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

Amid historic heatwave, county employees await overdue courthouse A/C repairs

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Despite being one of the highest towns in Texas, Marfa has been unable to escape the historic heatwave gripping most of the state. As the whole town struggles to stay cool, county employees have become increasingly frustrated — the Presidio County Courthouse has been long overdue for critical upgrades to an air conditioning system.

Regular maintenance of the system isn't cutting it. At the Presidio County Commissioners Court meeting on July 26, Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe expressed his staunch opposition to paying a whopping $11,407.50 bill for air conditioner maintenance, considering its ineffectiveness.

Beebe felt the maintenance was a waste of county money when the county had already decided that the air conditioning system was in need of a massive overhaul. "We've been spending thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars every year, and it never works," he said. "It never has worked."

The current air conditioning system — a chiller system reliant on water instead of refrigerant — hasn't been touched since the last major overhaul of the building in 2002. Current building codes require air to be pulled in from the outside, which the courthouse's existing system doesn't do. In an era of soaring temperatures and health threats like COVID, county employees are anxious to bring the building up to current standards.

Last year, the Presidio County Commissioners Court voted to bring William Helm of In*Situ Architecture to town in order to evaluate the condition of the courthouse and jail. "It really is approaching the end of its lifespan, if not already past its lifespan," he told the commissioners in July 2022.

Undertaking any renovation project at the courthouse is complicated, given the building's status as a Texas Historical Commission landmark and a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction projects may not alter the building's historically significant finishes and need to be cleared by the proper authorities.

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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Senior Andru Bentley, right, and his sister participate in "Seniors Paint the Streets." Family and friends showed up to the school on Monday night to help guerilla street artists — this year's Marfa ISD seniors — as they wielded paint brushes and cans of spray paint, signaling the start of their final year as MISD students. SEE MORE ON PAGE 5.

Jeff Davis County EMS, long volunteer-based, gains 90% paid staff as bunkhouse construction begins

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — A year after appointing Peggy Fonseca as director, Jeff Davis County EMS, long a primarily volunteer-run entity, is well on its way to becoming a bonafide paid service, with 90% of its EMTs and paramedics now on payroll.

The county also recently broke ground on a new bunkhouse for first responders, which will be connected to the existing EMS and fire facility. As EMS operations continue to rely less on volunteer labor and more on paid on-call staff — a change longtime EMS Director Vickie Fowler, who retired a year ago, advocated for as call volumes continued to increase and volunteers age out — a bunkhouse for those staff to utilize will be integral, said Fonseca.

"It's going to transition us into more of a paid service," said Fonseca. "Because paid departments, they don't get to go home and come back, they're committed to that."

The bunkhouse, which will be insulated and fireproof with a stucco exterior, will sleep 12 or more individuals, and will include a kitchen and a living room. It is located in the back of the existing facility and the two will be connected via a walkway. Construction is expected to last four to five months.

The cost of the project, which has been in the works for many years, totals $435,000, and is being funded by grants from the FMH Foundation, Permian Basin Area, and Yarborough Foundations as well as local grant contributions, according to county grants coordinator Larry Francell.

Fonseca said in addition to providing lodging for local first responders and those brought in to help in emergency situations, like Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters, the bunkhouse will shorten response times by housing emergency personnel closer to trucks and equipment. It will also result in some cost savings, as the county currently rents a trailer for $1,000 a month for first responders to utilize as needed.

County Judge Curtis Evans said the bunkhouse and transition to a paid service will be beneficial for the future if the tri-county area adopts a regional EMS model — a concept years down

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Big Bend Reproductive Coalition launches community needs assessment with inaugural town hall

By SAM FELDSTEIN
samfeld95@gmail.com

ALPINE — On Monday evening, residents of Alpine and Brewster County gathered at Cedar Coffee & Supply to attend a town hall hosted by the Big Bend Reproductive Coalition. The meeting marked the inauguration of the BBRC's latest initiative: a community needs assessment of the Big Bend region.

The assessment aims to gather direct feedback from the community in order to find out what gaps exist in the existing reproductive healthcare and support network. "We know what we want and need, but we don't necessarily know what other people want," said Lisa Kettyle, one of the founding members of the BBRC. "The goal is to distill that information, and then it's going to guide how the organization grows and changes."

In other words, the BBRC organized the town hall not so much to give out information as to glean it. The meeting took the form of a Q&A, but instead of the crowd posing questions to the BBRC organizers, it was the other way around. Pens and paper were provided so those who did not feel comfortable speaking in public could write their answers down and give them to the coalition after the fact.

The exercise revealed a number of common experiences, mostly pertaining to the barriers facing those seeking reproductive care. The fear and anxiety around seeking out and going to an OB-GYN was mentioned several times. It was pointed out that one bad exam can be traumatic and make a person less likely to seek care in the future.

These anxieties have been exacerbated by a lack of familiarity with local reproductive healthcare professionals. "Almost every single person we've reached out to in that regard has either moved away or quit since we started," said Kettyle. "So we're kind of back at square one."

A majority of attendees said they went out of state — mostly to New Mexico, but some to Mexico as well — even for basic reproductive healthcare needs. When asked who they would turn to for support or advice if they had an emergency, such as an unexpected pregnancy or a miscarriage, many of the attendees did not have an answer. In the eyes of the founders, the silence underscored the need for the BBRC's existence. Of those who did answer, many said that they would most likely, under such circumstances, contact the coalition itself.

The organizers did express concern that they had not reached the broader community. Most of

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50 years on, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute stakeholders reflect on legacy and impact

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

BIG BEND — Nearly a half century after the establishment of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, what began as a robust research enterprise into an under-studied region has grown into an educational public nature center serving 14,000 guests annually.

CDRI comprises a 507-acre ranch located just southeast of Fort Davis with a botanical garden featuring native plants of the Trans-Pecos, grasslands, a canyon, visitor center, trails, cactus greenhouse and more. This Saturday, the organization will put on its annual barbecue and auction to raise funds for its educational programming for local first-through fifth-grade students.

The Big Bend Sentinel recently spoke with CDRI co-founder Mike Powell, as well as Executive Director Lisa Gordon and Board President Jim Martinez about the 50-year milestone — how the organization got started, how it evolved, and how its continuing its mission to advance public understanding of one of the largest, most ecologically diverse desert ecosystems in the United States.

Early days

CDRI was first established in 1973 by two Sul Ross State University professors, Mike Powell, a botanist, and the late Jim Scudday, a naturalist and vertebrate zoologist. Powell remains in the area, and though officially retired, still acts as the director and curator of the university's herbarium — the fourth largest in the state complete with 100,000 dried plant specimens — which he took over from founder Barton Warnock in the late '70s. His wife, Shirley, who once acted as the president of CDRI's board of directors, also helps volunteer at the herbarium.

On a recent visit there, Powell recalled how little was scientifically known about the Chihuahuan Desert back when he and Scudday started CDRI.

"The Chihuahuan Desert was the least investigated desert in North America, even though it was the largest," said Powell.

The absence of information drove CDRI's mission early on as it developed a board of scientists — 30 to 40 individuals from the states, Mexico and Canada all researching the region —

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Court removes Jim White as trustee, divides trust

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
allegra@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — A district court judge has ordered the removal of Jim White as trustee of the Jane White Trust effective immediately, finding that he committed "intentional breaches of fiduciary duty." The ruling, signed last week by Judge Rex Emerson and filed with the 394th Judicial District Court on Tuesday, further orders the division of the family trust among the four White siblings, and modifies the original trust to allow for the sale of the historic Brite Ranch land.

The final judgment marks the conclusion, at least within the trial court, of a protracted legal battle between the descendants of the storied Brite clan, early cattle ranchers whose presence in Presidio County dates back to 1885. The family played an instrumental role not only in the development of the region's cattle industry, but also in the development of Marfa's infrastructure and culture. At the center of that legacy lies the historic Brite Ranch, 61,548 acres that remain home to a herd of Highland Hereford cattle, the breed that defined the family's early contributions to ranching.

That legacy now falls to the great-grandchildren of settler L.C. Brite — Jim, Mac, Beau and Hester White. The four siblings are beneficiaries of the Jane White Trust, the family trust created by — and named for — their mother. When Jane passed away in 2010, Jim became the trust's sole trustee.

In 2018, Mac and Beau sued Jim for breach of fiduciary duty, alleging that he had acted in ways that benefited him and his family but not the other beneficiaries of the trust. They argued that Jim had failed to generate income for the trust beneficiaries — the intended purpose of their mother's trust — by choosing to continue the cattle business and spending money on ranch improvements and equipment. They also accused him of "self-dealing" by employing himself as ranch manager and putting his wife and son on the payroll (actions that Jim's attorney, Ted Lyon, countered are perfectly normal among ranching families).

In addition to monetary damages, the siblings sought a judicial overhaul of the trust itself — the removal of their brother as trustee, and the modification of the trust to allow for the sale of the ranchland. While the Jane White Trust, based upon the last will and testament of Jane's grandmother Eddie, forbade the sale of the Brite Ranch, the plaintiffs had argued that their ancestor could not have foreseen the "impossible" nature of generating income with the ranch.

The matter of inheritance, or who stands to benefit from the estate, was raised within the suit and at trial by both parties. Jim and Hester — who is not a party to the suit, except nominally — each have children who would benefit from the ranch. Mac and Beau have both adopted the same adult man as a son, who their attorneys say is legally a descendent.

In June, after a multi-part trial, a Presidio County jury issued a verdict largely favoring Beau and Mac, finding that Jim had intentionally breached his fiduciary duty. Jim's legal team sought to have the verdict tossed, arguing it was riddled with inconsistencies and that Mac and Beau were seeking to destroy the legacy that Jim was attempting to preserve. The court's final judgment, however, largely reaffirms the jury verdict.

The judgment orders that Jim pay

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Jeff Davis County EMS

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the road that is still a discussion among area leaders and the Big Bend Regional Hospital District, but one made possible by the passage of a bill this legislative session. The orderliness created by a paid staff and more formal schedule will allow a smoother transition into a cohesive regional model, said Evans.

"The volunteers, they have other jobs, and they've done a bang up job to this to this time, but we're getting more calls, we're having more people," said Evans. "It is more beneficial to have a paid service. Because they're here. They're on staff."

While the feasibility and structure of a regional EMS model is still being assessed, Jeff Davis County EMS will continue to offer 24-hour, 365-day coverage, and when the bunkhouse is complete, the emergency services facility will always be staffed — with medical care providers there to help locals or tourists who may show up seeking help, said Fonseca.

"We're hoping that when people do show up [to the emergency services facility] in need that there'll be somebody here when they bang on the door or honk the horn," said Fonseca.

Since last July, Jeff Davis County EMS has grown to include four full-time paramedics, two part-time paramedics, two part-time advanced EMTs and two part-time EMTs in addition to volunteers — a significant number of new employees considering the region's past struggles to recruit qualified healthcare workers.

Paid staff are coming from Alpine, Balmorhea, Midland, Pecos and San Antonio. Full-time staff are receiving medical insurance and retirement, and pay is $15 an hour across the board, including travel pay, said Fonseca, who emphasized the service's supportive, evolving culture as an attractor for job candidates.

"I would say our biggest recruitment is our personnel that work here. We have great equipment. We have a very supportive community. We have a supportive commissioners court. We're growing education-wise," said Fonseca.

In order to increase revenue to pay for the new positions, Jeff Davis County EMS is upping its collections, changing billing companies to one that allows patients to pay with credit cards and updating their fee structures in order to better comply with Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

The service is funded, in part, by a half-cent sales tax. For now, the county primarily contributes to the operation by paying Fonseca's salary, as well as for some accounting, facility and utilities costs. Over time the county will absorb more of the costs to run EMS, said Fonseca. Judge Evans said in addition to ad valorem, or property taxes, supporting the entity, they are seeking other creative ways to lessen the burden for local taxpayers through grant funding or charging those who want EMTs present at their events an hourly rate.

"We're looking at some different avenues in order to cover those expenses without going too strictly ad valorem. Because it's an expense that comes to our taxpayers, but if we can keep it off of them and get it covered in another way, that's what we're looking for," said Evans.

Both Fonseca and Evans emphasized a departmental focus on preventative healthcare and community paramedicine moving forward. Fonseca said Mountain Medics will work closely with patients, particularly the local elderly population, considering the absence of home healthcare in the area. In addition to performing wellness checks at no costs, EMTs will help patients manage medications, understand how to use medical equipment, keep up with doctor's visits and more, she said.

"We are the middleman broker between the patient and their provider. The challenge is here, there's more patients than there are providers [and] a lot of miles in between," said Fonseca.

"In Houston, San Antonio and Austin, there's urgent care centers, there's hospitals, there's doctor's clinics, there's specialty clinics. Here, you turn, no matter which way you go, there's nothing," she added. "Let's focus on the things that mean the most to us, our population is very elderly."

Judge Evans said he wants to ensure the county can keep up with the healthcare needs of its citizens, including its aging population, and exploration into how to improve care within a vast region will continue.

"We're doing a lot of research in moving to better our healthcare in the community," said Evans. "You eat an elephant just one bite at a time, and this is a big elephant."

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition

(Continued from page 1)

the attendees were already familiar with the BBRC or its founders. The coalition plans to extend its reach via surveys and door-to-door canvassing, a job for which they are actively seeking volunteers. But they recognize that the change won't happen overnight. "It's going to take time to form connections and provide opportunities for people to hear about us and want to get involved," said Shea Cadrin, a co-founder of the BBRC. "That's why the pronged approach is cool. The survey will be for people who are engaged in one way, and then a door-to-door could engage people who have no clue that we even exist."

The coalition also plans to host more town halls. The next will be held at the Sentinel in Marfa on August 29, and additional meetings will be held in the coming months in Fort Davis, Presidio and Terlingua.

Once the community needs assessment is complete, the BBRC plans to take the results and compile them into a report, something codified and reproducible that they can share with other reproductive rights organizations, who may then incorporate that knowledge into their own efforts. The coalition also plans to use the results to create a more focused budget and assign volunteers to the areas where they're needed most.

The town hall served as a place to exchange information, but also as a space for people affected by reproductive issues to talk about them in a safe and supportive environment. As Cadrin put it, "So many people in the room said, 'I don't have healthcare because I don't feel like I'm being listened to.' So sitting in a room and listening to each other is radical and something that people are missing out on. That's why I felt like, 'Oh, this is cool. This is productive.'"

Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute

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held symposia, published original papers and supported studies that contributed to the understanding of various aspects of the natural environment.

"Scientific research, that was our main thrust — biological, geological, archaeological, all kinds of natural history [research]," said Powell.

"These are really high profile geologists and biologists that were associated with CDRI, as founders and as people all along," he added.

Operations were held out of the old Centennial School in Alpine — a de facto segregated school for Mexican American students that was not in use at the time but was owned by the university.

While the original founders thought it would be a natural fit for CDRI to become a part of the university, according to Powell, and many university presidents sat on boards of directors for the organization over the years, the incorporation never came to fruition, and CDRI sought out establishment as an independent nonprofit organization.

In 1979, six years after its founding, CDRI purchased its first parcel of land from Billie Weston with the idea to turn it into a nature center for the general public. (Another parcel was purchased in 1982, completing today's 507-acre stretch.) Powell said in addition to scientific research, CDRI's initial founders and supporters recognized a need to promote awareness of the region's distinct plants, animals and geological features to a broader audience outside of academia.

"[Research] was our main interest and focus for doing this, but we were all teachers too and we knew the importance of presenting this information to the public and the significance of it," said Powell.

The site of the nature center was originally planned for Terlingua or Lajitas, said Powell, "the heart of the desert vegetation," but, due to funding, was chosen to be closer to Fort Davis. An oilman, Clayton Williams, who had grown up with Scudday in Fort Stockton, was instrumental in raising the money to purchase the land from Weston, and because he was more deeply connected to funders in Midland who liked to vacation in the Davis Mountains, it was a more feasible site, said Powell.

An early meeting on the potential CDRI site, in which Williams spoke to a gathered audience about the importance of educating the area's youth, raised enough money to buy the land in one fell swoop, said Powell, who recalled perching on a rock with a beer that day, and getting scolded by a Sul Ross administrator for drinking before 5 p.m.

"Buses came out there, I mean, Greyhounds, cars. There was a big gathering. And [Williams] got up on the stage and started talking to all these people and encouraging them to donate money, and they raised enough money to buy that land," said Powell.

Williams continued to support CDRI throughout the years, auctioning off items at his regular bull sales and barbecues that brought big time Western entertainers to the area, said Powell, who recalled the sale of a rock for $25,000 to benefit CDRI that now sits on the property, as well as another ad hoc auction item.

"[He] sold a shirt off his back once, actually did take it off. Somebody bought it. I don't remember how much they paid for it, but it was a real hoot every time," said Powell.

Thanks to other generous donors and contributions throughout the years, CDRI now benefits from an endowment. Powell said CDRI will continue to function well into the future due to the work of past and present staff, volunteers and board members who maintain interest in the founding concepts. He and Scudday's interests in presenting native gardens and emphasizing conservation have only become more popular over time, he said, and have proven needed in the face of climate change.

"Extinctions are not rampant here right now, but there are a lot of species of concern," said Powell. "There probably are species that would have gone extinct if there hadn't been this interest in conservation."

A hub for environmental education

In 1998 the Powell Visitor Center, so named for Mike and Shirley, was erected as the primary landing pad for guests — an adobe structure with a wrap-around porch with sweeping mountain views, hugged by native vegetation and rainwater catchment systems. Executive Director Lisa Gordon recalls how visitation typically clocked in at around 5,000 people annually before 2015, but has since swelled to 10 to 14 thousand guests a year.

"We've been working really hard to get the word out that we're here," said Gordon. "I know we can always still improve on that, but in keeping things changing, keeping things fresh."

Gordon said people travel from all over the world to visit CDRI's cactus greenhouse, one of the largest collections anywhere of Chihuahuan Desert cacti, and the annual cactus sale the organization hosts has become very popular over the years, with lines of cars waiting to get onto the property at the start of the sale. CDRI employs a full-time gardener and regularly updates signage and print materials, said Gordon.

No ongoing research projects are currently happening at the site, but CDRI still facilitates studies occasionally, said Gordon, who has retooled the organization's education programs during her tenure to meet state educational requirements and serve up to 120 kids at the site at one time.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, a local nature center complete with interpretive gardens and hiking trails, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

"We teach them about entomophagy. We make chocolate-covered crickets and crispy mealworms so they can taste those, and teach them about poisonous bugs. They go in the garden and look for pollinators," said Gordon, describing the "bugs day" program the center offers for second- and third-graders in partnership with the Sul Ross Biology Club.

Board President Jim Martinez, who has been a member of CDRI for 20 years and on the board for seven, said the educational focus of the organization helps spark vital interests in both youth and adults.

"I'm really big on education, getting people interested in the environment that they live in and all the things that live in the environment that they live in," said Martinez. "Because most people don't ever get a chance to see any of that or they may know [only] a little bit about it."

Martinez emphasized the importance of CDRI's botanical gardens, which allow people to see native plants within natural contexts, which he hopes inspires them to create similar setups, "even if it's a postage stamp size garden," in their own yards to support natural flora and fauna.

"The people that do that, they have a lot of birds, a lot of insects, the bees, the butterflies become really important. And all that happens in these little tiny gardens," said Martinez.

A newly-revamped grass display garden, a collaboration between Martinez and his partner, Jim Fissel, as well as the Powells and Gordon, complete with around 27 native grasses — there are over 260 that are native to the Chihuahuan Desert — is currently about halfway planted. The exhibit will allow visitors to observe large patches of various native grasses, such as blue grama and deer Muhly, and will promote the concept of grassland conservation.

"I think CDRI is a great asset to all the communities in the area, as well as the region," said Martinez. "It's a little gem of a place, it's tiny, but it does a lot of positive things."

Tickets to CDRI's annual barbecue and auction taking place this Saturday, August 12, must be purchased in advance. Silent and live auctions feature artworks from area artists, among other items. For more information, visit cdri.org/bbq--auction.html



Jim White

(Continued from page 1)

$1 million to the Jane White Trust for loss of value to the estate, and $1.5 million apiece to both Mac and Beau in exemplary damages, plus roughly half a million apiece in fees. Jim will also pay $185,000 to the Brite Divinity School, a trust beneficiary and nominal party to the suit.

In addition to removing Jim as trustee, the court has ruled to divide the Jane White Trust into four separate trusts — one for each of the four siblings, each consisting of "equal undivided interests in all assets currently comprising the trust estate of the Jane White Trust." Each sibling will be the sole trustee of his or her trust.

Finally, the court found that "good cause exists" to modify the Jane White Trust in order to allow for the sale of any assets within the trust, including interest in the Brite Ranch — per the ruling, as the trust existed to generate income for trust beneficiaries, modifying the trust would further its intended purpose. With the trust divided into four equal parts, each trustee will have the authority to sell their assets as they see fit.

"We thank the jurors and the court for their hard work on this very important case for our clients," wrote attorneys for Mac and Beau — Steve Skarnulis, Frank Ikard and Deborah McClure — in a statement.

Jim's attorney, Ted Lyon, pledged to appeal the judgment, which he said was flawed — the jury, while finding that the estate had depreciated in value, also found that the trust did not suffer any financial loss.

"There's zero evidence to show that Jim White ever financially did anything wrong, and the evidence found by the jury was that the estate had not suffered any damages. So we think that their judgment is fatally wrong, and we're extremely disappointed in it," said Lyon. "We're going to get it reversed in the court of appeals. That's our intention."

Lyon characterized the stakes of the case as reaching far beyond the White family or Presidio County — if the court of appeals rules that his client mismanaged the trust by hiring his own family to work the ranch, he argued, that could have implications for other ranching families.

"Everywhere in Texas, this is going to have an impact on people that have ranches that are in their family," said Lyon. "It's a frightening aspect of this case. That's what the legacy of this case is, as it exists right now."

Courthouse A/C repairs

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County Judge Joe Portillo — who has an office in the courthouse himself — was sympathetic to other county employees sweating out the summer at work, but said that the massive price tag associated with any repairs made it difficult for the county to commit to bringing in outside help.

Portillo said that he felt sticker shock after finding out that Helm's estimated cost for the renovation of both the courthouse and jail would run about $3 million — the air conditioning project taking up a significant chunk of that change. "That's a big check, especially when [the county's] budget is around $3 or $4 million," he said.

Another renovation project he hoped to see tackled was the building's vintage elevator. The courthouse has three floors — people who aren't able to climb stairs have to use the elevator, which frequently breaks down. "You can make an argument that they're being denied access," he said.

There might be hope on the horizon — Portillo said that the Texas Historical Commission had taken a renewed interest in Marfa, and he hoped to approach the agency for guidance and financial support. County officials will need to make a detailed case for the importance of the upgrades.

Portillo said that the county was preparing their pitch to the commission. "We already stretch our budget so thin," he said. "We want to make an attempt to see if we qualify and if there's any funding available for us."





Notice of Public Hearing on PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DIST. Budget

The PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DIST will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on AUGUST 24, 2023 @2:00 p.m. at PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL, located at 107 E TEXAS ST, MARFA, TEXAS 79843. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

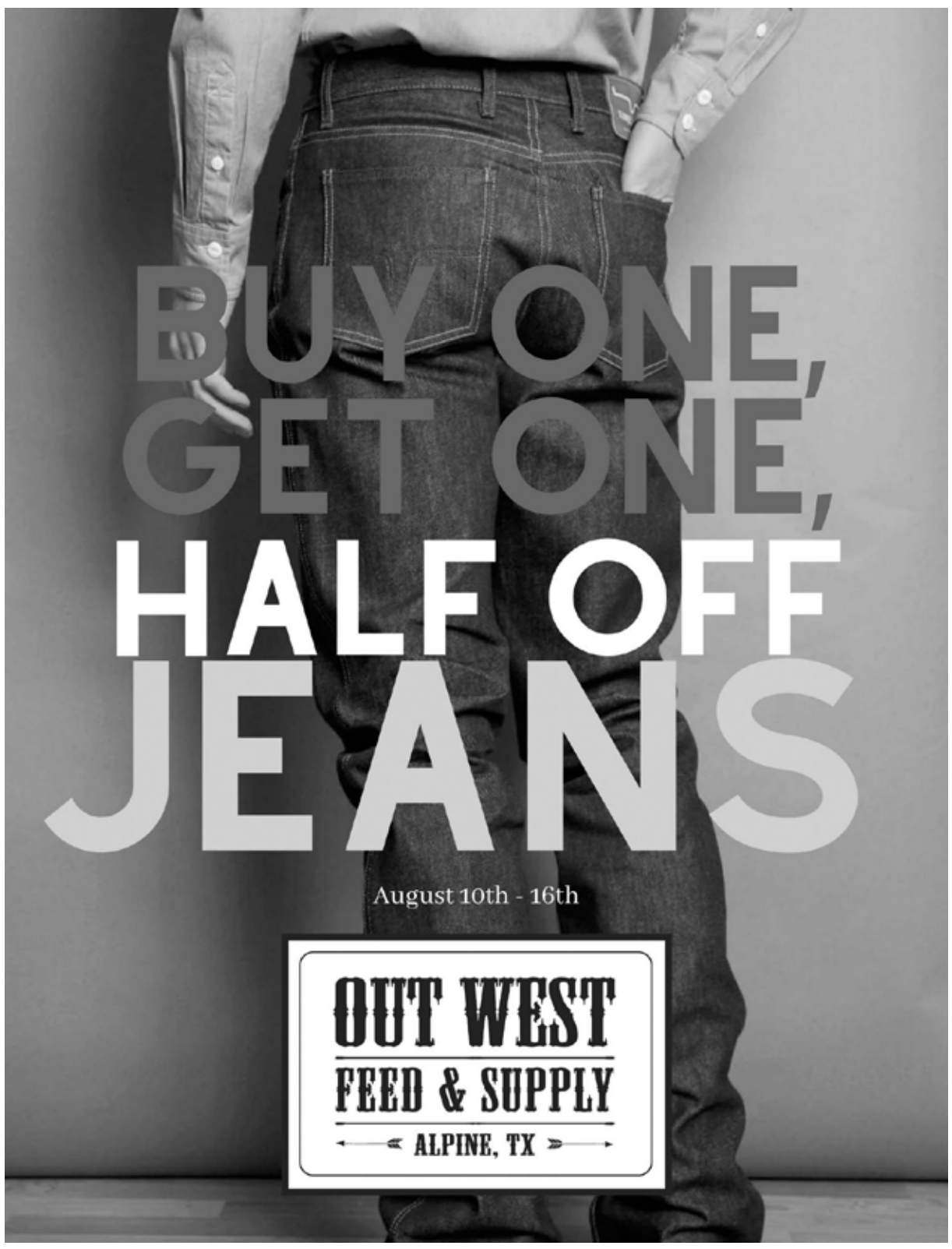
The total amount of the proposed budget.	$ 533,752.00
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	$ 11,316.89
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	5
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	5

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office located at 107 E TEXAS ST, MARFA, TEXAS 79843.

The phone number of the PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT is: (432)729-3431. The address is: 107 E TEXAS ST., MARFA, TEXAS 79843.



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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I respectfully urge all *Sentinel* readers to listen to this recent *PBS Newshour* piece about the growing decline of small town local newspapers. It highlights the demise of a Texas Panhandle paper in a town of about 2000, Canadian, called the *Canadian Record*.

It's easy to take for granted that **The Big Bend Sentinel** will come out every Thursday, with obituaries, border news, school updates and deep dives into local conflicts that would not be covered in any other forum.

You needn't agree with everything it covers to recognize its existence is an important communication link for the community. It doesn't cost much to support. Since I moved away a year ago I appreciate it even more.

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-the-loss-of-local-newspapers-fueled-political-divisions-in-the-u-s

Laura Doll
Austin, formerly of Marfa

• • •

Dear Editor,

In a recent story published by *The Big Bend Sentinel* regarding the recent practices of the board of trustees of Marfa ISD, I am decidedly disappointed to hear the news. I am an alumnus of Marfa High School, the daughter of two long-term educators in Marfa and a public-school advocate. In my tenure in public education, I have spent 10 years in the classroom coupled with 11 years of administrative experience as an assistant principal, academic dean of instruction and principal. I have had many conversations regarding the state of affairs for Marfa ISD.

An excerpt from TASB website (Texas Association of School Boards):

Q: Why Do We Need Local School Boards?

A: The US Supreme Court has said education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Our system of local school districts and boards of education epitomizes representative and participatory government — citizens elected from their community making decisions about educational programs based on community needs, values, and expectations. School boards are entrusted by the public to translate the needs of students into policies, plans, and goals that will be supported by the community.

Q: What Do School Boards Do?

A: Local school board responsibilities can be grouped into five categories:

- *Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success.*
- *Adopt policies and review for effectiveness.*
- *Hire and evaluate the superintendent.*
- *Adopt a budget and set a tax rate.*
- *Communicate with the community.*

Why then is the board of trustees not posting the superintendent position and not seeking out the most qualified candidates?

The role of administration is safety of students and staff first and then instructional leadership. How can the two be facilitated without staff that are qualified?

Appointing an internal candidate without the necessary qualifications challenges those exact responsibilities. This neglect in process will have a long-term impact on the success of your students and the staff. Qualified candidates that have an interest in the school district will be discouraged from ever seeking employment in Marfa ISD. With the challenges public education faces, schools such as Marfa ISD need to consistently seek the best we can offer children. The job of an administrator is not an easy endeavor, and it's a slap in the face to those that have put in the work to lead and are turned away from opportunities. It is shameful that a more qualified candidate on the staff was overlooked and now leaves the district in search of a system that values the work and qualifications she carries.

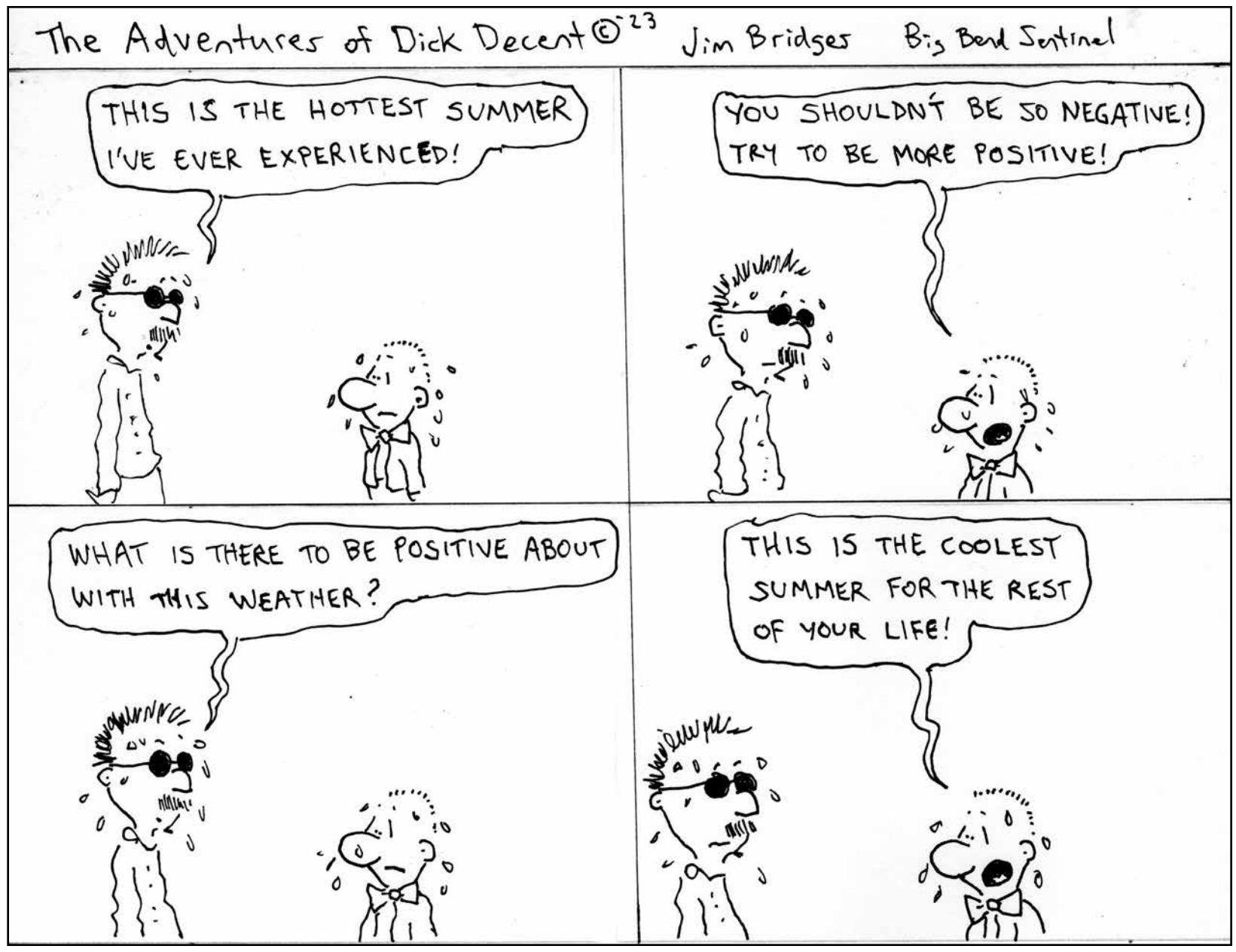
How will an unqualified superintendent evaluate programs and staff to ensure growth and reflection? He won't meet the minimum requirements to complete T-TESS or T-PESS. He can't attend the appropriate professional development sessions without required certifications. The board is tasked with setting the standards and then putting policies and practices into place to help the stakeholders meet those standards. It's disheartening to see the decisions and to know the fallout of those unvetted choices.

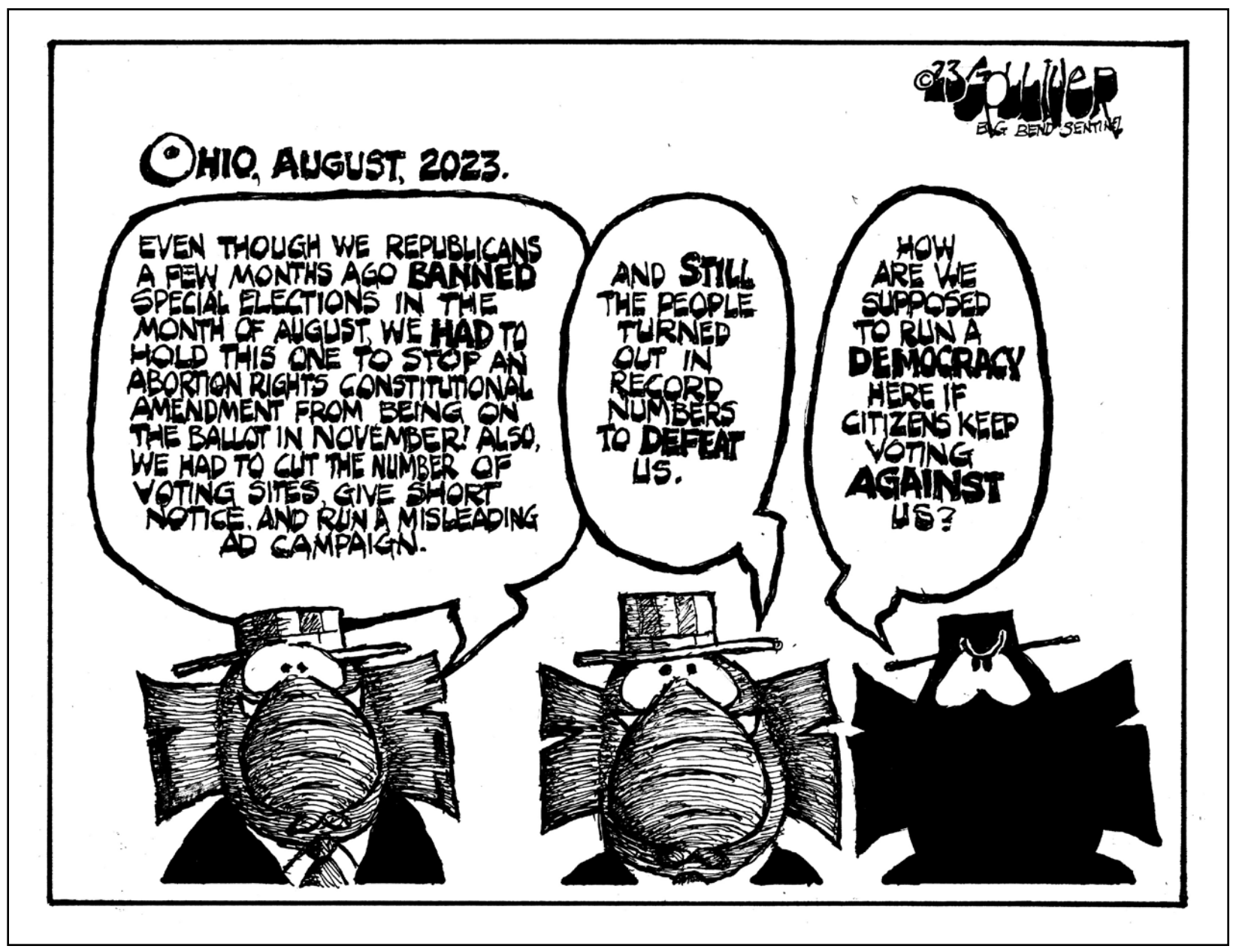
Lauran Knight
San Antonio

We want to hear from YOU!

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

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff





OUR WATER MATTERS

A Colorado innovation: Groundwater conservation easements

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

Last month, U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) introduced the bipartisan Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act "to give family farmers and ranchers the flexibility they need to protect groundwater sources while keeping their agricultural lands in production," according to a press release. The legislation seeks to "create a new Groundwater Conservation Easement Program at USDA to encourage voluntary, compensated reductions in groundwater consumption on agricultural land and advance local, regional, or state groundwater management goals" and "guarantee long-term management flexibility for a producer to continue farming and choose how they reduce their water use, as long as they conserve the amount they've committed to reducing each year."

"Colorado's family farmers and ranchers face a future that's going to be a lot hotter and a lot drier — and they need us to ensure USDA's conservation programs live up to their potential," said Bennet. "Building off the work of Coloradans in the San Luis Valley who first used voluntary easements to support groundwater conservation to sustain the local agricultural economy and wildlife habitat, this legislation creates a new tool for farmers to voluntarily reduce their groundwater use and continue to farm."

The San Luis Valley in Colorado is the nation's second-largest potato growing region and also produces beer barley and alfalfa. The valley receives less than eight inches of precipitation annually and farmers have been heavily dependent on the valley's two aquifers since the early 20th century. According to "Groundwater Conservation Easements for Aquifer Recovery in the San Luis Valley," a report by Colorado Open Lands, "By 1972, there were thousands of wells in the San Luis Valley and the State Engineer announced a moratorium on the issuance of well permits for new groundwater appropriations."

Heavy pumping continued in the ensuing decades, and it wasn't until severe droughts in 2002 and 2018 that the critical condition of the valley's aquifers and the associated "injurious depletion to senior surface water rights holders" came to the attention of Colorado lawmakers. In response, legislation was passed requiring the aquifers to be returned to sustainable production levels. According to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, aquifer sustainability occurs when "withdrawals from the aquifer match recharge to the aquifer from all sources so that mining of the aquifer is not occurring on a long-term basis." Rather than face the shutdown of wells by the state engineer, which would have disastrous impacts on the regional economy and actually reduce the amount of water available to wildlife through the irrigated wetlands and meadows used for water delivery to crops, several groundwater subdistricts were formed in the area to sexplore voluntary efforts to achieve sustainability.

In collaboration with Colorado Open Lands and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, a feasibility study was initiated to understand "how traditional land conservation tools could be applied to groundwater pumping," according to the Colorado Open Lands report. "Research and expert interviews with groundwater managers in overdrafted basins in Nebraska and California revealed the functionality of conservation easements when applied to groundwater." Such easements "are eligible for unique funding sources — including state and federal tax benefits — and represent perpetual groundwater conservation … while maintaining community vitality."

Conservation easements are legal agreements between landowners and land trusts that restrict certain uses of a property. Benefits to landowners include "the partial purchase of a conservation easement (cash payment) and the donated value of the easement (tax benefits)." These easements address aquifer depletion by limiting groundwater pumping, which enables producers to know what amount of water they are working with and choose how to use it on their property; this further incentivizes landowners to switch crops and update irrigation technology to more flexibly apply their reduced groundwater allotment. These easements also provide groundwater subdistricts with an enforcement mechanism (well meters) to reduce uncertainty and achieve the goal of leaving water in the aquifers to increase groundwater levels, thus avoiding the blunt instrument of state intervention and/or the total depletion of the aquifers.

"Groundwater easements offer an innovative approach to addressing the West's increasingly critical groundwater shortages," according to Lesli Allison, chief executive officer of the Western Landowners Alliance. "We appreciate that they are voluntary, flexible, compensated and durable. These are the kinds of tools needed to sustain the working lands and natural resources on which we all depend."

Visit coloradoopenlands.org to learn more.

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.


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Community



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Marfa ISD seniors participated in "Seniors Paint the Streets" this week, a time-honored tradition that began as an act of rebellion but is now sanctioned by the district, where the graduating class decorates North Gonzales Street to commemorate the start of a new school year.



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Judd Foundation

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

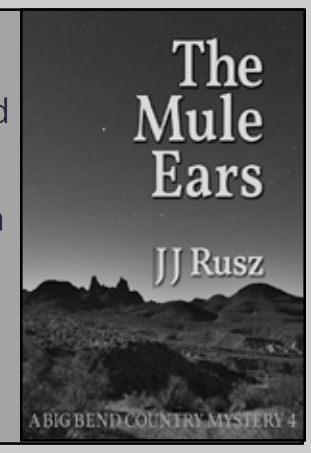
Advance reservations are required.

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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TUESDAY | AUGUST 29 | 7 PM
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Joe Crow Coffee truck now serving Alpine

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

ALPINE — In late July, Alpine resident Jose Grajeda celebrated the grand opening of his new business venture and the town's newest coffee operation — Joe Crow Coffee is now serving up both hot and cold caffeinated beverages out of a trailer truck along westbound U.S.-67 at North 8th Street.

"We have a full espresso bar for drip coffee, Italian sodas, iced teas and things like that," said Grajeda.

Grajeda was born in Chihuahua City, then raised in Ojinaga and moved to Detroit for high school with his family. After high school, he moved back to the Big Bend region, settling in Marfa, and commuted to Sul Ross State University to study business administration. During that time, Grajeda worked a handful of jobs, from working in the kitchens of Pizza Foundation to doing door-to-door sales. He also worked at the now-shuttered local coffee shops Frama and Plaine — the inspiration for launching his own business.

Grajeda's introduction to coffee goes back to the age of eight, sharing cups of coffee with raw milk with his grandparents. But it was while working at Frama and Plaine that Grajeda honed the skills he said helped Joe Crow become a reality.

"I look up to [Frama and Plaine owners] Daniel and Jessie for not just how they do business but for how they are," Grajeda said. "I learned how to be in the moment and manage my time working.

"I like that whole human side of taking care of your own business," he continued. "I want to run an efficient and beautiful business that sells quality products."

Grajeda experienced a temporary setback when he injured himself setting up a shade structure after a very successful first weekend, resulting in two broken toes one day before the second weekend of business. Family and friends rallied to help him recoup — Marfa locals Angela Morgan and Sam Watts launched a GoFundMe to help raise some funds for Grajeda as he healed. Grajeda bounced back and enjoyed an even more successful second weekend.



Photo courtesy of Jose Grajeda

In late July, Joe Crow Coffee founder Jose Grajeda and his family celebrated the business' grand opening with a ribbon-cutting.

"They have helped us so much emotionally and economically, as it's hard for me to ask for help," said Grajeda of the support from his friends.

Joe Crow Coffee is open Monday to Saturday, from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MSA to start receiving donated artworks for the 'Little Piece of Art' auction

MARFA — On August 15, Marfa Studio of Arts will begin receiving donated artworks for its upcoming "Little Piece of Art" auction, which will help support the 18th school year of MSA's children's arts program, the Studio in the Elementary program.

Artists may donate an existing work or create a special work for this event. Any artistic medium will be accepted, but the works cannot be larger than 24 inches in any dimension. MSA will host a silent auction and salon-style exhibition showcasing the donated works, which will be available for purchase.

Artists can deliver works to the Marfa Studio of Arts during gallery hours, 1 to 5 p.m., from August 15 to 19 and August 22 to 26. For those traveling on or during these dates, special arrangements can be made. Work can be mailed to MSA, P.O. Box 1189, Marfa, TX 79843

Those seeking more information are encouraged to reach out to marfastudioarts@gmail.com or visit https://www.marfastudioarts.org/special-events.html

Marfa Live Arts and Lower Left hosts mini Dance Ranch Marfa

MARFA – Continuing the tradition of bringing dance to town, this week Marfa Live Arts and Lower Left Performance Collective are hosting a group of 17 dancers consisting of locals and people from all around the country. Focusing on inclusivity and collaboration, Lower Left artists Nina Martin, Margaret Paek, Kelly Dalrymple-Wass and Andrew Wass are teaching their Ensemble Thinking and Contact Improvisation at the Crowley Theater. The workshop is accompanied by musician Loren Dempster.

There are open studio times when the public is invited to drop by the Crowley Theater and watch dance being made in the moment. Open studio times are Friday, August 11, from noon to 12:30 p.m., and Saturday, August 12, from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information see www.lowerleft.org



Photo courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

Lower Left Performance Collective, left to right: Margaret Paek, Nina Martin, Kelly Dalrymple-Wass and Andrew Wass.

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, AUG 10: Football Scrimmage at Fort Davis High School, games start at 10:00am
THU, AUG 10: HS Volleyball Tournament at WINK, 4:00pm vs Colorado City, 5:00pm vs Klondike, 7:00pm vs Midland Classical
SAT, AUG 12: HS Volleyball Tournament at WINK, times TBD

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

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

7/31

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

7/19

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 7, 2023

ACROSS
1 First person?
5 Winter layers
10 "___ Don't Lie" (Shakira song)
14 Noted name in video games
15 Stan's comedy partner
16 Tackling a task
17 Snow coaster
18 Knock on
19 Set of six bowled balls, in cricket
20 Seek a seat (In this answer, note the first letter + the last 3 letters)
23 Cookbook ingredient?
26 Santa ___, California
27 Golfer's starting point
28 Aspiring minimalist's event, perhaps (... first 2 letters + last 2)
31 Author Hemingway
33 Landing guess at PHL
34 Get even for
36 Simplify something (... first 2 letters + last 3)
41 Notice
42 Musical acumen
45 Pour out
48 Way off (... first 2 letters + last 4)
52 Period in history
53 Response to "Are you?"
55 Great Greek geometer
56 Planning to attend a university, and a theme hint
60 Do nothing
61 Clickable images
62 Journey for Journey, say
66 Sample product
67 ___ or reason (good sense)
68 Credit card option
69 Shangri-La
70 Surgically zapped
71 Close with a bang

DOWN
1 Beast that brays
2 Ctrl-Alt-___
3 Census datum
4 Capital of Spain
5 Transparent membrane in the eye
6 Snowman in "Frozen"
7 Pet food brand
8 Headwear for Miss World
9 Put upright
10 Place for a horseshoe
11 Ask to a wedding, say
12 Rook and bishop
13 Line on a map
21 Good periods
22 Wells ___ (financial services company)
23 Bread variety
24 Take in
25 Cancer's zodiac animal
29 Michigan or Ontario
30 Boot out, as a tenant
32 Just unboxed
35 Caesar's censure
37 Nutrition stat
38 "___, meenie, miney, mo"
39 "Well done, kid!"
40 Legal scholar Katyal
43 DiFranco of folk
44 First color in a rainbow
45 Choose
46 Ate away
47 Phone line?
49 Didn't just throw out
50 Woman in a convent
51 Sports bar attractions
54 Anime genre featuring humanoid robots
57 "Exodus" author Uris
58 Lads
59 Generous declaration at a bar
63 Olive product
64 Democracy since 1776, for short
65 Aries animal

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

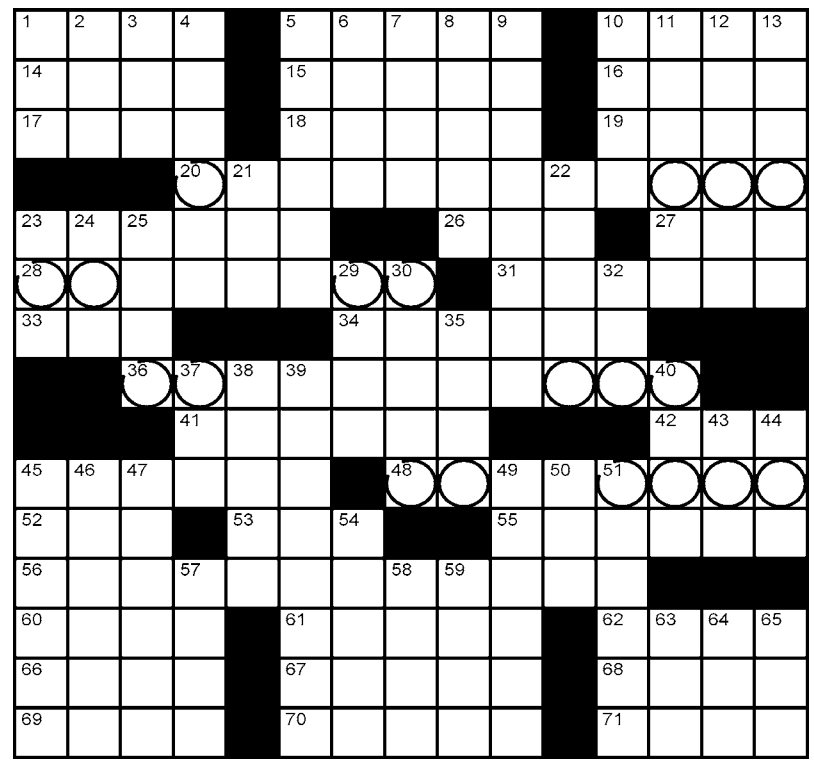
P	C	S	■	V	E	T	S	■	R	A	W	R	■	■
B	A	H	■	O	T	O	H	■	A	R	I	E	S	■
S	P	O	U	T	S	N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E	■
■	T	U	N	E	■	■	R	A	H	■	A	C	A	I
S	I	L	O	■	J	E	T	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
M	O	D	■	O	O	H	■	A	R	R	■	N	C	O
U	N	I	O	N	J	O	B	■	■	E	I	D	E	R
■	■	■	S	H	O	W	E	R	C	A	P	■	■	■
N	A	C	H	O	■	■	T	E	U	T	O	N	I	C
A	K	A	■	L	G	A	■	A	B	S	■	E	C	O
P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

8/6

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School's Out *by Prasanna Keshava*

8/7



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

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Presidio Library's 'Climate Crew' reading program teaches kids to care for the environment

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Last Friday, the Presidio Public Library threw a party for youngsters who had finished this year's summer reading program. Parents and city officials shared pizza and sweet treats with the kids, who were eager to share everything they'd learned over the past week and the projects they'd completed together.

This year, the library's summer reading program focused on environmental issues. The kids became part of the "Climate Crew," learning new ways to take care of the planet while flexing their creative muscles and making new friends. Each day, they tackled a different book and completed fun projects to help drive the lessons home.

The project was led by Ramon Rodriguez, Laisa Arevalo and Evelyn Renteria, representatives from Presidio's own Project Homeleaf. Over the past few years, Project Homeleaf has helped maintain the city's recycling center, plant trees around town and spread awareness about environmental causes.

Rodriguez has helped with the summer reading program in various capacities since he was in fifth grade. This summer — right after his high school graduation — he decided to put his interest in child development and K-12 education to the test by designing an innovative curriculum.

The three teen activists led the kids through activities like exploring the library's garden and playing games that helped them determine which human habits can be good or bad for the environment. On Wednesday, the kids capped off their studies by helping celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Presidio Public Library.

As the name implies, the summer reading program centers around books. One of Rodriguez's favorites was The Carrot Seed, a kids' classic by Ruth Krauss.

In The Carrot Seed, a young boy plants a seed that doesn't seem to be growing. Friends and family tell him that the seed won't grow, no matter what he does. Despite feeling discouraged, the boy continues watering and taking care of the seed — until one day the seed grows into a giant carrot.

Rodriguez tied the story to a seed-planting activity. "I wanted them to connect to [the book's] message and think about it, so that they could understand the value of believing in yourself and never giving up no matter who says what and what's thrown at you," he said.

Friday morning, the kids took in a presentation about careers related to environmentalism and practiced lining up for an awards ceremony. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they showed off their skills and recapped everything they'd learned.

Participant Liam Pohl said that he really liked the program's artistic activities — the kids tie-dyed matching shirts and also made a painting out of their palmprints. Funding for program supplies came from the Presidio Municipal Development District.

Pohl came away from the program with lots of advice for other Presidians interested in caring for the planet. "You have to clean up and recycle," he said. "And everytime you drop trash, you have to pick it up."

OBITUARY



Newton

Brenda Lyle Koonce Newton passed peacefully from this earth on August 2, 2023, in Ozona, Texas. Brenda was born August 31, 1946, in Marfa, Texas. She attended Marfa schools, where she graduated in 1964. She then went on to attend San Angelo College. She married Royce Vick Newton on June 26, 1965, and began a family. Victor Lyle Newton and Shawna Newton Hopper added more love and joy to their lives. Brenda retired from Ozona National Bank and from Crockett County Senior Center where she made many friends.

Although she enjoyed her work life, her most precious jobs were those of wife, mother and "Charlie." Her talents were abundant, but her musical talent was a true gift that she shared with everyone. Her smile and laughter were contagious. She anxiously awaited the holiday season each year. Christmas was her all-time favorite, and she made it a special time for the entire family.

Brenda is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Royce Newton; a son, Victor, and his wife, Amy, and their children, Taylor and Abby Newton; a daughter, Shawna Hopper, her husband, Greg, and their children, Alex and Adam; as well as numerous extended family members who loved "Charlie."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lyle and Wava Koonce, and her sister, Janice Koonce Hinson.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on, there is reserved for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 1 Tim. 4:6-8

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Ozona, Texas.

The family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Ozona Community Center, PO Box 41, Ozona, TX 76943, a nonprofit daycare which all of her grandchildren attended and all adult family members have served as board members.

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Thu Aug 10

Local Author JJ Rusz at Front Street Books
6:00pm at 121 E Holland Ave in Alpine
The creator of the Big Bend Country mystery series, JJ Rusz will discuss and sign his latest book.

The Swifts Live at Marfa Spirit Co.
8:00pm at 320 W El Paso Street in Marfa
Come see Alpine based band The Swifts and enjoy drink specials! Music starts at 8!

Fri Aug 11

The Marathon Songwriters Festival
8/11 & 8/12 at the Gage Hotel, 102 NW 1st Street in Marathon
A two-day celebration of song and story in Far West Texas. Intimate performances by master songwriters in a setting that exudes luxurious comfort and charm surrounded by a landscape that captivates and inspires -- welcome to the Marathon Songwriters Festival. More info and ticekts at www.marathonsongs.com

Mini Dance Ranch Marfa
8/11, 12:00pm - 12:40pm & 8/12, 5:00pm - 5:30pm at the Crowley Theater in Marfa
Continuing the tradition of bringing dance to town, this week Marfa Live Arts and Lower Left Performance Collective are hosting a group of seventeen dancers consisting of locals and people from all around the country. Above are the open studio times when the public is invited to drop by the Crowley Theater and watch dance being made in the moment. All are welcome.

Landscapes Opening at Greasewood Gallery
6:00pm - 8:00pm at Hotel Paisano in Marfa
Painting and photography show featuring works from Chris Cashiola, Ross Cashiola and Harry Crofton.

Presidio's 8th Annual Dark Skies Music Series: Proyecto D
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the American Legion in Presidio
Live music and food! Vendors every Friday in August. Free and open to the public!

Big Bend Ranch Rodeo
8/11 & 8/12 at Sul Ross S.A.L.E. Arena in Alpine
The Big Bend Ranch Rodeo provides an opportunity for working cowboys to show real cowboy skills. Kicks off on Friday with the WRCA Rodeo Performance at 7:00pm and continues on Saturday. More info at www.bigbendranchrodeo.com

Sat Aug 12

CDRI BBQ & Auction
3:45pm at CDRI in Fort Davis
Chihuahuan Desert Research Institutes annual fundraiser. BBQ, Live Auction and Music, Tickets available at cdri.org

Grand Bazaar at St. Mary's Catholic Church
8/12, 6:00pm - 12:00am & 8/13, 12:00pm - 6:00pm at 211 W San Antonio Street in Marfa
Event kicks off Saturday evening with music from Primo y Beebe, Un Charro y Una Dama, and Grupo Allstarz and continues on Sunday with games, food and fun. All are invited

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

COCHINEAL
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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.

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

MARFA COUNTRY CLINIC IS LOOKING FOR A NEW MEDICAL PROVIDER

If you are a Family Medicine provider and your calling is to practice in a small and independent practice, providing quality patient-oriented medicine in a remote but culturally rich rural setting, come join us!

Our providers offer a wide range of medical services to all ages, from well exams to urgent care visits, screenings, injections, immunizations, joint injections, minor skin procedures, and more. Our clinic is small but our staff is robust and versatile.

We are looking for a MD, DO, NP or PA. Spanish-speaking a plus. Please send CV to Don Culbertson (email below).

105 E. Oak, PO Box 368 Ph.(432)729-3000
Marfa, TX 79843 marfacountryclinic@gmail.com

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.



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432-729-4344 or 877-729-4344 www.marfanb.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

The City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at City Hall located at 113 S. Highland Ave. Marfa, Texas, regarding proposed changes to the City's zoning ordinance. The City of Marfa encourages citizens to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to the City Manager at P.O. Box 787, Marfa, Texas 79843.

A summary of the proposed changes may be found online at the City of Marfa website under the Planning and Zoning link at: https://cityofmarfa.com/bc-planning.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC
9-1-1 Addressing
Outreach Event

Do You Know Your
Physical 9-1-1 Address?
The Rio Grande Council of Governments will host a 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event. The purpose of this 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event is for the general public to ask questions or obtain a Physical 9-1-1 Address. The 911 Addressing Outreach Event will be held:

August 30, 2023 at Fort Davis Post Office
Located at 500 Sgt Gonzales, Fort Davis, Texas 79834
9 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. CDT

For additional information, please contact:
Kayse Muratori
911 GIS Coordinator
Brewster, Jeff Davis & Presidio Counties
Rio Grande Council of Governments
(432) 837-7199

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August 22, 2023 at J.W. Red Pattillo South Brewster County Community Center
Located at 100 TX-118, Terlingua, Texas 79852
10 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. CDT

For additional information, please contact:
Kayse Muratori
911 GIS Coordinator
Brewster, Jeff Davis & Presidio Counties
Rio Grande Council of Governments
(432) 837-7199

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LUPITA L. RAMIREZ AS INDEPENDENT EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF EUSEBIO L. RAMIREZ, Deceased.

Pending in Probate Court of Presidio County, In Matters of Probate No. 2019.

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE:

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of July, 2023, in the Probate Court of Presidio County, Texas, LUPITA L. RAMIREZ duly qualified and was appointed as Independent Executrix of the Estate of EUSEBIO L. RAMIREZ, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary on this estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the individual identified below within the time prescribed by law. Any person indebted to said estate is hereby notified to pay same to the individual identified below.

LUPITA L. RAMIREZ
Independent Executrix of the
Estate of EUSEBIO L. RAMIREZ, Deceased.

Address: c/o Kenneth Beanland, Attorney
1734 W. Gramercy Place
San Antonio, Texas 78201

At Marfa, Texas, Dated August 1, 2023.

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P.O. Box 2174
Fort Davis, TX 79734

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 TO PUBLIC
9-1-1 Addressing
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Physical 9-1-1 Address?
The Rio Grande Council of Governments will host a 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event. The purpose of this 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event is for the general public to ask questions or obtain a Physical 9-1-1 Address. The 911 Addressing Outreach Event will be held:

August 24, 2023 at Marfa Post Office
Located at 100 N Highland, Marfa, Texas 79843
9 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. CDT

For additional information, please contact:
Kayse Muratori
911 GIS Coordinator
Brewster, Jeff Davis & Presidio Counties
Rio Grande Council of Governments
(432) 837-7199

NOTICE TO PUBLIC
9-1-1 Addressing
Outreach Event

Do You Know Your
Physical 9-1-1 Address?
The Rio Grande Council of Governments will host a 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event. The purpose of this 9-1-1 Addressing Outreach Event is for the general public to ask questions or obtain a Physical 9-1-1 Address. The 911 Addressing Outreach Event will be held:

August 23, 2023 at Marathon Public Library
Located at 106 NE 3rd Street, Marathon, Texas 79842
9 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. CDT

For additional information, please contact:
Kayse Muratori
911 GIS Coordinator
Brewster, Jeff Davis & Presidio Counties
Rio Grande Council of Governments
(432) 837-7199

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.

FRONTIER SERVICES
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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
Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com
Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com
Mark Morrison
councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com
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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Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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