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by order of Presidio County

Marfa resident killed in single-vehicle crash on Golf Course Road

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — A Marfa resident was killed on Monday in a high-speed, single-vehicle crash off Golf Course Road, just outside city limits.

David Hinojos, 35, was driving eastbound on Golf Course Road at a high rate of speed when he lost control of the vehicle where the road curves, according to a preliminary report from the Texas Department of Public Safety, which is investigating the crash. The vehicle veered off the road, hitting several poles, and rolled several times before coming to a stop.

Hinojos was ejected from the vehicle, and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Presidio County Sheriff's Office, the first agency to respond to the crash.

The sheriff's office received a 911 call regarding the incident at 6:16 p.m. The Marfa Police Department, the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department and DPS soon arrived at the scene as well, to survey a crash site riddled with debris.

Marfa Fire Chief Gary Mitschke said the speed at which Hinojos was traveling was certainly a factor. The damage to the vehicle was of the severity he had seen in crashes on the highway — he was shocked by the scene he arrived at on Monday night.

"It's not the kind of thing you would expect to see close into town, where speed limits are greatly reduced," he said.

Jimmy Melvin, a neighbor of Hinojos, was a partial witness to the crash, though his view was somewhat obstructed. He said he was able to see the car as it approached the curve, and saw the speed at which the car was moving. "I knew he wasn't gonna make the curve," he said. "And I heard [the car] rolling."

Melvin said Hinojos had worked for him in the past, helping him move equipment and lay pipeline. He remembered him as a hard worker.

"He was a good, hard working kid when he was on the job," said Melvin.

A cousin of Hinojos, Gary Ornelas, arrived on the scene as well. He said his cousin had been a giving person with a good heart, always willing to help his family and expecting nothing in return.

"He was always willing to give a helping hand," said Ornelas. "He was a good person."

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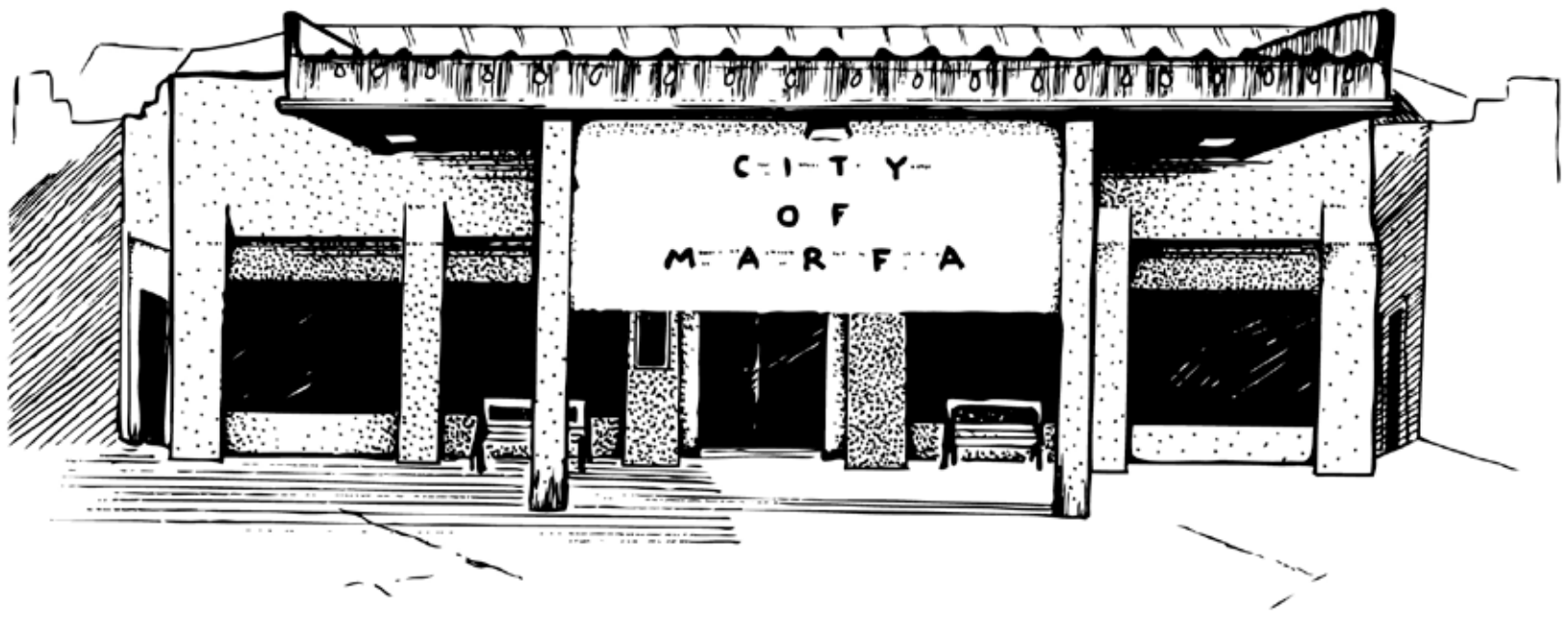


Illustration by Crowcrumbs for The Big Bend Sentinel

Budget season is underway for the City of Marfa, which on Wednesday requested additional county funds for its EMS operation.

As budget process begins, Marfa requests greater allotment of county EMS funds

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — With the annual budgeting process underway for both Presidio County and local municipalities, the City of Marfa is asking that the county nearly double its regular contributions to the city's EMS — a request commissioners said they would consider but may be prohibited by the county's own budgetary restrictions.

In a letter presented at Wednesday morning's Presidio County Commissioners Court, Marfa City Manager Mandy Roane requested \$88,000 from the county, or 15% of the EMS operation's annual budget — a marked increase from the \$45,000, or 10%, generally allotted by the county each year.

Roane, in her letter, argues that Marfa's EMS is not being equitably funded compared to the City of Presidio's EMS, which receives \$100,000 from the county — 15% of its annual budget. The requested increase would put the city EMS

allotments on equal footing, percentage wise.

Roane argued the increase is justified by the fact that Marfa EMS frequently assists Presidio EMS, while Marfa EMS's primary aid comes from Jeff Davis County EMS.

"In an average year, our EMS goes on about 350 calls and travels over 12,000 miles. Of those calls, just over 25% are outside of the city of Marfa, generally south Presidio County," wrote Roane, who also noted grant opportunities that have helped keep the medical department afloat in the past were starting to run out.

"This is a tight budget year for everyone, but the citizens of the entire county depend on Marfa EMS, and with such talented and dedicated medics, it's unfair to continue to ask them to do more with less," wrote Roane.

Mayor Manny Baeza showed support for the initiative at the city's initial budget workshop last week. He noted that the city rarely asks the county for cash. "Since we're not asking the county for money all the time, maybe that's why

they're saying Marfa's fine, we need to focus on Presidio," he said.

At the commissioners court meeting, county officials said they would consider Marfa's request during their ongoing budgeting process and were thankful for their "outstanding" services but suggested the city temper its expectations given the county is in poor financial shape and will likely adopt a deficit budget this year.

"We're already in the red to a degree that's very uncomfortable and disturbing," said County Commissioner Precinct 1 David Beebe.

"It'd be nice to wave a wand and give y'all a bunch of extra money, but we don't actually have [any]. We're going to do what we can. We need you bad," he added.

Former Presidio EMS Director Malynda Richardson and current Director Troy Sparks explained both services are extremely expensive to run, are facing rising costs due to inflation, and county allotments haven't been increased in

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Homeland Security Investigations, Consulate of Mexico to return smuggled artifacts to Coahuila

By SAM KARAS
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ALPINE — On Tuesday, representatives from Homeland Security Investigations and the Consulate of Mexico met at the Museum of the Big Bend to celebrate the return of dozens of cultural artifacts to Casa de la Cultura, a museum in the small town of Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila. The artifacts have been in limbo for 16 years, in the wake of a major heist, federal investigation and protracted legal battle.

In 2007, a thousand artifacts — roughly half the collection at Casa de la Cultura — were stolen by smugglers. The cache includes cordage, projectile points, ceramic figurines and silver coins, spanning 2,000 years of human history.

Antonio Javier Reyes of McAllen, Texas, was identified as one of the smugglers. Reyes

was apprehended by Homeland Security Investigations at K-Bob's Restaurant in Fort Stockton, where he was attempting to sell "rabbit sticks," or boomerang-like tools used to hunt small prey, to a potential buyer. The rabbit sticks were valued at \$7,000.

Homeland Security Investigations — the lead agency on the investigation — knew that this wasn't Reyes' first rodeo. In 2001, customs officials seized artifacts Reyes was attempting to smuggle into Laredo.

Francisco Burrola, special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations in El Paso, said that a lot of the agency's investigation into stolen relics took place on the internet. After museums report missing artifacts, agents take to auction sites like eBay and the dark web to trace the cache's movement. "If a museum is burglarized and items are stolen, we immediately

start looking at the black market," he said.

Reyes was charged with smuggling, fraud and the sale of stolen goods in 2009, but the charges were eventually dropped. Litigation began again under the same charges in 2011 as authorities tried to figure out what to do with the stash — normally, defendants may file to have seized property returned to them if it can be proven the items were not obtained illegally.

Reyes's legal counsel filed for the return of the artifacts, which was denied. His smuggling charges were once again dismissed.

In 1970, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty mandating the return of archaeological artifacts and artworks to their home country. Gamaliel Bustillos Muñoz of the Presidio branch of the Consulate of Mexico spoke to the importance of this treaty at the ceremony. "These

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Crowd packs Presidio Activities Center to learn about new clinic, paramedicine

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last Wednesday, the dining room at the Presidio Activities Center filled to standing room only as community members gathered to learn about a new clinic and community paramedicine program coming to Presidio. The panel of hosts included representatives from the City of Presidio, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD), Preventative Care Health Services and Presidio EMS.

The meeting was a coordinated effort among these agencies to educate the public about a grant awarded last summer that will allow Presidio and Terlingua to expand their healthcare services. A total of \$5.5 million dollars was allotted for the two communities — and represented just one of thirteen such grants awarded to healthcare entities nationwide.

The BBRHD and Terlingua Fire and EMS hosted an equally well-attended town hall for south Brewster County residents back in June. For Terlingua, the grant will provide for the opening of a part-time clinic and the launch of

a community paramedicine program that will expand the scope of care that EMS personnel can provide to local residents.

Presidio will take the lion's share of the grant in order to offer Presidio County's largest population center with an after-hours clinic to supplement the existing Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS) clinic that operates during business hours. The grant will also provide for a community paramedicine program similar to the one being launched in Terlingua.

Linda Molinar, CEO of PCHS, gave an overview of the history of the clinic and how far it had come over the years. The community went from having no clinic to having a once-weekly clinic to the present day clinic — which has three rotating internal medicine doctors on staff serving patients regardless of their financial status. "There wasn't a voice for the people," she said of the days before PCHS. "I worked very hard to bring [a clinic] to town. Now everybody who comes is treated the same whether or not they can pay."

Jessica Murillo and Stephanie Rivera of Presidio EMS gave a presentation about the

concept of community paramedicine. With additional training — and a boost from the USDA grant — Presidio's paramedics will be able to provide certain home visits, preventative healthcare and education for the community's most vulnerable.

Murillo began by explaining the challenges facing the rural emergency service: hundred mile ambulance rides, broken equipment and strained finances. Many patients complained of weeks-long waits to get appointments at the clinic, leading many preventable health issues to snowball until they became emergencies. "This is the reality for Presidio," she said. "Unfortunately, there just aren't the resources here."

The community paramedicine program would help ease the strain on the clinic by allowing EMS staff to treat some of these issues with home visits — instead of waiting for illnesses and injuries to become a crisis, community paramedics could provide non-emergency services such as changing bandages and colostomy bags, administering blood tests and checking to make sure patients were using their

(Continued on page 2)

City of Marfa begins budgeting process for 2023-2024 fiscal year

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — The Marfa City Council met last week for the first in a series of workshops to hash out the 2023-2024 city budget.

The mayor's preliminary proposed budget involves a 3% cost of living adjustment for full-time city employees, raising customer rates for garbage collection, spending \$2.1 million on street repair projects — a carry over from last year's budget, unable to be completed due to delays in engineering services.

The city's roughly \$12 million budget is supported by \$8 million in revenue from city services and taxes, including \$580,000 in property tax collections, as well as a \$3.5 million tax note the city took out last year for capital improvement projects that it must spend over the next two years and pay off in seven.

The city will collect slightly less property taxes in 2023-2024 than the previous year, Presidio County Tax Assessor Collector Natalia Williams told council members, due to a \$39 million increase in taxable values that caused the tax rate to go down.

The city's current property tax rate is \$0.371 per \$100 taxable value and the new rate — which council voted to accept but is pending final approval after a public hearing later in September — will be \$0.323, a decrease from the previous year.

Below is a breakdown of the key takeaways from the proposed budget.

Emergency services

Marfa's EMS budget was chief among concerns raised by city officials during the budgeting process. In a letter submitted Wednesday, the city requested that the county nearly double its regular allotment to Marfa EMS, arguing the current allotment is not equitable compared to what the county gives the city of Presidio. County commissioners said they would consider the request but that they're working with a tight budget themselves. (For a full story on the EMS budgeting, see "As budget process begins, Marfa requests greater allotment of county EMS funds.")

In other emergency services news, phase one of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department expansion, which involves constructing weatherized storage for equipment and vehicles, is nearly complete, said Roane. The long-awaited project finally received a funding boost last year with the help of a \$224,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from the county as well as tax note funds from the city. Roane said the fire department still had some funds to contribute, as did the city, and it would cost around \$70,000 to see phase two of the project — interior additions of an ADA-accessible restroom, laundry room and kitchen — completed.

"We'll finish phase one because that was the big one, and then phase two we'll see what is left over in our funds, what we can scrape together from the county, if they want to give us anything else, and then the fire department's banked funds," said Roane. "Then we're just going to piece it out over the next couple of years until we get it done."

Utilities

As it did last year, the city will increase water and wastewater customer rates by another 8% this year, which it plans to do for five consecutive years in order to pay

(Continued on page 3)

2023-2024 fiscal year

(Continued from page 1)

for costs of running the service as well as fund infrastructure projects. The regular increases were initiated by a water and wastewater rate study conducted last summer, prompted by the fact that the city hadn't raised customer rates since 2015.

The city has budgeted \$923,000 for solid waste removal, an increase from the \$539,000 budgeted last year. The city renewed their contract with solid waste removal company Republic Services, which, although the most competitive bid, saw costs increase by around 40% — fees the city will have to pass down to its customers but plans to absorb to some degree to lessen the impact, said Roane and Baeza.

“On average everything went up like 42%,” said Roane. “People are going to see that increase in their trash rates because we went five years without an increase, and I think Republic probably did take a hit when you look at how much gas [increased] and inflation. We were riding along at that old rate.”

City staff

Baeza explained that the city's original goal was to offer a 5% cost of living adjustment to full-time employees, but a 3% bump was what the city could currently afford. Last year, the city opted to approve a 3% raise for only hourly employees.

Roane said salaried employees had not seen a raise since 2019. In addition to the cost of living adjustments, she had worked with the mayor and the city's contract accountant, Dan Dunlap, to establish a system for merit raises across city departments.

“We went through and calculated if they do get the merit raise how much it will be, so we feel pretty confident in the salaries for every department,” said Roane.

Baeza said there was also a purposeful emphasis on providing training and professional development for city staff this year. “One of the things we pushed a lot, if you noticed through all departments, is travel, training — law enforcement as well — we want them to be as trained as possible, we

want them to better themselves,” said Baeza.

Miscellaneous

The city intends to push forward on \$2.1 million worth of street repairs originally budgeted for last year that were unable to begin in earnest due to engineering delays. Routes slated for repair include Third Street, from SH17 west to Austin Street; Gonzales Street, from Columbia to Third Street; Summer Street, from Columbia to Lincoln Street; and Edinburg, from U.S. 90 to Sacramento Street.

New code enforcement department initiatives, which are being headed up by City Secretary Kelly Perez, saw an increase in revenue from the previous year. Since the city has begun more stringently enforcing alcohol permits for local businesses, it has brought in \$6,000 compared to the previous year's \$175, and short-term rental registration fees — which council opted to raise significantly and finally begin to enforce last year, causing some STR owner push back — totaled around \$53,000 out of \$62,500 budgeted. The city budgeted to receive \$62,500 again next year. That money is helping support Perez's salary and permit enforcement.

Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds will likely be spent on repairs to the historic USO, or Marfa Visitor's Center, and Baeza said the Marfa Activities Center (MAC) was badly due for upgrades as well, including adding insulation to the building, totally redoing the bathrooms and the dance floor. (Discussions as to how to utilize the MAC building moving forward, including its potential as an aquatic facility and community center, have taken place in the recent past but have since stalled.)

“I want to beautify that MAC building since we're going to hang onto it,” said Baeza. “It's a great facility, but it's also like 35 or 45 years old now.”

Two additional budget workshops will take place next week on Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. at City Hall in the Caser Room. A draft budget should be uploaded to the city's website soon. The Big Bend Sentinel will provide updates in forthcoming issues.

School board grapples with district's aging cooling systems

By MARY CANTRELL

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MARFA — With students back in school as of mid-August, school board members and administrators are working to mitigate failing cooling systems in the elementary school and cafeteria by bringing in a number of large industrial-grade fans.

The ongoing facilities challenge was discussed in a school board meeting this week and comes at a time where the district is finalizing its 2023-2024 budget, which is anticipated to have a \$1 million deficit. The district, like others across the state, is hoping a forthcoming public education-focused special legislative session will result in a vital increase in state aid.

After the district's \$57 million bond for a brand new K-12 school was rejected by voters last fall, it's been faced with coming up with alternative solutions to its facilities problems.

When budget discussions initially began this past May, updates to the cafeteria — which is outfitted with an inadequate swamp cooler system — were highlighted as a need by Chief Financial Officer Rosela Rivera, who said the district may need to dip into reserve accounts to cover necessary HVAC and flooring upgrades.

The elementary school campus, which runs off a boiler system, also suffers from extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. In May, Elementary Principal Amy White said both cooling and heating systems were routinely failing. Former Junior and High School Principal Luane Porter said the district nurse had even helped kids that were becoming sick due to suboptimal temperatures.

With this summer's historic heat waves, the start of the new school year saw similar issues persisting. Board President Teresa Nuñez said she had recently received feedback from concerned parents.

“I've had a couple of parents reach out to me, like at the grocery store, and they're like, ‘Hey, what's going on? It's been hot. Our kids have been sent home with headaches,’ and stuff like that. I'm like, we're working on it,” said Nuñez.

The school board will pass a finalized budget and tax rate this coming Monday. Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez did not return requests for comment on the matter and potential solutions, including what facilities upgrades to the elementary school and cafeteria made it into the final budget.

For now, with the help of Board Member Rene Gonzales, the district obtained three large fans with water reservoirs to help cool down buildings during school hours, which Alferez reported to the board as improving the situation. “You can feel the difference,” he said.

Board Member Lori Flores asked White if the fan stationed on her campus was adequate. White said the second floor of the elementary school was still too hot, but they were working on getting the water added to the fans to get cool air flowing. She said more fans were likely needed to be more effective, but that may not be a cost-effective solution. (CFO Rivera did not immediately respond to requests for comment on how much the fans cost or if the district paid for them.)

“We probably need three more so every hall gets one, [but] that's going to be way expensive,” said White.

“It's better than what it was, so we'll take it, definitely,” she added.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In your 8-17-23 issue I read about county officials deliberating property tax rates.

Over the years, Marfa has exploded and is the “place to go!” I know this from the first of my annual visits beginning in 1970 and each year until 2021.

Presidio County officials simply need to “suck it up,” raise taxes and reduce exemptions. The county has many very “large” property owners, very successful businesses and wealthy people that need to “pony up”!

Presidio County officials, do your job for the betterment of the county and STOP thinking about your JOB!

Richard L. Stone
Austin

We want to hear from YOU!

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

Groundwater joint planning: A pathway to a desired future

By TREY GERFERS
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Groundwater management areas (GMAs) across the state are currently in the thick of a new round of groundwater joint planning, a process that has been taking place in five-year cycles since 2005. The 16 groundwater management areas in Texas were created to “provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of the groundwater,” according to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). GMAs seek to achieve these objectives by studying the available data and developing what are known as desired future conditions, or DFCs, for the aquifers they manage. DFCs are commonly understood to involve acceptable drawdown levels in regional aquifers over a 50-year time window.

GMA 4 is the management area that covers the Big Bend region, including all of Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties along with parts of Culberson and Hudspeth counties. GMA 4’s joint planning encompasses the Edwards-Trinity, Pecos Valley, Bone Spring-Victorio Peak, Capitan Reef Complex, Igneous, Marathon, Rustler, and the West Texas Bolsons Aquifers (in whole or in part).

Robert Bradley is a groundwater technical assistance manager with the TWDB, who has been advising GMA 4 on its joint planning efforts for 18 years now. When asked to explain the process to a layperson, he described it as a “forum for stakeholders to come together and discuss groundwater issues and planning ... the process gives a framework whereby groundwater resources are managed for future generations.” He also stated that the process is “the way by which groundwater conservation districts within a groundwater management area cooperatively work together to develop policy statements called desired future conditions. These statements describe how districts want the aquifer conditions to be at some point in the future.”

In addition to the data collected by each individual groundwater district, GMAs can also use groundwater availability models, or GAMs, developed by TWDB to understand the volumes available for future planning purposes. Once a GMA arrives at its proposed DFCs, each groundwater conservation district has 90 days to accept public comments, which are then incorporated into the DFCs that the GMA ultimately adopts. According to Bradley: “These desired future conditions are then used by the TWDB to estimate pumping volumes known as modeled available groundwater [or MAGs]. These estimates are the amount of groundwater that can be pumped to achieve the desired future condition for an aquifer.”

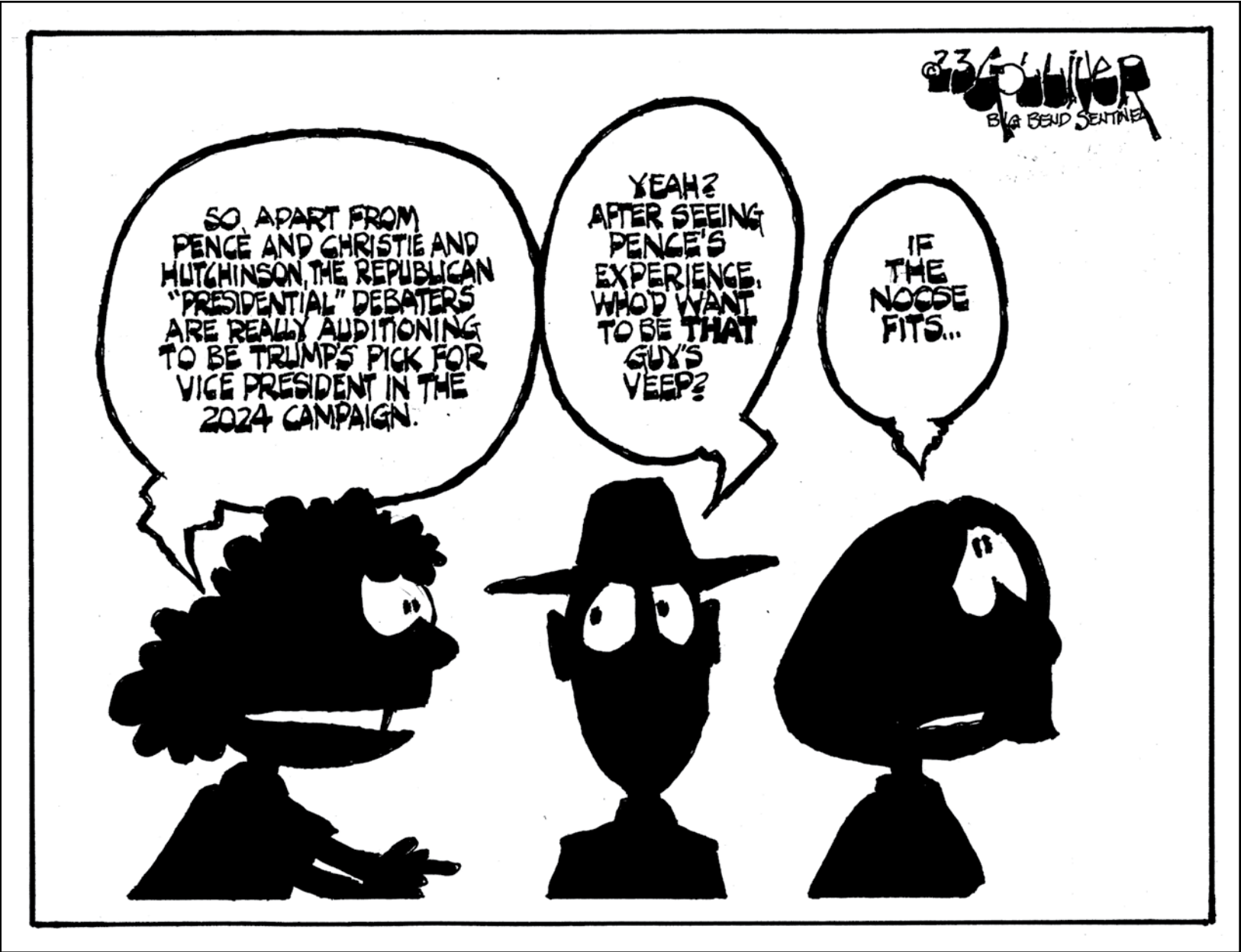
GMAs? DFCs? MAGs? GAMs? The alphabet soup of groundwater management in Texas can be difficult to navigate for the ordinary folks that comprise groundwater conservation district boards across the state. This is why many GMAs hire consultants to guide them through the regulatory labyrinth of the joint planning process. At a recent meeting in Van Horn, GMA 4 representatives hired RMBJ Geo, Inc. and Close Consulting Group LLC to manage the statutory timelines, gather the requisite data, run groundwater models, and write the explanatory report. According to Amy Bush of RMBJ Geo, “One of the biggest obstacles to effective joint planning is that people just don’t understand the whole process. The ... multiple steps and organizations involved are enough to make you pull your hair out ... The process includes stakeholder input at several points, and requires the consideration of nine factors, including aquifer uses and conditions, environmental issues, private property rights, and local economies.” GMA 4 representatives were motivated to hire Bush and her colleagues because of their experience with other GMAs, where a widely divergent availability of data, highly variable demands on groundwater resources and extreme budget differences among member districts create difficulties that are not dissimilar to the difficulties faced by GMA 4.

According to Bradley, the most challenging aspect of this work is the “lack of public participation in the groundwater joint planning process. Sometimes folks don’t get involved in the process until the later stages of planning when decisions have already been made. And while it’s helpful to have that engagement, it would be most beneficial to everyone involved if there’s a high level of engagement earlier and throughout the process.”

The next meeting of Groundwater Management Area 4 will take place at the Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District office in Van Horn on Tuesday, November 14, at 10 a.m.

Local groundwater management area meeting schedules can also be found at: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/management_areas/schedule/index.asp

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

Buns N’ Roses closed after serving Marfa for over a decade

By H. CATCHING MARGINOT
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MARFA — In late July, beloved local restaurant Buns N’ Roses carried out its last day of service, ending the mainstay’s run of roughly 11 years serving traditional breakfast platters and donuts to the community.

When mother-daughter team Etta Debbie Sproul-Parrott and Janika LeAnne Gilly first opened their doors in 2012, they recall, there was more demand than supply for places to eat in town. The family has deep roots in Marfa — Gilly’s great-grandmother Agnes Franks founded the Thunderbird Restaurant back in 1963. The duo drew upon those roots to launch their own operation.

They first conceived of the spot as part flower shop, part limited eatery serving light fare — that vision quickly shifted to the full menu patrons enjoyed until the last day.

“We were going to do flowers, a few sweets, and light sandwiches — well, that didn’t happen,” said Sproul-Parrott. “It became a full-blown breakfast and lunch operation.”

They were known for their classic breakfast diner menu, from generous bacon and egg plates to homemade donuts, rolled and fried right in the kitchen. The pumpkin waffles made every fall were a personal favorite of the mother and daughter. Eventually, the flower-selling side of the operation dwindled, but the food offerings stayed.

Looking back, Sproul-Parrott and Gilly attribute their decade-plus success in Marfa to the support of kind customers and friends.

“It’s hard owning a business, especially in a small town,” said Gilly. “You have good days and bad days like any business, but you get attached to the people. They become like your family. I miss my customers already.”

The last day of service was busy, but quite the send off for the pair. Loyal patrons wanted pictures to document the farewell and bid emotional goodbyes. The owners said they are immensely grateful for those patrons and their support over the years.

“Thank you so much for all the years of support and friendships,” said Gilly, who gave a special shout-out to longtime employee Vanessa Sanchez. “We will miss everybody,” added Sproul-Parrott.



Alexandra Rau, LCSW
Therapy for individuals and couples

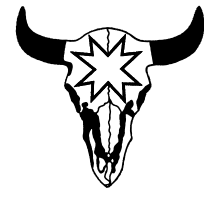
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August 25

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Big Bend Reproductive Coalition to host Marfa town hall

MARFA — The Big Bend Reproductive Coalition (BBRC) will hold a town hall in Marfa on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 7 p.m. at The Sentinel. The town hall is the second of five that will take place across the region.

The months-long community needs assessment process includes town halls, anonymous electronic survey, and door-to-door canvassing. Big Bend Reproductive Coalition hopes to learn about potential service gaps and what types of services and educational opportunities women and people with a uterus would like access to, including reproductive healthcare services, funding, workshops, support, community events and more.

This information will help inform how BBRC will serve the community. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer for the community needs assessment, please reach out to morganneBconsulting@gmail.com.

Future town halls will take place in Fort Davis, Terlingua and Presidio. The town halls are free and open to all. There will be Spanish language interpretation at each event.

For more information about the Big Bend Reproductive Coalition, visit www.bigbendrc.org.

Marfa Studio of Arts announces new SITES coordinator

MARFA — Marfa Studio of Arts is entering the 18th consecutive year of bringing quality arts education to all the children of Marfa Elementary School. The MSA is excited to announce a new coordinator of the “Studio in the Elementary School” program, Sam Dwyer. For the last several years Julie Fischer has been a dedicated coordinator but will pass the torch to Dwyer for the upcoming school year.

Sam Dwyer grew up on a farm in northwestern Connecticut, before moving to Brooklyn and studying art at The New School. After college, Dwyer began working in 3-D design and fabrication while studying with the designer Stephen Alesch of Roman & Williams, a great patron, art teacher, and collector.

For several years before COVID, Dwyer was crafting educational toys that a biotech company used at trade shows to explain the workings of viral vector gene therapy. During COVID he bought land in Terlingua and slowly built a stone hut while living in the desert. This is where he found his love for the area and decided to stay.

Moving to Marfa, Dwyer began to work in the community to build

strong relationships. He has periodically operated an extremely late night restaurant with friends and opened the worker-owned coffee co-op at Starbucks Marfa. Asked why he wanted to join MSA, Dwyer writes: “I applied for the coordinator role at MSA because I thought that my broad array of skills both as an artist and organizer could make an impact. The instructional team at the MSA SITES program is fantastic, and I am so excited to both be working with them and with the kids — who are the future!”

The school year for SITES will be launched with a kick-off party and silent auction to fund the school arts program. Area artists have generously given their art and their hearts to help continue this important program. The party will be on Thursday, August 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. with food, beverage, music and the opportunity to bid on these beautiful art works that will support art classes at Marfa Elementary. Come meet Sam Dwyer and help celebrate another year of SITES at MSA Gallery, 105 East San Antonio (Marfa Public Radio building).



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

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
110 W Washington Street
Marfa 432-729-4534



Share Your Thoughts About REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS in the Big Bend Area

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition is a practical care organization that provides support to women and people who can get pregnant in our region. We want to hear your thoughts about our region’s needs!

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION #2:

TUESDAY | AUGUST 29 | 7 PM

The Sentinel, 209 W. El Paso St., Marfa, TX

Meetings in Fort Davis, Presidio, and Terlingua coming soon. Learn more:



bigbendrc.org
@bbreproductivecoalition



Sports updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — The Lady Horns volleyball team just won a thrilling match Tuesday evening with a five set win over Rankin. Although the game had an intense, back and forth flow, Marfa managed to pull through and secure the victory.

Sparking the team was Maryfer Martinez, who started set one with exceptional diving plays and strong kills to put Marfa ahead. Raven Martinez and Ava Flores stepped up in sets four and five with their powerful spikes accompanied by amazing teamwork by all players. Head Coach Priscila Serrano stated she was proud of the team for overcoming a 1-2 deficit heading into set 4 because it provided a preview of the strong confidence

that is building within the team. Marfa now heads to Fort Stockton Friday to play in the Comanche Classic. Brackets can be found on the Shorthorn Page and Marfa ISD website.

Our Shorthorn football team is having an incredibly promising season after three weeks of practice and two scrimmages. The Horns bring back a talented group of seniors and juniors and their chemistry is currently off the charts! Coach Ramirez stated, “Our players are showing exceptional skills on the field, from their speed to their pinpoint accuracy on the defensive side of the ball.” With their dedication and hard work that began this summer, the team is set to have a promising season. Marfa’s season opener is this Friday at the SRSU Six Man Shootout in Alpine against Sanderson. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics

The Lady Shorthorns Volleyball team.

MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

MAY	Thu, Aug 24	Fri, Aug 25	Mon, Aug 28	Tue, Aug 29	Wed, Aug 30
BREAKFAST	BURRITO, HASH BROWN	SHORTHORNS SUCCESS DAY	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, YOGURT	CHEESE OMELET, TOAST	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH	POPCORN CHICKEN, ROLL, CORN, BROCCOLI, APPLE SLICED, COOKIE	SHORTHORNS SUCCESS DAY	ENCHILADAS, BEANS, CORN, ORANGE SMILE, COOKIE	CHICKEN-WAFFLES, HASH BROWN, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, FRUIT	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC&CHEESE, CARROTS, BROCCOLI, GRAPES

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MARFA SHORTHORNS
SPORTS CALENDAR

THU - SAT, AUG 24 - 26: HS Volleyball @ Fort Stockton Tournament, times/brackets pending
FRI, AUG 25: HS Football Six Man Shoot Out vs Sanderson @ SRSU in Alpine, 7:30pm
TUE, AUG 29: HS Volleyball vs Van Horn @ Van Horn / McCamey. 4:00pm



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics

Shorthorns take a knee during a recent scrimmage against the Van Horn Eagles. The team will compete in the annual Sul Ross Six Man Shootout this Friday.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 21, 2023

ACROSS

1 Opposite of basic
7 Expert in one area, maybe
13 Uma of “Pulp Fiction”
15 Reindeer
16 Marketing position whose salary could be \$73,000, per Glassdoor
18 Convention figure
19 Pops’ partners, perhaps
22 Wipe off
23 “There’s a chance”
27 Some moving vans
29 Larry, Curly or Moe
31 Take potshots
32 Contemplative sound
35 Residents of Valinor, in “The Lord of the Rings”
36 Business card no.
37 Subgenre of a Jamaican music style
40 Work connections
41 “Brandenburg Concertos” composer
43 Classic action figure
44 Toenail treatment, for short
45 Incoming flight stats
46 The (Manhattan neighbor)
47 Lasting mark

48 Messenger molecule
50 Dangerous pellets
51 Big ____
52 Part of mpg
54 Completely destroy
57 Unwell
60 Sampled, as clothing
62 Like convenient shopping
64 Ancient
65 On an angle
66 Air attacks
67 Island south of Martinique

20 “Wow, cool!”
21 Postal position whose salary could be \$42,000, per Glassdoor
24 Film position whose salary could be \$63,000, per Glassdoor
25 Meeting plan
26 Respectful assent
28 “____ Miz”
30 Golf prop
32 Glam metal groups
33 Supposedly low-wage occupations ... or, parsed another way, a clue to this puzzle’s theme
34 Astronomically ambitious projects
38 Soviet spy org.

T. ____
42 Alternative to QVC
44 The Nittany Lions of the NCAA
49 “Same here”
51 What a witch casts
52 Sch. groups
53 It may precede a conclusion
55 Spicy chocolate sauce
56 Apartment, e.g.
58 Actress
59 Sports org. for Lydia Ko
61 Suffix that tops -er
63 Name that is three consecutive letters

DOWN

1 Banking device
2 Andy Warhol subject
3 Alternative to the pill, briefly
4 Stops functioning, as a well
5 Way to see the big picture?
6 Browser memories
7 Lightly fries
8 Woody Guthrie’s son
9 Harsh criticism
10 Court org.
11 Starter starter?
12 Palindromic cluck
14 Genre for “The Big Sleep”
15 Forensic pros
17 Court org.
19 “There’s no other explanation”

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

MY G O D S H A G R E V S
A M A N A K E T O N I T
S C R A M E A S T O T T O
C A B B A G E L E A F H A N
E G O A S A R U L E
A M A T E U R S E R O S
R E Q P O L I C E L I N E
C R U S T M O D S L A I N
H E A T E D P O O L S K I
M A N E P L A C A T E D
N I A G A R A M A R
E R R M I X E D B R E E D S
P A I L V I L E P O L I O
A N N A E A S E E L M E R
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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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

It's a Living by Zachary David Levy

8/21

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					

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Photo courtesy of Crawford Marginot
2023-2024 Marfa Varsity Cheerleaders. Left to right: Co-Captain Belen Soto, Madison Cash, Itzel Urrutia, Kayla Vasquez, Giselle Torres, Co-Captain Amaya Gomez.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Presented by



Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

Thu
Aug
24

Social Bike Ride
6:30pm - 7:30pm at the Alpine Visitor Center in Alpine
Come enjoy a lovely evening bike ride. Meet at the Alpine Visitor Center at 6:30. The ride will be a leisurely 1 hour with some stops for resting. It will end at the Richey Wine Bar and Beer Saloon. All are invited and ride at their own risk.

Fri
Aug
25

Open Weekend at Davis Mountains Preserve
8/25 - 8/27 in Fort Davis
No reservation required! All dates are Open Weekend Events with overnight camping available from 8:00am Friday – 5:00pm
Second Chance Film Screening
6:00pm - 9:00pm at the Granada Theatre, 207 E Holland in Alpine
Come see the free screening of “Second Chance”. A short film about the natural recolonization of black bears in West Texas. The Borderlands Research Institute is thrilled to be featured in the film. Cocktail hour will begin at 6pm at Alcove Social, followed by a screening of the film at 7pm and a short Q&A with the makers of the film.
Alpine Public Library’s Travel Talk
7:00pm AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room at APL in Alpine
Anita and Warren Shaul will present Four Years in Nicaragua: Culture, Coffee, and Conflict Cloaked in Natural Beauty.
Presidio’s 8th Annual Dark Skies Music Series: Doug Moreland
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!

Tue
Aug
29

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition Town Hall Discussion #2: Reproductive Health Needs
7:00pm at The Sentinel, 209 W El Paso Street in Marfa
BBRC is a practical care organization that provides support to women and people who can get pregnant in our region. We want to hear your thoughts about our region’s needs!

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

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

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Francisco Rosas
11th Grade
Marker

Attention
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Join the Marfa Lights
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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.

The Jeff Davis Appraisal District, located in Fort Davis, Texas is accepting resumes, for an office staff position.

Salary is contingent upon office experience and qualifications. Applicants are asked to disclose salary expectations and earliest availability date with their resume. A health insurance and retirement package are provided, with employment.

The board of directors reserves the right to accept applications until the position is filled.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Late Hours Certificate (LH) by Bockellan LLC dba The Water Stop, located at 1300 W San Antonio St, Marfa, Presidio, Texas to be used at events taking place outside city limits. Partners of said LLC are Rebecca Ines Bockelie, Managing Member and Jean-Marc Francois Ruellan, Managing Member.



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