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

Marfa resident PJ Serrano pleads guilty to possession, transportation of child sex abuse material

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Patricio Javier "P.J." Serrano, a 36-year-old Marfa resident and softball coach arrested in May, pleaded guilty last week to one count of possession of child sex abuse material and one count of transportation, aiding and abetting.

Serrano faces five to 20 years in prison for the transportation charge in addition to up to 20 years for the possession charge. Federal District Court Judge David Counts will determine Serrano's sentence after considering U.S. sentencing guidelines as well as other statutory factors, according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office.

A final sentencing will likely take place in the new year, said Serrano's attorney, Shane O'Neal.

"Mr. Serrano decided to plead guilty and accept responsibility in the hopes that Judge [David] Counts will look favorably upon him in sentencing," said O'Neal.

Serrano has been held without bond since his arrest in May after investigators with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Texas Department of Public safety discovered multiple photos and videos depicting child sex abuse material stored on Serrano's cell phone and in a web browser, according to a criminal complaint.

Investigators found that Serrano also sent links of child sex abuse material to other individuals via email in 2017 using the application imgbox, whose servers are located outside of the United States, according to court documents.

Around a month after Serrano's arrest, a previous romantic partner of his, 32-year-old Marfa resident Sonya Murillo, who worked as a property manager and substitute teacher at Marfa ISD, was arrested and charged with child sexual exploitation.

At least eight videos of Murillo performing sexual acts on a young child were uncovered by investigators while "conducting a forensic review of a cell phone from a different child pornography investigation in Marfa," according to the criminal complaint. It is unclear whether or not the two cases are related. Murillo is being held without bond while court proceedings, for which there are no recent public updates, continue.



Photo by Alex Marks, courtesy of The Chinati Foundation. © 2023 Robert Irwin / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Visitors spend time with Robert Irwin's untitled (dawn to dusk), 2016.

Chinati Foundation honors passing of contemporary artist Robert Irwin

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Contemporary American artist Robert Irwin, renowned for his site-specific installations that center light and space, and contributor to the Chinati Foundation, passed away on October 25 at age 95.

This past weekend, in his honor, the museum held a free open viewing of untitled (dawn to dusk), a large-scale installation completed by Irwin in 2016 at the site of the abandoned Fort D.A. Russell army hospital.

"All of us at the foundation are deeply saddened by his passing, but we are grateful to spend time with his work often," said Chinati Director Caitlin Murray. "untitled (dawn to dusk) invites observers to consider their surroundings — and the light and space in Marfa — with heightened awareness and appreciation."

The significant C-shaped building, complete with a courtyard garden displaying basalt columns, remains the only freestanding structure created by Irwin as a singular work of art. The interior of the building is split into two sections: light and dark. Transparent scrims bisect walkways and reflect light, while windows placed above eye level offer carefully-framed West Texas sky views.

Irwin, who was friends with Donald Judd, began planning the project in 1999, and contributed to the museum in many ways throughout the years while working on untitled (dawn to dusk), said Murray.

"Throughout the 17-year period during which this permanent installation was conceived, refined and constructed, Irwin presented a series of his working drawings, a temporary scrim exhibition, and multiple fluorescent light pieces at Chinati," said Murray.

The artists' dynamic life and mark on Marfa is the subject of a recently-released documentary, Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling. The film includes footage of Irwin on site at Chinati for the installation of untitled (dawn to dusk) and was directed by CineMarfa co-founder Jennifer Lane. Marfa residents Joseph Cashiola and Carolyn Pfeiffer were also involved in the film.

Admission and guided tours of The Chinati Foundation are free for tri-county residents, for more information visit chinati.org

Big Bend state reps Morales, Blanco vote for enhanced human smuggling penalties

By SAM KARAS
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AUSTIN — Last Wednesday, the Texas House of Representatives passed SB 4, a bill that would increase penalties for human smuggling and the operation of "stash houses." Pending the governor's signature, the law will increase the mandatory minimum for those convicted of human smuggling from two to ten years.

The bill's success represents a tipping point in Governor Abbott's third-called special legislative session, which began on October 9. So far, immigration has dominated discussion on the floor — the governor's other priorities for this session, including contentious school voucher and COVID restriction bills, may have to wait until after this session ends on November 9.

This year, state Republican representatives have honed in on passing restrictive immigration legislation in response to a perceived "border crisis," hoping to fill gaps left by "federal immigration laws President Joe Biden refuses to enforce," per a statement released by Abbott's office.

Human smuggling was also a hot topic during the 2021 legislative session, when the requirements for charging an individual with human smuggling were relaxed and the crime became a state felony. Before the law took effect, state prosecutors needed to prove that money had changed hands to accuse someone of being a smuggler — after its implementation, that evidence was no longer needed and all immigration-related crimes brought in by state law enforcement became felonies.

Those enhanced charges were not universally popular with local law enforcement: in the Big Bend, Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson blamed the enhanced penalties for filling the Brewster County Jail, a problem that would require a pricey expansion project to address.

Dodson told *The Sentinel* that the county had processed more felonies in the six months after the law took effect than the total number of felonies for the entire previous year. Brewster County makes money off of housing federal prisoners — with so many state felonies, the county no longer could rely on that income stream. "We're getting hammered," he said.

For Presidio County law enforcement, jail space was not the issue — simply that they weren't arresting that many folks suspected of

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Single voter to decide on finalization of Lajitas Utility District following election mix-up

By MARY CANTRELL
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BREWSTER COUNTY — An election to finalize the creation of a Lajitas Utility District within 2,700 undeveloped acres of the Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa, previously thought to be open to all registered voters in voting Precinct 7, has been discovered by officials amidst early voting to only be open to one individual.

Lora Nussbaum, elections administrator for Brewster County, said the error was due to a miscommunication between her and the utility district's attorney, Ronald Freeman, whose office was responsible for placing the initiative on the ballot.

Freeman told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that he failed to explain to Nussbaum that only voters living specifically within the district's boundaries — as opposed to all voters in the precinct — are eligible to vote in the confirmation election. "This was my mistake," said Freeman. "I take responsibility. I should have communicated more clearly with the elections administrator."

The confirmation of the utility district, which was first created by an act of the Legislature in 2011, is required by state law to be put up for a public vote. Freeman said the district, while not pursuing any specific projects at this time, is seeking to become active.

"We haven't used it yet, it's gonna be born after this confirmation election," said Freeman.

If approved by the one eligible voter, the district will have the power to levy taxes, issue bonds, and more. Utility districts are typically created by developers for infrastructure projects and have broad powers to "implement water, sewer, and other utilities [and] construct road and drainage improvements," according to Freeman.

Municipal utility districts, or MUDs, are common throughout the state, with nearly 2,000 active districts, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, but less common in the tri-county area due to a lack of large-scale developments. Nussbaum said it was her first time encountering a utility district election.

The utility district election also involves the singular voter selecting any number of five "permanent" district directors. Names on the ballot include George Kutch, Renee Lorenz, Brent Ratliff and H.C. Ross Jr., and Morgan Jones, most of which have been serving informally since the creation of the district in 2011. Many are affiliated

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November 7 voting times and locations in the tri-county

TRI-COUNTY — On Tuesday Texas voters will get to cast their ballots for or against 14 amendments to the state Constitution lawmakers passed as bills during the most recent legislative session.

The Texas Constitution, written in 1876, limits lawmaker changes without a popular vote and has been amended over 500 times. State-wide ballot measures involve property tax relief, the creation of a state water fund, expansion of internet access, addition of more state parks, prohibition of a wealth tax and more.

The full list of constitutional amendments can be found on the secretary of state's website and a pro/con voting guide provided by the League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan nonprofit, can be found on their website. The state's $30 billion surplus is funding many of the initiatives, meaning they do not involve new taxes.

Early voting for the November 7 constitutional amendment election runs until Friday, November 3. An overview of a handful of the amendments and how they could impact the tri-county region can be found on *The Big Bend Sentinel*'s website.

Presidio County

Early voting is taking place Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3, at the Presidio County Courthouse and Presidio Activity Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Day voting in Marfa will be held at the Presidio County Courthouse and in Presidio at the Presidio Activity Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Brewster County

Early voting for all precincts is taking place Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Judge Val Clark Beard Conference Room, 203 N 7th Street, Alpine.

Election Day voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Assembly of God Fellowship Hall across from Alpine High School for Precinct 1, Judge Val Clark Beard Conference Room for precincts 2 and 8, Marathon Community Center for Precinct 3, Alpine Civic Center for Precinct 4 and Red Pattillo Community Center for precincts 5, 6 and 7.

Jeff Davis County

Early voting in Jeff Davis County will be held at the Courthouse in the County and District Clerk's Office, 111 N. Front Street, Fort Davis, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3.

Election Day voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jeff Davis County Community Center for precincts 1, 2 and 3, The Valentine Community Building for Precinct 4 and The Davis Mountains Resort Baptist Church for Precinct 5.



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Human smuggling penalties

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smuggling. In the same time frame cited by Dodson, only six people were apprehended for human smuggling out of around 200 people detained for immigration-related crimes.

Enhanced penalties for human smuggling have also been a major talking point in the statehouse this year — SB 4 borrows language from HB 800, a bill that died in the Senate back in May. HB 800 would also have raised the mandatory minimum for smuggling to 10 years; if smugglers were also implicated in bodily injury or the death of a migrant, that minimum would have been set at 15 years.

Both HB 800 and its successor bill SB 4 were popular on the Republican side of the aisle, but also earned a few borderland Democrat sponsors — both Senator César Blanco and Representative Eddie Morales, whose constituents include tri-county residents, voted in support.

Blanco cited an uptick in apprehensions of smugglers and owners of stash houses in his hometown of El Paso — up 80% over the course of a single year, per statistics provided by CBP. "This bill will crack down on cartel smuggling and stash house operations with enhanced penalties to better protect our local neighborhoods and migrants preyed upon by the cartels," he wrote in a press release.

Morales' team echoed Blanco's anti-organized crime rhetoric. "Everyone in [my district] knows the severity of human smuggling and the cartel's profits behind it," he wrote.

Not everyone familiar with the legislation thought it would have the intended effect. Some felt that instead of targeting cartel bogeymen, the law would likely catch vulnerable, unaffiliated folks in the crosshairs. Kristen Etter of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) — a nonprofit offering free legal services to underprivileged people across Texas — said that her organization had seen human-smuggling related cases balloon in recent years.

Before HB 4 passed the Senate, Etter testified before the Senate Committee on State Affairs that TRLA had rendered services to over 3,000 individuals charged with state-level immigration offenses since enhanced penalties took effect in 2021 — a large percentage of whom had been charged with human smuggling.

She had also observed a particularly troubling trend in more populated areas along the border: rather than transporting migrants themselves, people involved in high-level smuggling operations posted ads on social media looking for drivers. Those who responded — typically younger, vulnerable folks looking for extra cash — signed up, not aware of the severe consequences.

Under the new laws, transporting migrants in a vehicle — knowingly or unknowingly, concealed or unconcealed — now carries a 10-year minimum sentence. "We don't have that for rape, we don't have that for murder," she said.

With SB 4 almost on the books, lawmakers and advocates on both sides of the aisle have their eyes on HB 4, a bill that would create a new state crime for crossing the U.S.-Mexico border anywhere except for a port of entry. HB 4 borrows language from SB 11, another special session bill that died in committee.

HB 4, SB 4 and other recent Texas immigration laws have proven controversial — with some arguing that states do not have the power to supersede federal immigration enforcement. Opponents cite *Arizona v. United States*, a 2012 Supreme Court decision that struck down similar efforts to expand local law enforcements' power to curtail immigration-related crimes.

Senator Blanco spoke out against the measure. "The federal government already has an offense for unlawful entry, and that has not turned away desperate migrants looking for a better life," he said.

At press time, HB 4 was headed for a series of public hearings. The Big Bend Sentinel will continue to report on this special session's legislation as details become available.

The offices of Eddie Morales, César Blanco and Greg Abbott did not return requests for further comment.

Marfa schools hire new student success coordinator, build out sensory room for special education students

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Marfa ISD School Board trustees met last week to review various school updates including the hiring of a student success coordinator and establishment of a grant-funded sensory room at the elementary campus for special education students.

Student athletes in workout attire packed the boardroom at the start of the meeting, taking a break from practice to be recognized by coaches, board members and Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez for advancing to district competitions. Athletic Director Linda Ojeda congratulated them on their strong performances as individuals and teams this fall but reminded them it all began in summer training.

"This, right now, it's all fun, rewards, all the good stuff," said Ojeda. "But it's only because you guys put the work in during the summer."

Next Alferez shared that the district had received a 100% score on its first safety audit of the school year — unannounced inspections conducted by the state. He said junior and high school attendance was around 94% for the month of October, which is lower than desired, and the district was sending out letters, calling home and knocking on doors to reach parents and students not in attendance. Board Member Yolanda Jurado pointed out that attendance was one of the metrics the board was hoping to improve by adopting the four-day school week.

Attendance at the elementary school was higher at 96% in October, according to a presentation made by Principal Amy White.

Sensory room

White also shared information and led a tour for board members of the elementary school's recently-completed sensory room, a classroom transformed into a relaxing space designed for special education students that is also open to any student in need.

Funded by a $10,000 grant from the Marfa Education Foundation, the space includes color-changing fiber optic light strands and a bubble tube machine as well as a swing, beanbags, projector and more. Fluorescent overhead lights are also muted to create a calmer environment.

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*, elementary special education teacher Rosie Martinez, who previously worked as an autism consultant in El Paso and San Antonio, said the room was specifically designed with autistic students, a growing population nationally, in mind. (In 2020, 1 in 36 children was identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) compared to 1 in 150 in 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)

"Students living in the metropolitan areas have classrooms specialized for each specific disability, but in rural communities, we [lack that specificity]," said Martinez. "Because the prevalence rate of autism continues to increase, we felt the need to try to provide our students with the same equipment that larger schools have."

Martinez said the space, in addition to hosting yoga and music programs, "helps [students'] visual, auditory and tactile processing as well as fine and gross motor skills." Students that stim — perform repetitive motions due to anxiety — will be able to express themselves in a comfortable space, she explained.

"Another reason [for the sensory room] is to provide a sense of calm and comfort which can help students to self-regulate their behaviors, which ultimately improves focus," said Martinez.

> *"He's a person that's been here, that knows the community, knows the students, knows families here in town."*

For now, around five of the elementary special education students were primarily utilizing the space, said White. Alferez declined to provide the exact number of special education students currently enrolled at the elementary campus, citing student and family privacy concerns.

According to the district's 2022 report card, 12% of the students district-wide were classified as special education. Martinez works with four teaching assistants.

New student success coordinator

The school board also voted to hire a new counselor, also known as a student success coordinator, David Natividad, who will start at the junior high and high school this week. The district has been without a student success coordinator since the summer.

The shortage of working counselors is affecting districts across the state; according to the American School Counselor Association, Texas is currently averaging one counselor per 400 students compared to the recommended one per 250.

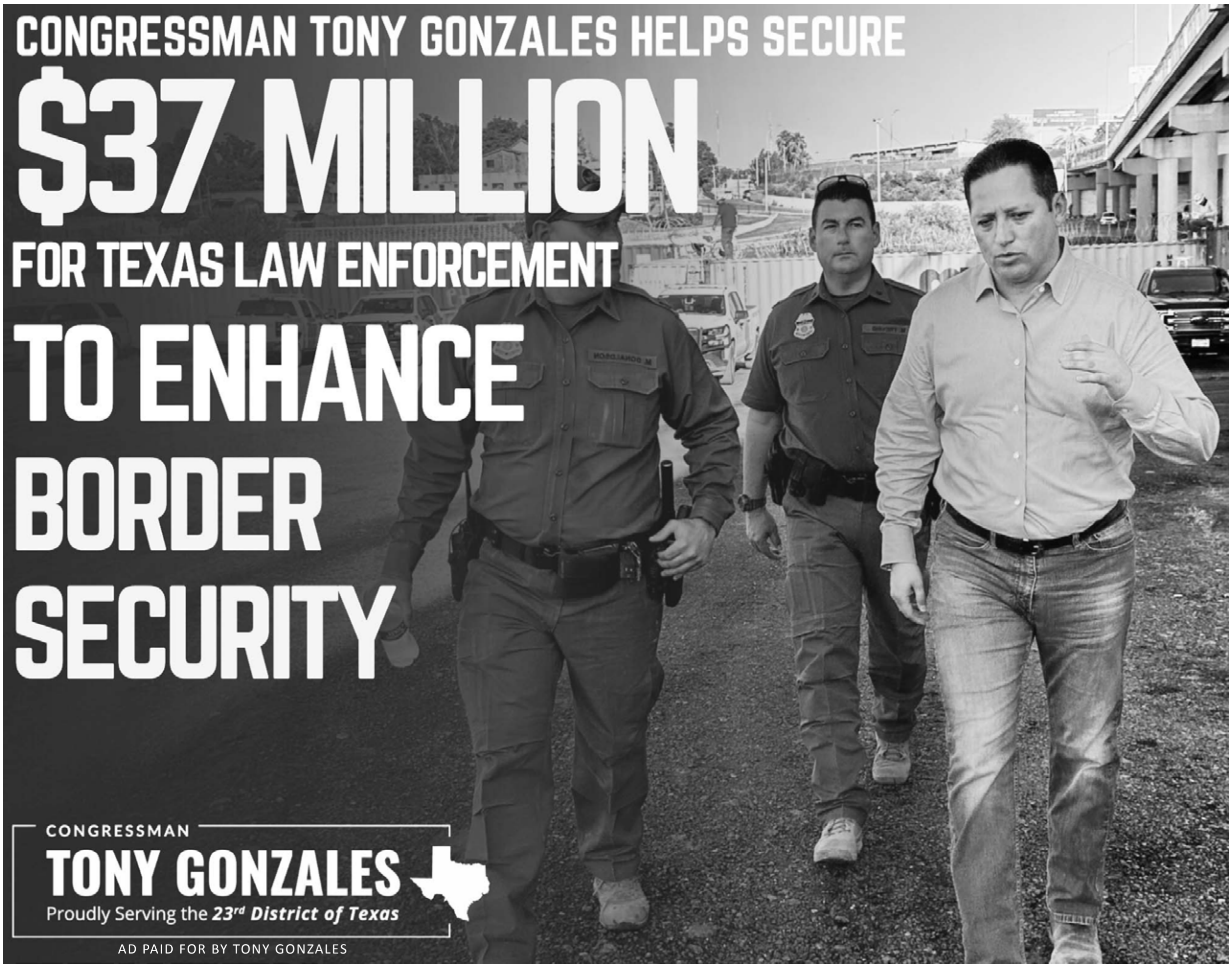
Natividad is a Marfa ISD alumni, and previously worked at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview as a Title 5 grant project director.

"He's a person that's been here, that knows the community, knows the students, knows families here in town," said Alferez.

Alferez said while Natividad is not yet a certified counselor, the district will encourage him to pursue certification. Natividad will act as a "liaison for students," said Alferez, and the district will maintain relationships with outside additional counselors to call upon in the case of a crisis.

He said Natividad will also help out with district testing and college readiness, an area he is very familiar with.

"He is more of a pipeline for our students to get into those colleges, universities, to assist our students in scholarships and financial aid since he knows those programs available at the university level," said Alferez.



Lajitas Utility District

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with Energy Transfer, a company co-founded by Lajitas Golf Resort owner billionaire Kelcy Warren.

Freeman said the one individual who is eligible to vote has been contacted by the district about the initiative. "We actually have a fella residing in the district who I hope will vote, we've asked him to, explained the vote to him and what he's doing, but other people cannot vote," said Freeman.

Nussbaum was unable to share the name of the one eligible Lajitas Utility District voter because they have not yet cast a ballot.

Nussbaum said she previously provided a copy of the Precinct 7 voter rolls to Freeman, which show a total of 180 voters living in the precinct, both in Lajitas and Terlingua, and wasn't sure why the issue hadn't been raised before early voting began. Now, she said, election officials were scrambling to rectify the situation.

"We're having to reprogram the machines so that one eligible voter is able to vote, both the constitutional amendment and the Lajitas district [election], and then the other 179 are eligible to vote only the constitutional amendments," said Nussbaum.

Printed ballots for the election had already been ordered, said Nussbaum, and can no longer be used. Freeman said the district would compensate the county for the incorrect ballots.

Nussbaum said only one Precinct 7 voter participated in early voting before the Lajitas Utility District election error was discovered. She was unable to confirm whether or not that individual — who is not the one individual permitted to vote on the utility district and directors — voted on those measures.

Freeman said the canvassing process after the election should allow district leaders to weed out invalid votes, and they would work with the Attorney General's Office as needed to correct the situation.

"The board has the power when it canvasses those results to say that vote's not going to be counted because we know that vote was in Precinct 7 and not district boundaries," said Freeman.

If the one eligible voter decides not to participate in the election or votes against the measure, the district will have to decide whether or not to hold another election, if possible, or will dissolve, said Freeman.

For more information, see the article titled "Lajitas Golf Resort brings forth ballot initiative to finalize utility district establishment," published last week in print and online at bigbendsentinel.com

Marfa Invitational art fair loses nonprofit status as board members step down

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — The Marfa Invitational, an art fair established in 2019 by residents Michael Phelan and Melissa Bent, has recently lost its nonprofit status as well as a number of board members and advisors, according to recent reporting from Artnet news.

According to public documents from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Marfa Invitational received its nonprofit, or tax-exempt, status in August 2020. It was revoked in May 2023 because the organization failed to file 990 forms — publicly available documents with detailed financial information — for three consecutive years, according to the IRS website.

Phelan told Artnet news the failure to file the 990 forms was a mistake and that Marfa Invitational's 501c3 nonprofit status would be reinstated in days. Phelan did not respond to *The Big Bend Sentinel's* requests for comment.

Reinstatement, according to the IRS, involves filing an application for exemption and paying a fee. A new determination letter will then be issued by the IRS if it is determined that an organization meets tax-exempt requirements.

Artnet news also reported Marfa Invitational board members Alex Scull and Penny Aaron as well as board advisors Kathleen Loughlin and Debi Wisch have recently stepped down from the organization.

"We are no longer associated or affiliated with the Marfa Invitational and are not certain whether a formal board structure for that organization is in place any longer," Scull and Loughlin wrote in a joint statement to Artnet news.

Loughlin and Wisch declined to comment further on their decisions to cut ties with the organization when reached by *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Phelan told Artnet news board members who stepped back were never formally voted in. However, in an April 2023 email Phelan sent to *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Scull and Loughlin were listed as board leaders.

This past May, the Marfa Invitational art fair brought galleries from around the world to Marfa including Nino Mier Gallery, Over the Influence, Half Gallery and more and presented well-known art critic Jerry Saltz as a speaker. Recent programming has also included a Cynthia Rowley fashion show which featured models on horseback as well as a ranch tour and cocktail soirée with San Antonio architecture firm Lake Flato.

In recent years, local galleries and arts spaces have opened their own satellite shows in conjunction with the Marfa Invitational, contributing to a city-wide, varied arts showcase the first weekend in May for both visiting VIPs and locals.

Phelan has spoken publicly about his desire to establish a permanent home for the Marfa Invitational — which, in the past, has utilized Saint George Hall — for year-round installations, performances and more.

In recent years, the art fair has hosted outdoor sculpture installations on undeveloped acreage in Antelope Hills, which Phelan has referred to on social media as the Marfa Invitational sculpture park and grounds. *Sleeping Figure*, a sculpture depicting stacked train cars by artist Matt Johnson, is soon to be permanently installed on the site, according to Marfa Invitational's website.

In October 2021, Phelan told Texas arts publication Glasstire that work on "two 10,000 square-foot Exhibition and Performance Pavilions" was "full steam ahead," but supply chain issues caused by the pandemic were delaying the start of construction. In a response to *The Big Bend Sentinel* in May 2022, Phelan cited the same reason for continued delays, but said he hoped to receive building and construction materials by late summer or early fall of 2022.

Phelan did not respond to requests for comment about the status of the permanent structures, but digital mockups which show six buildings and an outdoor pavilion situated in a desert landscape are posted on Marfa Invitational's website.

Woman charged with smuggling fentanyl at Presidio Port of Entry sentenced to 14 years in prison

By SAM KARAS
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ALPINE — Last Monday, a woman caught at the Presidio Port of Entry with large amounts of fentanyl and methamphetamine was sentenced to 14 years in prison. The defendant — Cherakee Lee Perez — was indicted by District Judge David Counts of a single count of possession with intent to distribute both narcotics.

On January 12, Perez was flagged for secondary inspection at the Presidio International Bridge after telling a customs official that she was traveling to Oklahoma from Camargo, Chihuahua, because her husband had recently been deported. In secondary, a narcotics detection dog flagged the vehicle and uncovered 4.5 kilograms of methamphetamine and 7 kilograms of fentanyl.

Per an affidavit by Homeland Security Investigations Task Force Officer Michael McCall, Perez then told law enforcement that she expected to receive $7,000 for smuggling the narcotics into the United States and had done so successfully before.

Perez's arrest marked one of the first fentanyl-related incidents on the bridge. In November 2022, Presidio ISD Police Chief Joel Nuñez told a crowd of parents that fentanyl had not yet reached the area — but that they should still learn about the dangers of the drug.

Nuñez explained that fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can be formulated up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. The drug has been produced in formal lab settings for decades, but snowballed into a "crisis" in the illegal narcotics trade around 2014, per the DEA.

Though many urban legends circulate about the dangers of the drug — whether in fentanyl-laced Halloween candy or law enforcement overdosing on contact alone — the drug is so lethal because distributors often combine it with other narcotics, leaving many users unaware that they are even consuming fentanyl.

Just a few weeks after Nuñez's presentation, a Mexican national at the port of entry was flagged for a secondary inspection that yielded 2 pounds of the drug. Perez's arrest shortly thereafter marked a large jump in the quantity of fentanyl being smuggled — a little over 15 pounds.

Perez's indictment coincided with Customs and Border Protection's announcement of a major counter-fentanyl operation along the U.S.-Mexico border and a revision of the agency's attempt to stem the flow of the drug into the United States. "The Department of Homeland Security is combating the scourge of fentanyl and other illicit synthetic narcotics with every tool at our disposal," Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas wrote in a press release.

Over the past few years, federal counter-fentanyl programs have been given cinematic names: Operation Blue Lotus, Operation Four Horsemen and the most recent, Operation Artemis. Per agency statistics, Operation Artemis yielded over 13,000 pounds of "precursor chemicals" used to make fentanyl over the course of four months.

So far, a disproportionate number of fentanyl seizures have taken place at ports of entry in San Diego and Tucson, with over 10,000 pounds of the drug discovered at each crossing in 2022. In contrast, busts in Texas and New Mexico represent a tiny fraction of these numbers, and seizures at the Presidio Port of Entry total less than 20 pounds so far this year. (At press time, Perez's arrest was the only fentanyl seizure reported by local law enforcement so far this year.)

Despite the scale of these federal campaigns, fentanyl continues to impact families and individuals on a much more personal level. Perez will serve up to 14 years in a federal facility "as close to [her home state of] Oklahoma as possible," per court documents, and will participate in an intensive drug abuse counseling and education program.

Perez's grandmother spoke fondly of her granddaughter in a character witness statement provided to the court. "[Perez] is such a wonderful young woman, and an even more wonderful mother to her five children, whom she loves so very much," she wrote. "I hope to see them reunited soon."

Perez's attorney did not return a request for comment.





Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Thanks to Jeanine Bishop, the executive director of the Alpine Humane Society, for her letter last week which corrects some misconceptions about the group's current financial situation.

It is very disheartening to learn that this year's donations are down by 46% and that Ms. Bishop, although still working full time, has had to remove herself from the payroll in order that the shelter can continue to operate. A couple of years ago she created the Far West Texas Rescue Coalition made up of local rescuers and shelters and began hosting low-cost spay and neuter clinics. It was an amazing feat that 15 of these clinics occurred, which resulted in 1100 local animals being neutered. It was a brave new start for the better treatment of dogs and cats in our area.

Unfortunately, because of lack of donations and funding the low-cost clinics have been stopped. More kittens and puppies mean that more dogs and cats will languish in shelters, and more will be euthanized.

If you have love in your heart for animals, please consider donating to the effort to help our local dogs and cats find homes, and happiness. You can easily donate at alpinehumanesociety.org.

Thank you,

Mary Baxter
Marfa

• • •

Editor:

I would hate for Presidio County to be known as the county that willingly gave up public park land to placate a private business.

It is extremely presumptuous of El Cosmico to expect the county to grant them an easement through our park or through any of our land in North Park. Whether it's along the side of the Marfa Golf Course or through the rodeo grounds/roping arena or through the area around the Ag Barn, when is it okay to sacrifice public land for private benefit?

Since when is it okay for a county road to be built for the sole purpose of providing an entryway to a private business?

Since when is it okay for the county to build a road that in reality would become a private road?

Seems to me that by offering to pay for the construction/maintenance of the entryway road through Vizcaino Park, El Cosmico is offering a subtle type of bribe.

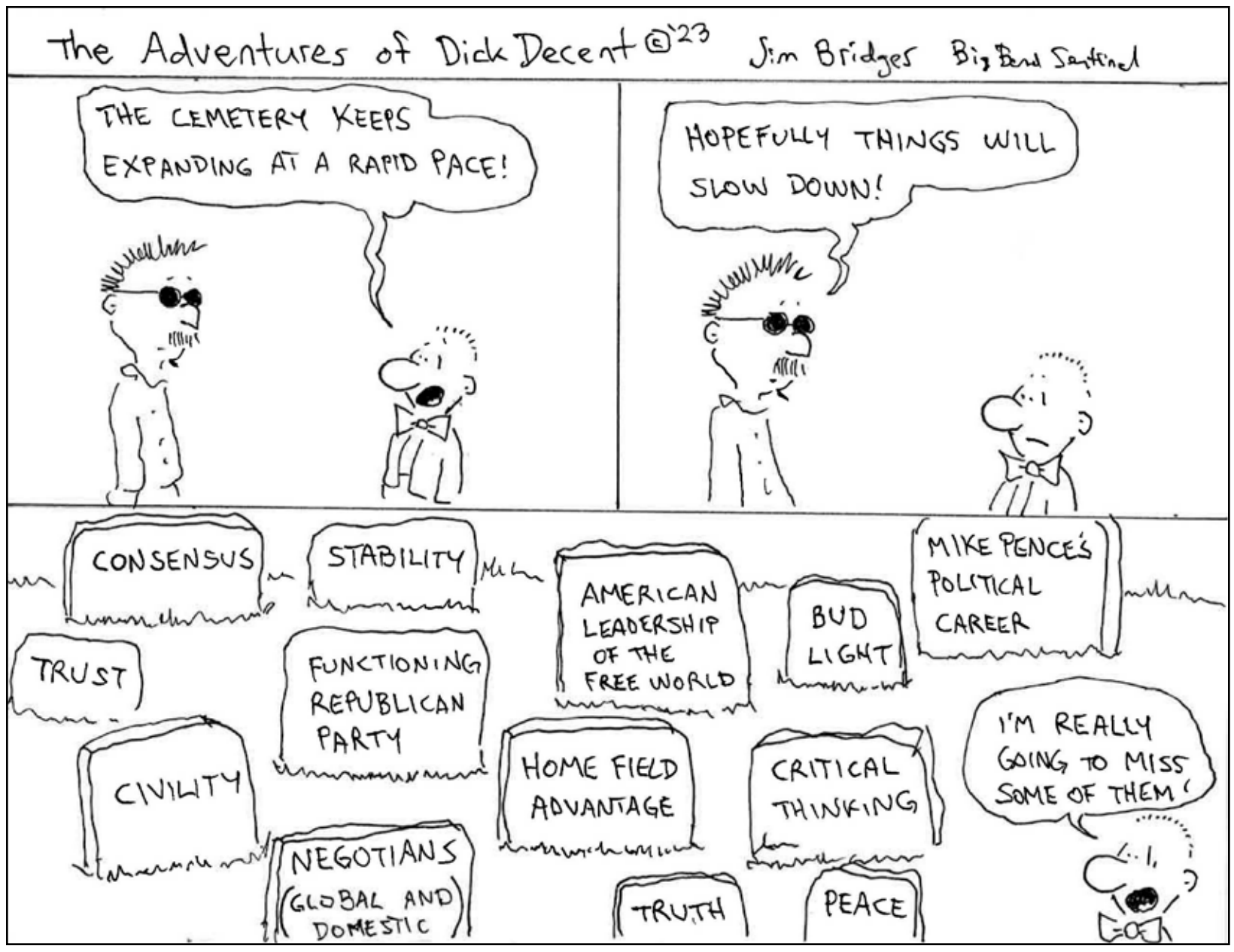
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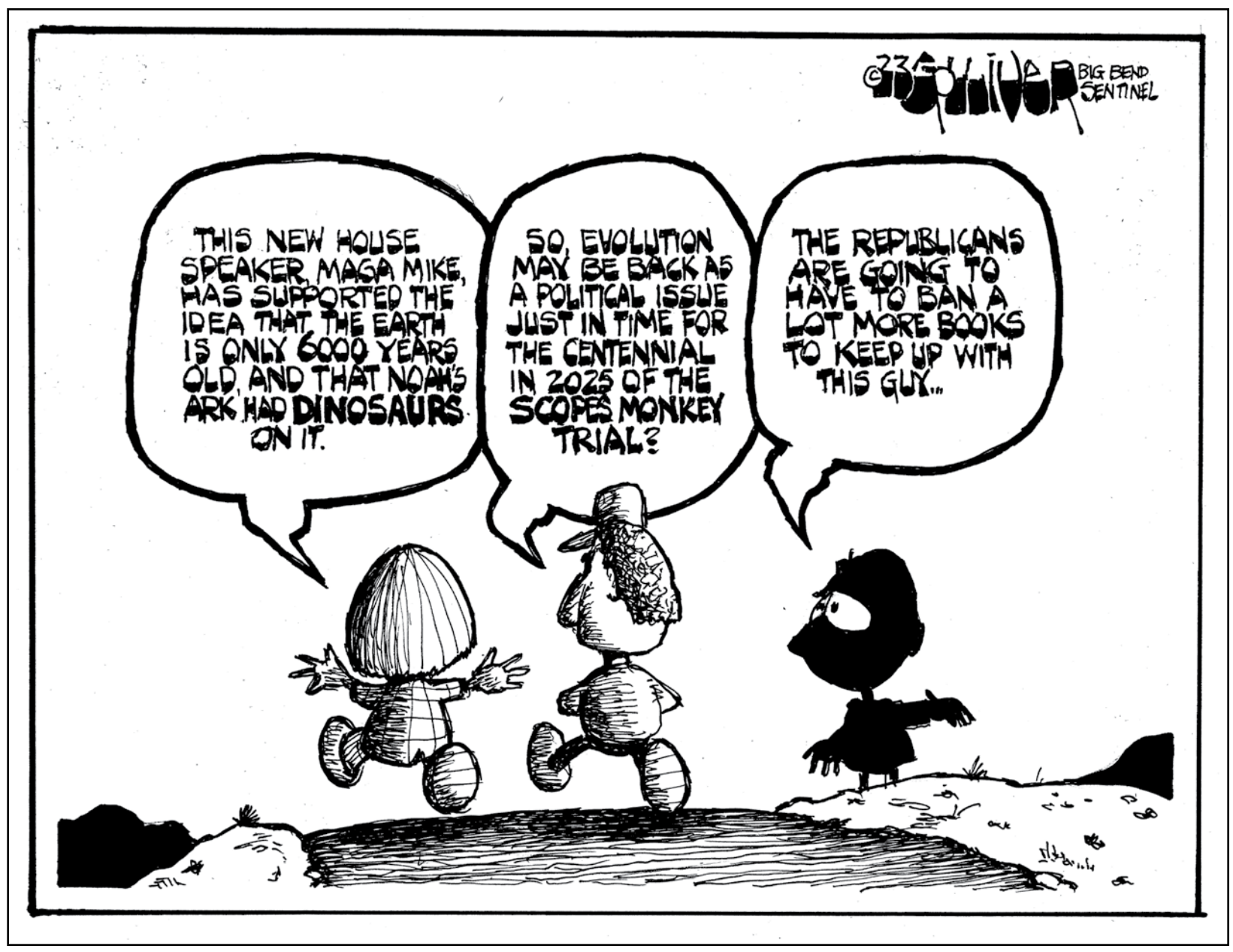
Dawn Shannon
Marfa

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- 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***





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Chinati is an art foundation created by Donald Judd and opened to the public in 1986.
Chinati is open Wednesday through Sunday. Office hours and guided tour times are seasonal. For details and reservations, please come to the Visitor Center (1 Cavalry Row) or go to chinati.org/visit.
Free entrance is available for residents of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.

Arts

'Mariposa Relámpago' opens this weekend at Ballroom Marfa

MARFA — *Mariposa Relámpago*, a traveling installation created by Salvadoran-born, New York-based transdisciplinary visual artist, choreographer and healer Guadalupe Maravilla, will open at Ballroom on November 4, with a celebration from 4 to 7 p.m., as it makes its way across Texas in a series of exhibitions and sound activations presented by three leading institutions.

The installation was originally commissioned by the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston in May 2023, and after its Texas opening at Ballroom Marfa, it will travel to The Contemporary Austin's Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria in April 2024 and will commence at the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston in November 2024.

Known for his intricately layered paintings, large-scale sculptures and sound ceremonies, Maravilla's expansive practice draws from his personal history and Central American ancestry. Maravilla fled El Salvador's civil war as an unaccompanied minor and made a perilous journey through Central America to reunite with family in the United States, becoming a citizen in 2006. Later in life, he was diagnosed with colon cancer, an illness he links to generational trauma, the stresses of his migration experience, and being undocumented. Throughout Maravilla's recovery process, he learned ancient healing methods, including sound, a form of rehabilitation he feels has been abandoned by Western medicine. Maravilla continues to use these methods on others who have had similar experiences.

Maravilla's monumental installation *Mariposa Relámpago* was born out of the artist's life history. The artist purchased a yellow school bus in El Salvador with the intention of re-tracing his migration route from El Salvador to the United States. The sculpture continues to travel to three locations in Texas. Equal parts sculpture, shrine and healing machine, the work was transformed from a school bus and elaborately reconstructed with hundreds of objects that speak to Maravilla's story. Now adorned with chrome plating, the bus features fringe made of cutlery and a range of objects imbued with spiritual, political and medicinal meaning, from models of children's torsos, intended to reference the ghosts of those who first used the bus and those who have traversed across borders in search of safety, to symbols from Mesoamerican cosmology, Indigenous practices, and spiritual emblems as well as contemporary imagery of disease and medicine.

Considered one of the largest vibrational healing instruments in the world — and Maravilla's largest sculpture to date — *Mariposa Relámpago* features gongs and other tonal objects suspended from its sides, which the artist activates during his sound baths alongside a team of healers. These sessions, which Maravilla has hosted specifically for undocumented immigrants and cancer survivors, are known to reduce stress, anxiety and trauma that physically manifests in the body from systematic abuse of immigrants. The artist-led sound ceremonies will be held at each iteration of the work in Texas.

Guadalupe Maravilla: Mariposa Relámpago's Texas Tour comes at a time when the state is confronted with its own deep-seated, socio-political issues surrounding border control, immigration and healthcare. With the humanitarian crisis with asylum seekers across the state, *Mariposa Relámpago* comes at a critical moment in Texas. Three leading institutions and respective curators have come together in a unique collaboration that takes Maravilla's powerful installation across the state and invites visitors to simultaneously explore the notions of displacement and recovery, demonstrating the power of contemporary art to confront trauma and nurture healing. Outdoors in all three venues, the work welcomes public dialogue about immigration, healing and the transformational potential that we all embody.

"Guadalupe first came to Ballroom Marfa as an artist in *Ballroom Sessions–The Father Place* residency, where artists explore ideas in their practice and incorporate learnings from the region. While Marfa is an art destination, it is also just 60 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border. Migration is embedded in both Guadalupe's work and this landscape. As the bus travels from West to East Texas, each of the partner venues will have a different dialogue about migration, ways of healing, and the power of art. We're excited to have Guadalupe back to present this powerful work in Marfa, especially during our 20th anniversary year that is dedicated to visionary artists like Guadalupe," said Daisy Nam, executive director and curator of Ballroom Marfa.

Throughout the duration of *Mariposa Relámpago*'s presentation, Ballroom Marfa will host a variety of programs, including an opening, closing, and private sound bath ceremony led by the artist and his sound healers, alongside an outdoor film screening of its creation, beginning with the bus's blessing from shamans to the sourcing of volcanic rock from El Salvador. Additionally on view will be a Tripa Chuca mural inspired by a Salvadoran children's game where two players draw lines between numbers that ultimately form abstract patterns or a map. Maravilla partnered with a local collaborator, who shares a similar experience of migration, to create the mural together on Ballroom's courtyard walls surrounding the sculpture.

"It's really special for me to be back here in Marfa after my time as an artist in residence at Ballroom. This time I'm here with *Mariposa Relámpago* as it starts its journey in Texas first in Marfa, then to Austin and Houston. Because of this political climate in Texas and sharing the border with Mexico, the bus needs to be here right now."

Guadalupe Maravilla: Mariposa Relámpago will be on view at Ballroom Marfa from November 4, 2023, until March 16, 2024.



Photo by Steve Benisty

Guadalupe Maravilla, 2021

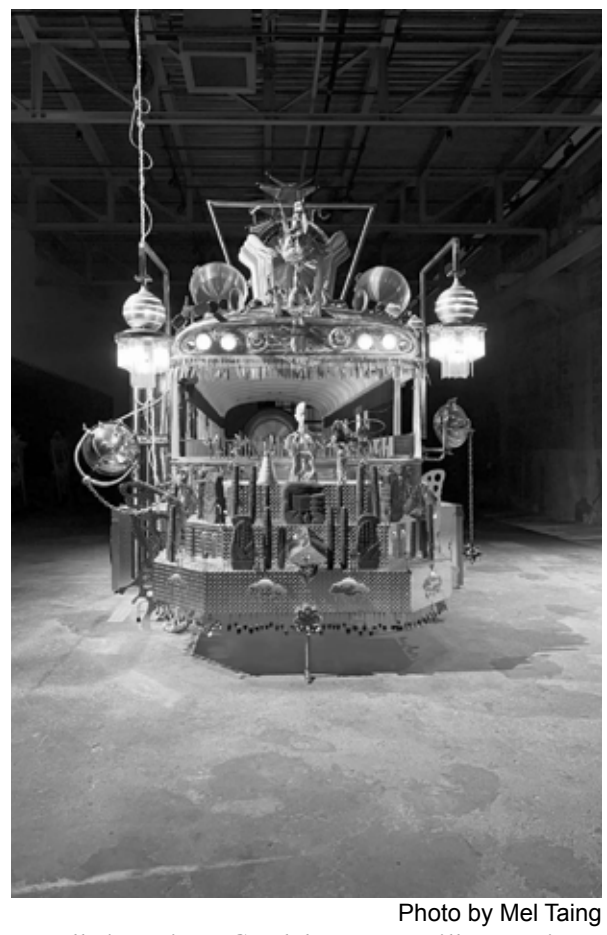


Photo by Mel Taing

Installation view, Guadalupe Maravilla: Mariposa Relámpago, the Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, 2023.

Webb's Fair & Square to host father-son artist duo Dirk and Jackson Fowler

FORT DAVIS — A new exhibition featuring the artwork of Dirk Fowler and his son Jackson will open Saturday, November 4, from noon to 4 p.m. at Webb's Fair & Square, 105 N. Front St.

Sons of West Texas will feature the work of Lubbock-based Dirk Fowler, a letterpress and graphic artist, as well as his son Jackson, a tattoo and visual artist. Both will be in attendance.

The gallery will have available a selection of Dirk's letterpress posters and original drawings by Jackson, who favors the single line drawings of old school flash art with an emphasis on symbols of the West.

A poster for Marfa Public Radio, designed by Dirk, will also be available for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to the station. Weather permitting, a DJ set by Honky Tonk Happy Hour host David Branch will take place on the old Masonic Lodge's front porch.

For more information, visit webbartgallery.com/



Courtesy of Webb Gallery

All Hat by Dirk Fowler.



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Ranch Day

Judd Foundation invites everyone to Ranch Day at Casa Perez, one of Donald Judd's three ranch houses. This event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, November 5
11:00am-3:00pm
Casa Perez

11:30am-1:00pm lunch by Angel's Restaurant (first come, first served).

1:00pm 'Flora of the Chihuahuan Desert' conversation with botanists Dr. A. Mike Powell (co-founder of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology and Director and Curator of the Herbarium at Sul Ross State University) and Patty Manning (co-founder of Twin Sisters Natives, specializing in seed-grown plants from the Trans-Pecos region).

2:00pm hike with Randy Sanchez, Judd Foundation

Music by Lady Chanticleer.

Judd Foundation invita a todos a día de rancho a Casa Perez, una de las tres ranchos del artista Donald Judd. Gratis y abierto al público.

Domingo, 5 Noviembre
11:00am-3:00pm
Casa Perez

11:30am-1:00pm almuerzo en Angel's Restaurant (hasta que se acabe).

1:00pm 'Conversación sobre Flora del Desierto de Chihuahua' con los botánicos Dr. A. Mike Powell (cofundador del Instituto de Investigación del Desierto de Chihuahua, Profesor Emérito Distinguido de Biología y Director y Curador del Herbario de la Universidad Estatal de Sul Ross) y Patty Manning (cofundadora de Twin Sisters Natives, especializada en plantas cultivadas con semillas de la región Trans-Pecos).

2:00pm una caminata con Randy Sanchez, Judd Foundation

Música por Lady Chanticleer.

Directions to Casa Perez

Travel south on Pinto Canyon Road / Ranch Road 2810. Casa Perez is located 10 miles past the end of the paved road. High clearance vehicles required.

For more information, please contact:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

Cómo llegar a Casa Perez

Viaje al sur en Pinto Canyon Road / Ranch Road 2810. Casa Perez se encuentra a 10 millas más allá del final de la carretera asfaltada. Vehículos de alta remoción requiere.

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto:
marfa@juddfoundation.org

This program has been made possible through the generous support of the Brown Foundation, Inc. and a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. This project has been supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Este programa ha sido posible gracias al apoyo de la Fundación Brown, Inc. y una subvención de la Comisión de Texas sobre las artes. Este proyecto ha sido apoyado en parte por un premio del National Endowment para las artes.

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Community



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Kaci Flores carries her son Andres Rodriguez, dressed as Jack-Jack Parr from "The Incredibles," on stage during the costume contest at the Marfa Public Library Halloween party.



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Manny Lujan and his twin brother Jon Lujan, both dressed as characters from "Paw Patrol," play with an oversized Connect 4 game at the Marfa Public Library Halloween party.

Friends of Marfa Public Library's annual Halloween costume competition results

MARFA — On Halloween afternoon, before families hit the street to trick-or-treat, Friends of Marfa Public Library held a Halloween party in the library courtyard. Community members of all ages partook in the festivities which included games, cupcakes and a costume contest. competition results are as follows:

Ages 0-4

Best homemade costume - Sebastian Torres as Manolo from The Book of Life

Scariest costume - Xanti Galindo as a vampire

Funniest costume - Aliana Wilmarth as Wednesday from The Addams Family

Ages 5-8

Best homemade costume - Merit Fowlkes as a mermaid

Scariest costume - Emmanuel Reyes as a scary pumpkin

Funniest costume - Benny Cuevas as an alien abduction

Ages 9-12

Best homemade costume - Cy Watts as the Karate Kid

Scariest costume - Jaylynn Jacquez as Sally from A Nightmare Before Christmas

Funniest costume - Mia Rosas as a clown

Adults and groups

Best homemade costume - Romeo Fuentes and Abel Acosta-Fuentes as Transformers

Scariest costume - Gabriel Chavrria as The Phantom of the Opera

Funniest costume - Zoe Kurland and Travis Bubenik as Garth and Wayne from Wayne's World

Big Bend Democrats host 'Fall Forum on Issues and Advocacy'

MARFA — Democrats in Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties have joined up to form a new organization called Big Bend Democrats, with the mission of electing more Democrats to local and state office. They will host their first event this Saturday — The Big Bend Democrats Fall Forum on Issues and Advocacy. It will take place on November 4, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the atrium of the Capri at 603 West San Antonio Street in Marfa.

The event will start off with a performance by local musical duo, Primo Carrasco and Presidio County Commissioner David Beebe. A brief introduction will be delivered by Houston executive Thierry Tchenko, who is running in the Democratic Primary for United States Senate. At 3 p.m., Tchenko will participate in a panel discussion called "Democrats on the Border," along with Brewster County Commissioner Sara Colando (Terlingua), Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo, and Chief Deputy Joel Nunez of the Presidio County Sheriff's Office. The panel will be moderated by attorney Susan Hays, who recently ran for agriculture commissioner. The panel will explore their diverse perspectives on immigration and border security.

At 3:50, Presidio Democrats County Chair Ramon Rodriguez Aranda will conduct a brief Q&A with Katherine Culbert, candidate for Texas Railroad Commission. Culbert is the co-founder and CEO of K and K Process, a Houston-based consulting firm that assists oil and gas companies in improving process, personnel, and pipeline safety and reducing environmental impacts.

At 4:20, there will be a second panel discussion entitled "Women's Health in Rural Texas Post-Dobbs," moderated by local attorney Blair Park, who has recently thrown her hat into the race for Presidio County attorney. Panelists include Dr. Christie Alexander, physician of Marfa; Susan Hays; Lisa Kettyle, founder of the Big Bend Reproductive Coalition; and Austin Attorney Randall Sarosdy, who is running for Texas Supreme Court Place 2.

The keynote address will be delivered at 5:15 by activist Nancy Thompson, founder of Mothers Against Greg Abbott, which began as a one-woman protest and became an overnight movement, galvanizing women across Texas and America.

At the forum's conclusion, the group will venture down the street to Ballroom Marfa, where artist Guadalupe Maravilla will be hosting a contemporaneous celebration and sound ceremony for his show, *Guadalupe Maravilla: Mariposa Relámpago*, which is inspired by his experience of migration, being undocumented, and surviving cancer.





Big Bend Conservation Alliance digs back into garden project at BJ Bishop Wetlands

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Last week, the pollinator garden at the BJ Bishop Wetlands rang in its first birthday. To celebrate, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) — with help from the Texas Master Naturalists program and bird advocates at the Rio Grande Joint Venture — worked hard to set up the garden for springtime success.

The pollinator garden project is an experiment within an experiment. The BJ Bishop Wetlands, owned by Presidio farmer Terry Bishop, were once a golf course. The greens were ravaged by the massive Rio Grande flood of 2008, so Bishop decided to try something new: reusing clean, treated wastewater from the city to create a desert oasis.

Today, the wetlands are a haven for birders and Presidians in need of a little fresh air. An enclosed marshy area fed by city water is home to native bird and insect species, as well as visitors in need of a lush rest stop on their migratory commutes.

Last year, a group of students with local eco-activism organization Project Homeleaf worked with local plant expert Patty Manning, American Bird Conservancy representative Karen Chapman and a crew of knowledgeable adult volunteers to carve out a small part of the wetlands specifically catering to insects, hummingbirds and other small creatures who depend on flowering plants to survive.

Over the experimental first year, not all of the plants lived to celebrate the anniversary. Despite volunteers' tender loving care, invasive buffalo and bermuda grasses showed up as unwelcome guests. The crew decided to intervene by planting large shrubs to provide more shade and strategized about how best to minimize future grass incursions.

Jeff Bennett of the Rio Grande Joint Venture — a public-private collaboration aimed at advocating for birds — offered a summary of what he hoped the project would accomplish. "By planting [a] pollinator garden we're [going to] bring in insects — which the birds will follow — and will add to the biodiversity and aesthetic value of the place," he said. "This is an exercise not just to make the place desirable for insects and birds, but also for people."

Patty Manning of Twin Sisters Natives provided many of the new plants alongside donations from Marfa's Cactus Liquors. Manning and her partner Cyndi Wimberly specialize in plants of the Trans-Pecos cultivated from seed and cuttings.

Manning explained that the term "pollinator" encapsulated a wide variety of plants. "Most plants attract pollinators, because most flowering — not all, but most — flowering plants are pollinated by insects," she said. "It's a very, very broad descriptor."

In a world where pollinator species like bumblebees are on the decline, creating special habitats for these creatures to flock is an important goal. "When the term 'pollinator garden' really started being used big time, it was primarily geared towards planting things that attract butterflies," Manning explained. "But you can really broaden that and plant plants that are pollinated to attract many, many different kinds of insects."

In addition to garden maintenance, the crew also tended to a newly-constructed bird blind and a small tree nursery designed for the river corridor.

For some of the volunteers, the day of service was not just about getting their hands dirty. Sherry Cardino — outreach coordinator for the Tierra Grande Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists —is a new transplant to the Big Bend.

Master Naturalist participants must complete volunteer hours to earn their title, and maintain their status in the program by continuing to serve the local natural world. "Education has been the most enjoyable part," she said. "Plus, I love hard work."

Cardino had never visited Presidio before the volunteer event. "I've never been to a border town before," she said. "Everything is new to me, but I'm very enthusiastic about it."



Photo courtesy of Big Bend Conservation Alliance

Volunteers marked the one-year anniversary of the pollinator garden at the BJ Bishop Wetlands by tending to native plants.

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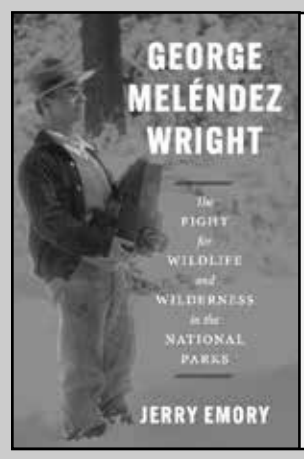
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Sports Updates from Marfa ISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Cross-country

Cross-country runner and state qualifying athlete, Francisco Rosas, shared his insights about his upcoming meet and what it has been like to get to this point of the season in a recent school interview.

When asked what helped him perform so well during regionals, Rosas emphasized how his strategy of controlling his breathing during the race this year differed from that of years past. This newfound approach helped him remain strong and steady during the course of the race and he also stated that starting training in mid-June, incorporating endurance and resistance work alongside football workouts, has positively impacted his performance.

Rosas expressed both excitement and nervousness about the upcoming race, finding confidence in representing Marfa through his dedication to the sport. He believes his performance can inspire teammates, especially incoming freshmen, to push through challenges and aim for advancement to the state level in the future. Although the Round Rock course has proven to be a tough course, Rosa's race plan includes staying with the top runners in the region, as it helps him determine his pace and timing.

He also intends to maintain his established technique to stay focused on the race rather than just finishing or trying to measure his performance against those runners around him. This is the first time Marfa sends a male runner to the UIL State Championships since 2015, but the Shorthorns continue to send state qualifiers in cross-country for the fifth consecutive year. Starting gun goes off Friday, November 3, at 10:40 a.m. for Rosas and the rest of the 1A boys competitors.

Volleyball

The Lady Horns bow out of the state playoffs with a 0-3 loss against Balmorhea on the road, but the team looks forward to bringing back every member of the team next year, since there were no seniors on the squad. The team finished the season 14-9 and heads to the off-season with many strong improvements from this young team.

Football

The Marfa Shorthorns blew out the Fort Davis Indians on the road Friday night by a decisive 48-22 victory, reviving Marfa's opportunity to sneak into the playoffs. Pending a win Friday night at home against Buena Vista, and a loss by other teams in the district, the Horns can make the playoffs for the first time in nearly a decade. Kick off time is 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 3, at Martin Field.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics

Cross Country girls finished up their season at the Regional Cross Country Meet at Angelo State University. From left, Raven Martinez, Ava Flores, Itzel Urrutia, Zoey Salgado, Liani Salcido, Madison Cash, and Gisselle Torres.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics

Boys cross country team members this season included, from left, Dustin Martinez, Francisco Rosas, Zach Wilson, Derick Campos, Marco Ruiz, Alejandro Rodriguez, Darren Campos, and Coach Edgar Ramirez.



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics

The Marfa Lady Horns season came to an end Monday night, but the future is promising for the program as the team returns all 6 starters. Pictured: Ava Flores, Maryfer Martinez, Raven Martinez, and Madison Cash.

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

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Jose Munoz-Bueno
9th Grade
Charcoal Still Life

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.

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

10/23

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

10/11

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit November 6, 2023

ACROSS
1 Tiger's mouth, say
4 "No sitting on the couch, Fido!"
7 Period of inactivity
13 Early Beatles label
14 "Aida" solo
16 "___ My Dear" (Beatles song)
17 Eight plus two
18 Tooting orchestra group (In this answer, note letters 1-3 and 5-6)
20 Evasive football tactic
22 Beer initials after "triple"
23 D&D, e.g.
24 Chiwere-speaking tribe
25 Mark for misconduct (... 1-2 and 4-5)
29 Lines of seats
30 Veer off course
31 Branch of Islam
34 "___ a living"
35 Throw forcefully
37 Nuclear power ___
38 The date of the Qixi Festival is based on it (... 6-7 and 9-10)
42 "I Think We're ___ Now" (song)
43 Take a breather
44 Wash. neighbor
45 Initials before a summary, online
46 Word after "wine" or "chocolate"
47 Fictional journalist Lane
48 California's ___ Valley (... 3-4 and 6-7)
51 Jason's ship
52 Ball, poetically
55 "A mouse!!"
56 Bud from way back
58 Officers' territories (... 7 and 9-10)
62 Queensland bird
63 Traveled with the band
64 Parks who fueled a movement by refusing to move
65 ___ Trung Thu (festival)
66 Commits plagiarism
67 Land parcel
68 Opposite of NNW

DOWN
1 Speedy, as a rise to fame
2 "You said it!"
3 Where a pie may be set to cool
4 'Iolani Palace's island
5 Palm's leaf
6 Tree with needles
7 Defame during a campaign
8 Tic ___ (mint)
9 Printmaking, e.g.
10 Hubbub
11 Flapjack chain
12 Performed like Adele
15 Baked treat that's aptly dividing five hidden words in this puzzle
19 Explode like a geyser
21 Hi-___ monitor
26 Bronte's Jane
27 Speck in the sea
28 Better ___ ever
32 Cooped-up cats, e.g.
33 Missile Command and Centipede, for two
35 Matisse or Poincare
36 Manipulate
37 "___ and thx"
39 Agrees wordlessly
40 Prefix with "space"
41 Firmly determined
46 The ___ (pop star Justin, to fans)
47 Young fellow
49 Yorkshire city
50 "Untrue!"
52 Chooses
53 Taro or turnip
54 Like the Smurfs
57 Exam for a J.D.-to-be
59 "Science Friday" host Flatow
60 "Bambi" frame
61 Trailblazing ISP

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

I	C	A	N	T	■	S	C	A	T	■	S	N	I	P
C	O	C	O	A	■	A	H	A	B	■	T	A	R	A
E	Y	E	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	■	U	S	E	R
■	■	■	L	A	T	E	■	■	S	T	A	N	K	■
■	H	O	N	O	R	A	R	Y	T	I	T	L	E	S
R	O	V	E	R	■	■	■	A	I	D	E	■	■	■
O	R	A	T	E	■	B	U	N	K	■	R	A	S	H
A	S	L	■	D	R	U	M	K	I	T	■	I	P	A
R	E	S	T	■	I	R	A	S	■	I	N	S	E	T
■	■	■	H	O	R	N	■	■	■	M	I	L	L	S
E	G	G	W	H	I	T	E	O	M	E	L	E	T	■
A	R	I	A	S	■	■	L	I	E	S	■	■	■	■
G	E	A	R	■	R	O	L	L	W	I	T	H	I	T
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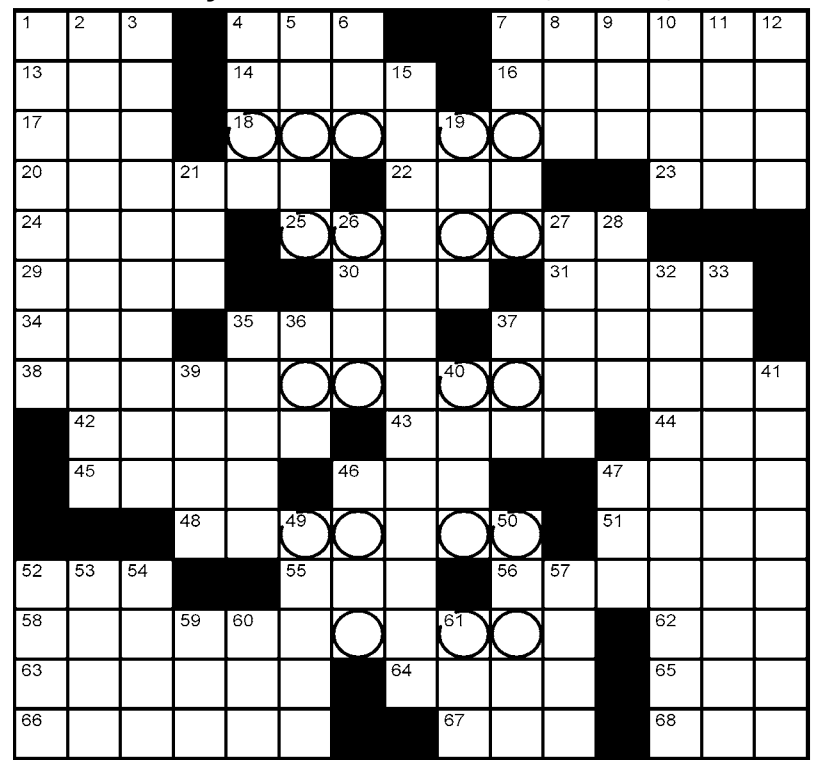
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☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

NOV	Thu, Nov 2	Fri, Nov 3	Mon, Nov 6	Tue, Nov 7	Wed, Nov 8
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	N/A	BURRITO, HASH BROWN	BREAKFAST STRUDEL, YOGURT	BREAKFAST PIZZA
LUNCH	PIZZA, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT, COOKIE	N/A	FISH STICKS, POTATOES, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, ROLL, STRAWBERRIES.	TEX-MEX STEAK, RICE,BEANS, CARROTS, SALSA, FRUIT, DESSERT	CHICKEN ALFREDO, BREADSTICKS, SALAD, GREEN BEANS, PEACHES, DESSERT

11/6 **The Way the Cookie Crumbles** *by Daniel Hrynick*



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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, NOV 2: JH Football vs Buena Vista i@ Imperial, TX, 5:00pm
FRI, NOV 3: Cross Country State Meet in Round Rock, 10:40am
FRI, NOV 3: HS Football vs Buena Vista in Marfa, 7:30pm
SAT, Nov 4: HS Volleyball TBD

MISD partners with Blackwell School for October block party

By MS. POWERS' 7TH PERIOD JOURNALISM CLASS

MARFA — A block party for the Blackwell School took place on October 21 to commemorate its designation as a National Historic Site. Participants enjoyed food from the community as well as live music performed by Primo y Beebe.

Students from Marfa ISD were asked to contribute creative works by Blackwell Community Coordinator Martha Stafford. She approached Ms. Powers' art class to make a logo reminiscent of National Park logos.

MHS students in Coach Ojeda's English III and IV classes were asked to take part in a creative writing competition. They could either write a poem, an essay, or interview a friend or family member about their experiences with the school that served Marfa's Mexican American community.

Asael Zubia, a freshman, won the logo competition with an image depicting the historic school building and the Mustang, Blackwell's mascot. Esdras Flores, a senior, won the creative writing competition with a rhyming poem called "Divided Colors."

Martha Stafford said, "We were thrilled with the work the students turned in to help us celebrate our first anniversary. Voting for the winners in each category was really difficult because all of the work was so well done. The Blackwell alumni who attended the event were especially touched by the students' understanding of the historical significance of Blackwell School and their empathy for the students who attended it."

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Courtesy of the Marfa Police Department

Marfa Police Chief Gilberto presents George Gonzales, the city's animal control officer for the past 15 years, with a commemorative plaque upon his retirement.

George Gonzales, longtime City of Marfa animal control officer, retires

MARFA — George Gonzales, who served as the City of Marfa's animal control officer for 15 years, retired at the end of October.

Police Chief Gilberto Carrillo recently put on a luncheon with city council members and city administrators to honor Gonzales' years of service, where he received a commemorative plaque.

"The City of Marfa and the Marfa Police Department want to extend our gratitude to George for the years he served as an animal control officer to the community of Marfa," said Lt. Nichole Fuentes in a statement. "We all wish George a very happy, healthy retirement. He will be greatly missed."

The animal control officer position has been filled by Marfa resident Juan Avila. To reach the new animal control officer, call the Marfa Police Department at 432-729-1841, or if in the case of an emergency, by dialing 911.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

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Sat Nov 4

New Exhibit opening at Webb's Fair & Square
12:00pm - 4:00pm at Webb's Fair & Square, 105 N Front Street in Alpine
The new exhibition, Sons of West Texas, *will feature the work of Lubbock-based Dirk Fowler, a letterpress and graphic artist, as well as his son Jackson, a tattoo and visual artist. Both will be in attendance.*

Big Bend Democrats Fall Forum on Issues and Advocacy
2:00pm - 6:00pm at the Capri in Marfa
Hosted by Presidio Democrats, the event is headlined by activist Nancy Thompson, Founder of Mothers Against Greg Abbott. Primo Carrasco and Presidio County Commissioner David Beebe will provide the music. A panel discussion, "Democrats on the Border," will explore diverse perspectives on immigration and border security. A second panel will discuss "Women's Health in Rural Texas Post-Dobbs." A great place to meet Democrats and make new friends from all over the tri-county area.

***Guadalupe Maravilla: Mariposa Relampago* Opening Celebration & Sound Ceremony**
4:00pm - 7:00pm at Ballroom Marfa in Marfa
Mariposa Relámpago *is a traveling installation created by Salvadoran-born, New York-based transdisciplinary visual artist, choreographer and healer Guadalupe Maravilla. Free and open to all!*

Fall Festival
4:30pm - 6:30pm at the First Baptist Church of Alpine, 203 North 4th Street in Alpine
Come for free food & games, a petting zoo, sack races, face painting, a Photo Booth & more!

Sun Nov 5

Ranch Day at Casa Perez
11:00am - 3:00pm at Casa Perez, directly off of Pinto Canyon Road about 45 miles outside of Marfa in Presidio County
Judd Foundation invites everyone to Ranch Day at Casa Perez, one of Donald Judd's three ranch houses. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact marfa@juddfoundation.org

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



Harkey

Wally Harkey, 89, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away on October 27, 2023. Born on January 6, 1934, in San Angelo, Wally, also known as Wallace Murray Harkey, was a beloved member of the community.

Wally made his home in Marfa and dedicated himself to serving others. He was actively involved in various organizations, including the Lions Club, where he served as president. Wally also served nine years on the MISD School Board and was involved in the Marfa FFA. He served on the steering committee for the first Marfa Lights Festival, volunteer fire departments [Alpine, Ft. Davis and Marfa], member of the Marfa Golf Association, and president of the Men's Investment Club. Wally also served on the DMR board for many years. He always had a pot of beans ready for all the teenagers to stop by at any time.

Wally's commitment to his community extended to his military service. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1954 and served on the USS Sheldon until his honorable discharge in 1958. Wally's dedication and service to his country exemplified his strong character.

After his military service, Wally began a successful career with the Texas Highway Department, where he worked for 40 years. He designed a sign to help keep Presidio County drivers safe. It is now used all over the country. His hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed, and in 1976, he was awarded the prestigious Lady Bird Johnson Award for his exceptional beautification of highways in Presidio County. He and his crew built the first Marfa Lights viewing site. The many individuals who worked with him gave him tremendous joy and happy memories.

Wally's memory will be cherished by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his selflessness, dedication, and unwavering commitment to his community, family, and country. His family wishes to thank the angels who took care of him from Live Well, Hospice of San Angelo and home health nurses and therapists, as well as his lifelong friend Wanda Lloyd. We are grateful for your love and care. We also want to thank pastors, Cindy and Scott and his loving neighbors.

A memorial service will be held in honor of Wally Harkey's life at 10:00am on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Harper Funeral Home in San Angelo, Texas. Noel Gay Howard will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Hospice of San Angelo. Wally was a member of the First Methodist Church of San Angelo and Cheers Class.

• • •



Vaughn

Mary Anne Vaughn, 75, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2023, in Midland, Texas.

She was born August 22, 1948, to Clarence D. Lowrance and Mary L. Spruill Lowrance in Monahans, Texas. She married Thomas N. Vaughn on June 6, 1969, in Odessa, Texas.

Mary Anne was a beloved mother, sister, aunt and grandmother. She is survived by her husband, Thomas N. Vaughn of Candelaria, Texas; her son, Hugh Vaughn and his wife, Penny of Alpine, Texas; her daughter, Amy Patin and her husband, Brian of Andrews, Texas; her brothers, Robert Lowrance of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and Tom Lowrance of Sanderson, Texas. She was a cherished Omi to 11 grandchildren, who brought immense joy and pride to her life.

Mary Anne had a fulfilling career in computer information systems at Sul Ross State University. Her professional life was marked by her dedication, hard work, and the respect she earned from her colleagues. Beyond her professional life, Mary Anne loved to cook and bake, often entertaining her family and friends. She loved to go antiquing and fishing. She was very social within her group of friends and loved getting together for gatherings filled with laughter and shared memories.

The epicenter of Mary Anne's life was her family. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, creating precious memories that will be cherished forever. Her love for her family was evident in the way she always made sure they were taken care of. Mary Anne's passing leaves a void that cannot be filled, but her spirit lives on in the hearts of those she loved. Her legacy of love, friendship and thoughtfulness will continue to shine brightly as guidance through the difficult times. She will be deeply missed, but her love will continue to surround her family and friends, offering comfort and solace in their time of grief.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past
I have asked for many favors.
This time, I ask you this very special favor (mention favor). Take it dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favor. Not mine.

Say this prayer for 3 days.
Promise publication and favor will be granted, no matter how impossible.
Never known to fail.

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JOB OPENING

Marfa and Presidio County Museum is hiring for a part-time docent position to keep the museum open Thurs, Fri, Sat from 1:00 - 5:00.

Stop by the museum to pick up an application or email info@marfamuseum.org.

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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.

The City of Marfa (City) is requesting a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested and qualified consulting engineering firms for professional engineering services to assist the City with aspects of the planning, design, and potential construction administration of future capital improvement projects and acting as the City's Engineer on an "on call" basis. The complete RFQ can be found at https://cityofmarfa.com/rfps

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The website has links, phone numbers, and addresses for programs, hotlines, and organizations throughout the tri-county area with up-to-date information on area health and social services.

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