THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

Vol. 91 No. 17 • July 20, 2023 | Marfa, Presidio County, Texas | www.bigbendsentinel.com • **$1**

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

Sheriff's department budgets for additional north county deputy

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — At last week's meeting, the Presidio County Commissioners Court approved a slot in next year's budget for an additional deputy serving the northern half of the county. The position would round out the number of full-time Presidio County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) employees on patrol to seven, including County Sheriff Danny Dominguez.

Chief Deputy Joel Nuñez kicked off the discussion about the new deputy in March, when he asked the commissioners to use money already in the PCSO budget to temporarily create a deputy position through the end of the fiscal year. The commissioners approved his request, but needed to revisit the issue before the FY24 budget was completed.

In 2015, the commissioners court voted to add a deputy to the southern half of the county. The plan had always been to add an additional deputy up north, but that idea stalled after the Marfa Police Department — whose duties were covered by contract with the PCSO from 2007 to 2017 — was reestablished.

In March, Nuñez explained that the three deputies patrolling the southern half of the county were often called to help assist in Customs and Border Protection operations. "We have a lot of activity [on the border], it's increasing," Nuñez said. "We want someone to cover more of the normal duties of a deputy — citizen complaints, highway patrol, community presence."

At last week's meeting, Nuñez doubled down on his observations about the strain placed on the department. He also explained that the north county deputies patrol a wider area than just Marfa — the more remote reaches of the county along Casa Piedra and Pinto Canyon roads. "If you do the math, two deputies providing 24/7 coverage to Marfa is pretty difficult," he said.

PCSO Secretary Shanna Elmore explained that there are two additional deputies patrolling the county through Operation Stonegarden, a federal grant program for law enforcement in local governments along the border. Those deputies can't help with the "normal duties" detailed by Nuñez. "Stonegarden duties are mostly to serve the border initiative and provide support to U.S. Border Patrol when needed," she said.

At last week's meeting, the commissioners voted to approve the PCSO's application for the next

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Staff photo by Allegra Hobbs

Community members gathered at the Van Horn Convention Center on Thursday evening for an informational meeting on the Saguaro Connector Pipeline, a planned natural gas pipeline that would come within roughly a mile of town.

In Van Horn, some locals begin to mobilize against planned pipeline

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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VAN HORN — Dozens of community members gathered Thursday at the Van Horn Convention Center to learn more about a planned natural gas pipeline that would come within roughly a mile of city limits — a development some fear may endanger their community and negatively impact their quality of life.

ONEOK Inc.'s Saguaro Connector Pipeline would span 155 miles from the Waha Hub in Pecos County to the U.S.-Mexico border at Hudspeth County, where it would then transport natural gas under the Rio Grande for international export from Mexico. It would have the capacity to transport 2.834 billion standard cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The proposed pipeline's intrastate journey before crossing the border takes it through Reeves, Jeff Davis, Culberson and Hudspeth counties. Concerns about environmental impacts and the disruption of archeological sites — namely the Indian Hot Springs site — have already been raised by West Texans. But the pipeline's proximity to the town of Van Horn in Culberson County was a dominant topic of discussion at last week's meeting, where some locals were learning details of the project for the first time. Some shouted their objections during the meeting, wondering aloud why they'd been unaware of the project.

The meeting was hosted by activist groups including The Property Rights and Pipeline Center and Earthworks, who expounded on the potential negative impacts of such a project — harmful emissions, and even ruptures and explosions. Lawyers were on hand to explain landowners rights to those whose property is in the path of the pipeline — a situation in which the pipeline company is able to assert eminent domain. Yard signs and bumper stickers protesting the pipeline were laid out on a table for attendees to take home.

Van Horn native Cody Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee chairman for the county, expressed concern about emergency preparedness in the small, fairly remote town. If all goes according to plan and the necessary permits are issued, ONEOK aims to begin construction next year, with plans for the pipeline to be fully operational in 2025. Davis is tasked with writing emergency plans for the county — a lengthy process he fears he will be unable to complete in time for the pipeline's construction.

"I have less than a year to write a plan that's

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Court proceedings continue for Marfa locals facing charges relating to child sex abuse material

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Patricio Javier "P.J." Serrano, a Marfa resident who was arrested in May and charged with possession of child sex abuse material, was indicted Monday on an additional count of transportation of child sex abuse material.

A federal grand jury found that in addition to possession, Serrano was "aiding and abetting another, did knowingly transport child pornography," according to the superseding indictment. Transportation, as defined by the courts, includes transport by electronic means.

Serrano, 35, was in a previous romantic partnership with Marfa resident Sonya Murillo, 32, who was arrested in June and indicted on four counts of production and one count of distribution of child sex abuse material. Serrano was a coach with the Big Bend Amateur Softball Association and Murillo was a Marfa ISD substitute teacher.

So far, the defendants' cases have played out separately in the courts, and it is unclear whether the cases are related. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment on the matter.

Both the possession and transportation counts Serrano is being charged with have a maximum of 20 years imprisonment. Serrano was in possession of child sex abuse material involving a prepubescent female child, according to court documents.

Serrano, who previously pleaded not guilty, will now have the option to either enter into a plea deal or go to trial. The plea deadline and a potential trial date have been pushed back and are set for August and September, respectively.

"We're reviewing the evidence and the charges and deciding how best to proceed forward," said Serrano's attorney Shane O'Neal.

Murillo, who was arrested after investigators with the Texas Department of Public Safety uncovered video evidence of her performing sexual acts on a young child while "conducting a forensic review of a cell phone from a different child pornography investigation in Marfa," according to the criminal complaint, pleaded not guilty earlier this month. She will now either enter into a plea deal or go to trial. Murillo waived her right to a bond hearing and did not appear at her arraignment.

Murillo's lawyer, Bart Medley, declined to

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PISD updates district safety plan, creates mental health coordinator position

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At last week's meeting, Presidio ISD Police Chief Joel Nuñez gave a presentation to the school board about the district's safety protocols, with a special emphasis on mental health. In the wake of a school gun violence epidemic, the state has put more stringent regulations in place — but Nuñez wanted the district to go above and beyond.

Nuñez began with a brief outline of the school's emergency management plan. Whenever there's a shakeup in school leadership, the document must be reviewed and new signatories added — this year, the district saw the resignation of the superintendent and the middle school principal as well as the reassignment of the high school principal.

The emergency management plan provides a blueprint for the district to follow in the wake of a wide range of emergencies — everything from bomb threats and chemical spills to bullying. Once the threat has been identified, the document provides easy-to-follow steps customized to Presidio ISD leadership and local coordinating agencies.

Citing safety concerns, Nuñez said that the document would not be available online, but would be available to any concerned parent or community member requesting it. "We're always trying to be transparent," he said. "But we can't give the bad guys a play-by-play on how we do things."

Nuñez then announced that the district would be creating a position for a full-time, district-wide mental health coordinator funded by federal grant money. In the wake of numerous school shootings around the country, school safety experts — as well as the Texas Education Agency — had come to see offering mental health resources as a form of emergency prevention.

Instead of having campus-specific counselors who serve other roles in teaching and administration, this position would be solely dedicated to mental healthcare, lending students a sympathetic ear and connecting them with clinical resources if needed.

Most importantly, the district mental health coordinator would be able to watch out for red flags signaling destructive behavior — and to continue keeping tabs on individual students to make sure their needs are adequately addressed.

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Fate of Brite Ranch awaits judge's ruling as opposing motions are filed

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Nearly a month after a Presidio County jury found that Brite Ranch manager Jim White had breached his fiduciary duty as trustee of the family trust, the questions at the heart of the case — whether Jim will be removed from the position he has held for over a decade, and whether a trust modification will allow the sale of the ranchland — remain unanswered, as each party pulls for differing visions of the estate's future ahead of a final judgment.

The legal battle concerning the historic Brite Ranch and its handling began in 2018, when Mac and Beau White sued their brother Jim for breach of fiduciary duty, alleging that he acted as trustee in ways that benefited him and his family while neglecting to generate income for trust beneficiaries, including themselves. The jury verdict rendered in June largely favored Mac and Beau, finding, in part, that Jim owes Mac and Beau $3 million in damages because the breach of duty had been "intentional or fraudulent," and that he owes the Jane White Trust $1 million.

But the case isn't over. Judge Melvin "Rex" Emerson has yet to enter a final judgment, and opposing parties are now shooting their shots in hopes of swaying the outcome. Last week, attorneys filed opposing motions for the judge's consideration. On Tuesday, they presented oral arguments at a hearing held over Zoom.

The plaintiffs filed a motion for the entry of a final judgment that would mandate the various payouts outlined in the jury verdict — for damages to the trust and to Mac and Beau individually, and for attorney fees — plus a payout of $185,000 to trust beneficiary Brite Divinity School, a nominal party to the suit with which Jim has entered a settlement. The motion further argues that Jim should pay the trust back for attorney fees incurred on its behalf — a total of $1,270,993.96.

The defendants, meanwhile, filed a motion to disregard many of the jury's findings. They argue that the court improperly placed the burden of proof on Jim to prove that he fulfilled his duties as trustee, rather than placing the burden of proof on the plaintiff to prove the opposite, and that "no legally sufficient evidence" supports the finding that Jim breached his fiduciary duty. Jim's lawyers also argue that, contrary to the jury's finding that the Jane White Trust depreciated in value as a result of Jim's actions, the estate increased in value under his management.

Jim's lawyers further argue that because the jury did not find that Mac and Beau individually suffered actual damages, Jim should not be asked to pay them monetary damages as individuals.

"They're asking the court to wire around their failure and to enter a judgment that's not supported by the jury's findings," said Dennis Weitzel, an attorney for Jim White, at Tuesday's hearing.

As for damages owed to the Jane White Trust, the defendants argue that because the jury found that the Jane White Trust suffered no material financial loss, Jim should not be asked to pay them damages

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Planned pipeline

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going to involve peoples' lives and property," he said.

"We've got a sheriff's department that's got six deputies and the sheriff," he said. "We don't have the capabilities, we don't have the resources — we just don't."

Davis said he plans to oppose the pipeline's construction near Van Horn. His cousin, Manuela Carrasco, said she would do everything within her power to oppose the project. She said she feared the adverse health effects of emissions — her husband has asthma, she said, and suffers from kidney disease.

"I'm worried about the effects of it, the possible effects of it," she said. "I'm not to the point where I'm going to be panicking, but at the same time, I don't need to tempt that as a fate. We don't need to play around."

A recent report from Inside Climate News and the Texas Tribune revealed that West Texas natural gas operators were releasing tons of excess emissions into the air amid the June heatwave.

In response to a request for comment regarding community concerns, ONEOK spokesperson Brad Borror stated that the company is "committed to the safe and reliable operation of our pipelines in the communities where we operate."

The company is currently awaiting approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct the border facilities necessary to transport the natural gas beneath the Rio Grande. That two-part permitting process — seeking FERC authorization and a "presidential permit" — applies only to the roughy 1,000 feet of pipeline that crosses the border.

Borror said that the FERC process "includes a forum for stakeholders to provide input," and that impacted landowners had been contacted by the company.

But most of the pipeline — all but the 1,000 feet under review by FERC — falls entirely within the state of Texas, thus falling under the jurisdiction of the Texas Railroad Commission. The intrastate portion of the pipeline does not require approval or permitting from the federal government.

Towards the end of the meeting, one attendee stood up and asked if they had a chance at opposing the pipeline's presence near their community. Lori Simmons, an organizer with the Property Rights and Pipeline Center, noted that upwards of 50 people were in the convention center that evening.

"Y'all are not a small group," she said. "This is a large group, and y'all are loud."

PISD updates

(Continued from page 1)

"We need someone who can keep tabs on each child," Nuñez said.

The coordinator would also be available to serve teachers and staff members dealing with difficult situations and mental health crises. "Teachers have needs and need to talk to somebody sometimes," he said.

Nuñez explained that many districts are opting for online resources and programs, but felt that having someone available to students and staff in person would be indispensable. "I personally didn't think [having online-only resources] was acceptable," he said. "Presidio has always been ahead."

Ultimately, the goal was to be several steps ahead — rather than waiting for an emergency to happen. "If we take proactive measures on mental health, it could prevent a situation like Uvalde," Nuñez said.

School Board President Iris Galindo expressed her support, both for the program and for generating more conversations about mental health within the district. "It's great to encourage our students and staff to communicate if we see anything," she said.

Court proceedings

(Continued from page 1)

comment on the case. The Texas Department of Public Safety has not responded to requests for comment on the status of the investigations.

Both Serrano and Murillo are being held without bond at the West Texas Detention Facility in Sierra Blanca.

Sheriff's department

(Continued from page 1)

round of Operation Lone Star funding. Operation Lone Star functions like Operation Stonegarden on the state level, providing funding to law enforcement in border counties in Texas. If approved, $87,360 of state money would go toward deputy salaries.

The new north county deputy position — separate from the Operation Stonegarden and Operation Lone Star deputies — will be filled by a familiar face for many. PCSO Precinct 1 Constable Steven Marquez will serve as full-time deputy. Marquez resigned from his position as chief of the Marfa Police Department in March, but stated that he would still keep his post at the sheriff's office.

The county's assistant auditor, Alicia Sanchez, explained that because Marquez was already on the county's insurance payroll, the immediate impact to next year's budget would be around $54,000.

Brite Ranch

(Continued from page 1)

either.

Monetary damages aside, the court is also being asked to make a determination about the future of both the trust and the ranchland.

Mac and Beau's attorneys are lobbying for the removal of Jim as trustee of the Jane White Trust, and for its division into four separate trusts, one for each of Jane White's four children — Mac, Beau, Jim and Hester — consisting of equal, undivided interests in the estate. "This has the effect of giving each sibling the ability to manage their own individual interests and reduce the discord associated with their individual lack of control," reads the plaintiffs' motion.

They are also requesting the judicial modification of the trust to allow for the sale of the Brite Ranch — a move currently forbidden per the last will and testament of the siblings' great-grandmother, but which the plaintiffs argue would be in keeping with the will's original intent.

"One of the purposes of this trust was clearly to benefit income for beneficiaries," said Frank Ikard, an attorney for the plaintiff, at Tuesday's hearing. "For 13 years, the trustee has not been able to do this."

At Tuesday's hearing, Mac and Beau's attorneys argued that if the modification is granted, and if the trust is divided equally — and the land along with it — each sibling could decide whether or not to sell their portion of the ranchland.

Judge Emerson said he would review the motions in the coming days and try to render a judgment as soon as possible. As for the requests apart from the jury's findings, including the removal of Jim as trustee, the judge directed the attorneys to submit briefings by August 2 at noon.

"Give this your best shot, throw as much mud at the walls as you can, and I'll try to figure it out," said Judge Emerson.

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West Texas gas operators released tons of excess emissions during June heat wave

By DYLAN BADDOUR, Inside Climate News, and ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ, The Texas Tribune

WEST TEXAS — As a record-breaking heat wave bore down in June, extreme temperatures triggered a series of failures in West Texas' gas supply infrastructure that led to more than 300 tons of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

According to more than a dozen reports filed by gas pipeline operators with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, extreme heat caused compressor stations along gas pipelines to dial back or shut down in June, which caused dangerous pressure buildup inside the pipes. In response, operators released hundreds of tons of natural gas through emergency valves and shut down other compressors in the network.

In Reagan County, a rural Permian Basin county with about 3,360 residents, reported emissions were nine times higher than the June average for the prior six years, according to an analysis of self-reported industry emissions data to the state by the Environmental Integrity Project, an environmental nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C.

That analysis followed an earlier report by Public Citizen, an environmental watchdog group in Texas, stating that 18 emission events — the term used for unexpected releases of airborne pollution — were attributed to extreme heat in the West Texas gas fields last month, including nine in Reagan County. Those emissions included 362 tons of natural gas, which is largely made up of the potent greenhouse gas methane.

"It is sadly ironic that the fossil fuel industry is seeing its equipment threatened by a situation it helped create," Adrian Shelley, Texas director of Public Citizen, said in the report.

The heat-related releases were equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of more than 5,000 cars in one year. But they are a tiny fraction of the approximately 30 million tons of annual U.S. methane emissions estimated in recent years. Oil and gas systems are the largest single source of methane emissions, according to the EPA.

Baking temperatures like those Texas experienced last month are becoming increasingly common partly due to the warming effects of carbon emissions from fossil fuels. Texas has seen average temperatures climb during the past century, a Texas Tribune data analysis shows — especially in the state's oil-rich west, which includes the Permian Basin.

This year, San Angelo broke a 63-year-old temperature record, recording a high of 114 degrees on June 20. In Reagan County, temperatures hit 108 degrees three times in one week before peaking at 111 on June 25.

The heat-related gas releases mostly happened in remote rural areas — Reagan County has fewer than three people per square mile on average. But the effects of rural pollution can spread far beyond West Texas, according to Laura Kate Bender, assistant vice president for the American Lung Association's Healthy Air campaign.

"It often shows up many, many, many miles away from the source of the pollution that formed it," Bender said. "The methane that is being emitted from these facilities is further driving climate change and the health harms that all of Texas is experiencing."

"Extensive planning occurs"

Power generation often depends heavily on the weather. Ice storms can freeze wind turbines, cloudy skies can reduce the output of solar panels and extreme temperatures can cause problems with gas supply.

When Winter Storm Uri caused catastrophic grid failure in February 2021 — leaving millions of Texans without power or heat for days in freezing temperatures — gas system failures comprised about 27% of the unplanned outages.

One year later, the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the state's oil and gas industry, approved new rules for certain gas supply chain facility operators, requiring them to prepare their equipment for extreme heat and freezing cold.

Todd Staples, president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association, said in a statement that "extensive planning occurs to prepare assets for hot or cold weather," which was "part of industry's continued commitment towards achieving lower emissions through operational efficiencies and contributing to the reliability of Texas' power grid."

He said hot-weather preparations can include insulation, equipment shelters, sunshades, wind walls, around-the-clock monitoring and backup power generation.

"It is amazing what this industry does to keep jobs flowing and governments functioning with the revenue it contributes, all while investing heavily to successfully minimize environmental impact," Staples said, adding that Texas accounts for 26% of U.S. natural gas production.

Self-reported emission events

The reported emissions events in Reagan County included one release of 238,000 pounds of natural gas by Targa Resources on June 20. In its report to Texas regulators, the company wrote "high ambient temperature" had caused an increase in pressure, leading operators to let gas escape from mid-morning until after midnight the next day.

Targa, a Houston-based company valued at $17 billion, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

The Environmental Integrity Project's analysis of emissions in five Permian Basin counties — Reagan, Midland, Ector, Crane and Glasscock — for the past seven years found that the June 20 event was the largest single gas release in those counties for the month of June since 2017 — another year of record-breaking West Texas heat, when Targa released 253,000 pounds of propane and 108,000 pounds of butane due to high temperatures in Midland County.

Reported emissions for the five counties this year during June totaled 1,150 tons — the highest since 2020 and almost four times as high as June 2022. That figure includes large volumes of nongreenhouse gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide. The heat was not cited as a factor for many of those emissions.

Targa reported more than a dozen instances of venting unburned gas because of heat. Other companies also reported smaller releases of emissions but said they flared, or burned, natural gas and other chemicals rather than releasing them directly into the atmosphere.

For example, on June 20, DCP Operating Company in Ector County reported burning almost 4,000 pounds of "acid gas" in its flare after system failures "caused by the automatic shutdown of the control panel from elevated temperatures." The next day, WTG South Permian Midstream reported burning about 7,000 pounds of carbon monoxide, 2,600 pounds of nitrogen oxide and 1,200 pounds of volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, due to "high gas temperature in the sales line."

DCP declined to comment for this story, and WTG did not respond to requests for comment.

Texas requires companies to self-report emissions events, but the reports are never independently verified. Shelley at Public Citizen doesn't think Targa was the only West Texas gas operator facing widespread heat problems in June.

"I was fairly confident this was going on elsewhere, but just this one company reported," Shelley said.

Targa has failed in the past to report emission events to the state.

In February, a European Space Agency satellite detected a large gas release from a Targa compressor that was not disclosed until Bloomberg News reported it to state authorities. Targa later told Bloomberg that 10 tons of gas were released.

Targa and its subsidiaries have more than 5,700 notices of violation on record with the TCEQ since 2015. In that time, the agency has fined Targa companies 34 times and the company was required to pay about $452,000, according to state records.

Laura Lopez, a spokesperson for the agency, said TCEQ reviews each emissions event to determine if it could have been preventable "and assesses whether or not operators took measures to minimize emissions."

Sharon Wilson, an optical gas imaging thermographer with Oil Field Watch, said she has recorded many large emissions events in Texas that never appear in the TCEQ database.

"All the operator has to do is deny the event reached the reportable threshold. Since it's all self-reported by their own calculations, no one disputes it," she said.

High temperature affects gas compressors

Air temperature affects the pump stations that move gas through pipeline networks, according to Richard Kuprewicz, a career pipeline engineer who has testified to Congress as an expert witness on pipeline safety.

Because warm air holds less oxygen, it burns less efficiently in the gas-fired turbines that run pumps. When those pumps can't move gas out of the pipeline as quickly as it is put in, the subsequent pressure buildup can cause an explosion.

"I have to chuckle when the operators feign surprise with high temperatures," said Kuprewicz, who is president of the pipeline consultancy Accufacts Inc. "It doesn't make a lot of sense to just vent gas to [the] atmosphere."

At well sites, he said, gas can be redirected from the pipelines to flares, where it's burned and enters the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. But in almost all of the cases reported by Targa, gas was released in raw form — a practice known as "venting" — through emergency relief valves on pipelines.

Unburned natural gas contains up to 95% methane — a greenhouse gas that traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide. It also contains scores of carcinogenic hydrocarbons like benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene.

"You don't use relief valves as pressure regulators, especially if you're venting methane," Kuprewicz said. "It's Texas and they can claim it's not illegal, but it's poor engineering practice."

Many available technologies can reduce gas emissions during extreme heat, according to Bill Caram, executive director of the nonprofit watchdog group Pipeline Safety Trust.

Mobile compressor stations can empty pipelines into storage tanks instead of releasing gas into the air. Gas could be diverted to other parallel pipelines or cleared from downstream segments in anticipation of heat waves, Caram said.

However, he said, most operators have no financial incentive to minimize emissions.

"The end user ends up paying for the gas whether it gets delivered or not," he said. "If it gets released in these emission events, operators still make money."

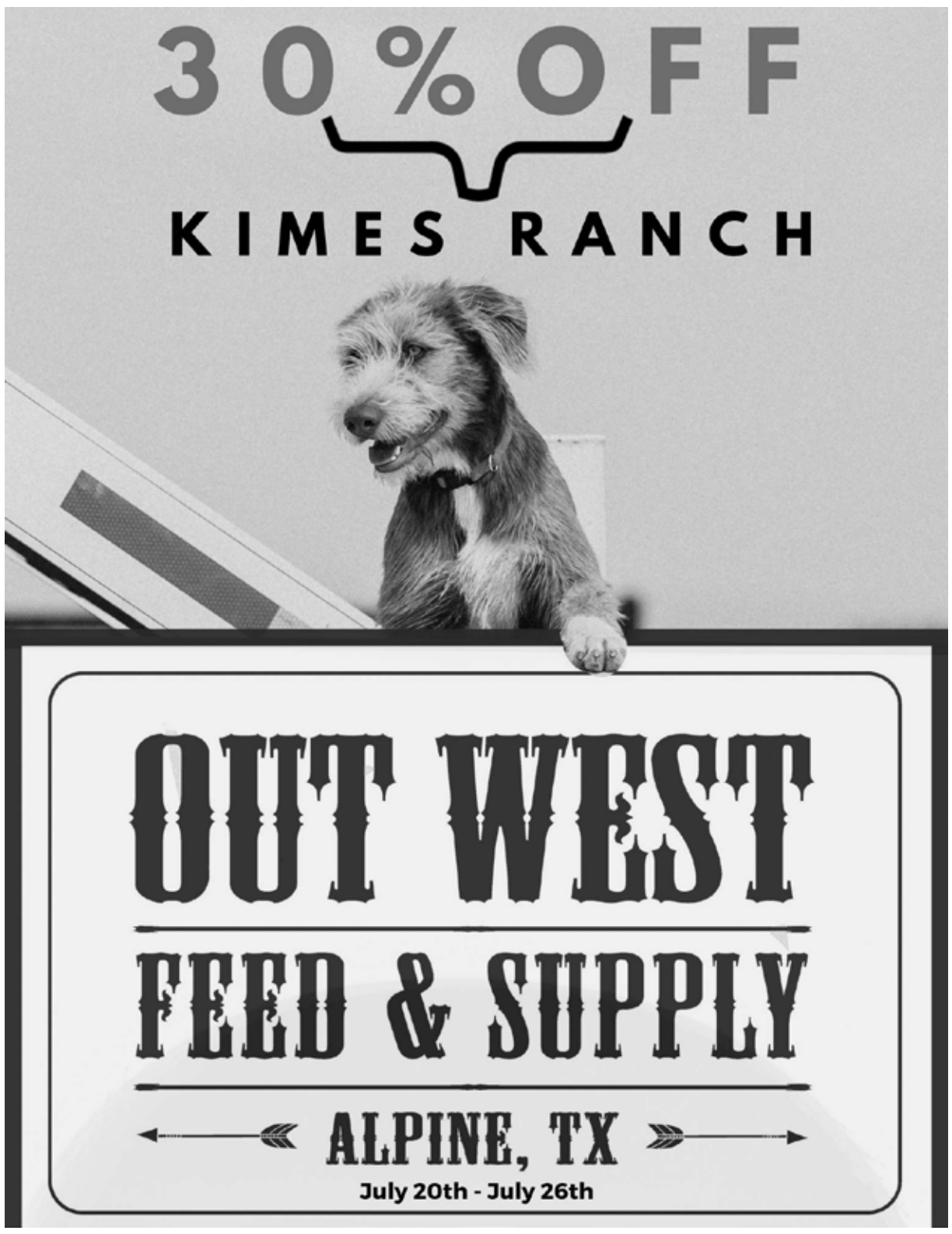
That's because federal and state rules on gas pricing allow operators to charge consumers for gas that is "lost and unaccounted for" due to leaks, accidents, damage or maintenance. The Texas Railroad Commission allows operators to report up to 5% of their total gas deliveries as "lost and unaccounted for."

Virginia Palacios, executive director of energy policy watchdog Commission Shift, said allowing operators to charge for lost gas removes incentives for better maintenance and engineering.

"There's an economic case to be made for the public on why utilities should not let their product escape to the air," she said. "If you pay a gas bill, you pay for lost gas."

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org/2023/07/19/texas-pipeline-heat-natural-gas-emissions-pollution-permian-basin/.

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Opinion

OP-ED

Delivering historic tax relief for West Texans

By SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

With a much-anticipated sigh of relief for homeowners and businesses across the Lone Star State, the Texas Legislature has passed a historic $18 billion property tax relief package and hardworking families across Texas will finally see the property tax relief they need.

For many hardworking families, owning a home is part of the American Dream, but skyrocketing property taxes and valuations in Texas have made that dream seem out of reach. It's no surprise that local property taxes in West Texas have become the number one complaint among working families and homeowners. Too often across our district, I've heard stories about how high property taxes have pushed families out of their homes and left them to make impossible financial decisions.

West Texans are resilient. But the burden of property taxes is too heavy.

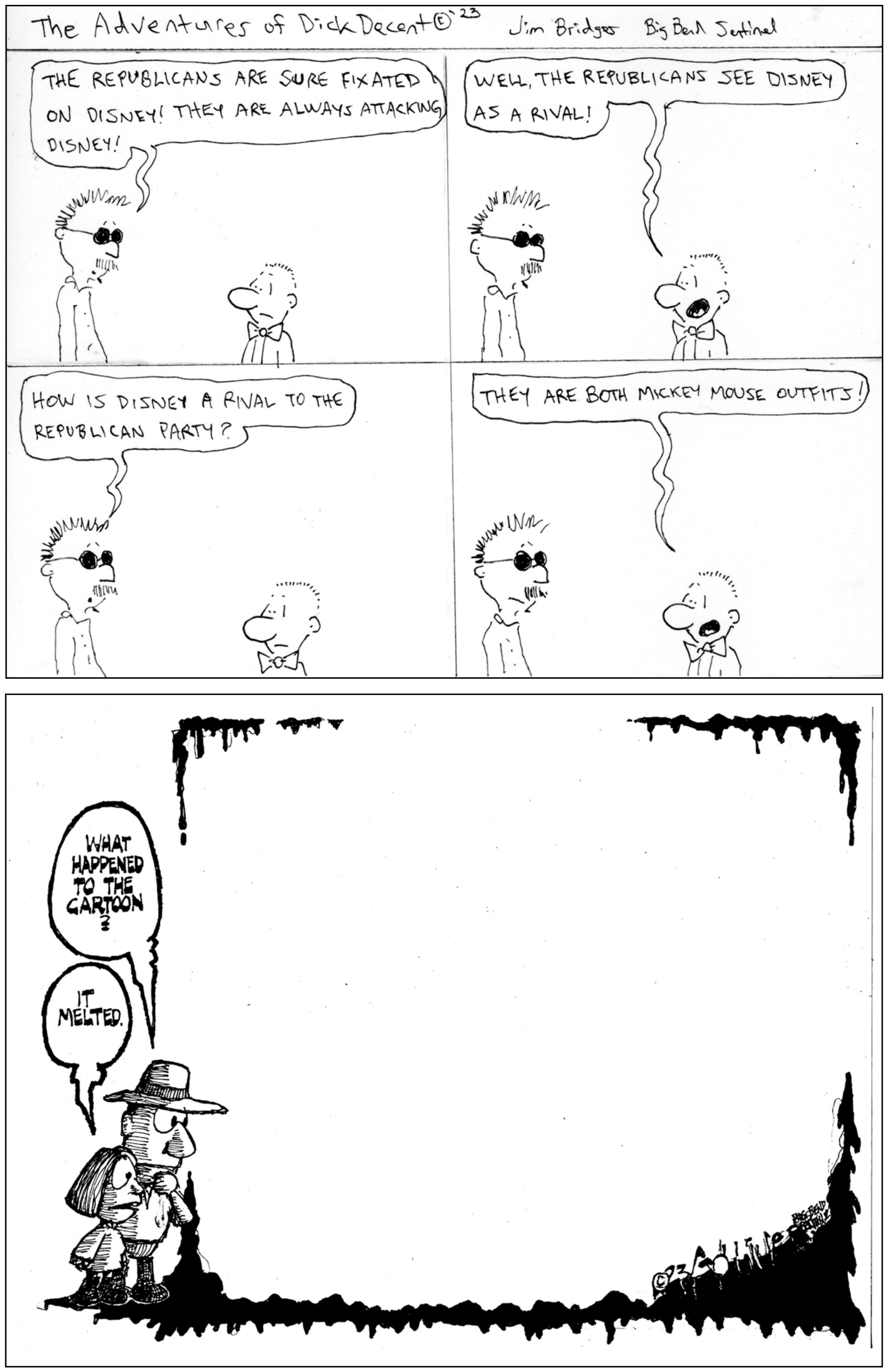
Recognizing the dire urgency of this issue, along with Texas' historic budget surplus, I entered the legislative session with a firm determination to deliver much-needed economic relief to our working families and communities. After one regular session, two special sessions, and months of negotiation, I am proud to have co-authored and helped pass this Texas-sized, historic tax relief package to provide real economic relief to homeowners, renters and small businesses.

This legislation includes the largest property tax cut in the history of Texas, promising real relief in the wallets of homeowners and working families. On average, homeowners can expect to see over $1,300 in savings. This bill achieves this by raising the homestead exemption from $40,000 to $100,000 for homeowners and $110,000 for those over 65 or disabled. Additionally, this package allocates $12 billion to buy-down local school property taxes for all property owners, whether residential or commercial. In Senate District 29, from El Paso to the Big Bend and Permian Basin regions, 60,000 homeowners could pay zero dollars in school property taxes with the new $100k homestead exemption alone. That is real relief that can mean the difference between paying for utilities, groceries, medicine and other living necessities!

Small businesses will also reap tremendous benefits from this legislation. With $12 billion dedicated to cutting local school property tax rates by 10.7 pennies, the state will fill in gaps to make local school districts whole, while also providing much-needed property tax relief for small businesses. In addition to the property tax relief, we also doubled the franchise tax exemption, relieving over 67,000 small businesses in our communities from the burden of the state's franchise tax. Furthermore, the bill eliminates the requirement for taxable entities that do not owe any franchise taxes to file a No-Tax-Due franchise tax return. This streamlines the process, saving businesses valuable time and money associated with this unnecessary tax. Non-residential property owners will also benefit from a 20% appraisal cap on properties valued under $5 million. These measures demonstrate our commitment to nurturing the growth of small businesses, which are essential to local job creation and a strong economy.

While voters ultimately have the final say this November as to whether this tax relief plan will be put into place, passage of this long overdue relief is a major victory for homeowners, renters, and small businesses across Texas! This means money back in the pockets of millions of hardworking families to help relieve their economic strain and address food insecurity, strengthen our small business community, and ultimately build stronger and brighter futures for all our families and communities.

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



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MUEBLES DE CONCRETO
TALLER CUPO LLENO
sábado 29 de julio, 2023
9:00am - 12:00pm
JASPEAR EN PAPEL
sabado 29 de julio, 2023
9:00am - 12:00pm
Chinati's educational and public programming is supported with generous grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, The Brown Foundation, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, The Hearst Foundations, Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation, Rosenthal Family Foundation, Warren Skaaren Charitable Trust, Tillapaugh Public History Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation, and Susan Vaughan Foundation.

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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

Community

Marfa says goodbye to Casita Bar

By H. CATCHING MARGINOT
hcmarginot@miners.utep.edu

MARFA — Patrons gathered over the weekend to bid farewell to beloved local mainstay Casita Bar after operators announced on social media that after Sunday, the "present version of this particular establishment disappears from its current location for all times."

The bar may make a comeback in the future, said owner Chris Ramming, but it remains to be seen exactly where that might be or what form it would take.

Ramming first moved to Marfa in 2016 with lifelong experience in the service industry. He soon created a bar in the alleyway outside of Cochineal restaurant. In 2018, with help from Adam Bork, Ramming opened what is known now as Casita Bar, stylized head to toe with colorful lights, vintage decorations and a lively atmosphere. During its run, Casita Bar was beloved among Marfa locals — a reputation Ramming said he cherished.

"I appreciate the people that have appreciated this and have appreciated this throughout the years," Ramming said of the bar. "To me, it was a big deal to have a place where people felt comfortable being."

A few years into their run, thanks to some experimentation during the pandemic, the bar started hosting outdoor music and food. With his past kitchen experience and his love of music, it was a no-brainer for Ramming to incorporate these two into the mix. The bar has a large outdoor patio with an array of seating, a classic concession stand window in the front, and a menu of made-to-order comfort food with creative twists.

"When I first started, I wanted a space for people to listen to music," Ramming said. "And well, someone gave me a hot dog rolling machine. Everyone likes hot dogs and tater tots, and you can build on top of them, change it up."

Menu items like the "ZZ Tots" — tater tots topped with bacon, queso and jalapeño — or the "Southerner Dog" — a hot dog topped with pimento cheese, bacon, mustard and green onion — were born from this experimental philosophy, and the importance of being able to eat and relax without paying top dollar.

Robert Roth, nicknamed Rock'n'roll Robert, a Marfa local and professional musician from Ohio, was a regular at Casita Bar. He played in a few live shows there, and even got a menu item named after him called "The Rock'N'Roll Robert Party Dog." The one-of-a-kind nature of the location will be sorely missed, said Roth.

"Chris and I came to town about the same time, and he made a unique place," said Roth. "[Chris and Adam] created a beautiful atmosphere, and the food is tasty."

Shannon Marie, a Marfa local and baker, also spoke to the uniqueness of Casita Bar, and said she'll miss the colorful sight on the corner of Ranch Road.

"Casita Bar was such a special location because it was a combination of the new and the old," said Marie. "I'm sure we'll all miss driving by at night with the corner all lit up, so welcoming and entertaining."



Photo by Christie Alexander

Locals bid farewell to beloved mainstay Casita Bar this past weekend, as operators announced on the shuttering of the location.

Presidio Elementary Flex Farm students get a taste of the Philippines

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Earlier this month, Presidio Elementary School students taking summer classes in cooking and hydroponic gardening joined forces to prepare traditional Filipino dishes. Along the way, they practiced sustainable gardening practices, tried new foods and learned about the culture of their friends and neighbors from the Philippines.

Presidio Elementary's summer school kids have been experimenting with a hydroponic gardening unit referred to as the Flex Farm, installed at the school last summer. The Flex Farm is a vertical pod that allows plants to grow without soil — a major advantage in a place like Presidio, where the soil is shallow and rocky.

The Flex Farm — built by Fork Farms and funded by Amerigroup — is used throughout the school year by Johnery Estolloso's fifth grade students. The kids typically grow varieties of leafy greens — at this year's municipal Fourth of July bash, the community got to sample the Flex Farm's bright, crunchy lettuce.

During the summer, kids of all ages get to experiment with the unit. During this year's summer school, Ruby Hermosillo's enrichment students got to plant the seeds and other campers helped track their progress.

This year, the summer school staff wanted to try something new. Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) community liaison Elvira Hermosillo approached Glenda Morales, a Presidio Elementary School teacher leading a culinary enrichment program at summer school.

Morales — like a growing number of Presidio ISD staff and students — is from the Philippines. Hermosillo and Morales hatched a plan: why not use the Flex Farm to help introduce Presidio kids to traditional Filipino cooking?

They decided to grow bok choy, a type of cabbage commonly used in East Asian cooking. When the cabbage was ready to harvest, Morales and her students put their heads together to design a menu featuring the vegetable — which most of the students had never tried before.

Morales kicked off the class by making lumpia, or spring rolls. The students chopped up the bok choy and mixed it with seasoned pork before frying the rolls to create the perfect crispy snack.

The next day, the kids added bok choy to a traditional Filipino soup called Sinigang na Baboy, which also includes okra, radishes and a special variety of eggplant. They also got to sample japchae, a Korean stir-fried noodle dish.

Hermosillo said that the students enjoyed trying new foods — the lumpia were a big hit. "Some students were hesitant to try the new dishes, but they all came around and tried a little bit of everything," she said.

The experience was very meaningful to Morales, who moved to the United States in 2006. It's a long and expensive trip to go home, so her family typically makes do with occasional trips to El Paso for specialty groceries and a meal at Halo Halo, a Filipino restaurant.

She enjoyed getting to share some of the flavors of her home country with her students. "Many of them have never been out of Presidio, so it's a good opportunity for them to try another cuisine," she said.

Morales hoped that the cross-cultural program with the Flex Farm would continue to grow next year. For her, it was symbolic of the strong friendship between lifelong Presidians and their Filipino neighbors. "We are so blessed to have this community that is so welcoming to us," she said.



Photo by Elvira Hermosillo

Fifth graders Fernanda Ronquillo and Ivan Moreno help Glenda Morales prepare lumpia, or Filipino pork spring rolls.





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Blackwell School to record oral history interviews this weekend

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Blackwell School alumni, descendants and Marfa community members are invited to record in-person oral history interviews this weekend from Friday, July 21, through Sunday, July 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the school at 501 S. Abbott Street.

Interviews will be facilitated by Cristóbal López of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and can be conducted in English or Spanish.

The Blackwell School, a three-room adobe schoolhouse which served local Mexican American students from 1909 to 1965, was officially designated as a National Historic Site this fall.

Daniel Hernandez, president of the Blackwell School Alliance, the group that has run the site as a museum for years and helped achieve the National Historic Site status, said the goal of the oral history project is to preserve the personal stories of de facto segregation. Hernandez said the ongoing project hopes to capture a "broad set of perspectives," and while there is a focus on the Blackwell School specifically, the opportunity is open to those who may want to share similar experiences.

"I don't think we want to limit it to just Blackwell, because we really want the Blackwell School to be that microcosm and venue to be able to explore the greater issue of de facto segregation in American history," said Hernandez.

The newly-recorded oral history interviews will join the Blackwell School's existing archives.

The Blackwell School Alliance, the NPCA, and the National Park Service (NPS) are currently working with the Marfa Independent School District to facilitate the land transfer of the school and grounds from the district — which leases it to the alliance — to the NPS. Hernandez reported no major updates on the matter, but said stakeholders were working closely and a solid update could be coming soon.

The NPS has budgeted $265,000 for maintenance of the Blackwell School in 2024, which involves hiring two park employees and more.

For those who are interested in participating in the Blackwell School oral history interviews but are unable to attend recording sessions in person in Marfa, the NPCA is also available to conduct interviews in the El Paso and San Antonio areas, and remote interviews may be done via Zoom or telephone.

Please contact Cristobal Lopez at clopez@npca.org or call 210-383-2659 for more information or to schedule an interview.



Photo Courtesy of Marfa and Presidio County Museum

A vintage photo of the playground at the Blackwell School. The Blackwell School provided education to Marfa students of Mexican descent from 1909 to 1965 and was officially designated as a National Historic Site this week.

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.

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

7/5

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

7/3

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit July 17, 2023

ACROSS
1 New York City mayor Adams
5 ___ California
9 '50s Ford flop
14 Not stereo
15 The "R" of SRO
16 Crime boss known as "The Teflon Don"
17 Software for organizing a pledge drive?
20 Award for "Sweeney Todd"
21 SIGINT-gathering org.
22 Kind of soup with wakame
23 Tightly curled 'dos
26 Stretch of time
28 Software for screening a film?
33 Large antelope
36 Clog or slipper
37 Pork cut
38 Follow, as advice
40 Salt, to a chemist
41 Word after "vital" or "pipe"
43 Raw metals
44 "The ___ Bunch"
46 Currency in Austria
47 The whole ___ yards
48 Often yellow ride
49 Software for landing a plane?
52 "This is alarming!"
54 Nonverbal "Hi!"
55 Scat singer Fitzgerald
57 Klutz
60 Iguazu Falls spray
63 Software for estimating a mortgage?
68 Arctic travel hazards
69 Wriggly fish
70 One of the Decade Volcanoes
71 Vast void
72 Place to buy pastrami on rye
73 "It's not that ___" ("Don't overthink it")

DOWN
1 Fall Out Boy genre
2 Decisively defeat
3 A fan of
4 Rural Iowa sight
5 CUUP product
6 Green New Deal rep.
7 Actor Krasinski
8 Rock bands' boosters
9 Criticism may bruise it
10 You'd better believe it!
11 Violinist, violist and cellist, e.g.
12 Guesses you might try to beat by speeding: Abbr.
13 "Stretch" vehicle
18 Bronte governess Jane
19 Gravelly sound
24 Home of Norway's Kon-Tiki Museum
25 Person who gets home safe?
27 "Harper Valley ___" (song)
28 Mehdi Hasan's network
29 Catherine of "Beetlejuice"
30 Asset in a spelling bee
31 Assemble, as equipment
32 All lined up
34 Incessantly
35 "I wish I could ___ that"
39 Self-important
42 Protagonist of "A Doll's House"
45 NBA great Ming
50 Breakfast chain
51 "Breaking Bad" rating
53 Socializes, casually
55 Idris of "The Wire"
56 Singer-songwriter Lisa
58 Mimicked
59 Skip town
61 Apt letters missing from "Craig_l_st or Pin_er_st"
62 It's hard to indicate over text
64 Jack, e.g. ... or a jerk
65 Not feeling 100%
66 CBS forensics franchise
67 Snooze

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

7/16

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www.upuzzles.com

See How They Run *by Jake Halperin*

7/17

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				18					19					
■	20				■	■	21			■	22			
■	■	■	23		24	25	■	■	26	27			■	■
28	29	30					31	32			■	33	34	35
36				■	37				■	38	39			
40				■	41				42	■	43			
44				45	■	46				■	47			
48			■	49	50					51				
■	■	52	53			■	■	54				■	■	■
55	56			■	57	58	59	■	■	60		61	62	■
63				64				65	66					67
68					■	69				■	70			
71					■	72				■	73			

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Vinnie Quintana
11th Grade
Box

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.

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.

JUDD

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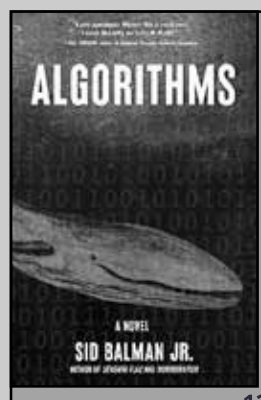
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Chinati Foundation to host free Family Day workshop

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation invites local families to attend its upcoming free Family Day workshop on July 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The event will offer a guided visit through one of Chinati's installations, followed by a hands-on art making experience. This fun Family Day will celebrate all things colorful.

Led by Chinati's current education department intern, Angela Pastor, families will engage with Dan Flavin's untitled (Marfa Project) and make marbled paper. The marbling technique produces dynamic and colorful swirls akin to tie-dye. Pastor will also demonstrate how to hand-bind sketchbooks and make bookmarks to match.

"We're super excited to have her lead this workshop and very proud of all the work she's put into it," said Chinati lead educator Molly Bondy.

"We encourage families who haven't been to the museum before to attend," she added. "It's a great way to have an introduction to the Chinati Foundation and enjoy a Saturday morning with your family."

Light snacks and water will be provided to participants. Families of all ages are welcome; young children are encouraged to attend. Enrollment will be capped at 20.

To sign up, email Angela Pastor at education@chinati.org.



Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Last year's 2022 Family Day participant, Savian, works on his "Monument to a Rainbow."

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Fri July 21

Theatre of the Big Bend
7/21 - 7/23 8:00pm at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre, 1710 Loop Road in Alpine
The 58th season on Theatre of the Big Bend presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." July 7 – 23 at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre. Buy tickets online at www.bit.ly/sulross-theatre

Special Viewing Night McDonald Observatory
9:45pm at the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis
Find more info at mcdonaldobservatory.org

Born Twins at Planet Marfa
9:00pm at Planet Marfa, 200 S Abbot Street in Marfa
On tour from Austin, Texas promoting their debut full length album. No cover!

Sat July 22

Community Tree Planting & Park Clean-Up Day
8:00am - 2:00pm at Sunset Park (behind the post office) in Marfa
Bring shovels, loppers, and tools. Lunch will be provided.

Skyline Drive Guided Hike
9:00am at the Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis
Enjoy the company of other hiking enthusiasts on this moderate-level hike up to the Keesey Canyon Overlook. Meet at the Interpretive Center. Cost: Free for campers or days users with permit (daily entrace fee is $6.00/adult or free for the carload with Texas State Park Pass.

Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend Family Fun Day
4:00pm - 7:00pm at the Alpine Visitor Center, 106 N 3rd Street in Alpine
Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend hosts the 2nd Annual FCCBB Family Fun Day!! It'll be a day filled with free food, bouncy houses, music, fun activities for the kids, and community spirit! Everyone is welcome – whether local or visiting – so come out and enjoy a fun time!

Sun July 23

Alpine Cowboys Baseball
7/23 - 7/25 at 7:00pm at Kokernot Field, 400 Loop Road in Alpine
A 3 game series between the Alpine Cowboys and the Tucson Saguaros!

Wed July 26

Viva Big Bend
7/26 - 7/30 in Alpine, Fort Davis, Marathon, Marfa, Terlingua, and Presidio
65+ Live music shows! For the entire schedule and lineup, visit: ***vivabigbend.com***

Alpine Cowboys Baseball Camp
10:00am - 12:00pm at Kokernot Field in Alpine
Ages 6 and up. Alpine Cowboys welcome boys and girls to Kokernot to practice the fundamentals of baseball. Tickets and info at eventbrite.com or you may sign up at Kokernot before the event starts.

Plan Ahead/ Upcoming Events

The Chinati Foundation presents Free Family Days: Marbling on Paper
9:00am - 12:00pm at The Chinati Foundation in Marfa
Exploe works in Chinati's Collection! Experience Dan Flavin's light installations and create marbled paper. Enrollment is limited. To sign up, please email: education@chinati.org with FAMILYDAY in the subject line or call 432 729 4362 ext 244. All ages welcome.

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Big Sky Yoga
Monday: Sculpt at 5:00pm, Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Hatha at 9:00am
Wednesday: Sculpt at 9:00am; 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
Saturday from 9:45am - 12:00pm 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

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THE BIG BEND Sentinel

OBITUARIES



Davenport

Naomi Anne "Sally" Livingston Devenport, better known as Sally, passed away Wednesday, July 12, 2023. She was born January 13, 1935, in Marfa, Texas, to the late James Shannon and Lesta Dulaney Livingston and was their second child.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Elmer Devenport, of 57 years, and her two sisters, Bonnie Lynn Livingston, and Lesta Chere McNair.

Survivors are brothers James Shannon "Ike" Livingston and Wyck Dulaney "Mike" Livingston, and sister-in-law Anne Powell, all of Marfa, Texas. John and Sally had two children, Laura Anne Devenport of Bandera, Texas, and son John David "JD" Devenport of Wimberley, Texas. JD's children are Annette Leinneweber and husband Chris; John Shannon Devenport, Jessy Annemarie Devenport and husband Jacob Harrison, all of Wimberley, Texas; and Zoe Jane Cheyanne Devenport of San Marcos, Texas. There are seven great-grandchildren: Hunter, Clif, Madison, Clara, Logan, Preston and Charlotte

Shortly after she married her husband, John, who was serving in the United States Army, they were transferred to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they resided until John was discharged from the Army. The family quickly moved back to Marfa, Texas. Sally started working for AT&T in the local office and attended Sul Ross State University. In 1961, when her son was born, the family moved to Fort Hancock, Texas, where John was principal, coach and teacher, and Sally stayed home to raise her children. In 1965 they moved to Wimberley, Texas. Sally returned to the workforce in 1968 as general manager for Jim Winn Iron Works, where she worked until her retirement. In addition, she was office manager for John's construction business and had the job of keeping the family organized. She served on the board of Village Inn for many years.

Sally was active in her childrens' activities and volunteered at the schools. Her home was always the place where all the local kids hung out — not just her children but also the grandchildren and their friends. Many a local kid who was having a hard time would come talk with her. Everyone was always welcome in her home. You would often see her and her bridge-playing friends at garage sales. Each year family members always received a Christmas gift from a garage sale. This same group of friends had one of the first booths at Wimberley Market Days.

This same group of women took a trip together every year. Places they visited include the Grand Canyon, Sante Fe, West Texas, Maine, New England states, Canada, Louisiana, Mississippi, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and several of their last trips were to Bandera, Texas. This group of women when together were notorious for getting lost as many of these trips were prior to cell phones and GPS.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Wimberley Community Center, Blanco Room, 14063 Ranch Road 12, in Wimberley, Texas. We invite anyone who would like to come celebrate Sally and share a memory to attend and participate. The family requests that memorials be sent to The Wimberley Lions Club Scholarship Fund at P O Box 1749, Wimberley, Texas 78676.

• • •



Smith

On July 14, 2023, **Ronald Gene Smith**, loving husband, dad and granddad, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 70.

Ron was born on April 15, 1953, in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas to I.N. Smith and Lillie Belle (LeDeaux) Smith. He was the youngest of their three sons. Ron had a son, Scott, with his second wife Ruth. Ron married a third time to Diana on May 12, 2007.

Included in his work history, Ron worked for Key Electronics for 11 years and for Big Bend Telephone in Alpine, Texas, for 22 years. He retired in 2013 and pursued his hobby of stargazing and solar viewing in his backyard observatory with his "cluster" of telescopes. Ron and wife Diana were passionate about their hobby, which included astrophotography. They spent many hours at night viewing God's creations through the lenses of their telescopes. Ron was a Christian and had a strong belief in God and was extremely knowledgeable about the Bible and its teachings. He had a good relationship with his savior and his God. Ron also believed in the value of organizations like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and made a monthly contribution to their cause.

Although he chose not to join Mensa when they offered him a membership, he ranked very high in the High IQ society, scoring at the 98th percentile on a standardized, IQ intelligence test, yet he remained humble and rarely mentioned it. He was a loving, caring and patient man and will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Ron was preceded in death by his dad, I.N,. and mom, Lillie Belle. Ron is survived by his wife, Diana; son Scott; stepson Mark and his four children, who call Ron granddad; and stepson Matthew. He is also survived by his older brothers, Edward and Gordon.

It was Ron's wish to be cremated. He also did not want a funeral, viewing of the body or a memorial service. Condolences may be submitted to surviving family members by whatever media is preferred.

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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.

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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.

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.

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
432-729-4526
pgagates@gmail.com
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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.

FREE SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING

Date: Saturday August 5, 2023
Time: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Location: Marfa Recycling Center
1502 Golf Course Rd. Marfa, TX 79843

If you are unable to haul your scrap tires to Marfa's Recycling Center yourself, please call City Hall at (432)729-4315 to make arrangements for pick up.

RESIDENTIAL TIRES ACCEPTED UNTIL CONTAINER IS FULL. NO COMMERCIAL TIRES ACCEPTED.

Sponsored by the City of Marfa and funded by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program

FOR SALE

TWO CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE
MARFA CEMETERY

Lot Number 25, section No.1 new, space A and space B, in block No. 8, Survey No 158, G.H.& S.A. RY.Co.
Price $1500 for both.

ESTATE SALE

13 ft Coleman canoe, BBQ, Sony turntable, bandsaw, vintage oil lamps, antique decorative iron, small amount of lumber, planer, roping steer, smoker, hunting, reloading, fishing, full size truck box, cast iron, small kitchen appliances, dishes, coolers, windmill fantails, folding chairs and lots more!

Saturday & Sunday
July 22 & 23

Cash and check only!

13 miles South on 118, watch for signs!



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

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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Judge Jose Portillo:
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CITY OF MARFA
Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor
mayor@cityofmarfa.com
(432) 295-0048
Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
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Eddie Pallarez
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Mark Morrison
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Travis Acreman
councilmembeacreman@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)

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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.