet Adoption), Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce, Fort Davis E.M.T./Vol. Fire Dept., TPWD Wildlife Biologist & Natural Resource Specialist.

10 a.m. to NOON — Presentations at the Interpretive Center

- **10 a.m.** — Geology Talk w/ Sacha Ashworth (TPWD-Indian Lodge staff)
- **10:45 a.m.** — CCC/Indian Lodge History w/ Tim Roberts (TPWD Regional Cultural Specialist)
- **11:30 a.m**. — Water Conservation in the Davis Mountains w/ Nic Havlik (TPWD Regional Natural Resources Specialist)

1 to 3 p.m. — The Last Call Band performs at the Group Picnic Area

3 to 5 p.m. — Presentations at the Interpretive Center

- **3 p.m.** — Geology Talk w/ Sacha Ashworth (TPWD-Indian Lodge staff)
- **3:45 p.m.** — Bears in the Davis Mountains w/ Krysta Demere (TPWD Wildlife Biologist)
- **4:30 p.m.** — CCC/Indian Lodge History w/ Tim Roberts (TPWD Regional Cultural Specialist)

5:30 to 7 p.m. — Mile-High Mountains Fest Trivia Contest at the Group Picnic Area

For more information, visit tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/davis-mountains/mile-high-mountains-fest

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Art Studio Open Hours

Judd Foundation invites everyone to Open Hours of Donald Judd's Art Studio in celebration of Community Day.

La Fundación Judd invita a todos a una Casa Abierta del Estudio de Arte de Donald Judd en celebración del día de la comunidad.

Saturday, May 13
10:00am-12:00pm
124 West Oak Street

Visits during Open Hours are self-guided and free to the public. The Art Studio is located on West Oak Street across the street from the John Chamberlain Building.

For more information, please contact:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

Sábado, 13 Mayo
10:00am-12:00pm
124 West Oak Street

Las visitas durante el horario de apertura son autoguiadas y gratuitas para el público. El Estudio de arte esta ubicado en West Oak Street frente al John Chamberlain Building.

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

This program has been made possible through the generous support of the Brown Foundation, Inc. and a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. This project has been supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Este programa ha sido posible gracias al apoyo de la Fundación Brown, Inc. y una subvención de la Comisión de Texas sobre las artes. Este proyecto ha sido apoyado en parte por un premio del National Endowment para las artes.

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Sports updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — Marfa's Ummi Chanez heads into her final athletic competition as a Lady Shorthorn this Saturday in Austin, Texas, at the UIL State Track Championships at the University of Texas' Mike A Myers Stadium. The senior track star ends her career by competing against the state's very best runners on the biggest of stages that will bring out thousands of spectators for the event.

Chanez is no stranger to the UIL State Championship stage as a four-time cross-country state qualifier and two-time cross-country state medalist, but as a first time state track qualifier, she states the stakes seem a little higher this time around.

During a school interview, Chanez stated, "I feel a little nervous because this is a new level of competition, but I know that I've been preparing all season for this opportunity, and I don't want to be complacent. I want to perform the best I've ever run, bring back a state medal for Marfa, and end my career and senior year on the highest note possible."

According to Chanez, her personal strategy for each event is to start off the race with a strong start and find a good pace within the first half of the race, but she stated that the real race doesn't start until the final 800 meters — that's where the race is won.

On Saturday, the 3200 meter run is set to start at 9 a.m. and the 1600 meter run begins at 7:50 p.m.

—

The Lady Horns battled against the Eula Pirates for the Regional Quarterfinal playoff game last Saturday, but fell short, bringing their season to an end. Marfa was unable to capitalize on several scoring opportunities and left bases loaded twice and two runners stranded in the first inning. Although Marfa battled stronger against Eula in comparison to last year's outing, the team still fell, 0-10. With the conclusion of play for all teams in the district, district selections were made public this week.

Newcomer of the Year: Ava Flores (Marfa- Freshman)

District Offensive Player of the Year: Raven Martinez (Marfa-Freshman)

First Team All-District:
Marfa: Alexis Gonzales
Marfa: Charlize Martinez

Second Team All-District:
Marfa: Lesly Torres
Marfa: Aundrea Garcia

Honorable Mention:
Jack Marquez
Fernanda Rivera



Photo by Priscila Serrano

The Lady Horns softball team at the Moms vs. Lady Horns game in April.



Photo by Dency Mclure

The Lady Shorthorns



Photo by Hadley Anne Kibbe

Marfa High School Senior Ummi Chanez, one of the district's top athletes, heads to state UIL track championships in Austin this weekend.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 8, 2023

ACROSS
1 Iowa State's city
5 Total jerk
8 Catherine of "Home Alone"
13 Hamlet, by nationality
14 Not slack
16 ___ out (allots)
17 Creative community (In this answer, anagram letters 2-8)
19 They're owed
20 Kinda
21 Large coffee vessel
23 Milk source for manchego cheese
24 Low digit
25 Not spill the beans, say (... letters 3-8)
30 Genetic messenger
31 Type of resort
32 Boxes for oranges
33 Italian wine region
35 Some are scrambled
38 Annoying buzzer
39 Mexican foods that may be topped with a slaw (... letters 1-5)
42 "Er ... I'll pass"
44 Part of a campus visit
45 Leave out
49 Low tie score
51 Filming device, for short
53 Pass with flying colors
54 Despised rival (... letters 4-8)
57 Q's point value in Scrabble
58 German cry
59 "Baby Cobra" comedian Wong
60 Threesome
62 Kind of eel
65 Musical movement? ... or a theme hint
68 Big concert venue
69 Look over carefully or hastily
70 ___-reviewed (like scholarly publications)
71 Tiptoe, say
72 Many, many years
73 Model/ blogger Holliday

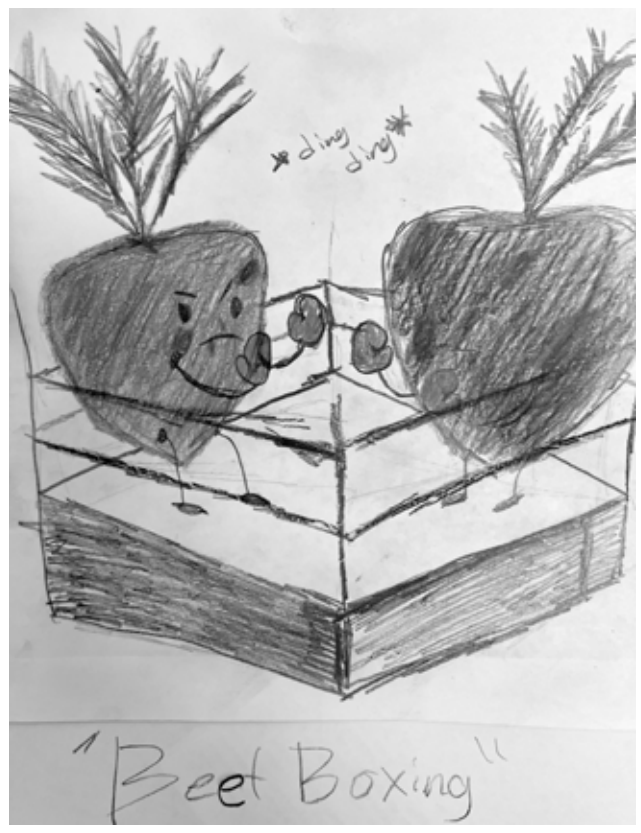
DOWN
1 2019 film whose title means "to the stars" in Latin
2 Leaves on an island
3 Beg
4 Religious branch
5 Georgia's capital: Abbr.
6 ___ Paulo
7 Dawn
8 Peculiar
9 Garden tool
10 Canadian neighbor of Montana
11 Share with your Twitter followers
12 They're worth something!
15 Banks of fashion
18 Acorn producers
22 Situation Room grp.
26 Barely manages, with "out"
27 Black billiards ball's number
28 "Thus ..."
29 Child's words to a doubter
34 "Otherwise ..."
36 Classic Pontiac
37 Pizza layer over the crust
40 Lionel's middle name?
41 Do some last-minute studying
42 Horned beast of fantasy
43 "I agree with you two!"
46 Afternoon performance
47 Cold periods
48 Chicken strips
49 First family from 2009-'17
50 Stretch of history
52 Fictitious tale
55 Antlered beasts
56 Sister's daughter
61 Captivated
63 Political strategist Navarro
64 Tibetan pack animal
66 Ming of NBA fame
67 Anderson Cooper's channel

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

5/7 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Jack Marquez
11th Grade
"Beet Boxing"

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.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

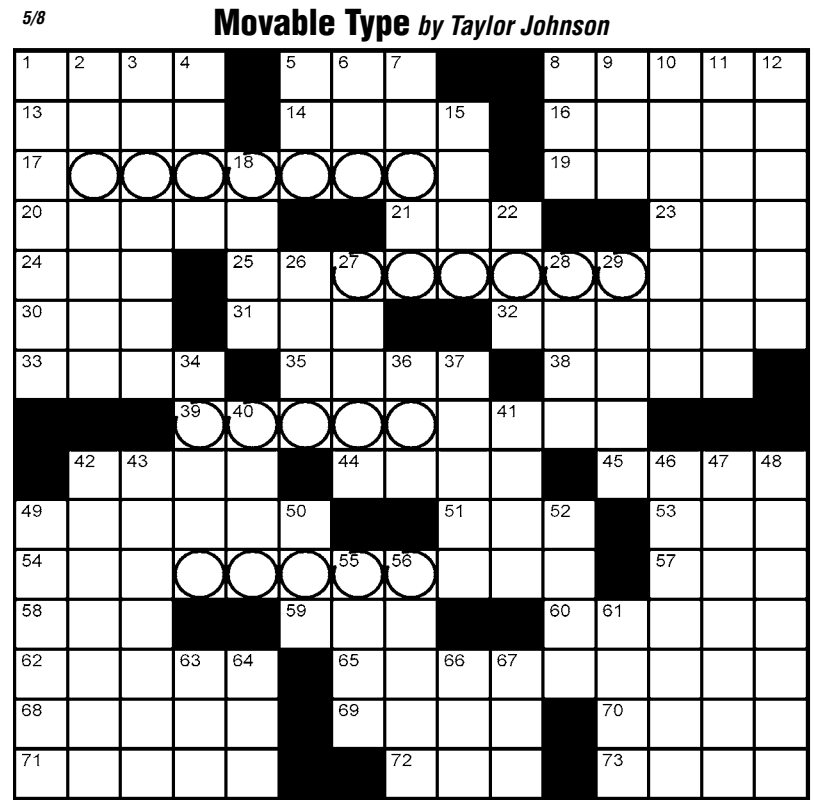
SOLUTION:

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

4/18 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication

5/8

Movable Type *by Taylor Johnson*



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Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
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I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
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Isaiah 41:10

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LUNCH	TAQUITOS, CELERY, CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT, SHERBERT	STEAK FINGERS, GRAVY, ROLL, CURLY FRIES, PEACHES	OVEN FRIED CHICKEN, GRAVY, POTATOES, OKRA, ROLL, STRAWBERRIES	QUESADILLA, SALSA, BEANS, CUCUMBER, APRICOTS, ICE CREAM CUP	SPAGHETTI BOWL, BREADSTICKS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, GARDEN SALAD, FRUIT

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SAT, MAY 13: High School State Track Meet in Austin, TX
SAT, MAY 13: Junios High Softball Tournament at Presidio
MON, MAY 15: Staff vs Student Basketball Game

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Sentinel reporter and editor recognized by Headliner Awards

TEXAS — *The Big Bend Sentinel*'s reporting has been recognized by The Headliners Foundation's 2022 Showcase Awards for Enterprise and Innovation in Journalism.

"In rural Far West Texas, justices of the peace confront a death-investigation system that's failing unknown migrants" by *The Big Bend Sentinel's* Mary Cantrell has been awarded a Certificate of Merit in the awards' Storytelling category. The piece was published in partnership with *Texas Monthly*, and was edited by *Big Bend Sentinel* Managing Editor Allegra Hobbs and Texas Monthly Deputy Editor Sandi Villareal.

The piece took an in-depth look at the obstacles facing rural justices of the peace in the Big Bend region as they work to identify and repatriate the remains of unknown migrants found along the border. It also contends with the shortcomings of the state's investigation system, which often leaves grieving family members with more questions than answers.

The Headliner Awards recognize work from "professional, Texas-based news providers — print, broadcast or digital — that distribute at least monthly and that adhere to the highest journalistic principles." Cantrell's story was one of six stories recognized in the storytelling category for work from 2022.

The piece was published in *The Big Bend Sentinel's* December 15, 2022 issue, and can be read at https://bigbendsentinel.com/2022/12/14/justices-of-the-peace-in-rural-far-west-texas-seek-alternatives-to-a-death-investigation-system-thats-failing-unknown-migrants/



Photo by Mary Cantrell

Previous Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Democrat David Beebe places commemorative metal crosses at the gravesites of two unidentified migrants he buried during his tenure in Marfa's Cementerio De La Merced.

Marfa Public Library hosts 'Disco Fever' Kid Prom

MARFA — Put on your sparkliest dresses and snazziest tuxedos because it's time for Marfa Public Library's first annual Kid Prom! Stop by Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a "night" to remember. The theme is Disco Fever, so formal bell bottoms and funky attitudes are encouraged!

While party-goers dance the morning away, there will also be a photo booth and balloon arch, special prom-themed crafts, the prom-iest cotton candy, and a special prom (disco-ball) pinata. This event is geared for ages 13 and younger but all are welcome to attend. (No party clothes? No problem! Please come as you are and enjoy the festivities.) Special thanks to the Friends of the Marfa Public Library and superstar volunteers Cary Wilson, Molly Bondy and Angela Pastor.

The library is located at 115 East Oak Street in Marfa. For more information about future programs or to volunteer, call 432-729-4631, visit marfapublicliblibrary.org, and follow @marfalibrary.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

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Thu May 11

WTex Talk "Principles of Permaculture in the High Desert"
6:00pm - 7:30pm at the Granada Theatre, 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
This talk will feature locals Eric Hamm and Kelon Crawford of Aruka Culture Permaculture and Landscape Design. Half of the door donations will support a local charity! Grow your knowledge for a good cause!

Fri May 12

Family Movie Night "Despicable Me 2"
5:30pm - 8:30pm at the Granada Theatre, 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Doors at 5:30pm, movie starts at 6:00pm. Free to enter.

Live Author Event at Front Street Books: CE Hunt
6:00pm at 121 E Holland Ave in Alpine
The author of A Moveable Marfa *and* The Sommieres Sun*. CE Hunt is inspired by the culture and the beauty of West Texas.*

Sat May 13

The Chinati Foundation Community Day
Daylong celebration at Chinati in Marfa
Opening Viewing from 11:00am - 4:00pm. Performance by MISD Ballet Folklórico Aztlán at The Arena at 4:30pm. Food and music by Tequila Sound Machine at The Arena from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Everyone is welome. Free to all!

Davis Mountains State Park's Mile-High Mountains Fest
7:00am - 7:00pm at the Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis
A free recreational bash to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Texas State Parks system. Guided hikes, educational booths, and kid-friendly activities will be available throughout the park. More info in story on page 7.

Art Studio Open Hours at Judd Foundation
10:00am - 12:00pm at 124 West Oak Street in Marfa
Everyone is invited to Open Hours of Donald Judd's Art Studio in celebration of Community Day. Visits during Open Hours are self-guided and free to the public.

Can't Even Comedy Show
7:00pm at Hotel Paisano. 207 N Highland Ave in Marfa
Music from Chris DeAnda starts at 7:00pm followed by a comedy show at 8:00pm with comedians Lando Shepard, Caitlin Benson, and Liz Splatt. Get your tickets at www.cantevencomedy.com

Thomas Csorba at the Gage Hotel
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the White Buffalo Patio at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Come here this Texas Americana Artist and singer/songwriter.

Wed May 17

Public Meeting held by Keep Big Bend Wild coalition
7:00pm at Oasis Lodge Community Room at Far Flung Outdoor Center, 23310 FM170, Terlingua, TX 79852
A public meeting to discuss and seek comments on a proposal to designate wilderness in undeveloped areas of Big Bend National Park. A proposed wilderness map, legislation, and management plan will be available for review and consideration. For more information, see www.keepbigbendwild.org

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Free Meditation Classes for Local Law Enforcement, City, County, and Healthcare Workers
Thursday at 5:30pm at Marfa Public Library

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 6:30pm 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 Marfa National Bank parking lot (5/6 only) 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

OBITUARIES



Henry

Dora G. Henry was 101 years old and lived in Fort Davis, Texas. Dora Henry passed away on May 1, 2023, at about 10:15 a.m. in New Braunfels, Texas, hospital. Dora G. Henry was born on January 5, 1922, to parents Alfredo and Nora Granado in Fort Davis, Texas. Dora attended school in Fort Davis, Texas. She later married Allen Allworth Henry and was the mother of seven children: Bob Henry, Nancy Henry, Earl Henry, Richard Henry, John Henry, Terry Henry and Beverly Cooper.

Dora is survived by her remaining children: Bob Henry, John Henry, Terry Henry and Beverly Cooper, also by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and great-great-grandchildren.

Dora was in the St. Joseph choir, Divine Mercy Group, and was an active member of the Catholic Daughter of the Americas.

Dora retired from the state park in Fort Davis, Texas. Dora was a very good servant of God and always helped take care of her family and friends.

Pallbearers are Leroy Henry, Michael Henry, Sharon Pina, Gabriel Cisneros, Dorian Pantusa, and Ashlynn Pantusa.

Funeral service will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Davis on Friday, May 19, 2023. Viewing will begin at 8 a.m. and praying of the Most Holy Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m.

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

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

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Molinar

Silvestra Lara Molinar of Fort Davis passed away at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas, on Saturday May 6, 2023, at the age of 92. Silvestra was born on January 30, 1931, to Brijido Dutchover Lara and Maria Quiroz Lara in Fort Davis, Texas. She said she finished fourth grade and continued to practice and improve by reading the Bible and newspapers. She made a living as a self-employed housekeeper. She was married to Florencio (Lencho) Molinar and they had two children: Susanna and Frank.

Silvestra was very involved in her children's sports. She helped by sponsoring and transporting them to out-of-town games and cheering them on. She loved her children's sports and, of course later, her grandchildren.

She also loved animals. She would feed all the strays and anyone else's animals if they were going to be out of town or happen to wander into her yard. She usually had two to three dogs at a time and a cat or two. Being the eldest, she was a hero to all her siblings. She was always there to help them all. She taught them by example through her hard work and honesty. She was always THERE.

Silvestra is survived by her son, Frank Molinar, and daughter, Susanna Jane Liddell and her husband Randy of Fort Davis; seven grandchildren, Ashley and Wesley Molinar of Fort Davis, Brooke McKinney, Becky Puckett and husband Worth of Fort Davis, Adam Liddell of Lubbock, Aaron Liddell of Fort Davis, John Liddell and wife Emily of Richardson; seven great-grandchildren, Clayton Puckett and wife Savannah of Gilbert, Arizona, Jacy White and husband Anthony of Vancouver, Washington, William Liddell of Lubbock, Mia, Max, Theo and Beau Liddell of Richardson; two great-great grandchildren, Rylee Jo and Bodee Puckett of Gilbert, Arizona.

She is also survived by her brother, Brijido Lara Jr.; one sister, Mary Alice Hester and husband Joe; her sister-in-law Lolie Lara and brother-in-law Chon Granado Sr. She was preceded in death by her sister, Eva Granado; brothers Fred Lara Sr., Tommy Lara Sr., and Ben Lara.

Funeral and burial services will be held at Saint Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Fort Davis at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023, with Minister Curtis Wubbena presiding.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons: Wesley Molinar, Adam Liddell, Aaron Liddell, John Liddell, Worth Puckett and Clayton Puckett.

Honorary Pallbearers are her friends Lolie Lara, Mini Hartnett, Jay Jarratt, Olga Chavez, Carmen Zielinski, and Gloria Jimenez Navarrette. There are many, many wonderful friends that helped Silvestra throughout her life.

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

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

Alpine Memorial FUNERAL HOME
CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

Obituaries presented in partnership with Alpine Memorial Funeral Home
209 West Sul Ross Ave | Alpine, TX 79830
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https://twitter.com/MMofTexas
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P.O. Box 2174
Fort Davis, TX 79734

Classifieds & public notices

JOBS

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING FOR A CNA, CMA, RN & LVN

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

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

Please call first before arrival.

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

VILLAGE FARMS - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - FAST TRACK TO MANAGEMENT

Village Farms is seeking a detailed oriented individual to join our team as Shipping/Receiving Clerk for our Marfa 2 location.

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

Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred.

Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the first 6 months of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or fax resume to (432)375-6241. Applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION
Administrative Assistant to Presidio County Attorney

DEPARTMENT
Presidio County Attorney
300 North Highland
Marfa, Texas 79843

POSITION SUMMARY
Work under the direction of the County Attorney by performing Administrative legal support with regard to criminal prosecution activities

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES
- Respond to inquiries from public, both in person and by telephone
- Prepare and process criminal case files
- Arrange for court appearances of law enforcement officers and civilians
- Effective and respectful communication and interactions with other county employees
- Maintain positive professional working relationships with all staff levels, other jurisdictions and outside agencies and, the general public
- Perform other related functions as needed or assigned

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES
- Proficient in operation of personal computer and other office equipment
- Effectively and efficiently utilize word processor to obtain, manipulate and process data
- Use computer technology, including the internet, to effectively conduct research
- Ability to handle inquiries from the general public in a friendly and courteous manner
- Possess basic knowledge as to the structure and operation of the criminal courts

Ability to organize and coordinate various assignments, and establish priorities to effectively work under pressure with minimal or no direct supervision.

Ability to compose clear and grammatically correct correspondence.

Ability to communicate effectively and tactfully both orally and in writing.

Ability to be detail oriented and follow through with tasks.

Perform administrative duties by drafting and preparing legal and general correspondence, processing case files and dispositions, and providing assistance to the public, prepare court docket, answering the phone, and filing, copying, and maintaining case files

EDUCATION
High school graduate
Some college

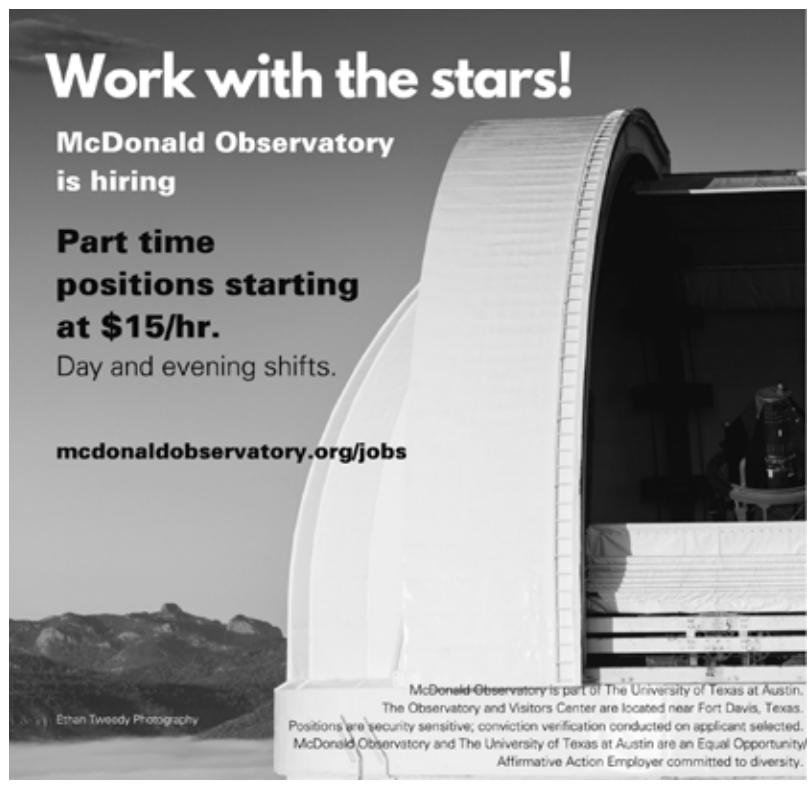
Competitive pay, and full county benefits package, including healthcare and retirement

Applications may be downloaded from: Presidio County, Texas website, or Mail Resume to Presidio County Attorney, P.O. Drawer M, Marfa, Texas 79843 Or email to pontonrod@gmail.com

Presidio County is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

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NOW HIRING

Village Farms

Human Resources/Admin Assistant- performs a range of administrative and clerical tasks to support management and the HR department.

Key Skill & Competencies
- Organization & planning
- Work management & prioritizing
- Verbal/written communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Reliability & Flexibility
- Strong MS Office skills
- Teamwork
- Bilingual (Spanish) is a must
- 2 yrs. relevant experience required

Full-time position with great benefits package which includes; paid vacation, health, vision, dental, life and STD insurance & 401k retirement plan

Submit resumes to aanderson@villagefarms.com applications @ Village Farms Security Stations 3 miles N. Hwy 17, Marfa or 3 miles S. Hwy 17, Fort Davis or call 682.647.1214 ext. 469 for more information.

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COALICIÓN REPRODUCTIVA DEL BIG BEND REPRODUCTIVE COALITION

Reproductive Health Resources & Free Emergency Contraception (Plan B):

BIGBENDRC.ORG

BBRC is a grassroots mutual aid abortion advocacy group that provides educational materials, resources, & support for West Texans in the Big Bend.

Recursos de salud reproductiva y anticoncepción de emergencia gratuita (Plan B):

BIGBENDRC.ORG

La Coalición Reproductiva del Big Bend es un grupo de defensa del aborto de ayuda mutua que brinda materiales educativos, recursos, y apoyo para los habitantes del oeste de Texas en la region Big Bend.

BigBendRC.org • @BBReproductiveCoaltion

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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.

NOTICE

MARFA ISD has a vacancy on the School Board This vacancy for the unexpired term will be filled at a Regular meeting on May 15, 2023, at 6pm. Interested in serving on the board? Please review the qualifications and submit a letter in writing to Teresa Nunez, board president, expressing your interest in serving on the board. This letter must be received at the Superintendent's office no later than 3:30 pm on Friday, May 12, 2023. . You may wish to attend the meeting on May 15, 2023 in case the board decides to interview you.

Qualifications to be a Board Member: To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, the office of Board member, a person must:
1. Be a United States citizen.
2. Be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable.
3. Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be: Totally mental incapacitated and the person's mental capacity has not subsequently been completely restored by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction; or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote and person's guardianship has not been modified to include the right to vote or the person's mental capacity has not been completely restored by a subsequent final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction.
4. Have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. Atty. Gen. Op. LO 96-114 (1996).
5. Be a resident of Texas and the District for the period of time described at CANDIDATE'S RESIDENCY TERM (This is a resident of the state of Texas for the past 12 months, a resident of the Marfa ISD six months).
6. A qualified voter SUBMIT LETTER TO: Teresa Nunez Marfa ISD Board of Trustees P.O. Box T Marfa, TX 79843

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit (BG) by Glitch Marfa LLC, to be located at 108 E El Paso Street, Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. The officer of said limited liability company is OXALIS DAO LLC.

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Kathleen Walstrom Owner/Broker
Melissa Bent Sales Agent & Christa Marquez Sales Agent

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Jose Portillo:
(432) 729-4452

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

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

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Greg Henington:
(432) 837-2412

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

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

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

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

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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