THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

Vol. 91 No. 12 • June 15, 2023 | Marfa, Presidio County, Texas | www.bigbendsentinel.com • **$1**

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

Project to create new community library in Terlingua gains momentum

By SAM KARAS
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TERLINGUA — Terlingua may soon get a new library and community space, thanks to the cooperation of Brewster County, Terlingua CSD and the Big Bend Citizens Alliance (BBCA). The BBCA recently wrapped up a survey project to gather community input while reaching out to people who live in and love the area for financial support.

Until 2022, the Terlingua library was located on campus at Terlingua CSD — though library users didn't have to be district students or parents in order to borrow materials. That changed amidst mounting concerns about school security, and the district was advised to close off facilities to the public for good.

Community members were still able to call in requests to the library and pick up materials at the front desk, but that process discouraged many regulars from using the library. BBCA President Joselyn Fenstermacher and Terlingua CSD Superintendent Reagan Reed approached the Brewster County Commissioners Court for help.

The commissioners agreed to amend the county's library contract and to allocate a sliver of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward the effort. The BBCA was then tasked with raising the remainder of the funds and using community input to bring the project to fruition.

The organization launched a survey project to gather that input, which spanned a huge and remote area from Lajitas to Big Bend National Park. Surveys were distributed at the Terlingua Post Office, the Terlingua Ranch Lodge and other high-traffic community spaces.

BBCA member Barbara Hines was one of the masterminds behind the survey project. She said that around 70% of the survey responses came from full-time locals, who requested services like adult education classes, tutoring, a food pantry and more.

One amenity of the new library that Hines thought would be particularly helpful was a private space for folks to make Zoom calls. While many in the area are hooked up to the internet, connection speeds aren't always as fast as they might be in the city. A solid connection and a quiet space to take calls could open up a world of possibility for telemedicine, access to the court

(Continued on page 3)



Photography by Rick Guest

Marfa resident and eminent film producer Carolyn Pfeiffer has written a strikingly personal memoir on her early career in cinema and life as a young woman living and working on films in Europe in the 1960s, many of which are revered classics to this day. READ MORE ON PAGE 6.

Presidio County receives $4.6 million for water infrastructure amid legislative push for funding

By MARY CANTRELL
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — Presidio County will receive $4.6 million from the Texas Water Development Board to fund four main projects in the county — a first-time victory for the county-wide water infrastructure steering committee that formed last year to lobby for state and federal funds, though a fraction of the $12.6 million the committee requested.

The funding, which comes from the TWDB's Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP), will go towards remediating wastewater issues at Fort D.A. Russell, the establishment of first-time water and wastewater services to the East Heights area of Marfa, as well as planning and design of water services for Las Pampas Colonia near Presidio and a long-term solution to Shafter's ongoing water instability.

Vanessa Puig-Williams, director of Texas Water with the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund and member of the steering committee, said while the county was preliminarily approved for $12.6 million in funding, TWBD board members ultimately decided to fund only the planning and design, not the construction, of the Las Pampas and Shafter projects.

"After the county submitted the application and really all the other supporting documents, the board felt that some of the projects were not baked enough to be ready for full construction yet, so they are just funding the planning portion of that — which is still great, that's really needed," said Puig-Williams.

Trey Gerfers, general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District, who headed up the steering committee, said he was frustrated with the TWDB's decision not to fully fund Las Pampas and Shafter initiatives due to the severity of the conditions for those residents living in unincorporated communities without access to reliable water.

"You have a town where their well could go out at any minute, and those people will have no water," said Gerfers. "You have another colonia where people have been waiting 30 years for water, and now you're gonna make them wait longer?"

In this week's edition of Gerfer's regularly published column, "Our Water Matters," he writes about some of the lessons learned from the EDAP application process. Even with their "top

(Continued on page 2)

Bill to reimburse landowners for damage caused by 'border crimes' signed into law

By SAM KARAS
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AUSTIN — Last Thursday, Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill into law that would reimburse property owners for damage caused through the perpetration of "border crimes" committed by "trespassers." His stamp of approval was accompanied by a $34 million slice of the state budget to help get the new program off the ground.

Under the new law, "border crimes" is defined broadly as drug-related crimes, evading arrest or detention, and the smuggling or trafficking of persons.

The bill puts administration of the program in the hands of the state attorney general, who will set guidelines for grant recipients and to decide which requests to approve — a crucial criteria for successful applicants is documentation by law enforcement to prove the damage was immigration-related. The maximum amount of money awarded to individual recipients is $75,000.

The bill, SB 1133, was sponsored by César Blanco, the Big Bend's representative in the Senate. He said it was written in response to concerns from his constituents. "I've visited with many landowners and farmers and have heard many stories over the last two years about how their private property has been impacted by increased bailouts in relation to trafficking and smuggling activity at the border," he wrote to *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Blanco detailed the most common causes of property damage from immigration-related crimes: broken water lines and empty stock tanks, fences being run over or cut, cattle eating trash left over from makeshift camps. Landowners had also reported fires being set — both intentionally and unintentionally — that claimed structures and grassland and strained rural emergency personnel.

Representatives from the South Texas Property Rights Association (STPRA) made their way to Austin to testify before the legislature in support of the bill. The organization — a 501c3 nonprofit — was formed in 2006, in large part to organize landowners affected by immigration-related crime.

Susan Kibbe, executive director of the STPRA, said that migration doesn't just affect property owners in South Texas — the entire country

(Continued on page 2)

Marfa resident Sonya Murillo arrested on sexual exploitation of children charge

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Marfa resident Sonya Murillo was arrested by U.S. Marshals last week following the filing of a federal criminal complaint alleging Murillo committed sexual exploitation of children.

As of press time, Murillo, 32, was being held at a facility in Sierra Blanca and awaiting a preliminary detention hearing this Friday in the U.S. District Courthouse in Alpine. The U.S. Attorney's Office has filed a motion to detain Murillo without bond, arguing she is both a flight risk and danger to the community.

The complaint states that while "conducting a forensic review of a cell phone from a different child pornography investigation in Marfa," investigators with the Texas Department of Public Safety uncovered video evidence of Murillo performing sexual acts on a young child.

Investigators discovered at least eight videos saved from Snapchat, in which an adult woman's face, who investigators identified as Murillo, "is in full and plain view," as is an identifiable tattoo. The special agent investigating the matter believes the production of the video occurred in Marfa, according to the complaint.

Murillo's attorney, Bart Medley, declined to comment on her arrest, citing the fact that it was an ongoing case.

An arrest report provided by the Presidio County Sheriff's Office identifies Murillo as a property manager and substitute teacher. Marfa ISD Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez confirmed that Murillo is one of the on-call substitute teachers with the district, but declined to comment further.

Murillo was previously in a romantic relationship with Patricio Javier "PJ" Serrano, who was arrested several weeks ago on child pornography charges. As of press time, it remained unclear whether the cases were related. Investigating agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Department of Public Safety, did not return requests for comment on the matter by press time.

Serrano was indicted last week, with the court ordering the forfeiture of a number of Serrano's personal electronics and belongings including tablets, a Samsung Galaxy 5G smartphone, documents, pornographic DVDs, a digital camera, and more.

Serrano's attorney, Shane O'Neal, declined to comment on Murillo's arrest. Serrano will be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge David Fannin next Thursday at the United States District Courthouse in Pecos.

Rod Ponton resigns as Alpine city attorney ahead of performance review

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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ALPINE — At the most recent Alpine City Council meeting, as Mayor Catherine Eaves began initiating a motion to enter executive session so council could "deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal" of City Attorney Rod Ponton, the motion was very suddenly rendered moot — Ponton himself interrupted the proceedings to tender his resignation.

"It was a pleasure to serve," said Ponton, handing a letter of resignation to Mayor Eaves and to City Manager Megan Antrim before making his exit.

Given the turn of events, instead of convening into executive session, council voted to accept Ponton's resignation. City Manager Megan Antrim explained that the agenda item they would have been discussing had Ponton not resigned — the matter of his employment — had been placed there to follow up on an earlier performance review.

"The reason why this was put on the agenda [is] in February, we did ask for some considerations, and then we were going to do a 90-day evaluation," said Antrim. "This is the 90-day evaluation."

On February 21, an executive session item to review Ponton's employment was followed by a motion — initiated by Councilmember Judy Stokes — to "approve the parameters discussed" in the executive session. Ponton was present at that meeting and was present for the motion's passage.

Mayor Eaves confirmed that those parameters, which she declined to talk about in any detail, had been the start of the 90-day review period referenced by Antrim.

"We had given him, I guess, some objectives, and basically a growth plan … and gave him 90 days to meet the city standards," said Eaves. "And so we were going to review his performance that evening in executive session on whether he had met his goals and objectives. So that's what was coming up. But he resigned right as we were moving into executive session."

The issuing of those "parameters" had followed a series of agenda items over the previous month focused on Ponton's job performance. At a February 7 meeting, following yet another executive session agenda item to deliberate on Ponton's employment, Councilmember Chris Rodriguez initiated a motion to terminate Ponton as city attorney. No other member seconded the motion, so it died.

And at the meeting immediately preceding that one, on January 17, Councilmember Rodriguez had spearheaded an agenda item for "discussion regarding the behavior of the City Attorney, including comments made to the media, taking action without authorization of the Council or City Manager, and other performance issues." That discussion centered around comments made to *The Big Bend Sentinel* in a December article about how the city's attempts to stall the controversial construction of a third Dollar General had placed it in legal jeopardy. Ponton had stated that after he told Dollar General that the city had taken no action on a replat request by the company and did not wish to issue a building permit, Dollar General had threatened legal action against the city. And legally,

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 3
OPINION P. 4
COMMUNITY P. 6 - 7
CLASSIFIEDS P. 8

The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Water infrastructure

(Continued from page 1)

team of advisors," the formation of the regional steering committee, and the county's ability to meet the criteria for the grant given its population make up, they still fell short of being fully funded.

Gerfers chalked the situation up to the project estimates being "wildly inflated," out of an abundance of caution, and primarily TWDB's funding processes being too city-centric. While the two Marfa projects, which will be connected to a municipal-owned water utility, were fully funded, those in unincorporated communities where such entities simply do not exist were not.

Moving forward, Gerfers would like to see application processes streamlined as well as a greater understanding from the TWDB for how rural counties operate on the ground. Gerfer's experiences are timely given that the most recent legislative session included discussion on how to help rural communities bolster their water infrastructure.

"All this talk about helping rural areas and helping underserved areas, it's kind of empty talk unless they reform the way that this application process is structured," said Gerfers

A TWDB representative said that piecemeal funding for some projects was common in order to ensure an accurate estimation for construction costs, and that funds would likely become available in the future for the completion of the Las Pampas and Shafter projects.

"We worked closely with the County, who provided the planning, acquisition, and design costs before the project went before our Board, and the County was aware in advance of the total amount recommended to our Board for approval," said Amanda Lavin, Assistant Executive Administrator of the TWDB "We anticipate the EDAP will have additional funding cycles available in which the County will be able to apply for construction funding."

Given Texas' prolonged drought conditions, growing populations, and recent water infrastructure failures across the state, lawmakers were motivated to find solutions to water supply issues this legislative session and authored SB 28, a bill which will infuse the TWDB with more funding that passed with bipartisan support.

The bill, among other things, created the Texas Water Fund, which will be administered by the TWDB. But in order for the $1 billion the state budgeted for water infrastructure to be spent, it will need to win voter approval via a ballot measure in the upcoming November General Election. Should the measure pass, the TWDB would be able to utilize the newly-created Texas Water Fund, and potentially funnel money into an existing "rural water assistance fund," which hasn't seen funding in the recent past but could assist rural areas with water and wastewater projects.

"We're spending billions of dollars on developing new water infrastructure, but we're not really spending much money really trying to understand how to manage and conserve the water that's actually going to run through that infrastructure."

The bill will also allow the Texas Water Fund, at the discretion of the board, to spend dollars on "outreach, financial, planning, and technical assistance," relating to the grants TWDB administers to help counties through the arduous process.

Senator César Blanco, one of the bill's cosponsors, submitted letters of support for the EDAP projects in Presidio County and expressed his gratitude to TWDB for recognizing the need to fund water infrastructure in the county. "I look forward to continuing to work with the Board on ensuring the Presidio community gets its fair share of funding for water and wastewater projects," said Blanco in a statement.

On the local level, in order to receive the awarded funds, Presidio County still needs to adopt model subdivision rules, which were enacted by the Legislature in 1989 in response to colonias forming along the border, and require residential land being sold to have water and wastewater services. (The Marfa City Council voted Tuesday night to adopt model subdivision rules.)

The county will also need to establish a financial agreement with their bond council regarding the $4.6 million in funding, which will involve a loan of 30% of the total amount, or $1.2 million dollars.

Gerfers said if all goes according to plan, the county may be able to pay back the loan with federal funds from Congressman Tony Gonzales through an earmark referred to as "community funded projects" in the amount of $2.9 million. He said he was expecting to hear back from Gonzales' office on whether the funding was going to come through soon, but for now the City of Marfa, which will have to pay the county for the Fort D.A. Russell and East Heights projects, will need to work out a financial agreement with the county.

The county also needs to complete its 2022 financial audit, which it is running behind on completing, before the $4.6 million from the TWDB can be received, said Gerfers.

Next steps also include hiring engineers and designers, and conducting environmental reviews for the four priority projects. Marfa projects are slated to be complete within five years, and solutions for Las Pampas and Shafter will hopefully be designed and planned within two to three years, said Gerfers.

In order to start on construction for Las Pampas and Shafter projects once design and planning are complete, more funding from the TWBD will need to be obtained. The potential $2.9 million federal earmark, should that come to fruition, could also help complete the projects, said Gerfers.

Additional funding through the TWDB State Revolving Funds, for which the water district applied for a number of projects, including Las Pampas and a flood control initiative in Redford, is still pending. And more rounds of funding will open up in the coming months.

Puig-Williams said that while water was a major focus for state leaders this legislative session, an emphasis on more data collection and understanding of our aquifers — which rural communities like Presidio County exclusively rely on — was lacking. She said she would have liked to see more money allocated towards groundwater modeling, monitoring and an integration of water infrastructure and water management in future legislative sessions.

"We're spending billions of dollars on developing new water infrastructure, but we're not really spending much money really trying to understand how to manage and conserve the water that's actually going to run through that infrastructure," said Puig-Williams.

Puig-Williams' organization, EDF, recently released a video on Presidio County's water infrastructure challenges in which it profiled locals and discussed the potential of the regional approach via the steering committee.

Rogelio Rodriguez, director of the Texas Infrastructure Fund with the nonprofit Water Finance Exchange, who also sat on the local steering committee, said overall the $4.6 million in funding the county received was a win, and the county was getting favorable attention from state entities for its regional approach. He said his organization was committed to continuing to help Presidio County think creatively in applying and receiving state and federal funding.

"We realize it's not just pipes and pumps — there's flooding, there's green infrastructure, there's conservation infrastructure, data and monitoring projects," said Rodriguez. "We want to turn over every rock with [Presidio County] to see what dollars we can get in the door."

Gerfers agreed the steering committee's efforts were not in vain, and the fact that the county received $4.6 out of $12.6 million it requested is complicated by state-level bureaucracy that adversely affect rural communities and needed to be addressed.

"This is not a reflection at all on the work of the steering committee or the groundbreaking potential of a regional approach," said Gerfers. "It's mostly just a reflection of an authority, of a bureaucracy, that's in need of reform if they're serious about serving communities like ours."

Bill to reimburse landowners

(Continued from page 1)

is impacted by the shifting landscape of immigration policy and organized crime. "The cartel is pushing groups [of migrants] forward, and they're involved with all sorts of virtually-integrated business that includes drug trafficking and sex trafficking," she said. "It's just something that's got to be stopped."

Kibbe believed the bill was a positive step toward protecting affected landowners but felt that it was only treating a symptom of a wider problem.

She wanted to see true immigration reform that would benefit both migrants and ranchers, like the implementation of an improved guest worker program. She felt that a revamped system would incentivize folks who would otherwise enter the country illegally to instead work seasonal jobs. "In a perfect world, that would make a whole lot of difference," she said.

On the local level, Jeff Davis County Judge Curtis Evans was pleased to see bipartisan support for the bill. He felt that it wasn't Texas politicians who were failing to come together across the aisle to brainstorm solutions — it was the federal government, which has constitutionally-mandated power to enforce immigration law. "It's not the state's responsibility to protect our borders — it's the job of the federal government," he said. "[Reform] keeps getting sidelined by people who don't understand the situation."

Evans still maintained that the passage of the bill was a step in the right direction. "Our ranchers — they're in desperate need of all kinds of help," he said.

Presidio ISD selects interim superintendent

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Earlier this month, Presidio ISD families and staff learned that there would be a big shakeup within district leadership: Superintendent Ray Vasquez tendered his resignation, effective June 30. At a special school board meeting last Saturday morning, former Presidio ISD educator Carmen Rubner was selected to serve as interim superintendent while a proper search could be conducted.

Vasquez's exit was not the only big announcement at the end of this school year: High School Principal Hevila Ramos was reassigned to the position of curriculum coordinator. Lucy Rede Franco Middle School Principal Rogelio Zubia had also tendered his resignation a month earlier in order to return to serving the community as a counselor.

On Saturday, the Presidio ISD School Board contracted with Doug Karr and Arrow Educational Services, Inc. to help guide the search for a new administrator — Karr previously advised the district on a superintendent hire in 2019 when Vasquez originally joined the district.

In the meantime, the board met in closed session to determine a good candidate to guide the district through what might otherwise be a tough transition. With advice from Karr, they felt Rubner was a great fit.

Rubner worked for Presidio ISD from 1991 to 2019, serving in a variety of roles from teacher and coach to assistant principal. She capped off that experience as the district's technology director, helping guide purchasing decisions and broader curriculum input to help teachers integrate the digital world into their classrooms.

Rubner was eager to return to Presidio — and was hoping that other people would join her — particularly the district's graduates, who she felt were ideal candidates for teaching positions and administrative leaders. "My strategy is to bring people back home," she said. "Let's make sure our students have everything they need to be successful. That's what it's about."

Presidio ISD School Board President Iris Galindo was proud of her board — four of whom have only served as school board members for a few weeks — for help in steering the district through a series of major transitions. "We're really excited," she said.









Rod Ponton

(Continued from page 1)

he said, the city could not deny the replat or decline to issue a building permit.

Rodriguez had taken issue with Ponton's characterization of the matter, stating he had made it sound as though the city were operating outside the bounds of the law. Ponton defended himself by stating that he was only reiterating what had already been said in a city memo, and that the memo had been crafted with input from city staff. Ultimately, no action was taken on the discussion item.

At the following meeting, Rodriguez would move to have Ponton terminated. Rodriguez did not return requests for comment by press time.

When asked whether the episode was related to the ensuing performance review period, Eaves said that, as she recalled it, "It's pretty much all related," though "there were multiple issues, not just one."

Despite the discussions and accompanying agenda items regarding his employment, Ponton claimed he was completely unaware of any performance review and had resigned for no reason other than to focus on the clients of his private law practice.

"No one on council, or the Mayor, told me about any 90 day review, or any other issues with my work," wrote Ponton in a text message. "I resigned as Alpine City Attorney in order for me to devote more time to my private clients. I have been honored to be Alpine City Attorney off and on since 2004. I wish Alpine the best."

Ponton had been fired as Alpine city attorney in 2021, then was rehired.

Councilmember Judy Stokes called *The Big Bend Sentinel* on Wednesday morning, noting she told Ponton she would call the newspaper. "I think this is great for Rod," she said of his resignation. "I think he was overstretched, and I think it was good for him to be able to go back to his private clientele."

When asked about the performance evaluation that was cut short by Ponton's resignation, Stokes also claimed ignorance. "Nobody made me privy to why we were going to executive session," she said. "I just knew we were, I didn't know why."

Eaves said Ponton had been made aware of the upcoming review. As for his resignation, she saw that as a positive development.

"We appreciate all of the work that he has done, but the city is ready to move in a different direction," said Eaves. "I can't speak for anybody else, [but] I think this resignation is actually going to be a good thing for the city of Alpine."

The city is now represented by the Bojorquez Law Firm, which also represents the cities of Marfa and Presidio.

Library in Terlingua

(Continued from page 1)

system, and more. "It's kind of limitless," she said.

The new library will be built on BBCA-owned land adjacent to the school. Members are currently brainstorming what they'd like the space to look like — popular ideas include installing a community garden and a public park.

Hines felt that the project would transform the area by providing a space to gather — as well as to seek a place for contemplation. "[Libraries] are a place you can go and meet other people without having to spend money," she said. "It's also a space you can go to be quiet."

As an avid book lover, she felt that there was a greater value in libraries in providing opportunities to be exposed to new ways of thinking. "I think it's really important that we have access to all kinds of literature," she said. "I think it's important for people to have access to ideas, and libraries are a really good place to find them."

For now, the organization's next step is to recruit private donors to help turn their dreams into reality. "We don't have a lot here in South County," Hines said. "I think having a library down here will be a great asset to the community."

To make a donation to the Terlingua library project, visit the Big Bend Citizens Alliance online: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GKDCHS7QBGKFG.



Photo courtesy of Joselyn Fenstermacher

Big Bend Citizens Alliance members handed out surveys at the Terlingua Post Office to gather input from the community about a new library in South Brewster County.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I write this letter filled with immense gratitude and joy after the overwhelming success of Pride Marfa '23. The outpouring of love, unity, and celebration surpassed all expectations, and on behalf of the Pride Marfa '23 Organizing Committee, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks.

The unwavering support of the people of Marfa turned this event into a celebration to remember; it was an awe-inspiring sight to see so many individuals coming together, standing up against prejudice and showing love and support for diversity and equality.

The tireless dedication of volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the spirited participation of attendees all worked in harmony to bring this vision to life. It was truly a testament to the power of unity and shared purpose.

The Pride Marfa organizers also want to express our gratitude to the numerous businesses that opened their doors to us, supporting our mission to create safe and inclusive spaces for the LGBTQIA+ community. The kindness and support of Marfa's business community were monumental this year.

This celebration was not just about the LGBTQIA+ community; it manifested heart, an embracing spirit, and the undeniable fact that love always wins over fear. We look forward to continuing to make Marfa a beacon of acceptance, love, and Pride in the years to come.

In particular, we'd like to extend special thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their remarkable contributions:

The City of Marfa, Presidio County, Chief Gilberto Carrillo and the City of Marfa Police Department (Lieutenant Nichole Fuentes, Rene Gonzales), Marfa City Council Members Raul Lara & Travis Acreman, Douglas Friedman, Mark Wilkerson, Tom Jacobs & Vilis Inde, Jan Gacioch, Christopher Johnson, Robert Spiegel & Chad Cornwall, Kate Calder and Communitie Marfa, Ballroom Marfa, Marfa Public Radio (Travis Bubenik, Christopher Dyer), Jill Martin, Julie Fischer, Abby Boyd & Concierge Marfa, Cactus Liquors, Adam Walton and Clark Childers of The Lincoln Marfa, No Man's Land (Emily Bush, Lowe Jones, Lauren Joblonski, Ana Stewart), The Marfa Store, Bad Larry Burger Club, 21 Seeds, Pole Town Pizza, Convenience West, Dylan McShan of Easy Wind, Chef Michael Anthony Serva of Bordo, Gory Smelley, Linda Ojeda and the Marfa ISD Athletics Department, Jules & Alex at Cochineal, Hotel Saint George (Tim & Rob Crowley, Emily Williams, Matt Walker, Mooney, bartenders and staff), The Sentinel (Max Kabat, Mary Cantrell, Mary Etherington, Damian Graham, bartenders and staff), El Cosmico (Kendall Craig, Mac Warren, the maintenance team and staff), Melissa Bent and Marfa Realty, Marfa Spirit Co., live bands Choux Choux & Doom Well, DJs Adriana Trillo, Eddie "Chorizo Funk" Campos, Karpis Gary "Shmowzer" Galadzhyan, Micah "Dr. Melt" Francis, Nicholas "Lurkmoth" Francis and the astonishing Anissa Lujan, drag performers Ritzy Bitz, Minerva Valmont, Christopher "Justice" Barboza, Celia Light, Casady Milan, DeeGee Rey, photographers Sarah M. Vasquez and Sarah Button (Marfa Film Shop), Victor Hugo, Naaman Esquivel, Natania Frydman and Amine Mobtahij, Paul Chavarria & Chris Gonzales, Fabian Prado & Robert Rey.

This past weekend shows that together, we can create beautiful moments and that these moments matter. They are our joyful protest, resistance, and affirmation that we stand together, proud and unafraid.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Lawrence Johnson
The Pride Marfa '23 Organizing Committee

• • •

Note of thanks:

To the tri-county and community of Valentine and the Valentine Community Church, friends and relatives, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for your prayers, support, cards, calls, and food. A big thank you to all who helped at the community center. You are all a blessing.

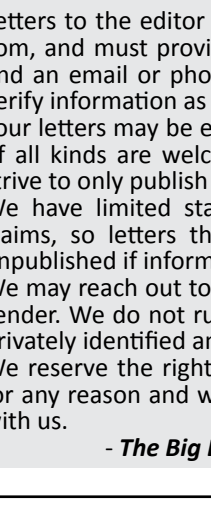
The family of Manny Perez
Valentine

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.
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OUR WATER MATTERS

$4.6 million for water infrastructure funding in Presidio County

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

The Texas Water Development Board approved $4.6 million in water infrastructure funding from its Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) for Presidio County last week. The EDAP program provides funding for first-time residential water and wastewater service and for projects to address water quality violations and so-called "public nuisances" that can pose water-related threats to public health. The county successfully secured public nuisance determinations for all the projects, meaning that 70% of the funding will be a grant and 30% will be a loan.

The funding includes design and construction funds for sewer line replacement at Fort D.A. Russell in Marfa, design and planning funds for new water systems in Shafter and Colonia Las Pampas, and design and construction funds for new water and wastewater lines in East Heights and other underserved areas of Marfa. Notably absent from the package is funding for the construction of the new systems in Shafter and Las Pampas. Despite the county's emergency declaration for Shafter and the decades-long wait for a water system in Las Pampas, the TWDB will require the county to submit a new application to fund the construction of those systems.

Presidio County had a top team of advisors to complete the application, including Bill Moriarty (application engineer), Maria Urbina (financial advisor), Paul Braden (bond counsel), Ramon Carrasco (engineer), Rogelio Rodriguez (with Water Finance Exchange), and Vanessa Puig-Williams (with Environmental Defense Fund). As a rural, underserved, low-income, remote, majority-Hispanic border county, the county also meets just about every criterion applicable to an "economically distressed area." The communities of the county additionally took the unprecedented step of forming the Presidio County Water Infrastructure Steering Committee to create a much-vaunted regional approach that could serve as a model for the rest of the state. So why, despite all of these efforts, were we unsuccessful in getting these projects fully funded for some of our most vulnerable residents?

For one thing, the original cost estimates we submitted (to the tune of $12.6 million) were wildly inflated. The thinking, on the advice of our consultants, was to set a high bar and work down from there, rather than setting a low bar with little room to negotiate. This accounts for some of the reduction in funding. But the main reason for the reduction is the TWDB's refusal to fund the construction of two independent water systems in Shafter and Las Pampas.

One of my takeaways from this experience is how seemingly biased the process is toward cities. And it's not just because cities have more technical expertise than rural areas. It's structural. There were many application forms I had to annotate with explanations because the questions were geared toward cities. The TWDB staff also kept harping on the many "unknowns" involved in our non-municipal projects, barely able to mask their disbelief at our troublesome circumstances. While I don't doubt the good faith of our partners at TWDB, the most plausible explanation for their incomprehension could be the agency's tacit preference for working with municipal systems. The untidy reality of rural life is difficult to insert into a process designed to accommodate cities. Even the loan structure is based on the funding sources of cities, who can pay back an EDAP loan with property tax, water revenues, gas revenues, etc. Meanwhile, counties fund this sort of debt through certificates of obligation that are always paid from a single source: property tax. But because the state requires applicants to pledge two revenue streams to cover a TWDB loan, it took months of back and forth before the state finally accepted the jail fund as sufficient to check its bureaucratic box.

If the objective is to ensure that more infrastructure funding goes to the underserved, then it would be helpful to reform and streamline the process to logically accommodate entities other than cities and utilities. TWDB might also train its staff in creative solutions and customer service so they can learn to listen and respond to us like the valuable clients we are. It may also be time to reframe the need for more technical assistance. Onerous, byzantine processes will always require exclusionary skills to navigate them. A more equitable, supportive approach to infrastructure funding could make such skills largely unnecessary.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He is also chairman of the Presidio County Water Infrastructure Steering Committee and president of the Marfa Parks and Recreation Board. Trey has lived in Marfa since 2013.

CineMarfa FILM FESTIVAL MARFA, TEXAS CROWLEY THEATER / THE ADOBE ROOM 15 - 18 JUNE 2023 FREE

10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

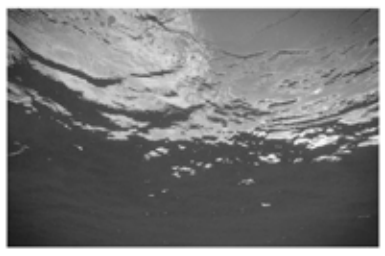
Geographies of Solitude
Jacquelyn Mills, 2022, 103 minutes
4:00 PM Crowley Theater



An immersion into the rich ecosystem of Sable Island, guided by naturalist Zoe Lucas who has lived over 40 years on this remote sliver of land in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. Shot on 16mm using eco-friendly filmmaking techniques, this experimental documentary is a reverant collaboration with the natural world. The film tracks Lucas' labor to collect, clean and document marine litter that persistently washes up on the island shores.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Laser Disc Lounge
1:00 - 4:00 PM The Adobe Room at The Lumberyard



Laserdisc was a home video format launched in Japan in 1981. By the mid-1990s the format was phased out in favor of DVD, and later Blu-Ray. We will celebrate this obsolete format by playing some of the rarest and strangest Laserdiscs ever released. Expect a relaxing and immersive tour through the world of Laserdiscs (and maybe a little VHS) in the lounge-like atmosphere of the Adobe Room at The Lumberyard.

Secret Screening
tba, 100 minutes
5:00 PM Crowley Theater



Part of our mission is to show hard-to-see and rarely screened films. We've shown many rare gems over the years, but this film is amongst the rarest; so rare that we have to keep it a secret! Nearly impossible to see in its original form, this film will put a smile on your face and inspire you to grow. Don't miss CineMarfa's first-ever *secret* screening! *This film is appropriate for all ages.

Cocktail Party
Sponsored by the Hotel Paisano and Tito's Vodka
7:00 - 9:00 PM Rock Hudson Suite, Hotel Paisano



Join us for cocktails in the Hotel Paisano's Rock Hudson Suite as we celebrate our tenth anniversary.

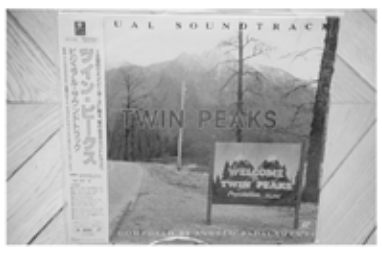
SATURDAY, JUNE 17

CineKids: The Films of Charles and Ray Eames
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Adobe Room at The Lumberyard



Charles and Ray Eames are best known for their groundbreaking contributions to architecture, furniture design (the Eames® Chair), industrial design and manufacturing, and the photographic arts. The subjects of their films range from tops to trains; from sea creatures to the simple explanation of advanced mathematical and scientific concepts. Complimentary milk and cereal will be served and all ages are welcome.

Laser Disc Lounge
12:00 - 2:00 PM The Adobe Room at The Lumberyard



Laserdisc was a home video format launched in Japan in 1981. By the mid-1990s the format was phased out in favor of DVD, and later Blu-Ray. We will celebrate this obsolete format by playing some of the rarest and strangest Laserdiscs ever released. Expect a relaxing and immersive tour through the world of Laserdiscs (and maybe a little VHS) in the lounge-like atmosphere of the Adobe Room at The Lumberyard.

Shopping Bag Spirits & Freeway Fetishes: Reflections on Ritual Space
Barbara McCullough, 1981, 60 minutes
3:00 PM Crowley Theater



A film about the role of ritual and art in Black life and creative practice in Los Angeles, circa 1980. Features interviews with David Hammons, Houston Conwill, Kinshasha Conwill, Kenneth Severin, K. Curtis Lyle, Kamau Daa'ood, Betye Saar, and Senga Nengudi. Also includes film of Senga Nengudi's 1978 performance, Ceremony for Freeway Fets, a collaboration with David Hammons and Maren Hassinger. With an introduction by Thomas Beard, founder and director of Light Industry in Brooklyn.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 (CONTINUED)

David Hammons: The Melt Goes On Forever
Harold Crooks and Judd Tully, 2022, 101 minutes
5:00 PM Crowley Theater



The Melt Goes On Forever chronicles the career of the elusive African-American art star David Hammons, from Watts rebellion era '60s Los Angeles to global art world prominence. Hammons' category-defying practice is rooted in a deep critique of American society and the elite art world. Featuring interviews with eminent artists, curators and critics and a rich trove of archival footage, , The Melt is a record of an artist who constantly defies the establishment and remains subversive at every turn.

Keyboard Fantasies
Posy Miller, 2019, 71 minutes
8:00 PM Crowley Theater



As a sci-fi obsessed woman living in near isolation, Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote and self-released Keyboard Fantasies in 1986. Recorded in an Atari-powered home-studio, the obscure cassette never found an audience. Three decades on, the musician – now Glenn Copeland – is rediscovered by a new generation of fans. A re-release of Keyboard Fantasies and the formation of a touring band provide opportunities for Glenn, newly appointed as an inspirational queer elder, to connect with youth across the globe.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Made in Marfa
1:00 PM Crowley Theatre



This screening features the work of filmmakers living in, or connected to, Marfa, and working in a range of styles.

Ian Lewis REAL, HAPPY, ALIVE, FREE (32 min.)

Lea Bouanich HEME (22 min.)

Joseph Cashiola 10 MIN. OF WATER (25 min.)

Nicholas Francis IT GETS WORSE (5 min.)

Neuro Osmosis
David Fenster, 2023, 13 minutes
3:00 PM Crowley Theater
WORLD PREMIERE



Neuro Osmosis explores the visual relationship between the current paintings of artist Nick Terry, and the electron microscopy imagery created several decades ago by his late father, renowned Neuropathologist, Dr. Robert D. Terry. How art, science, zen philosophy, and familial relations can influence our daily lives, work and pursuits, are addressed in this personal film. A conversation led by Tim Johnson with David Fenster and Nick Terry will follow the screening

Robert Irwin: A Desert Of Pure Feeling
Jennifer Lane, 2022, 76 minutes
7:00 PM Crowley Theater



California "light and space" artist Robert Irwin began as a painter in LA's "Cool School" scene, but abandoned object-making to pursue pure dialog, philosophy, and experimentation. Rejecting art world fame to create experimental installations, Irwin developed a new way of working that made perception itself the subject. Irwin tells the story in his own words, supplemented with archival and new interviews and immersive footage of Irwin's artworks. With an introduction by Jeff Jamieson.

Closing Night Party
9:00 PM The Adobe Room at the Lumberyard



Help us close out this year's festival and celebrate a decade's worth of free film, music, workshops, and community events at the Lumberyard.

CineMarfa wishes to thank our sponsors for their generous support:

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Community

In new memoir, Carolyn Pfeiffer recounts the triumphs and trials of a young woman among the stars

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Marfa resident and celebrated film producer Carolyn Pfeiffer has led an uncommonly fascinating life — one that landed her among the upper echelons of cinema as a young woman. Her new memoir, *Chasing the Panther: Adventures & Misadventures of a Cinematic Life*, now provides a deeply personal documentation of that legacy, chronicling her entreé into film and the arts in 1960s Europe.

From horseback riding as a child through woodland trails in her hometown of rural Madison, North Carolina, to working as an assistant for actors Claudia Cardinale and Omar Sharif on films including Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard* and David Lean's *Doctor Zhivago*, Pfeiffer's memoir weaves tales of her personal tragedies and triumphs with historically significant events and cultural movements she witnessed.

"I was in a magical world," said Pfeiffier. "Those times were very special times and I just had the good fortune to find myself in that world and to be exposed to people that were so much more educated, accomplished and intellectual than I was, certainly when I arrived. I was a little country girl from North Carolina."

"But I was also a sponge," Pfeiffer added. "I was fascinated by it all and eager. I've always loved art."

Pfeiffer's rich past also consists of running a public relations company with clients including The Beatles and Alice Cooper in the Swinging London era, launching independent production and distribution company Island Alive Films, and a stint living and making films in Jamaica. Now 85, she has been residing in Marfa for the past 15 years.

She came here, of course, to make a movie — and though that particular project never got off the ground, her time here has been creatively fruitful. Her house, where she has been chipping away at the memoir over the years, sits on the edge of town with views of the desert grasslands.

When *The Big Bend Sentinel* recently sat down with Pfeiffer to discuss her new memoir, she sat on a couch beneath three of the first artworks she ever collected, primitive Sicilian paintings depicting biblical scenes in elaborate wooden frames — a style she was introduced to by Visconti who called them "people's art."

Due to the nature of Pfeiffer's work interacting with larger-than-life characters in the movie business, it was regularly suggested she consider a memoir, she said — but that same access comes with a respect for the privacy of her famous colleagues, which at first gave Pfeiffer pause. Through her time living with Sharif and going in and out of dressing rooms with Cardinale as their personal assistants, Pfeiffer knew the individuals not as glamorous movie stars but as people, something that comes across in her anecdotes and reflections in the book.

"You see them at their absolute most vulnerable — like, stripped," said Pfeiffer. "You are that close to them. You are that person, and that's why I really never thought I would write a book, because you're around everything, you see everything, you hear everything."

Only when she began more seriously considering the importance of archival history and, to an extent, her own mortality — "not to be overdramatic here," she says — was she ready to start the project, she said.

The memoir — which was co-authored by Gregory Collins, a writer and filmmaker Pfeiffer worked with at the defunct Burnt Orange Productions out of the University of Texas — is years in the making, the result of a close collaboration, consisting of countless in-person, phone and email conversations and edits between Collins and Pfeiffer. Literary agents helped steer the direction of the book, which focuses on Pfeiffer as a young woman in her twenties and thirties after she moves to Rome from New York City.

"They all felt that *the story* was the story of this — I hate to use the word ingénue — Southern ingénue, going to Europe and really inadvertently finding her way into this world of moviemaking and then having the opportunity to learn and work alongside some of the greatest filmmakers working at that time," said Pfeiffer.

Early on, agents prodded the co-authors to broaden the narrative to include not only Pfeiffer's adventures working alongside cinematic greats, but also her personal experiences during this pivotal time in her life, a process which required Pfeiffer to commit to being fully honest about everything she'd gone through as a young woman, she said.

"I did not feel that things should be left out for any reason whatsoever, because that was my life," said Pfeiffer. "It doesn't mean that you talk about [painful memories] at a cocktail party. But if you're sitting down to write your life story, I don't know how you exclude them."

Reliving her most vulnerable, difficult moments — a sexual assault, the unthinkable loss of a child — for the book was harrowing, said Pfeiffer, but ultimately worthwhile, because those experiences are a part of her, and might allow readers, particularly young women, to learn from them.

"For me, the most important thing is really, if there was a reason to write the book, it was to share things with young women [they] might also go through — there's a lot of stuff in here that girls deal with — to share my experiences and how I dealt with them," said Pfeiffer.

The vivid details and dialogue present throughout the memoir, aided by Pfeiffer's saved letters and date book, allow the reader to be transported to her locales: the welcoming lunch table of the d'Amico's, an Italian family with which she formed a strong bond, a glitzy party beneath the Great Pyramids of Giza she attended with Sharif, the 1968 Cannes Film Festival in which filmmakers, including Pfeiffer's friend Geraline Chaplin, stormed the stage to protest a screening due to political turmoil in France.

Pfeiffer also utilized the existing memoirs of her friends and colleagues, actresses Nathalie Delon, Claudia Cardinale and Romy Schneider, as guideposts, she said, and researched historical events with the help of interns from the publishing house to make her book as accurate as possible.

"The combination of my personal experiences, memories, letters, and the research that we did, I hope we succeeded in creating a texture to place the story in a time and place," said Pfeiffer.

Particularly significant are Pfeiffer's recollections of her conversations with contemporary writers, photographers and filmmakers of her time — as well as her lovers, each a creative in their own right — about their takes on art, architecture, literature and more, presented as artistic wisdoms once bestowed upon her that will now live on due to their inclusion in the text.

"Art is a panther, *cara mia*, with fur and teeth and claws. Sometimes, if you get too close, if you make it personal, it puts its claws in you and it doesn't let go," writes Pfeiffer, quoting her boyfriend at the time, Masolino d'Amico.

Pfeiffer also discusses the burden of celebrity with thoughtfulness and clarity, recalling what it was like for famous actresses and actors she worked with to interact with the public, pour their lives into their roles and be at the whim of the powerful directors.

"I was really writing about them as human beings and, as I point out, there's something that sets really famous people apart," said Pfeiffer. "They carry a slightly different load than the rest of us. I became very conscious of that very early in my career."

Pfeiffer and Collins were careful to respect the boundaries of those mentioned in the memoir, many of whom have public profiles, but also wanted to present an accurate story of her experience with celebrity and the myriad ways it affects individuals.

"I have great empathy for actors because I've been around their process and I understand what they bring to it, the vulnerability they bring to it," said Pfeiffer. "Even as a producer, I would say one of my strengths was understanding the talent, and that extends to the directors and writers too."

Her formative years on film sets in Europe where she was a part of a vibrant film scene in close proximity to actors, writers and directors led to her becoming a successful producer when she moved back to the United States, to Los Angeles, a portion of her life not covered by the book.

Pfeiffer continues to produce films and was an executive producer most recently for *Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling*, a documentary on the artist that will close out this weekend's CineMarfa festival.

The Austin Film Society will host screenings of three films involving Pfeiffer — *The Leopard*, *Dancehall Queen*, and *Roadie* — followed by book talks and Q&As in July, and similar programs will take place soon at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and more.

Chasing the Panther: Adventures & Misadventures of a Cinematic Life, *is available wherever books are sold. For those interested in the ghostwriting process, see Pfeiffer and Collins' episode of the podcast "As Told To."*

CineMarfa back for 10th edition after years-long hiatus

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — CineMarfa, an arts-focused film festival established in 2011, is back this weekend after a three-year gap in programming due to the pandemic. The festival will run from Thursday to Sunday, with screenings taking place at the Crowley Theater.

All events are free and open to the public. Co-director of the organization David Hollander said many of this year's selected films are biographical in nature and stay true to the event's origins.

"Our mission has always been to show these specific kinds of films, films that explore the intersection of film and art, banned films, and rarely screened archival films that we have a love for," said Hollander.

"For the past 10 years, all of our events have been free and open to all, no tickets required. In that sense, it really is an event that is for the Marfa community," he added.

This year's lineup notably includes a "Made in Marfa" screening featuring the work of local filmmakers, taking place Sunday, June 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Crowley Theater. Those local works include "Real, Happy, Alive & Free," a short film by Ian Lewis which tells the story of an oil field worker in Odessa who quits his job and features locals Caleb Jagger of Fort Davis and Vince Fuentez of Marfa, and "10 Min. Of Water" by Joe Cashiola, part cooking show, part video confessional and portrait of local artist Harry Crofton and his dog June filmed in the summer of 2020.

"Made in Marfa" will also include the short film "HEME" by Lea Bouanich, an ethnographic essay about the area's cattle ranching traditions, and a teaser video for "It Gets Worse," an animated cartoon series set in Marfa by Nicholas Francis. (A kickstarter to support the series has raised around $10,000 to date.)

Hollander said while CineMarfa has facilitated workshops and the creation of cinematic works in the area in the past, it was refreshing to see so many films and projects led by locals coming to life recently.

"It seems actually like this year there's quite a lot of stuff coming out of Marfa, which is interesting," said Hollander. "There's a kind of a growing film scene there so that's exciting."

Following "Made in Marfa" on Sunday is the world premiere of *NEURO OSMOSIS*, a film by David Fenster about artist and Marfa resident Nick Terry, who also serves on the CineMarfa board of directors. The film explores Terry's work and its visual relationship to his late father, a neuropathologist. A soundtrack by Terry, Philip Boyd and Rob Mazurek accompanies the film. Fenster and Terry will both be in attendance and Tim Johnson will lead a discussion after the screening.

The festival will kick off at 4 p.m. on Thursday with *Geographies of Solitude*, a documentary shot on 16 millimeter film examining the life of environmentalist Zoe Lucas, who has lived on the remote Sable Island for the past 40 years collecting data for biologists. On Saturday, 8 to 9:30 p.m., attendees can see a screening of *Keyboard Fantasies*, about the youth revival of cult musician Glenn Copeland's self-released 1986 album.

Two films featuring the artist David Hammons will also be screened on Saturday, *The Melt Goes On Forever*, a documentary about the enigmatic creator, and *Shopping Bag Spirits and Freeway Fetishes: Reflections on Ritual Space*, a 1981 film featuring earlier footage of Hammons and several other Black artists working in Los Angeles at the time.

A "LaserDisc lounge" — the only event not taking place at the Crowley, instead occupying the Adobe Room of the Lumberyard from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday and noon to 2 p.m. Saturday — is devoted to the obsolete format popularized in the late '70s. Drawing from Hollander's personal collection, the viewings will include "visual music," "experimental animation" and more.

"We'll be showing a selection of the rarest and strangest LaserDiscs. There's going to be some other things thrown in VHS and 16 millimeter," said Hollander. "That's going to be more of a kind of immersive, lounge-like experience."

Closing out the festival will be the Marfa premiere of *Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling*, a documentary chronicling Irwin's art career including the creation of the *untitled (dawn to dusk)* installation on Chinati's grounds. The film, which originally premiered at Doc NYC this fall, involved Hollander, CineMarfa co-director Jennifer Lane, and locals including Joe Cashiola and Carolyn Pfeiffer.

To view the full schedule of CineMarfa goings on, visit cinemarfa.org/schedule.

Bee's Hive to host Father's Day Street Dance benefitting the Marfa Chamber

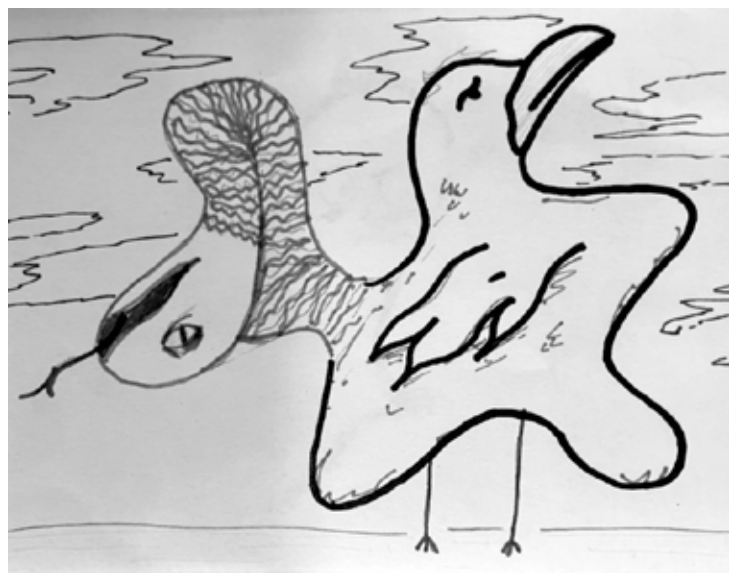
MARFA — Bee's Hive, a local Mexican food restaurant, will host a Father's Day street dance from 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 17.

Gordita plates will be for sale. Bring your own beverage and chair. Free music by DJ La Unica will be provided. The portion of South Abbot Street near the restaurant will be closed for the party. Proceeds will benefit the Marfa Chamber of Commerce's annual Marfa Lights Festival this fall.

"We are excited to partner with Bee's to present a fun event this Saturday, just in time for Father's Day, to have a street party and raise funds for this year's Marfa Lights Festival," said Abby Boyd, President of the Marfa Chamber of Commerce. "We'll have live music, dancing, and great food! We hope the town will come out and enjoy the evening with us!"

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Ms. Powers' 8th Period Collaboration
"Monster Jam"

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

5/31

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

5/29

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 12, 2023

ACROSS
1 Japanese soup type
5 Certain Mustangs
8 Social media announcements
13 At large
15 Breakfast pastry
16 Modern meeting
17 "You got that right!"
18 Incoming flight: Abbr.
19 CBS franchise featuring DNA labs
20 Genetic characteristic
21 Baseball stat
22 What "only knocks once"
26 Like the score 1-1
28 Wonderful, informally
29 "The Killing" actress Mireille
30 Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great
33 Imperfection
35 Slippery swimmer
36 Cause whose support is growing
39 Key near Ctrl
42 Uncontaminated
43 Shirts' opponents
46 "___ or No ___"
48 Joke
49 Many, many
51 Plank at a pirate-themed pool party, perhaps
56 Treasure guide for a pirate
57 Atrocities
58 Casino cube
59 Texter's "I believe ..."
60 Sacred space
62 Get right to work, or a hint to 16-, 22-, 36- or 51-Across
64 Harshly criticized
65 Animal with a trunk
66 Wavers?
67 K-pop band whose name doesn't stand for "beloved teen singers"
68 Defeat, as a dragon

DOWN
1 "Don Giovanni" composer
2 How satellites travel
3 Features of books and buildings
4 Unit of resistance
5 Understand
6 National flower of the Netherlands
7 Show that airs shortly before Sunday, briefly
8 Island country that hosted 2005's "Survivor"
9 Where hybrid classes are partially taught
10 Vatican chapel
11 Org. at LAX
12 Short (of)
14 Shoe company founded in Denmark
15 Sleazeballs
20 Refrain syllables
23 "___ into the wild blue yonder ..."
24 Little dipper?
25 French fashion letters
27 Turned bad?
31 Bust a rhyme
32 Was the big or little spoon
34 Stir-fry pan
37 Tiny amounts
38 Zippo
39 Obey a plus sign
40 Floral neckwear
41 Greek cafe
44 Insignificant
45 What a marathoner has
47 Word with "wage" or "will"
50 Like cell service in the mountains, often
52 Dressed to the ___
53 Grown-up
54 Singer/songwriter LeAnn
55 Jack Sparrow portrayer Johnny
60 Summertime lotion letters
61 Antagonist in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
62 A Bush
63 Cries of comprehension

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

6/11

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6/12

Take the Leap *by Josh M. Kaufmann*

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

Pride Marfa returns for second annual celebration



Photo by Lawrence Johnson

Ritzy Bitz, Justice, and Celia Light took the stage at "The Best Drag Show Ever" at El Cosmico on Friday, kicking off Pride Marfa 2023. The performers were also joined by DeeGee Rey, Casady Milan, and Minerva Valmont.



Photo by Hannah Gentiles

A dance party featuring a number of DJs took place at The Sentinel on Saturday night as part of a weekend filled with Pride festivities. A pool party at the St. George on Sunday would cap off the event.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

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Thu June 15

CineMarfa Film Festival 2023
6/15 - 6/18 in Marfa
As always - and for 10 years now! - CineMarfa includes the kinds of films we are most fond of sharing, films that explore the intersection of film and art, films that have been banned, and rare archival gems! All festival screenings are FREE and open to the public. See full schedule on page 5.

Sat June 17

SUPERWOMAN with Tim Kerr
12:00pm - 5:00pm at Webb's Fair & Square, 105 N Front Street in Fort Davis
Art opening with Tim Kerr plus music with Tim and his duo Up Around the Sun 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

Father's Day Street Dance
5:00pm - 12:00am at Bee's Hive, 300 US-90 in Marfa
Proceeds will benefit the Marfa Chamber of Commerce's annual Marfa Lights Festival this fall.

Kelly Mickwee at Gage Hotel
7:00pm - 9:00pm on White Buffalo Patio at Gage Hotel in Marathon
Kelley Mickwee and her voice are one of the most recognizable talents making music in her home state of Texas at the moment -- even if you may not immediately know it.

Sun June 18

PACHANGA! Artwalk Alpine Fundraiser with Joe King Carrasco
6:00pm - 10:00pm at the Granada Theatre, 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Join us for a PACHANGA celebrating Artwalk Alpine 30th Anniversary! Fundraiser Benefitting Artwalk Alpine & Alpine Humane Society. Tickets $15 pre-sale (available on eventbrite.com), $20 at the door.

Mon June 19

Alpine Cowboys Baseball
6/19 - 6/21 at 7:00pm at Kokernot Field, 400 Loop Road in Alpine
Alpine Cowboys and the Tucson Saguaros have a 3 game series June 19th-21st!

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

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 & Thursday 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 & sometimes in-person at Marfa Public Library

AA (in-person)
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

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

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

Have an upcoming or weekly event?

Please submit a two sentence maximum description of your weekly event including who, what, when, and where by Tuesday at 10 am to ads@bigbendsentinel.com

Judd Foundation

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

Advance reservations are required.

JUDD

La Mansana de Chinati/ The Block
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at the gated entrance at 400 West El Paso Street.

The Studios
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at 101 North Highland Avenue.

Visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406 for more information and to book reservations.

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Classifieds & public notices

JOBS

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

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

Please call first before arrival.

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 OPPORTUNITY

First Baptist Church in Fort Davis is seeking a part-time (4 days/20 hours weekly) administrative assistant.

Applicants should be skilled in QuickBooks and general office tasks.

For more information, contact Pastor Paul Harst at 432.426.3989.

An application and a detailed job description are available at the church office Monday-Thursday.

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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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Alpine Montessori is seeking passionate and experienced educators to join our team. Our school will celebrate 34 years in August. As a teacher in our Montessori program you will have the opportunity to inspire young minds in a dynamic and supportive environment. We have positions in the elementary program and after-school care program for 2023-24 school year. Our diverse community of close to 6000 residents is a vibrant and welcoming place. We are looking for dedicated Montessori teachers who share our commitment to fostering a love of learning in our students. Whether you have experience working in a Montessori environment or not, we're looking for teachers with a gentle spirit, a passion for teaching, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children. We offer Montessori certification training and a generous relocation package.

To apply, please submit resumé to: admin@alpinemontessori.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Big Bend Community Action Committee Employment Opportunity

Big Bend Community Action Committee is hiring for a full-time **Driver** position in our Alpine or Marfa locations.

The Driver will assist residents in safely transporting them to and from their medical and other appointments. Job requirements include: a valid class c drivers license and clean driving record. Applicants must pass a drug and background screening to be hired. Bilingual in English and Spanish preferred. Salary starts at $15.00 per hour with opportunity for overtime. Benefits include: 100% company sponsored health insurance.

Applications may be picked up at the Marfa office at 1412 W. Berlin, Marfa, TX or can be emailed to interested candidates.

For more information call 432-729-1992 ex. 109.

The Big Bend Community Action Committee is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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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

Ruidosa Water Supply hereby gives notice to it's water customers that the chlorinating system went down and repairs are being conducted by Skinners Well Service. In the mean time you may want to boil the water for drinking purposes, until further notice.

Ruidosa Water Supply
HC 63 Box 57
Marfa/Ruidosa, Texas 79843
432-229-3467

LEGAL NOTICES

APPLICATION has been made for a Mixed Beverage Marfa's Lost Horse Saloon, LLC doing business as The Pony located at 306 E. San Antonio St., Marfa, Presidio County, Texas 79843. Ranchero Group, LLC – Managing Member, Jacob Wilson – Managing Member, Sterling Roberts – Managing Member. Said application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruben S. Hernandez, Deceased, were issued on May 4, 2023, in Cause No. 2013, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to Maria Elia Spragg and Tomas Hernandez.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

MARIA ELIA SPRAGG, Co-Independent Executor
Estate of Ruben S. Hernandez, Deceased
c/o Massey Balentine, P.C.
4745 Briarcliff Trail
San Angelo, Texas 76904

TOMAS HERNANDEZ, Co-Independent Executor
Estate of Ruben S. Hernandez, Deceased
c/o Massey Balentine, P.C.
4745 Briarcliff Trail
San Angelo, Texas 76904

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated June 6, 2023.

MASSEY BALENTINE, P.C.
4745 Briarcliff Trail
San Angelo, Texas 76904
(325) 653-2448

/s/ Blair L. Park
State Bar No. 24100564
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM FOR ADVERTISING RATES

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
Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmembersalgado@cityofmarfa.com
Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com
Raúl Lara
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com

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

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge 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)

la fundación
the CHINATI foundation

Chinati is an artist foundation created by Donald Judd and opened to the public in 1986.

Open Wednesday through Sunday
with self-guided and guided tour options.
Tickets are required.
Reservations are encouraged
as capacity is limited.

Free entrance is available for residents
of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.

For details and reservations, please
come to the Chinati Visitor Center
at 1 Cavalry Row or go to
chinati.org

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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