THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

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

County officials approve another 'declaration of local disaster' over 'border crisis'— with toned-down rhetoric

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Presidio County Commissioners on Wednesday approved an "Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster" for the county, citing an influx of undocumented migrants and border-related crimes in other border communities. The action grants County Judge Joe Portillo emergency powers to exercise if he sees fit and will allow the county to file for reimbursement from the state for law enforcement and other emergency-related costs.

"This is strictly proactive, preventative," said Portillo — a point he emphasized repeatedly. He acknowledged that Presidio County has not seen the uptick in migrant crossings seen in Eagle Pass, Del Rio or El Paso, likely due to the inhospitable terrain of the surrounding desert. Still, he pointed to a recent event wherein a group of migrants was left stranded in a Chihuahua City rail yard while attempting to ride atop a train to Ciudad Juárez.

Chihuahua City is mere hours from Presidio, said Portillo, leading him to wonder how the county could respond if a large group of migrants showed up at the Presidio Port of Entry.

"We would be ill-prepared to give them even water, let alone food," said Portillo. "This just puts us in a position to act quickly."

The declaration itself, and discussion among commissioners over its passage, were inevitably dogged by the controversial declaration of local disaster passed last year by then-County Judge Cinderela Guevara, which characterized activity at the border as an "invasion" — language strongly condemned by immigrant rights groups for fueling violent extremism. (The white gunman who carried out a mass shooting at an El Paso Wal-Mart in 2019 had cited a "Hispanic invasion of Texas" as a motive.)

In the following months,

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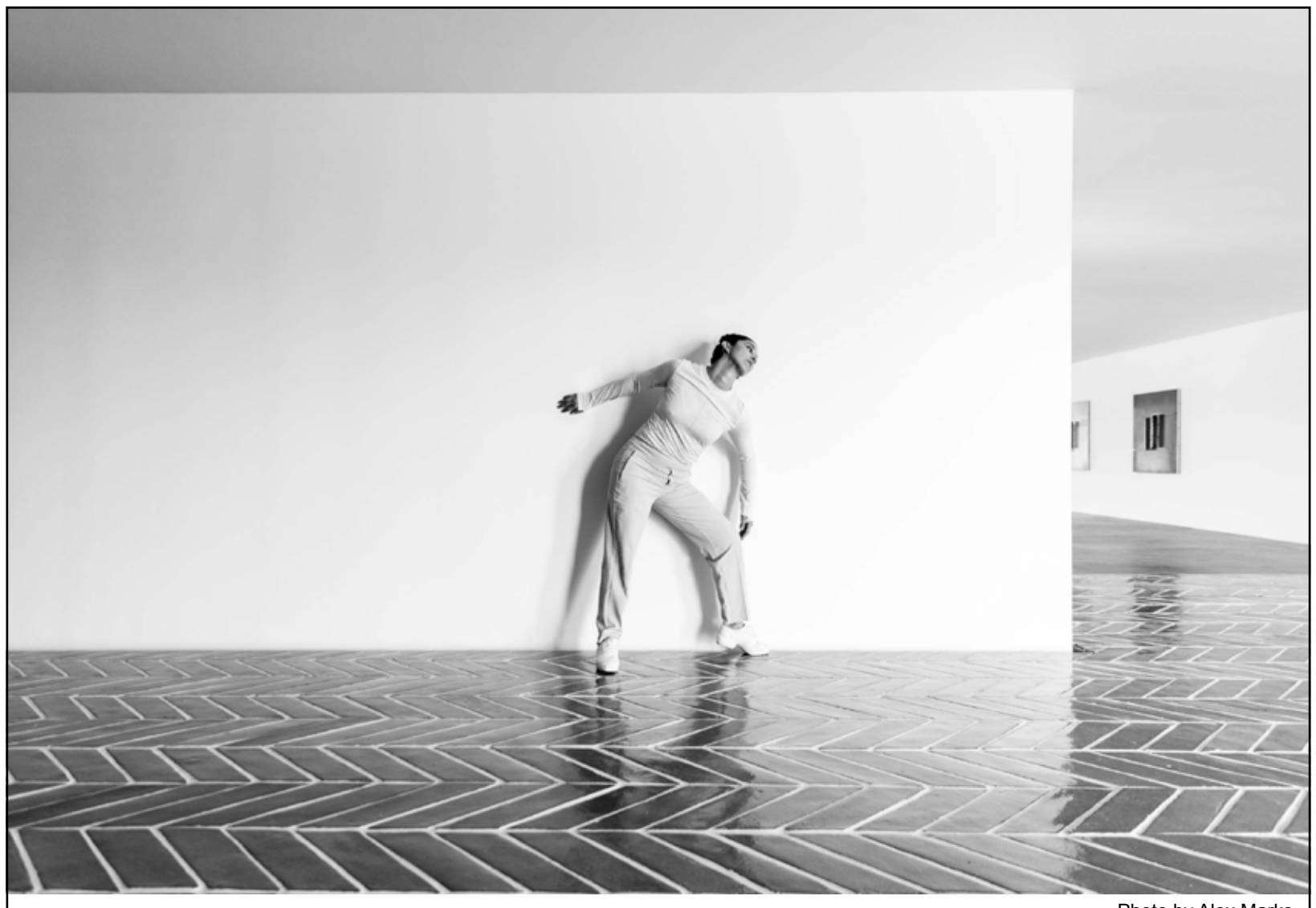


Photo by Alex Marks

Laura Gutierrez performs on Sarah Crowner's "Platform (Blue Green Terracotta for JC)" on Saturday as part of the 36th annual Chinati Weekend. READ MORE ON PAGE 5.

Lipan Apache Cemetery project to be completed with Mellon Foundation grant

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — This Monday, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance announced — in collaboration with the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas — that the Lipan Apache Cemetery project in Presidio will be completed early next year with the help of funding from the Mellon Foundation. A portion of the $650,000 grant will go to a study that will help local groups identify and prioritize the needs of Indigenous communities in Far West Texas.

The cemetery — located on Market Street in Presidio — was active through the 19th century as the final resting place of local Lipan Apache families. The only family names confirmed at the site come from the Aguilar and Ornelas families, but many more Presidians can probably trace their roots to the small, dusty plot.

Over the years, the cemetery was lost to the city's expansion and to general neglect. A small group of families banded to take care of the site, which was the victim of vandalism and of development on top of the burial mound.

Christina Hernandez — a descendent of the Aguilar family buried at the cemetery — grew up clearing trash from the site and tending to the graves. As she grew older, she became concerned that the cemetery would continue to suffer from incursions from urban development and decided to do something about it.

With the help of the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, Hernandez and her family and friends worked with the Lipan Apache tribe to preserve the site. The first phase was convincing the city and county to deed the land to the Lipan Apache, and then an extensive design process unfolded.

The Lipan Apache Cemetery project is both a preservation project and an educational initiative. Joseph Kunkel of MASS Design Lab — an Indigenous lead design firm — helped create a master plan with local input.

The design employs gabion wall construction to help stabilize the burial mound and set it apart from the rest of the street. Those walls will create a walking path to help guide visitors respectfully through the site. Interpretive materials along the path will help newcomers engage with Lipan Apache history and culture.

As the driving force behind the project, Hernandez was excited to see the project near completion. "The way we are framing the project

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Fraught budget process, resulting in lower tax rate, deepens divisions in Jeff Davis County government

By MARY CANTRELL
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JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — Tense silence and shifting glances preempted a Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court meeting last week, one that met for the sole purpose of adopting a tax rate roughly 10% lower than the previous year's — a move strong-armed by two county commissioners whose month-long refusals to attend budget meetings pushed the county past the deadline to adopt a higher rate.

With that deadline cleared, county commissioners Royce Laskoskie and Roy Hurley — who each missed four consecutive meetings to protest the proposed tax rate increase — finally showed up. The occasion was seen as cause for thanking God during the meeting's customary opening prayer.

"We just thank you for these gentlemen that showed up today to be part of this court and [pray] that you give them the knowledge and wisdom that they need to make the decisions for our county," said deputy County Clerk Carol Truax.

Their absences, and the resulting tax rate drop, has put the county in a difficult financial position, according to County Judge Curtis Evans, who did not mince words while reprimanding the officials.

"The best tool you have is your voice. You need to be available to your constituents and to the voting public of this county," said Evans, addressing Laskoskie and Hurley in commissioners court. "This was a very big slap in the face to everyone. I'm very disgusted by it."

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*, the newly-elected duo — both of whom assumed office this year — argued they were standing up against a tax rate increase that they said would have negatively impacted the county's citizens and businesses, many of which were already struggling financially.

"This is a poor county," said Laskoskie. "From the very first time we were handed budget sheets at all, the first thing that was said was, 'We got to raise taxes.'"

But Evans and County Commissioner John Davis argued those sentiments were never expressed in any of their budget workshops or otherwise, and after initial budget discussions Laskoskie and Hurley simply stopped showing up.

(Continued on page 2)

TxDOT seeks public input on proposed bike lanes for Presidio and Brewster counties

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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TRI-COUNTY — The Texas Department of Transportation, El Paso District, will be accepting public comments until this Friday, October 13, on two proposed stretches of bike lanes alongside highways in Presidio and Brewster counties. If all goes according to plan, the projects are slated to begin construction in March of 2024.

One of the proposed sets of bike lanes would span U.S. 67/90 between Marfa, where 67 intersects with State Highway 17, and the Brewster County line, according to presentation materials provided by TxDOT.

That project will consist of 6-inch dedicated bike lanes on both sides of the road within Marfa, until about South Spring Street, according to TxDOT spokesperson Lauren Macias-Cervantes. After Spring Street, "bike accessible shoulders" varying in width from 5 to 10 inches in width will be placed on both sides of the highway, up until the Brewster County line.

That project has an estimated completion date of summer 2024 and will cost approximately $16,394,258.35, according to presentation materials.

The other project would span a stretch of Highway 118 — or Ranch Road 1837 — traveling south into Alpine, ending at Avenue E. It will consist of 5-inch "bike accessible shoulders" on both sides of the highway beginning at the Brewster/Jeff Davis county line up until John West Road in Alpine, said Macias-Cervantes, at which point there will be 5-inch dedicated bike lanes with a 3-inch buffer on both sides of the highway until East Lockhart Avenue. "Share the road signs" will be installed after the bike lanes' termination at Lockhart Ave.

That project is slated for a spring 2026 completion date, and will cost approximately $5,281,658.28.

The bike lanes are part of a broader initiative from TxDOT's El Paso District to introduce more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure within the district — the Presidio and Brewster County projects are the only components of the plan that fall outside of El Paso County. More information on the project can be found at https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/el-paso/bike-ped-092823.html.

A public hearing on the project took place on September 28. Citizens who did not attend that

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Jeff Davis County EMS Director contests notice of violation from Department of State Health Services

By MARY CANTRELL
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FORT DAVIS — Jeff Davis County EMS Director Peggy Fonseca received a notice of violation from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) this August for failing to follow protocol when responding to a call for a person in cardiac arrest in May.

Fonseca met this week with a DSHS panel for an informal conference on the matter, which she requested. She will have the opportunity to present facts to the panel, and it is possible the notice of violation could be modified or even withdrawn depending on what is presented, according to a DSHS spokesperson.

If it is not withdrawn, Fonseca can decide whether to "accept any proposed enforcement action," likely a 90-day suspension, or proceed with a hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, said DSHS.

The notice of violation — which is addressed to Fonseca — is the result of an investigation conducted by DSHS into her EMT practice. The notice states that upon her arrival on scene to a cardiac arrest patient in May, "an assessment of the person was completed, and the person was determined to be apneic and pulseless." However, it states, she then failed to "perform life saving interventions" on the individual as required by Jeff Davis County EMS and medical director's protocols.

In the notice of violation letter, DSHS suggested suspending Fonseca's EMT-paramedic certification as well as her instructor certification for 90 days, but to date no such suspension has occurred, said County Judge Curtis Evans. The matter was discussed in executive session — where officials discuss personnel or legal matters out of the public eye — during a September Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court meeting, but no action was taken on the matter.

Judge Evans said he is waiting to see how proceedings play out before taking any action but referred to the situation as "a witch hunt" — specifically, one led by a member within his own court, County Commissioner Royce Laskoskie.

"That man is doing nothing but trying to dig up dirt on everyone," said Evans, who added that he has also been targeted by Laskoskie, who was repeatedly calling the Texas Association of Counties legal department to "try and find something [Evans] has done illegal" to no avail.

Laskoskie denied the witch hunt allegation, stating that Fonseca was under investigation due to her own behavior. He said he believed the matter was not being taken seriously by the court and took issue with her receiving a raise this budget cycle. He said her leadership as head of the county's EMS department has been "nothing short of a hostile corporate takeover."

"I do have very grave concerns for the safety of our community due to the nature of the investigation into Ms. Fonseca's failure to provide

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Jeff Davis County government

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"I don't know where the opposition came from," said Davis. "It certainly was not voiced in any of our hearings, our budget, our tax rate hearings or workshops, either."

In the end, it came down to Evans, Davis and Commissioner Jody Adams passing the budget without the other two commissioners. Because Jeff Davis County originally proposed an increased tax rate to support its budget — which still would have left the county with a $200,000-plus deficit — a supermajority vote, or four out of five votes in favor rather than the typical three out of five votes, was required.

By Laskoskie and Hurley not showing up to meetings to adopt a tax rate, they forced the county to miss a vital September 30 deadline. According to the state tax code, counties that do not adopt a tax rate by the deadline are required to choose the lower of two potential rates: the preceding year's rate, or what is called the "no new revenue rate" — which, as the name suggest, is a tax rate that will result in the same amount of revenue as the previous year, despite whether the taxing entity's needs may have changed. In Jeff Davis County's case, the lower of the two was the no new revenue rate at .64335 per $100 taxable value.

That is a 10.66% decrease from the 2022 tax rate. Evans said the situation has caused the county's deficit to balloon to $500,000. The county plans to cover the deficit with reserves from last year's budget, which total around $500,000. (Evans explained that in order to pass a deficit budget, the county has to show it can cover that deficit).

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Laskoskie was explicit that his absence was in protest of a higher tax rate, but he also argued the budget process was conducted poorly by the judge. The process was confusing and lacked transparency, he claimed, arguing that important financial documents — including audits and grant updates — were not provided for commissioners, and the structure of the workshops made line item changes "impossible to follow."

Evans denied that the budget process was not followed properly, and said neither Laskoskie nor Hurley attempted to visit with him on an individual basis to discuss their concerns. (County Treasurer Dawn Kitts also said commissioners are kept abreast of financial matters and that she is available for questions).

Laskoskie said he and Hurley took the only stance they could to oppose a property tax increase and the adoption of a budget deficit, which he argued was avoidable.

"Just because we weren't at a few meetings doesn't mean we weren't keeping our eyes and ears open on this thing. We didn't just go hide out, we were listening to people and doing what needed to be done," said Laskoskie. "I will not apologize for doing the right thing."

The county's budget is largely supported by ad valorem, or property taxes, and every year commissioners vote to adopt a tax rate to support a proposed budget. This budget cycle, an increased tax rate of .72945 cents — up from the previous rate of .72017 cents, a 1.28% increase — per $100 taxable value was proposed.

That would have resulted in the county raising more money than last year's budget by around $314,000, roughly $29,000 of which would be raised from new property added to the rolls, according to the notice of the public hearing on the budget posted on the county's website.

The 1.28% increase would have brought in a significant influx of revenue due to climbing property values — average homestead value in the county increased from $136,048 in 2022 to $148,619 in 2023, according to a tax increase notice posted on the county site.

In neighboring Presidio and Brewster counties, an increase in property values saw county governments adopting lower tax rates for 2023 compared to the previous year but still opting for the highest rates available.

Presidio County, which began its budget cycle with a $680,000 deficit, discussed its potential tax rate at length, weighing the county's needs with taxpayer burden. How to afford costly improvements to critical services and infrastructure projects with virtually no industry to tax and rising inflation is an ongoing issue local officials contend with.

Evans attributed the original $200,000 deficit to legal expenses relating to the ongoing lawsuit with Fort Davis ISD and the Fort Davis Water Supply Corporation, professionalization of the EMS department, and attempting to adequately fund state-required indigent healthcare programs that have traditionally fallen by the wayside.

The EMS budget, which was up from the previous year due to its transition from a volunteer to paid service, was something Laskoskie took issue with, he said. He is in favor of a hybrid volunteer-paid service, but would have liked to see a slower transition to that model, versus switching to 90% paid all at once, to lessen the burden on taxpayers.

EMS Director Peggy Fonseca said she, too, would have liked to see that happen, but the service only had two licensed volunteers available, and it was difficult to recruit and retain volunteers. "We really don't have a lot of licensed volunteers to make it a hybrid model; that is why we are moving as fast as we can," Fonseca said.

Hurley said he supports EMS services, but was not in favor of a new bunkhouse, stating it cost the county money while the existing facility was operating just fine. The $435,000 structure was primarily funded through grants, with the Ft. Davis Volunteer Fire Department and the county contributing $5,000 each. Fonseca said the bunkhouse project preceded her tenure, but she believed it was needed and will help shorten emergency response times.

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Now, the county commissioners will have to reassess the adopted budget, making amendments throughout the year as needed. Both Commissioner Davis and Judge Evans expressed concern that the no new revenue rate would harm the county financially in the future and it would take years to get them back up near last year's tax rate.

"Coming into the following year is going to be even tighter," said Evans. "Because we can only raise taxes 3.5% without forcing a rollback election."

"There's quite a few things that we're gonna have to cut back on, and it's all because they refused to vote," he added.

At last week's meeting before Evans, Laskoskie and Hurley ultimately voted to approve the no new revenue rate. Commissioner Davis — his vote no longer needed, given the circumstances — took a symbolic stance by voting against the measure, stating he and the constituents he represents were robbed of their voice given Laskoskie and Hurley's actions.

Evans, who served as a county commissioner for 20 years before becoming judge, said the tax rate debacle was a first for the county. He said there is nothing the county court can do to penalize county commissioners in such a situation; it is up to citizens to petition to have them removed if they believe that is necessary. He said he took extreme measures, even asking Sheriff Bill Kitts to request Hurley's presence at an official meeting, all to no avail.

"That is your civic duty, elected duty, to work on a budget for your community for your county. That is very serious," said Evans. "That is the only requirement, honestly, of the commissioners, and they missed it."

The situation comes at a time where tensions are already high in the court. Earlier this year, soon after Hurley was elected county commissioner, Evans brought into question his ability to continue to serve as the county's fire marshal. In addition to concerns of dual office holding, Hurley's qualifications were also scrutinized.

The county is currently without a fire marshal, and Evans said he has since received numerous legal opinions Hurley may not operate as his own boss and was awaiting further counsel. (Commissioners court appoints and oversees the fire marshal.)

The matter of the county's new EMS Director Peggy Fonseca receiving a notice of violation from the Department of State Health Services, which she is contesting, has added to the tension. Evans claims the whole ordeal is a politically motivated "witch hunt" by Commissioner Laskoskie — an accusation Laskoskie denied while expressing concern about Fonseca's job performance (an article on the matter, titled "Jeff Davis County EMS Director contests notice of violation from Department of State Health Services," can be read in this week's edition of *The Big Bend Sentinel*).

At the tax rate adoption meeting last week, Commissioner Davis stated that he strives to listen to all of his constituents rather than a select few. In a follow up interview, he clarified that Laskoskie and Hurley seem to be listening primarily to certain citizens who routinely voice opposition that protested the tax increase, budget deficit, and more.

"There were a handful that were just adamant, but they're the same handful that are adamant against everything. They're the same group that does not want grants," said Davis.

"I represent all the folks, not just a handful, because the handful are generally the ones that scream the loudest," he added.

Commissioners, as well as the county judge, voiced the need to move forward with county business and put the tax rate disagreement in the rear view mirror.

"This was not a shirking of responsibility. I think it was doing our diligent duty for the taxpayers," said Laskoskie. "So today, it's time to get back, and let's get back on track."

"I want [citizens] to understand that those guys didn't do their job," said Evans. "[But] we got to move on. I don't want any more division, we have enough."

EMS director

(Continued from page 1)

life-saving interventions," said Laskoskie. "I take this matter very seriously as the state is considering a 90-day suspension of her licensing."

The violation, and accompanying incendiary accusations, come at a time of heightened political tension among the county officials. Laskoskie, along with County Commissioner Roy Hurley, recently forced a lower tax rate by refraining from showing up to participate in the budget process — behavior Judge Evans said "disgusted" him. (A story on the larger budget controversy, titled "Fraught budget process, resulting in lower tax rate, deepens divisions in Jeff Davis County government," can be found in this week's edition of *The Big Bend Sentinel*).

Evans added that Fonseca, who has been in the role for a little over a year after the retirement of Vickie Fowler, has excelled at her job by successfully onboarding paid EMS staff, helping professionalize a previously volunteer-run entity — then the only remaining in the Big Bend region.

"Our volunteers were phasing out, and we had to do something or close the doors," said Evans. "Peggy has brought it around to where it is a viable service, and it is helping the citizens of Jeff Davis County."

Fonseca declined to comment for this story.

The notice of violation comes after an initial letter, dated June 5 and addressed to Jeff Davis County Ambulance, detailed that a complaint had been filed with DSHS regarding Fonseca's alleged "withholding [of] resuscitative measures."

The letter prompted the ambulance service to send documents and statements to DSHS, primarily relating to whether or not its protocol allowed for Fonseca's supposed inaction.

EMS departments establish their own set of strict protocols, working with a medical director, which dictate how EMTs and paramedics are supposed to proceed in various situations. Dr. Travis Cosban of Big Bend Regional Medical Center is the Jeff Davis County Ambulance's medical director.

A warning letter was then sent by DSHS to Jeff Davis County Ambulance, dated July 24, stating that their investigation had found that the department's quality assurance plan was not followed during the May cardiac arrest. It recommended the service review Texas EMS laws and rules to ensure compliance was met, also stating the matter was not subject to appeal and was now closed.

A DSHS spokesperson said that the initial complaint was filed against the ambulance service and was closed "when it was determined the investigation would focus on [Fonseca] specifically."

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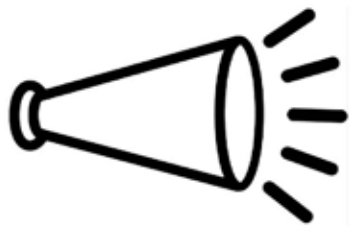


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Lipan Apache Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

is that it's a living history, it's a living culture — we're still here," she said. "While we're commemorating and putting up this memorial to our ancestors, it's really an opportunity to educate."

The grant from the Mellon Foundation will go to reimburse MASS Design Group, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance and other entities who have contributed to the project in-kind. The grant will also help reimburse a land reclamation study — contrary to the name, the research isn't just about returning land to Indigenous people, but identifying needs within these communities to help empower them economically and politically.

Hernandez was thrilled by the local response in Presidio. Folks from across town without personal ties to the cemetery had contributed time, money and good wishes to the effort. "Seeing people willing to give what they have has really been very heartwarming," she said. "It has made me feel like we're really doing something together."

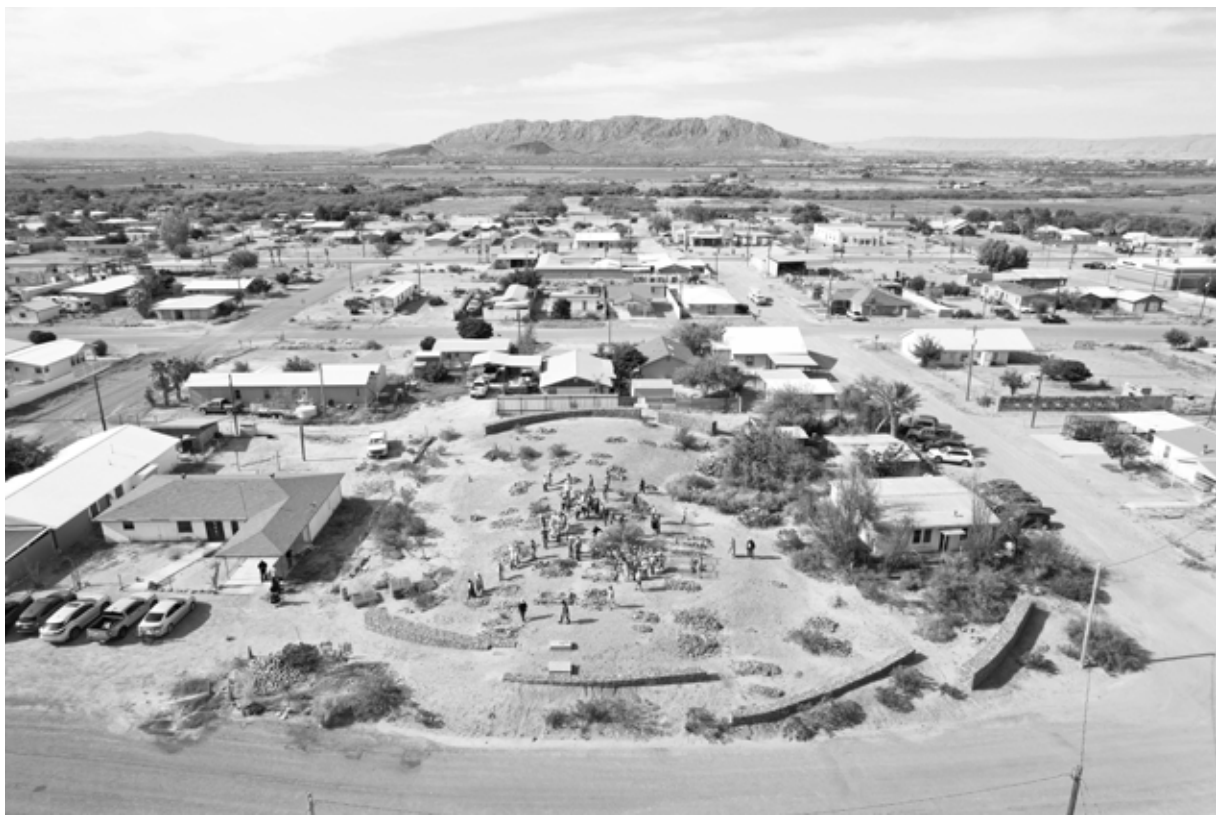


Image courtesy MASS Design Group

Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes mid-construction during the architect's walk through of the site at the 2023 Agave Festival.





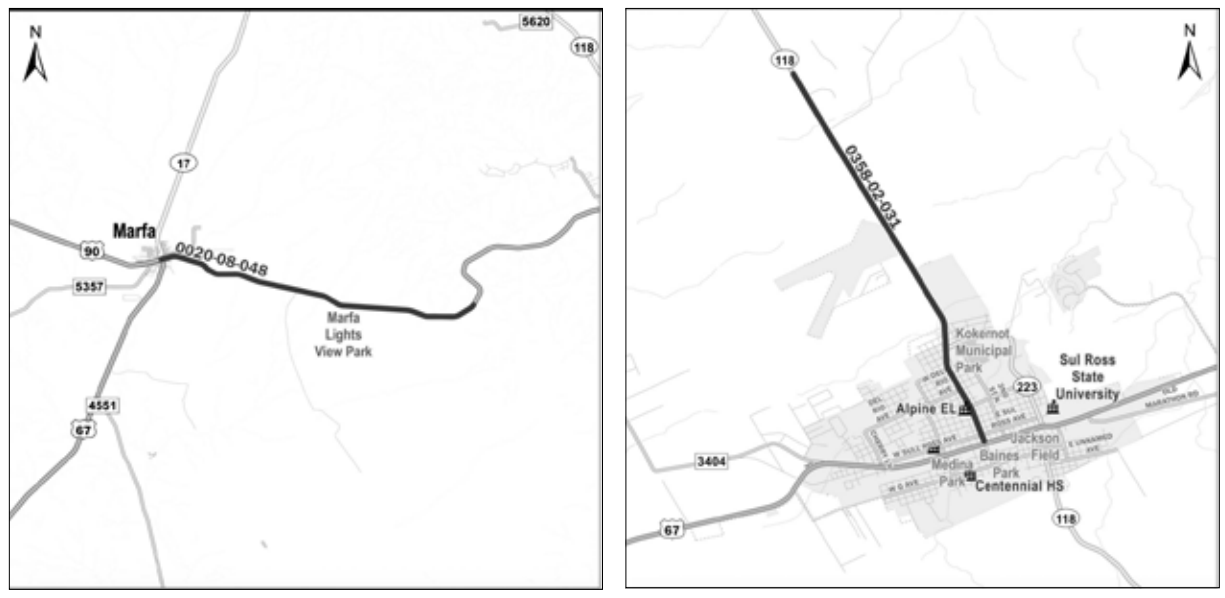
Bike lanes

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meeting may submit their comments by calling 972-560-3029 and leaving a message, emailing TxDOT_ELP_BikePublicHearing@wsp.com, or mailing written comments to the following address: WSP USA, Attn: El Paso Bike Hearing, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave Suite 450, Dallas, TX 75219. Comments should be submitted or postmarked by Friday, October 13.

Citizens with questions regarding the projects are encouraged to contact Adriana Rodriguez at Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov or 915-790-4221.

Any comments made after October 13 "will not be included in the official record but will still be gathered as feedback," said Macias-Cervantes.



Images courtesy of the Texas Department of Transportation

Left: The path of a proposed bike lane that would span Highway 67 East from Marfa, at the intersection of State Highway 17, to the Brewster County line. Right: The path of a proposed bike lane that would traverse a stretch of Highway 118 heading south into Alpine and terminating at Avenue E.

Declaration of local disaster

(Continued from page 1)

Commissioner Brenda Bentley said she had received complaints from constituents regarding the "invasion" rhetoric used in the declaration.

The matter was addressed head-on by those present at Wednesday's meeting — Commissioner Bentley said she had met with Judge Portillo to craft the wording, removing the word "invasion" altogether. The new declaration, which was read aloud in court, also does not contain the word "aliens" to describe migrants, as the previous declaration had.

Commissioner David Beebe expressed frustration with how the previous declaration had been handled by the former judge. "I know that was political, but let's be clear: that accomplished what for us, besides hateful language?" he said.

"This issue last year was upsetting, destructive and completely unnecessary," Beebe continued.

Last year's declaration served, in part, as an appeal to Governor Greg Abbott to declare an invasion at the border in order to use state power to expel migrants.

Rather than being in service of the governor's mission, commissioners argued that this new declaration represented the county asserting its local autonomy — it would allow the county to use its own local law enforcement, for instance, and file for reimbursement, rather than relying on state forces.

"I understand we do need to set ourselves up for reimbursements," said Beebe. "Let me also make clear that we are in charge of our own capital. That's why we're trying to assert our independence from the people who want a centralized government in Texas. So I'm good with this. I just want the public to understand that we're actually taking a step back from invasion rhetoric to something more sensible and something more practical and legal, rather than political."

The declaration will remain in place for 30 days only, at which time the county will have to decide whether to renew it. When asked by Commissioner Beebe whether he had any immediate plans to deploy emergency powers during those 30 days, Judge Portillo said he did not, but was in constant contact with Border Patrol and the Port of Entry in Presidio.

TxDOT launches survey on US 90 Texas corridor

EL PASO — The Texas Department of Transportation is currently seeking public input on the entire Texas corridor of U.S. 90, which stretches across Texas for more than 760 miles from I-10 in Van Horn to the Louisiana state line. The "West Segment" of the corridor study begins at I-10 in Van Horn and ends at the Terrell/Val Verde county line.

The department launched an online survey on September 29 which will remain open to public input through November 3.

The survey, part of TxDOT's U.S. 90 Texas Corridor Study, will give Texans an important voice in shaping the future of U.S. 90 and the many communities it serves. The corridor study is looking for ways to keep up with the state's growing population, increasing traffic and booming economy, per the department.

The study examines currently planned transportation projects and analyzes additional safety, connectivity, bottlenecks and other mobility needs along U.S. 90 in Texas. The results of the survey will help TxDOT identify potential improvement needs and prioritize plans, policies, programs, and projects.

To identify and prioritize projects within the study, TxDOT plans to take into account safety, mobility and congestion, system connectivity and multimodal passenger and freight.

An overview of the study and a link to the survey can be found at https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/statewide/us90-tx-corridor-study.html. The survey, which is also available in Spanish, can be found at https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=wnm63#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1&popup=WTD.

Those with questions can contact the project development manager at curtis.jones@txdot.gov or call 737-610-9526.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On behalf of The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who made Chinati Weekend 2023 possible. Donald Judd believed that art should be part of our everyday lives. Art shouldn't be isolated from our activities; it should be right here with us. This sentiment is palpable during Chinati Weekend, when the foundation opens its doors to permanently installed works of art, new exhibitions, artist studios, films, performances, and conversations — and the community joins. Thank you for sharing this place with us.

Thank you to the artists who participated in the 36th Annual Chinati Weekend: Porfirio Gutiérrez, whose exhibition Cosmos/Continuous Line is now on view; artist in residence Mike Crane; Sarah Crowner, whose work Chinati is honored to present for another year; performers Matt Haimovitz and Laura Gutierrez; Corinne Bailey Rae and her wonderful band; Jennifer Lane, David Hollander, Joe Cashiola and Carolyn Pfeiffer, who shared their film, Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling. Thank you to curator Ingrid Schaffner and assistant curator Karina Salcido for their work at Chinati, which contributed meaningfully to the weekend's program. And thank you to Bob and Nora Ackerley, Humanities Texas, Lindy Thorsen-Nagel, and Terry Mowers, whose generosity allowed Chinati to realize its newest exhibition, Cosmos/Continuous Line.

Chinati Weekend 2023 was generously supported by Cierto Tequila, **Douglas Baxter**, Suzanne Deal Booth, **Gabe Catone** and Bruce Cohen, **Lori Chemla**, Mike and **Lee Cohn**, **J. Patrick Collins**, **Chad Dayton**, Marcela and **Miguel Fernandez**, Cece and **Mack Fowler**, **Franck Giraud**, **Sam Hamilton** and Jennifer Chaiken, **George Kelly**, **Courtney J. Martin**, Karla Martínez de Salas, Celeste and **Anthony Meier**, Adam R. Rose and Peter R. McQuillan, Eric and **Noelle Reed**, **Annabelle Selldorf, Sir Nicholas Serota**, **Richard Shiff**, Marcela and **José Noé Suro**, Neil Subin, and **Steven Volpe**. Many thanks to each of you, especially the trustees of the Chinati Foundation (in bold).

Thank you to Aesop, Monika Bernstein, Cactus Liquors, Crowley Theater, Rob Crowley, Tim Crowley, Brian Espinoza, Faith Gay, Glazers, Hotel Saint George, INDUSTRIHAUS, Rambler, RGNY, Saint George Hall, and TAFT · DIAZ for supporting events throughout the weekend. Chinati would also like to extend a special thanks to Joey Benton and MUDLAB for their in-kind repair of the Judd-designed grill at Chinati's Arena, as well as David Droese, Lance Raney, and Jordan Ford, who contributed funding to this restoration effort.

Chinati is grateful for the ongoing support of our members and friends, along with the contributions of the people of Marfa and Far West Texas. Thank you to Fatima Anaza, Lindsey Bathke, Sterry Butcher, Blaire Callaway, Mark Cash, Belinda Dominguez, Janet Enriquez, Nancy Francis, Rachel Gomez, Bianca Gonzalez, Griselda Hinojos, Tim Johnson, Jenny Laird, Lou Lambert, Alex Marks, Eliseo Martinez, Jim Martinez, Linda Ojeda, Mia Valentini, Sarah Vasquez and Saul Vazquez for your significant participation. And a sincere thank you to Rainer Judd, Flavin Judd, Richard Griggs, and the entire staff at Judd Foundation for their support of the weekend.

Chinati's educational and public programming is supported with generous grants from the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, Hill Art Foundation, Humanities Texas, John Wesley Foundation, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Fund, Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Foundation, Pulitzer Foundation, Rosenthal Family Foundation, Ruth Stanton Foundation, Start Small Foundation, Still Water Foundation, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, The Brown Foundation, The City of Marfa, The Cowles Charitable Trust, The Donald and Carole Chaiken Foundation, The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, The Hearst Foundations, The Kraus Family Foundation, The Mellon Foundation, The Permian Basin Area Foundation, The Sarofim Foundation, Tillapaugh Public History Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation, Warren Skaaren Charitable Trust. Chinati Weekend programming, in particular, was made possible in part with support from Marfa City Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Caring for and sharing Chinati would not be possible without the contributions of our staff, who work hard all year and who worked incredibly hard to make this weekend a reality. Many thanks to our exceptional docents and guards: Shea Carley, Tamara Carrasco, Elizabeth Davis, John Ehrke, Mo Eldridge, Melissa Firmin, JD Garcia, Anne Gleason Pitts, Dana Goolsby, Walker Guinnee, Glen Hanson, Kyp Hinojos, Tenessa Hinojos, Lauren Jablonski, Alex Kamelhair, Kat McKenna, Natalie Melendez, Socorro Mena, Kat O'Malley, Dillon Orr, Rory Parks, Adri Pineda, Jen Rowles, Sam Schonzeit, Matt Scobey, Ben Shurley, Prepney Torres, Melissa Urness, Irlanda Vargas, and Janayah Villa. Thank you to our terrific interns: Dee Campos and Logan Smith. Thank you to Marella Consolini, without whose steadfast commitment this weekend would not have been possible. And thank you to my wonderful colleagues: Tobin Becker, Luci Bockelie, Julie Carey, Sylvana Diaz, Rowdy Dugan, Malinda Galindo, Regina Gutierrez, Sandra Hinojos, Hannah Lange, Robert Lara, Miguel Leyva, Hannah Marshall, Stephen Martin, Sam Riehl, Michael Roch, Jerram Rojo, Luis Sígala Bueno, Shelley Smith, and Edsel Vana. I feel lucky to work with such a talented and considerate group.

All of us at Chinati look forward to welcoming you back soon!

With appreciation,

Caitlin Murray
Director

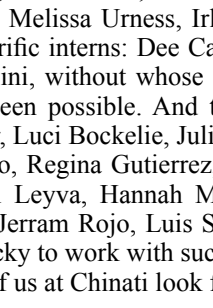
We want to hear from YOU!

- 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***

COMMUNITIE

MARFA



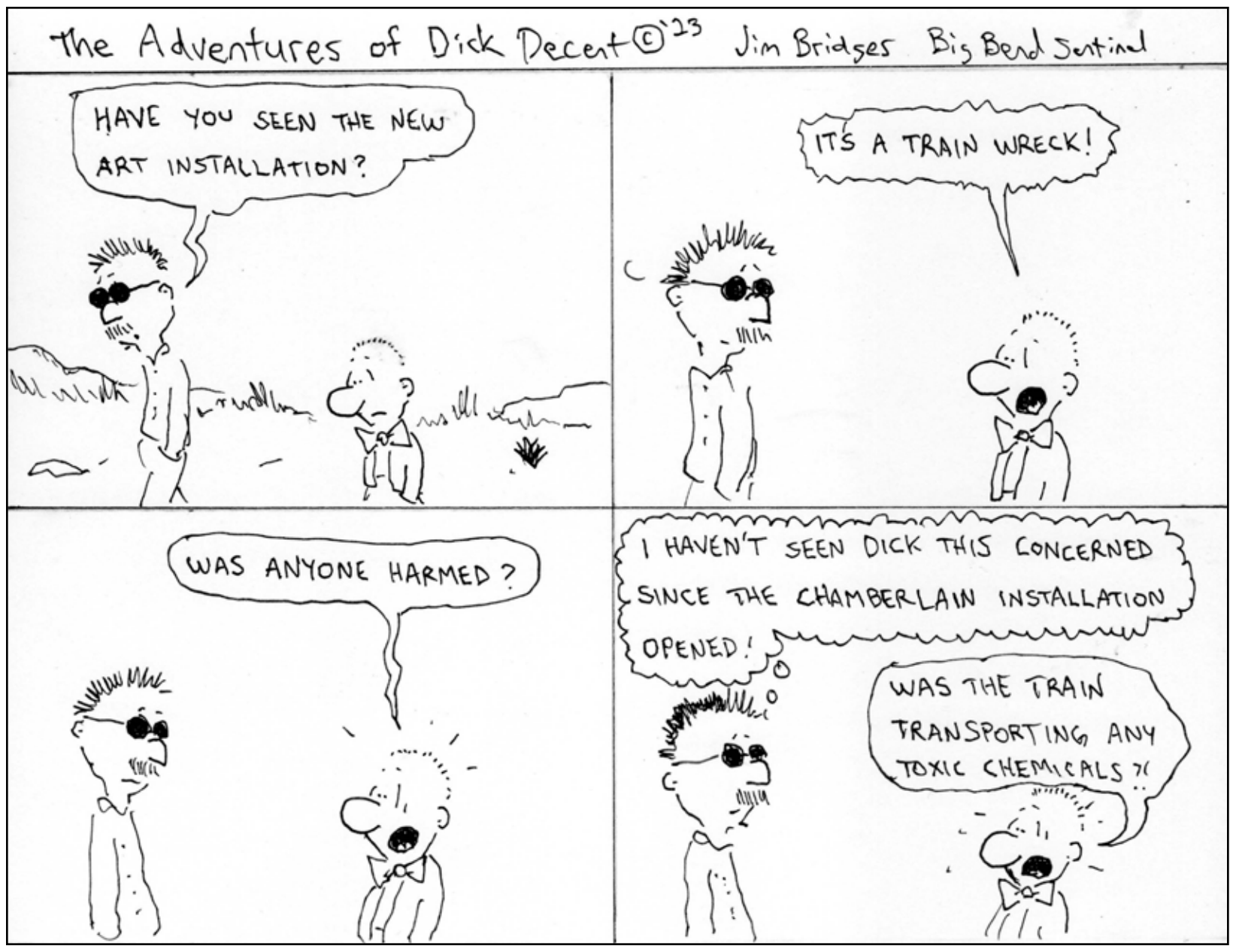
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OUR WATER MATTERS

Arizona's lax water regulations a boon for Saudi-owned company

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

The Butler Valley is a groundwater basin in western Arizona about 120 miles west of Phoenix. Although groundwater use in urban areas is tightly controlled under Arizona's Groundwater Management Act of 1980, rural areas like the Butler Valley are largely unregulated. According to an investigative report in the *Washington Post* titled "How a Saudi firm tapped a gusher of water in drought-stricken Arizona," the basin is conservatively estimated to hold about 6.5 million acre-feet of groundwater, which is "enough to supply all single-family homes in the Phoenix area for about 14 years." The Butler Valley is also considered critical to meeting future water needs "because it's one of the few basins from which water can be transported to growing urban areas. And … most of the land there is government-owned."

The valley has been in the news a lot lately because of a Saudi-owned company called Fondamonte that is leasing land from the state of Arizona for about $25 per acre, or about $86,000 annually, to pump as much groundwater as it wants. This water is being used to irrigate alfalfa which is then shipped to the parched Arabian Peninsula as feed for cattle there. The value of the water alone has been estimated at several million dollars a year. And this doesn't even account for how old the water is. According to Rob O'Dell, a reporter for the Arizona Republic, "This is ground water that was laid down probably 70,000 to 80,000 years ago." With little natural recharge and scarce precipitation, any groundwater pumped from the Butler Valley is essentially mined and never replaced.

Oddly, Arizona never required Fondamonte to report how much it was pumping until very recently. Based on interviews and documents obtained through public-records requests, the *Washington Post* found that state planners had repeatedly attempted to institute a requirement that leaseholders report their annual pumping volumes. But time and again, these efforts "ran headlong into a view, deeply held in the rural West, that water is private property that comes with access to land, rather than a public resource." This all-too-common conflict — between safeguarding groundwater resources for growing population centers and the conviction that groundwater is the property of individual landowners that should be dedicated to livestock and crops — is not unique to Arizona. But it will ultimately have to be resolved there or Arizonans could likely suffer the very fate that brought the Saudis to their state in the first place.

According to reporting by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, "Saudi Arabia has almost completely exhausted its own groundwater through unrestricted pumping." A 2004 investigation revealed "that the kingdom's water sources were nearly depleted because 'wealthy farmers had been allowed to drain the aquifers unchecked for three decades.'" The kingdom was ultimately forced to prohibit alfalfa production in 2016 and Fondamonte's expansion into Arizona is viewed as part of a "strategy for conservation of the kingdom's water resources."

The picture that emerges, according to the *Post*, is that "Arizona's lax regulatory environment and sophisticated lobbying by the Saudi-owned company allowed a scarce American resource to flow unchecked to a foreign corporation." As news of the sweetheart deal made headlines and the drought throughout the region intensified, Fondamonte's leases became a flashpoint in Arizona's 2022 midterm elections. Holly Irwin, a local county supervisor, alleged that "foreign companies have come to take our water because they don't have any left back home." Newly elected Governor Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, has taken a harder line by canceling two of Fondamonte's leases. But the company still controls 32 drilling permits in the state and is estimated to pump about 18,000 acre-feet of water per year.

Kathy Ferris, a water attorney and former director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, has asserted that Arizona's water issues are bigger than just one company. "The real issue is allowing big industrial agriculture … not just foreign corporations … but American corporations, to move into these unregulated areas and pump as much groundwater as they want." As the state struggles to find a commonsense solution, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes has urged all parties to consider the obvious: "We cannot afford to give our water away frankly to anyone."

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.

Community

36th annual Chinati Weekend celebrates local artists and institutions

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Beginning last Friday, The Chinati Foundation opened its doors for its 36th annual Chinati Weekend, a three-day event during which art lovers can freely survey the foundation's offerings and soak in the many other arts displays Marfa has to offer.

For the foundation's executive director, Caitlin Murray, it was her first Chinati Weekend in the role, which she assumed earlier this year. She was struck by the breadth of the weekend's offerings and the breadth of the artists and visitors who continue to flock to the annual event.

"It was a special weekend!" said Murray. "I was struck by the number of artists with ties to Chinati that returned to celebrate, which is a testament to the enduring impact and relevance of this place. It was also wonderful to connect with new visitors, who came from Alpine, Dallas, San Francisco, Mexico City, and beyond to spend time with the work here."

The open house event has been taking place annually since its inception in 1987 by the foundation's founder, the artist Donald Judd, and gives visitors an opportunity to experience all the foundation has to offer. This year, Saturday's programming included *Cosmos/Continuous Line*, an exhibition of loom-based textiles by Zapotec weaver and dyer Porfirio Gutiérrez, and a movement performance by choreographer Laura Gutierrez, accompanied by cellist Matt Haimovitz, upon Sarah Crowner's *Platform (Blue Green Terracotta for JC)*. Saturday ended with a performance of Black Rainbows by Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Corinne Bailey Rae at Saint George Hall.

On Sunday, viewers were treated to a sunrise viewing Robert Irwin's *untitled (dawn to dusk)* ahead of Chinati's open hours, followed by a screening of the documentary *Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling (2022)*.



Photo by Alex Marks

Porfirio Gutiérrez's exhibition "Cosmos/Continuous Line" opens.

The weekend was well-attended, said Murray, and a benefit dinner held Saturday to raise money for Chinati's programming was sold out.

Then there is the programming outside of the foundation itself — the weekend begins on Friday with Made in Marfa, a citywide celebration of local artistry wherein local shops and galleries open their doors for exhibitions, performances and more. For many local artists, the weekend provides an opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience and meet new people.

Local artist Matt Scobey premiered his new work in the exhibition *With Every Action* at the MAINTENANT gallery in Antelope Hills. More than 100 people alone — mostly locals — attended the opening reception Thursday evening, he said, and more locals and out-of-towners alike came throughout the weekend to see his sculptural works that play off the light and landscape.

"It was heartwarming," he said. "I didn't know what to expect, but I didn't expect that many folks to come."

"When anyone wants to support your art practice — and besides just maybe friends or acquaintances — whenever anyone wants to come out and see something you made, it's kind of humbling," he added.

Scobey, who also works part-time for both the Chinati Foundation and the Judd Foundation, said some highlights of the weekend for him included *What Rises & Falls Out of Sight*, a multidisciplinary, collaborative show at The Institute for Material Interpretation, and *As In A Mirror*, an exhibition of flash photography on fabric by Cobra Rock co-founder Logan Caldbeck.

The weekend also coincided with Ballroom Marfa's 20th anniversary, and with the unveiling of some renovation projects of the Block, namely the winter garden, by the Judd Foundation, which also opened its doors for open viewing and a garden tour on Saturday.

Murray noted that the expansiveness of the displays — both within the Chinati Foundation and among its cohorts — were a highlight of the weekend.

"The breadth and quality of the weekend's program were highlights for me," said Murray. "Additionally, it was a wonderful weekend to celebrate the accomplishments of our friends throughout town, including Judd Foundation and Ballroom Marfa."

Marfa100 bike race to coincide with eclipse, benefit Marfa Public Library

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — FM 2810 will surge with hundreds of cyclists this Saturday as the 13th annual Marfa100 bike race commences.

By happenstance, this year the 60-mile trek will sync up with a celestial occurrence — an annular solar eclipse, which will be visible in the Marfa area from 9:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., peaking at 10:45 a.m. during the race.

"We paid a lot of money to get that eclipse lined up with the powers that be," said Marfa100 organizer Zeke Raney.

Fellow organizer Elizabeth Farrell brushed up on the specifics of the eclipse by taking a free class with the McDonald Observatory. Marfa100 riders will receive a pair of eclipse-viewing sunglasses and be encouraged to take a break from cycling in order to safely experience the event.

Registrants total 400 individuals this year, up from 330 last year. Farrell and Raney said after considering plentiful road space they decided to increase the capacity this year. The duo, which took over race operations in 2020, said they are continuing to find ways for the event to evolve outside of higher participation.

Last year, they added a more accessible, shorter 50K ride, and this year planned an after party for both race attendees and locals at Planet Marfa featuring Micah Francis as DJ Dr. Melt and Colette Haines on guitar. A 10 a.m. Sunday morning "slow ride" is also open to the public.

"It's about Marfa too. We're trying to bring in aspects of the community into how the event feels," said Farrell. "We want people to also be in the community and spend money in the community."

Raney said the purpose of the Marfa100 is about supporting riders and promoting the beauty of remote Route 2810 at this time of year.

"At this time with the wildflowers, and the temperature finally drops off, [it's about] just having a nice, big road to ride on where you've got food waiting for you, you've got water, you can race it if you want," said Raney.

Farrell added gearing the race towards casual cyclists, as opposed to the elite cycling community that tends to dominate competition spaces, sets the race apart as well.

The U.S.O. building will serve as race HQ this year, with Convenience West providing food, Snow Marfa shaved ice, and Mallory Jones massages to worn-out riders. The Marfa100 will benefit the Marfa Public Library this year. Last year it raised $4,000 for the local volunteer fire department.

In tandem with the Marfa100, the Marfa Public Library will host an event for local and visiting families from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the U.S.O. outdoor pavilion. Attendees will be invited to participate in activities including face painting, wheel decorating — bikes, scooters, skateboards are all welcome — chalking the finish line, and making license plates. Snacks and eclipse kits will also be provided.

"We're thrilled to be working with Marfa 100. We love everything they're doing," said Library Director Nicki Ittner. "Hopefully we can make this bike-themed celebration an annual tradition!"



Photo by Cody Bjornson

The Cactus Liquors team rests after last year's Marfa100

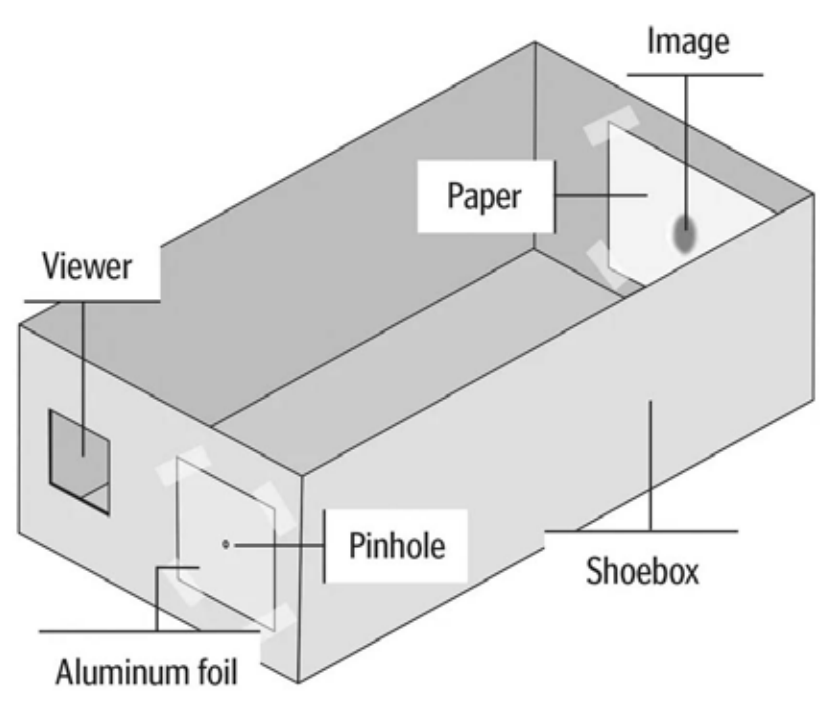
2023 ANNULAR ECLIPSE: OCTOBER 14

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FOLLOW THESE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS TO BUILD YOUR OWN ECLIPSE VIEWER

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE A SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWER:
• Shoebox • Small square of aluminum foil
• Small square of white paper • Utility knife or hobby knife • Tape • Pin

1. Cut two square holes in one end of a shoebox
2. On one hole, tape a piece of aluminum foil
3. Poke a hole in the foil using a pin
4. Inside the box, tape a piece of white paper
5. Stand with your back to the eclipse, the pinhole aimed at the sun
6. With the shoebox upside-down, see an image of the eclipse through the viewer



This type of viewer is also known as a pinhole projection because the image of the eclipse is projected through the pinhole onto the viewing surface. You will be looking at a projection of the eclipse instead of looking directly at the sun.

WARNING: DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN

Sports Updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — Marfa Independent School District's teams secured victories across various competitions last week. From volleyball to cross-country and football, Marfa athletes showcased their dedication and skill.

Cross-country triumphs

The Lady Shorthorns cross-country team started the week with an impressive performance at the Marfa Legacy Cross-Country Meet and took the meet championship with a score of 23. Leading the way was freshmen runner Zoey Salgado, who clinched an overall third-place finish with a time of 15:35.96, followed by Liani Salcido in fifth place with a time of 16:22.16, and Itzel Urrutia in eighth place at 17:24.68.

10 Ava Flores 17:38.69
12 Madison Cash 17:43.79
14 Raven Martinez 18:10.84
16 Loretta Rivera 18:16.64
18 Maryfer Martinez 18:30.91
24 Giselle Torres 21:52.40
26 Dariela Munoz Martinez 22:14.27

On the boys' side, junior runner Francisco Rosas continued to shine and lead the team, clocking in at 18:00.15 and winning gold as the first place finisher in the boys division. The Shorthorns boys' team secured second place, narrowly trailing Van Horn.

JH Shorthorns football shows great resilience

Despite a challenging start against St. Marks of El Paso, the Junior High Shorthorns football team displayed resilience and determination. Down 0-27 at halftime, they regrouped and adjusted their defensive strategy, allowing only one touchdown in the second half. The team outscored their opponents 21-7 during the latter half, with notable contributions from Seth and Bubba Marquez, who both had interceptions. The offensive game plan was revamped, focusing on exploiting the running game down the middle. Marquez also had a kick return for a touchdown. A remarkable takeaway from the game was the unwavering spirit of the young athletes who refused to quit and fought hard to get back in the game.

Varsity Horns football domination

The Varsity Horns football team continued their impressive run, securing another non-conference win over the TLCA Eagles of Midland. Despite being undermanned in the past three weeks due to injuries and medical protocols, the Horns upheld their "next man up" mentality. Senior receiver Zach Wilson delivered a standout performance, scoring three touchdowns in the game, a career high for him, and adding a new dimension to the Horns' offense. Quarterback Alejandro Rodriguez showcased his skills and athleticism, contributing numerous touchdown passes and agile runs while evading the opponent's defense. Derick Campos once again was the Shorthorns' go-to guy on the ground, with over 100 yards rushing. With a 6-1 record, Marfa now heads into an open week before hosting the Van Horn Eagles for their district opener in Marfa.

JH volleyball victory

The week's success extended to the volleyball court as well. Marfa's Junior High Horns, guided by Coach Kaci Flores, displayed their best performance of the season, outworking and out-skilling their opponent, Grandfalls. The young Horns rallied throughout the two sets with standout performances by Lea Alvidrez, Natasha Labrado, Lynna Hinojos, and Alaynna Vasquez.

Varsity Horns enter round 2 of district play

The Varsity Horns volleyball team secured their first win, thanks to impressive play by emerging offensive players Maryfer Martinez and Loretta Rivera, and defensive specialist Zoe Salgado. Martinez and Rivera led the team in kills combining for a double figure offensive production, while Salgado had 15 digs. Martinez, Marfa's junior middle blocker, continues to show tremendous improvement this season and currently leads Marfa in kills in district play. Raven Martinez also chipped in offensively for Marfa and led the team with several aces, while Ava Flores is the team leader in assists. The Lady Horns now head into the second round and will host Fort Davis Tuesday at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Marfa ISD's athletes and teams demonstrated not only their physical skill but also outstanding sportsmanship and unwavering spirit and determination throughout this successful week. Their victories are a testament to their hard work and the guidance of their coaches, along with the tremendous support of the Shorthorn community.



Photo by Liani Salcido, Marfa ISD Journalism Class
The Varsity Shorthorns football team.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics
The Varsity Lady Shorthorns Volleyball team.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics
The Junior High Lady Shorthorn Volleyball team with coach Kaci Flores.

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

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

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Itzel Urrutia
9th Grade
Cut Paper Straight Line Design

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.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Adrian Johnson October 9, 2023

ACROSS
1 Wet septet
5 "Home Alone" hazards
10 Cleveland hoopster, briefly
13 Ancient story
14 "You think you're sooo funny ..."
16 Word after "middle" or "school"
17 *Cap
19 Buttered ___ paradox
20 Targets of extractor fans
21 "Am I clear?"
23 Pragmatically wise
25 *Top
28 Fails to stay calm
29 Exams taken by HS juniors
30 Sporting venue
31 Totally legit
32 Garfield's canine housemate
36 Secret agent
37 *Slacks
40 Winter hrs. for 60% of Kentucky
41 Two out of three, say
43 Musical HS dramedy until 2015
44 Dumpster filler
46 Gadget for Granny Smiths
48 Big name in poultry
49 *Socks
52 "Grim" figure in horror films
53 Panasonic acquisition of 2009
54 First in a movie series, perhaps
55 Hardest part of a date?
56 *Boots
62 ___ carte
63 Least gracious, as a loser
64 "Fiddling" Roman tyrant
65 Light slumber
66 Fresh hairstyle
67 Inapt rhyme for "sad"

DOWN
1 Texting tech
2 Organ with a conjunctiva
3 Bar tenders?
4 Darken with a pencil
5 Hockey periods, e.g.
6 Ewes' guys
7 Poke bowl tuna
8 Musician Metheny
9 "Shameless" network: Abbr.
10 Sonora flora
11 "Didn't we just do this?"
12 Mustang alternative, informally
15 Existential dread
18 Like many guilt-free desserts
22 Very, very
23 Muscular jerk?
24 One of film's Marx brothers
25 Corkscrew and key, for two
26 Grammarian's concern
27 Made-up story
31 Reign man, perhaps?
33 Digital display defect
34 It's up for discussion
35 Old-time anesthetic
38 Monster in "Adventures of the Gummi Bears"
39 Takes a turn, say
42 Big name in Froyo
45 Adult content indicator
47 They're instrumental in tuning orchestras
48 Converse with, as a deity
49 Impeachment channel
50 Boxing's Ali
51 Like the cheaper-per-ounce beer options, usually
54 Common VA malady
57 Particle written with a superscript
58 Exam for some college srs.
59 Cut, as logs for firewood
60 ___ of Good Feelings
61 Grounds crew supply

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

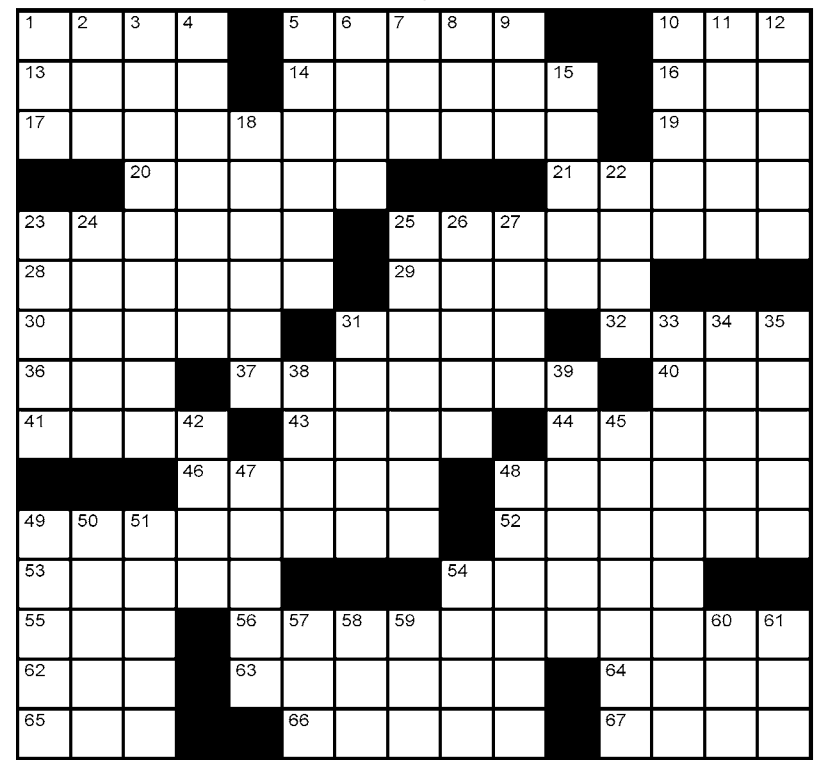
A	M	A	S	S	■	H	I	S	■	C	H	I	R	P
L	I	M	I	T	■	I	D	O	■	R	A	D	I	O
F	R	U	M	E	D	L	E	Y	■	E	R	O	D	E
■	E	S	P	■	E	L	S	■	W	A	L	L	E	T
■	■	E	L	O	P	E	■	S	I	T	E	■	■	■
■	■	E	X	P	L	I	C	M	E	M	O	R	Y	■
B	A	S	S	O	■	■	N	A	P	S	■	B	O	A
I	C	E	T	■	A	N	G	R	Y	■	R	O	A	M
A	L	E	■	I	T	O	O	■	■	N	E	E	D	S
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■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

10/8

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www.upuzzles.com

10/9

Activewear *by Jake Halperin*



☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

OCT	Thu, Oct 12	Fri, Oct 13	Mon, Oct 16	Tue, Oct 17	Wed, Oct 18
BREAKFAST	DONUT, SAUSAGE	SHORTHORNS SUCCESS DAY	CINNAMON ROLL, BACON	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH	POTATO BOWL, ROLL, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT	SHORTHORNS SUCCESS DAY	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC AND CHEESE, BABY CARROTS, CUCUMBERS, GRAPES	PHILLY CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH, CORN, CUCUMBERS, APPLESAUCE, COOKIE	PIZZA, TOMATO CUP, SALAD, PEARS

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SAT, OCT 14: JH Volleyball at Grandfalls, District Tournament
SAT, OCT 14: JH Football vs Saint Ann's in Grandfalls, 12:00pm

Blessing of the Animals to take place at Marfa courthouse this Saturday

MARFA — St. Paul's Episcopal Church is pleased to continue its tradition of the annual Blessing of the Animals this Saturday. Locals are invited to bring their beloved critters to the courthouse lawn in Marfa — dogs, cats, iguanas, hedgehogs, etc. The bottom line is, you bring it, they'll bless it!

Children are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed animals to receive blessings as well.

This free event will be on Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. till 12 p.m. at the Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. Everyone is invited!

The event will also serve as an opportunity for donations to Big Bend Pets and the Alpine Humane Society — attendees are encouraged to bring food, toys, and other pet supplies for donation.

Alpine Historical Association hosts first Hispanic Heritage Symposium

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — On September 29, the Alpine Historical Association — alongside theatre students from Sul Ross's Department of Visual and Performing Arts — hosted their first Hispanic Heritage Symposium at the historic Granada Theatre. The event was an effort to bring voices from Alpine's Mexican American past to a wider audience by bringing folks together across the generational divide.

Sul Ross qualifies as a Designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, a title given to schools with at least a quarter of their student body identifying as Hispanic or Latino. The university's host town of Alpine has also borne witness to a diverse past: in its early days, the town was split racially by the railroad tracks, and the south side was home to its Mexican community.

The south side of town was also home to the Centennial School, a segregated school for Mexican American children in grades one through eight that operated from 1936 to 1969.

Saul Garza — a Sul Ross alumnus and a member of the Alpine Historical Association — had the idea to bring the event to the big stage. His family came to Alpine during the Mexican Revolution — all his life, he had taken an interest in learning about his community's past. "The south side was like a big family," he said.

In order to bring that past alive, Garza — along with fellow historical association members Abbey Branch and Marjie Scott — harnessed the energy and talent of the Sul Ross Theatre Department.

The trio already had experience blending performance and history: in 2021, the historical association launched a series of ghost tours highlighting the Big Bend region's storied history and rich folklore tradition, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for Sul Ross theatre students. "Collaborating with the theatre department made it fun," Garza explained. "We thought: what would attract tourists to learn a little bit more about Alpine?"

They brought the same spirit to the symposium, where Sul Ross theatre students and Mexican American Alpine residents of older generations engaged in a Q&A. Attendees mingled before the event with free refreshments while they were serenaded with traditional Mexican tunes before filing into the theater, where students posed a series of interview questions to the older panelists.

Garza hoped that the event would become an annual fixture, with the goal of supporting Alpine's historic Hispanic past — and its future, by getting students to engage with their school and their community. His philosophy is simple. "No matter what you do, make sure you come back and support where you got your education," he said.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu Oct 12

WTex Talks
6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Granada Theatre in Alpine
WTex Talks is back! Bret Scott of SRSU's Fine Arts & Communication Department and the AHA Historic Alpine Ghost Tours will lead a spooktactular presentation on local lore and ghastly happenings! Entry is a suggested $10 donation, and half the proceeds will go to a local charity of the speaker's choice. Bret has chosen the Alpine Humane Society!

Horror Film Series: *Nosferatu*
8:00pm - 10:00pm at the Granada Theatre in Alpine
Every Thursday in October the Granada presents a classic horror movie experience. This week is the infamous movie known as the original vampire flick, "Nosferatu." The movie starts at 8pm, and admission is by donation ($5 suggested). Bring a blanket or camp chair to sit on.

Fri Oct 13

***Friday the 13th* on Friday the 13th**
Two showings: 6:00pm and 8:30am at the Granada Theatre in Alpine
What better way to celebrate this Friday the 13th... in October... then by watching the horror classic, "Friday the 13th"?! Bring your blankets and beanbags, cushions and camp chairs to sit on. Entry is by donation ($10 suggested)

Sat Oct 14

Marfa 100 Bike Race
9:00am - 3:00pm on RR2810, from the City limits to the end of the pavement
This is a public notice that the annual Marfa100 bike race is expecting 400 cyclists to complete an out and back course on RR 2810 on Saturday morning. Please join us to cheer on riders as they start through the 4-way at 9am. For more info: ***marfa100.com***

Blessing of the Animals
10:00am - 12:00pm at the Courthouse lawn in Marfa
St. Paul's Episcopal Church is hosting its annual Blessing of the Animals. All pets, photos of pets or stuffed animals are invited for a blessing of health and happiness.

Monster Mash
10:00am - 12:00pm at Alpine Public Library in Alpine
It's Monster Stories! Monster Macarena! Monster Mask Making! AND Special Safety Monster Solar Eclipse Viewing! ages 5-12.

Annular "Ring of Fire" Solar Eclipse at McDonald Observatory
10:00am at 3640 Dark Sky Drive in Fort Davis
The visitors center will open at 10 a.m. to allow access during the eclipse, which starts at 10:17 a.m. and reaches maximum at 11:44 a.m. We will have telescopes set up for solar viewing, educational activities and demos, and a livestream of the eclipse from Blakemore Planetarium in Midland.

Marfa Public Library Bicycle Bonanza
10:30am - 11:30am at the USO Pavilion in Marfa
Join us for a fun morning with bicycle related crafts, a kids bike course, and solar eclipse viewing! This event is open to kids of all ages.

Colette Haines & DJ Dr. Melt
7:00pm - 10:00pm at Planet Marfa in Marfa
The Marfa100 after-party is open to the entire community! Join us for music by two great local artists.

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Sun Oct 15

Marfa100 Community Slow Roll
10:00am meet-up at the USO Pavilion in Marfa
Ride your bike on a slow roll around Marfa - this will be a casual ride of about ~5 miles at 10 mph. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Big Sky Yoga
Monday: Sculpt at 5:00pm, Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Hatha at 9:00am
Wednesday: Sculpt at 9:00am; Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Thursday: Yin Yoga at 6:00pm
Friday: Breathwork at 9:00am; Vinyasa & Core at 12:00pm
Saturday: Vinyasa at 10:00am
New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Step it Up (Step Aerobics)
Tuesday at 6:00pm, Thursday at 9:00am & Saturday at 9:00am @ Big Sky Yoga
All fitness levels welcome. New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Free Zumba Classes
Monday & Wednesday at 6:30pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes
Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Life Drawing with Model
Saturday from 9:45am - 12:00pm at Talent Studios in Alpine
Join this vibrant artist community, make new friends and hone your drawing skills. Reserve your easel by texting 206.619.4699

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

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

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

Have an upcoming or weekly event?

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

OBITUARIES



Jimenez

Beatriz T. Jimenez passed away on the evening of October 2, 2023. Jimenez was born on January 6, 1928, in Malaga, New Mexico, and was a lifelong resident of Presidio, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jesus Jimenez. She is also preceded in death by one of her four grandchildren, Karime Delgado Jimenez.

She is survived by children Maria Aida Nielsen (husband Paul Nielsen) and Arturo Jimenez (wife Teresa E. Jimenez); grandchildren Jennifer Jimenez, Chris Jimenez and Arturo Jimenez Jr.; seven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held in El Paso, Texas, on October 13, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, located at 5200 Fred Wilson Avenue.

• • •



Rodriguez

Jose Jonell Rodriguez, at the age of 71, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 12:35 a.m.

Jonell was born to Ismael and Feliciana Rodriguez on February 3, 1952, in Fort Davis, Texas. He was the youngest of seven children. He was an alumnus of Fort Davis High School and Sul Ross State University. He worked as a talented carpenter for over 40 years. Jonell built homes from the ground up, specializing in roofing and tile work. His skills and education took him to travel the country for various jobs, but eventually settled at home in Fort Davis to work all over the tri-county area.

He truly lived life to the fullest through family and friend gatherings. He was a grill master, musician, comedian and storyteller. He enjoyed most cool Fort Davis evenings by sitting on the porch listening to music. Eventually he would end up inside playing his guitars to Santana, Chris Stapleton, Tejano music, and various other artists.

He is survived by his sisters Ana Garcia Alvarez, Eva Gomez, and his brother Ismael Jr. Rodriguez; his daughters Michelle Aguirre, Christyna Rodriguez, and Catryna Rodriguez; his grandchildren Jaylen Jimenez, Neo Jimenez, Aurian Aranda; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his loving parents, sister Enedina "Nina" Carrasco and brothers Jack Rodriguez and Ruben Rodriguez.

Family and Friends are invited to his services on Oct. 21, 2023, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Davis. Rosary is at 10 a.m. with Mass and burial to follow. A celebration of life reception will be held at the Saint Joseph's Parish Hall preceding the burial. Per his request, "Don't be sad when I am gone. Celebrate the good times."

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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.

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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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the Casner Room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Public Notice

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Bank Financial Depository for 2024-2025 fiscal years. Any and all interested Financial Institutions, please submit Depository Collateral Agreement Proposals to the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas,
P O Box 879 , Marfa, Texas, (432)729-3431. All proposals must be received by October 13, 2023. The Board of Directors of the Presidio CAD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

LEGAL NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Q- Wine Only package store permit by Pay and Save Inc. dba Lowe's Market #178 located at 717 W San Antonio St Marfa, TX 79843 in Presidio County. Owners and officers of said corporation are: Roger C. Lowe, Sr., President, Ann Y. Lowe, Vice-President, Roger C. Lowe Jr., CEO, Lezlie M. Lowe, General Counselor/Secretary, and Ronald G. Rogers, CFO/Treasurer.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Q- Wine Only package store permit by Pay and Save Inc. dba Lowe's Market #177 located at 712 N State St Fort Davis, TX 79734 in Jeff Davis County. Owners and officers of said corporation are: Roger C. Lowe, Sr., President, Ann Y. Lowe, Vice-President, Roger C. Lowe Jr., CEO, Lezlie M. Lowe, General Counselor/Secretary, and Ronald G. Rogers, CFO/Treasurer.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Q- Wine Only package store permit by Pay and Save Inc. dba Lowe's Market #181 located at 1000 Hwy 67 Presidio, TX 79843 in Presidio County. Owners and officers of said corporation are: Roger C. Lowe, Sr., President, Ann Y. Lowe, Vice-President, Roger C. Lowe Jr., CEO, Lezlie M. Lowe, General Counselor/Secretary, and Ronald G. Rogers, CFO/Treasurer.

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