THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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

Candidate filing period for March 2024 Primary Election opens this week

TRI-COUNTY — The candidate filing period for the March 5, 2024, primary election opens this week on Saturday, November 11, and runs through Monday, December 11. Several local county-level positions will be up for election in addition to state and national races.

Early voting for the March 5 Primary Election will run from February 20 to March 1, 2024. The general election will take place in November 2024. Open county positions will assume office in January 2025 and will serve four-year terms.

Seeking reelection on the state level are state Senator César Blanco, D-District 29; state Representative Eddie Morales, D-District 74; and, on the national level, U.S. Representative Tony Gonzales, R-District 23, all who represent Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties. State Senator Roland Gutierrez, D-District 19, who represents part of Brewster County, is one of several Democrats challenging Republican Ted Cruz in the U.S. Senate race.

The Big Bend Sentinel lists open county positions as well as contact information for county party chairs — who must receive March 2024 primary election candidate applications — below. Candidates must either pay a fee, which ranges depending on the position from around $375 to $1,500, or receive a certain number of signatures, 2% of the number of people who voted in the last general election, to get on the ballot.

More information on running for local office can be found on the secretary of state's website, and details on county official's duties can be found on the Texas Association of County's website.

Tri-county

Up for election across the region are district judge and district attorney, currently held by Roy Ferguson and Ori White, respectively.

Presidio County

Up for election in Presidio County are county commissioner precincts 1 and 3, currently held by Brenda Bentley and Jose Cabezuela, respectively. The county attorney position currently held by Rod Ponton is also up for election. Tax assessor-collector, currently filled by Natalia Williams, will be up for election, as will law enforcement offices of sheriff currently held by Danny Dominguez, constable Precinct 1 held by Estevan "Steve"

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 4
OPINION P. 5
COMMUNITY P. 6 - 9
CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

The West Texan Media Group, LLC



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Sleeping Figure, a 150-foot-long, 40-foot-tall sculpture by artist Matt Johnson, awaits installation on the Marfa Invitational grounds. A previous board advisor for the Marfa Invitational filed a charitable trust complaint with the Attorney General last month, alleging the organization's director, Michael Phelan, misused donated funds.

Ex-board advisor files complaint against Marfa Invitational alleging misuse of donated funds

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — A former board advisor for the Marfa Invitational art fair, Kathleen Irvin Loughlin, has filed a charitable trust complaint with the Texas Attorney General's Office alleging the organization, specifically Director Michael Phelan, mismanaged donated funds by using them for personal expenses.

Loughlin, along with several board members and another board advisor, recently cut ties with the Marfa Invitational, which lost its 501c3 nonprofit status this past May after failing to file tax forms for three consecutive years, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The Marfa Invitational is an annual art fair founded in 2019 by Phelan and wife Melissa Bent that showcases international gallerists at Saint George Hall and hosts splashy VIP events. In recent years, Phelan has promoted the creation of a permanent home for the Marfa Invitational. The site has been imagined by Phelan to serve as a sculpture park and year-round event space on land off of HWY 90, near Antelope Hills. According to the Presidio County Appraisal District, the land is owned by Matthew Kruger.

The charitable trust complaint against Marfa Invitational, obtained via a public records request by *The Big Bend Sentinel*, was filed by Loughlin in October 2023. It states that she was not made aware of the "potential loss" of nonprofit status until after she had donated $150,000 for a "foundation building" that she later learned was allocated towards unintended purposes.

"In the process of helping the director properly file for reinstatement, I discovered that 2/3 of the financial gift I had given for a foundation building was already spent on what I deem as the director's personal expenses," Loughlin wrote in the complaint.

Loughlin further states that Phelan returned $25,000 to her out of the $150,000 she donated for a foundation building between 2022 and 2023, but the rest of the funds were spent "on the director's personal and non-profit travel, car payment and other personal expenses."

In the complaint Loughlin explains that "after months of asking questions and requesting financial documents so we could support reinstatement of [Marfa Invitational]" she and now-resigned Board Member Alex Skull confronted Phelan about the alleged misuse of

(Continued on page 2)

Finalization of Lajitas Utility District wins approval from single voter

By MARY CANTRELL
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BREWSTER COUNTY — The creation of a Lajitas Utility District, a quasi-governmental entity that will have the power to levy taxes, issue bonds and conduct road, utility and public infrastructure projects, and appointment of its five directors has been approved by the only voter deemed eligible to cast a ballot in the election.

The district — 2,700 undeveloped acres located near and owned by the Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa — was initially created by an act of the Legislature in 2011 but is required to be "confirmed" in a public election.

It was discovered by the county's election administrator, Lora Nussbaum, and the district's attorney, Ronald Freeman, after early voting had begun that the election was not open to all Precinct 7 voters as previously thought, but only open to one individual, Taylor Caldwell Becken, the sole person registered to vote within the district's boundaries.

Nussbaum confirmed that Becken voted in the Lajitas Utility District election, as did another individual registered to vote in Precinct 7, who voted before the mistake was realized and ballots were corrected. Both voted in favor of the district's creation.

On the ballot was also the item to select up to five "permanent" district directors, George Kutch, Renee Lorenz, Brent Ratliff, H.C. Ross Jr. and Morgan Jones, all of which received one vote except for Ross, who received two. (Many of the directors are affiliated with Energy Transfer, a company founded by current Lajitas Golf Resort owner billionaire Kelcy Warren.)

Freeman said the district's board of directors, who will be in charge of canvassing the election, will likely decide not to count the vote from the non-eligible voter, even though it was still a vote in their favor. Both an affidavit from the landowner, Lajitas Capital, and an affidavit from Becken confirming he was the only eligible voter in the area will be signed, said Freeman.

"We will only count the one vote that we know was for it, that we know is our resident because he is required by law to sign an affidavit that says, 'Hey, I was a resident in the district, and I voted in favor of all that stuff,'" said Freeman.

According to Nussbaum, Becken registered to vote at the address within the Lajitas Utility District boundaries on October 9, 2023.

(Continued on page 2)

Marfa City Council discusses possible Vizcaino Park takeover, changes to zoning ordinance

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Marfa City Council met last week to discuss the idea of taking over management of county-owned Vizcaino Park, hear new proposed changes to a zoning ordinance adopted in 2002, and more.

Vizcaino Park

The city's Parks and Recreation Board initially brought forth the idea to lease Vizcaino Park — a sprawling public space with a rich legacy that the county cannot properly maintain due to a lack of funds — to county officials who threw support behind the idea, in part because the city parks board benefits from a ¼ cent sales tax and maintains a healthy budget.

Citizens at the initial commissioners court meeting two weeks ago expressed support for the idea, stating that the park had tons of potential but was in dire need of bathroom upgrades and more. Parks Board President Trey Gerfers said the desire to create a soccer field at Vizcaino would help alleviate current congestion that results from too many recreational leagues utilizing too few fields at Coffield Park.

At last week's city council meeting, City Manager Mandy Roane explained at the top of the discussion that the lease idea was not feasible and other options needed to be explored.

"It turns out that the ballot language that the voters approved for the sales tax that the parks board receives, that money can only be spent on city parks," explained Gerfers.

Roane said that the county may be able to deed the park to the city, but the legality of such an arrangement needed to be determined. The city's lawyer, Sylvia Firth, said the Texas Constitution does not allow for governing bodies to give away their assets and a trade of some sort may be required.

"It's not the county's property. It's the taxpayers property," said Roane. "You can't give away taxpayers' property willy-nilly."

County Commissioner David Beebe, who attended and spoke at the city council meeting, said he would work with the county's legal counsel to investigate the possibility of a deed and trade or exchange of services.

As it stands, the county is broke and barreling towards financial ruin, said Beebe, and needed to cut nonessential services like parks. "If we want, as a community, we want to keep the park in safe hands. I hate to say it, it's better off with y'all," said Beebe.

He said he was concerned that the park could be

(Continued on page 3)

Big Bend Democrats seek unity at fall forum on issues and advocacy

By ROB D'AMICO
for The Big Bend Sentinel

MARFA — Local Democratic activists gathered at the Capri ballroom in Marfa Saturday for a "Fall Forum on Issues and Advocacy" — featuring candidates for local, state and national posts as well as panel discussions on issues from border security to women's healthcare in rural Texas. The occasion also was intended to announce a new coalition of Democratic groups from Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties called "Big Bend Democrats."

That theme of unity in the tri-county area was emphasized by the keynote speaker, Nancy Thompson, who founded Mothers Against Greg Abbott. "I'm going to give you an idea of what can happen when you're able to rally people, and you're able to get them in line," she told the crowd of about 75 people. "Because when we work together, and we're able to get in line, you can do amazing things."

Thompson used the term "get in line" as a contrast to recent disunity and infighting in the Texas Republican party, something Democrats need to avoid if they are going to make progress at the polls. "Have you all ever tried to really, seriously organize Democrats?" she asked. "It's like herding kittens. Right?"

Thompson related how her organization grew from her standing alone at the state Capitol with a marker-drawn sign to an organization with thousands of members who send barrages of texts to state lawmakers and produce commercials critical of Abbott's policies. Coming up with the name was easy, but she didn't realize what the acronym would be. "So, I wrote down one line in blue, one line in red, and it said, 'Mothers against Greg Abbott.' And then I took a look at what I put together. I honestly had no idea that the acronym was MAGA. "It was a total accident. And I thought, okay, either this is genius, or I'm going to be in a lot of trouble."

Presidio County is one of a few rural counties in Texas that remains staunchly Democratic in an otherwise sea of Republican red, although many border counties — particularly in the lower Rio Grande Valley — remain Democratic blue. But in statewide races, Democrats haven't seen a winner since Ann Richards left office after a loss to George W. Bush in 1994.

At least two candidates in attendance Saturday for 2024 races have a steep-hill battle ahead. Thierry Tchenko is running in a crowded field of 12 other Democratic Primary contenders for the U.S. Senate against Republican Ted Cruz. Tchenko, a nonprofit executive from Houston, said he's already traveled to 60 counties to deliver his message that talk on the campaign trail isn't good enough and that Texas needs leaders in Congress who will take action by filing bills and aggressively pushing for them. "We are running to create a new way forward for the state, that's focused on serving everyday folks," he said. "Because this state is going backwards instead of forwards."

Katherine Culbert, primary candidate for Texas Railroad Commission, reminded the audience that the commission has nothing to do with railroads and instead regulates the oil and gas industry. Culbert, who is a consultant for that

(Continued on page 3)

Lajitas Utility District

(Continued from page 1)

According to a map of the district's boundaries, and the voter rolls which list Becken's address, he resides in one of five mobile homes located off of FM170 between the Lajitas and Terlingua.

Freeman confirmed that, to his knowledge, Lajitas Capital owns the mobile home Becken is residing in. Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa employs around 200 individuals, some of which live on site in housing provided by the resort. However, Freeman said that Becken is not an employee of the Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa, but is the son of a home builder working on development projects within the resort.

"This was a young man who had the freedom to move in," said Freeman. "We were asking somebody, 'Would you move in and just reside here for a while and be a voter?' and he said, 'Sure, I need a place.'"

The Big Bend Sentinel was unable to reach Becken by press time.

The Texas Election Code defines residence as one's domicile, or "one's home and fixed place of habitation to which one intends to return after any temporary absence." But, it also states that "a person may not establish residence for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a certain election."

Freeman said the district was doing their best to follow laws, "keep[ing] their car on the street," and asserted district operations would be "very highly regulated by the state" by entities including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The enabling legislation gives the district limited powers of eminent domain, as well as the ability to issue bonds and levy taxes. It will be able to "implement water, sewer and other utilities, construct road and drainage improvements, create public service projects," and conduct airport improvements, according to Freeman.

Freeman said there are currently no specific projects planned for the district, but the idea to finalize and confirm it with the election was spurred by County Judge Greg Henington, who called to let a number of people in the county know there were federal grant dollars coming in for infrastructure projects. Freeman said before receiving any federal grants, it was important the utility district be formalized.

Whether or not the Lajitas Golf Resort will publicize its existing private water and wastewater facility, create an electric utility, build additional employee housing or more remains to be seen, but all are viable options under the district. The district's boundaries are very specific, and include long, thin stretches of land going out in all directions. It is currently contained to 2,700 acres but is located within the larger Lajitas Capital holdings which total 30,000 acres.

Freeman said the district's shape was designed to maximize potential expansion. If it chooses in the future to annex additional land into the district — which would require landowner approval — it has tendrils in all directions.

"We can divide ourselves like an amoeba and turn into two districts, and those districts can likewise turn into other districts," said Freeman. "It makes it easier for us when we have a project out way over here or way over there, that we want to spin off a district to do a solar project or whatever. We've got spider webs, so we'll be able to do that."

Marfa Invitational

(Continued from page 1)

donated funds as well as contacted Marfa Invitational's lawyer and all past and present board members.

"At this point, I only wish that the non-profit does not regain 501c3 status, because I am concerned that financial mismanagement will happen again without supervision of the current director," Loughlin wrote in the complaint.

According to the office of the attorney general, not all charitable trust complaints lead to full investigations or other action. Complaints are more likely to be investigated if they "involve improper use of charitable funds," "excessive amounts paid by a non-profit corporation or charitable trust for salaries, benefits, travel and entertainment," or a "diversion of charitable trust funds from their intended purpose."

Loughlin is a member of the board of trustees, and past board president, at The Contemporary Austin art museum and is also a supporter of The Blanton Museum. She declined to comment further on the charitable trust complaint when reached by The Big Bend Sentinel.

Phelan did not respond to requests for comment by press time. In an April 2022 email to The Big Bend Sentinel he claimed all funds raised from VIP ticket sales, which that year cost $700 each, were allocated towards the construction of the Marfa Invitational Foundation's "new home located on the edge of Marfa."

Loughlin's charitable trust complaint was not the first filed against the Marfa Invitational. In August 2021 an individual, Ann Reeves, alleged "instances of charity and consumer fraud," took place at the May 2021 event. Reeves wrote in the complaint that she was requesting Marfa Invitational be investigated for dual filing, or being formed as both a nonprofit as well as a for-profit Limited Liability Company (LLC) in Texas.

"Marfa Invitational Art Fair, LLC" is listed as being registered with the secretary of state in October of 2018 and is currently "active," maintaining the right to conduct business in the state, according to the comptroller's website. Phelan did not respond to requests for comment about the existing LLC by press time.

Candidate filing period

(Continued from page 1)

Marquez and constable Precinct 2 currently held by Adan "Pugi" Covos Jr.

Presidio County Democratic Chair Ramon Rodriguez Aranda can be reached via email at rrodriguez.projecthomeleaf@gmail.com. Republican Chair Dan Dunlap can be reached via email at dandunlap69@gmail.com or by calling 432-295-1668.

Brewster County

Up for election in Brewster County are county commissioner precincts 1 and 3, currently held by Jim Westermann and Ruben Ortega, respectively. The offices of county attorney, currently held by J. Steve Houston; county tax assessor-collector, currently held by Sylvia Vega; sheriff, currently held by Ronny Dodson; and constable Precinct 1, currently held by Flavio Rene Ybarra, will also be up for election.

Brewster County Democratic Chair Mary Bell Lockhart can be reached by emailing mblockhart@gmail.com or calling 512-422-4984. Republican Chair Monica McBride can be reached by emailing moni_mc61@yahoo.com, by mail at PO Box 455, Alpine, or by calling 432-386-5245.

Jeff Davis County

Up for election in Jeff Davis County are county commissioner precincts 1 and 3, currently held by Jody Adams and John Davis, respectively. Sheriff and county tax assessor-collector offices held by Bill Kitts as well as the constable office held by Mike Wright will also be up for election. The County Attorney seat, currently held by Glen Eisen, will be up for election as well.

Jeff Davis County Democratic Chair Calvin Glover can be reached by calling 432-244-1034 or emailing calvinglover01@gmail.com. Republican Chair Matthew Blackman can be reached by email at jdctxrp@gmail.com, by phone at 432-249-0283, by mail at PO Box 2115, Fort Davis, TX 79734 and in person at 502 N State Street, Unit G, Fort Davis, TX 79734.

In the wake of major flood damage, Redford woman sues Presidio County

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

REDFORD — Last Tuesday, a lawsuit was filed in the 394th District Court alleging that a Redford woman's home and property were destroyed as a result of Presidio County's — and more specifically, Road and Bridge Supervisor Ruben Carrasco's — failure to maintain flood control infrastructure. Barbara Baskin, represented by Attorney John Sopuch, seeks at least $250,000 in monetary relief.

After a major storm on May 27, 2023, a retention pond built and owned by the county burst, sweeping Baskin's 10 acres along the river and historic adobe house with water. "Only luck and quick thinking prevented Ms. Baskin and her dog, Lucy, and two mules from being swept away and dying or sustaining severe injuries," Sopuch wrote in his complaint.

The suit claims that the retention pond — if maintained correctly — was a nearly foolproof way to shield Baskin's riverside property from flood damage. It was built by the county in 2005 to supplement old-world flood control infrastructure.

To prevent property damage in the wake of heavy monsoon rains, the retention pond — contained behind an earthen dam — drained into a spillway. Floodwater then made its way into the Rio Grande via an acequia, a historic irrigation canal dug by the original Redford land grant families a century and a half ago.

Both Presidio County and Presidio Road and Bridge Supervisor Ruben Carrasco are named as defendants in the suit, which alleges a pattern of "wrongful acts, omissions and/or negligence" committed by county employees using county equipment over the course of 13 years.

The complaint alleges that the trouble began in 2010, when then-County Judge Jerry Agan instructed Carrasco to repair damage to the access road to Baskin's property off of County Road 18 — and to remove sediment from the retention pond, but those projects were never completed.

The issue cropped up again in 2013, when Carrasco allegedly dumped sediment into the retention pond rather than removing it, "redirect[ing] the natural flow of water and disrupt[ing] the water protection system for Ms. Baskin's home."

Previous County Judge Cinderela Guevara also became involved, allegedly instructing Carrasco in 2018 to make repairs to the pond and to put up signs prohibiting dumping and vehicle entry into the pond or the dam — projects which were also never completed. "Over the course of many years, Carrasco simply ignored multiple direct instructions from county judges and commissioners to make repairs," Sopuch wrote.

Per court documents, Baskin felt that the county road leading to her property and retention pond were chronically neglected by the county because she was "vocally and publicly critical of Carrasco." She claimed that she had heard others complain of receiving the same treatment, referred to as "satisfacción de Ruben," or "Ruben's revenge." (Carrasco did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

In the first two weeks of May 2022, Carrasco began a project to raise the county road leading to Baskin's house using a system of stacked tires. The suit alleges that the system backfired, causing the natural drainage arroyo feeding into the acequia to back up, blowing out the already-compromised dam around the retention pond.

On the night of May 27, floodwater burst through the dam. Water and debris flowed in from both sides of the road, knocking over Baskin's gate and leaving both her field and her historic adobe home submerged in around 2 feet of water.

Sopuch visited the property in September and noted that it had not yet recovered. "Her real estate is very badly damaged," he wrote to The Big Bend Sentinel. "It was very sad to see it."

County Attorney Rod Ponton denied allegations of neglect on the county's behalf, but expressed regret that Baskin felt personally victimized by the county and its Road and Bridge department. "I don't like the county getting sued by disgruntled citizens because to me, we're here to help people, not to hurt them," he said.

Ponton said that the county and Carrasco would likely remain separate defendants in the suit, but rather than representing one or both parties himself, they would be referred to the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) risk pool.

The county found itself in a similar position in 2019, after the former director of the county's Office of Management of Budget sued both the Presidio County and its county treasurer for wrongful termination.

The plaintiff hired private counsel and both defendants were assigned representation through TAC. In the end, the $700,000 payout was covered by the county's insurance, rather than taxpayer money. "That's why we pay into TAC every year — in case the county gets sued for money," Ponton explained.

Though the county has a relatively high cushion of $2 million, Ponton received a sobering letter from TAC in response to that particular case, warning that the organization reserved the right to not make a payout if they could prove "fraud, dishonesty or bad faith" on the part of the county.

Ponton, Carrasco, County Judge Joe Portillo and commissioners David Beebe, Margarito Hernandez and Jose Cabezuela discussed the suit in executive session Wednesday morning. The court decided to take no action.

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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO §

By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 394th District Court of Presidio County, Texas in Cause # 5301-A and 5303-A on the 18th day of October, 2023, by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at **10:00 a.m. on the 5th day of December, 2023** at the South Door of the Presidio County Courthouse, in Marfa, Texas, the properties described below:

CAUSE NO
5301-A
STYLING
Presidio County, et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within Presidio County, Texas
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1. Lots Eighteen (18) and Nineteen (19), in Block Fourteen (14), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R6417
Tract 2. All of Lots One (1) through Eight (8), in Block Fifteen (15), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 8 acres more or less. R6418
Tract 3. Lot Nineteen (19), in Block Eighteen (18), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R6451
Tract 4. Lots Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13), in Block Twenty-one (21), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R6471
Tract 5. Lots Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13), in Block Twenty-four (24), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R6497
Tract 6. Lot Seventeen (17), in Block Twenty-four (24), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R6499
Tract 7. Lots Twenty-two (22) and Twenty-three (23), in Block Twenty-four (24), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R6502
Tract 8. Lots Twenty-five (25), in Block Twenty-five (25) Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R6510
Tract 9. Lots Twenty-seven (27), Twenty-eight (28), and Twenty-nine (29), in Block Twenty-five (25), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 3 acres more or less. R6512
Tract 10. Lots Twenty-one (21) through Twenty-eight (28), in Block Twenty-eight (28), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 8 acres more or less. R6525
Tract 11. Lots Nineteen (19) and Twenty (20), in Block Thirty-one (31), Rio Grande Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R6566
Tract 12. Lots Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16), in Block Two (2), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5734
Tract 13. Lot Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), in Block Three (3), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5745
Tract 14. Lot Fourteen (14), in Block Three (3), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5747
Tract 15. Lot Ten (10), in Block Five (5), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5771
Tract 16. Lots Thirteen (13), Fourteen (14), and Fifteen (15), in Block Seven (7), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 3 acres more or less. R5796
Tract 17. Lots One (1) and Two (2), in Block Eight (8), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5798
Tract 18. Lot Two (2), in Block Twelve (12), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5826
Tract 19. Lot Sixteen (16), in Block Eight (8), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5808
Tract 20. Lot Eleven (11), in Block Twelve (12), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5832
Tract 21. Lot One (1), in Block Thirteen (13), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5838
Tract 22. Lots Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13), in Block Thirteen (13), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5848
Tract 23. Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10), in Block Thirteen (13), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5846
Tract 24. Lots One (1) and Two (2), in Block Fourteen (14), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5851
Tract 25. Lot Two (2), in Block Fifteen (15), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5867
Tract 26. Lot Twelve (12), in Block Fifteen (15), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5876
Tract 27. Lot Ten (10), in Block Sixteen (16), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5889
Tract 28. Lots One (1) through Four (4), in Block Seventeen (17), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 4 acres more or less. R5895
Tract 29. Lot Eleven (11), in Block Seventeen (17), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5902
Tract 30. Lots Fourteen (14), Fifteen (15), and Sixteen (16), in Block Seventeen (17), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 3 acres more or less. R5905
Tract 31. Lot Ten (10), in Block Nineteen (19), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less R5912
Tract 32. Lot Twelve (12), in Block Twenty (20), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 1 acre more or less. R5923
Tract 33. Lot Two (2) and Three (3), in Block Twenty (20), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being 2 acres more or less. R5915
Tract 34. Lot Ten (10), in Block Twenty-two (22), Orient Addition, Presidio County, Texas, being one acre more or less. R5951

CAUSE NO
5303-A
STYLING
City of Marfa, et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within the City Limits of Marfa, Texas
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1. Lots Three (3) and Four (4), Block Fifty-five (55), of the Original Town of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. R10741
Tract 3. Lot Eleven (11), Block Six (6), West Heights Addition, to the City of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. R11345
Tract 4. Lot Fourteen (14), Block Eleven (11), West Heights Addition, to the City of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. R11387

LEVIED ON the 19th day of October, 2023, as the property of those persons listed above to satisfy taxes, penalties, and interest and all costs of seizure and sale against those persons listed in said Warrant and any other unknown owners in favor of the Taxing Units listed in said Tax Warrants.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE 19th DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.

_____
Sheriff, Presidio County, Texas

_____
Deputy

Big Bend Democrats

(Continued from page 1)

industry that specializes in pipeline safety and reducing environmental impacts, said more balance is needed between regulation and unbridled drilling. "We have a huge oil and gas industry, and it's not going to go away, but it would be good if there was some sort of limitation and balance to it."

Presidio County Attorney Rod Ponton, who announced his re-election campaign last week, told the crowd that although his official duties are mainly handling criminal and civil matters in the courts, he also has advocated for Presidio County getting more health services — including a grant he supported for a new rural health clinic in the city of Presidio, which will be part of the hospital district. The comments by Ponton, who wasn't on the agenda, were notable because later in the afternoon, his challenger in the March primary, Marfa attorney Blair Park, moderated a panel on "Women's Health in Texas Post-Dobbs."

Park reminded the audience that "Dobbs" was the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned constitutional rights for an abortion in the United States, with the Texas Legislature then rapidly passing laws that effectively ban abortion in Texas and threaten reproductive and potentially life-saving healthcare for women. Joining Park were Susan Hays, attorney, former candidate for state agriculture commissioner and co-founder of Jane's Due Process; Dr. Christie Alexander, a physician living in Marfa; Lisa Kettyle, founder of the Big Bend Reproductive Health Coalition; and Randall Sarosdy, candidate for Texas Supreme Court Place 2. Park said there are "horrific situations that some doctors have been seeing in the ER where women come in having a miscarriage and [doctors can't] give care, because the care that they would be giving them is technically an abortion."

The panel outlined current Texas laws like the "bounty hunter law" that allows any citizen to sue anyone — for up to $10,000 and legal fees — who aids someone getting an abortion. Another law passed bans on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, a point when many women would not even realize they are pregnant or are just discovering they are pregnant. Alexander said the impact of these laws has been devastating not only to pregnant women, but also to healthcare providers who fear being sued for giving medical advice or even being jailed for life for providing healthcare that could be considered an abortion. She's said she's seen the fear in her patients. "There were a couple of women who got pregnant and were afraid to even have the conversation about abortion."

Kettyle said women come for support to the Big Bend Reproductive Coalition after the new Texas laws, and they are desperate for someone to talk to about their options. As a resource and support provider on reproductive issues, her organization realized that privacy was of the utmost importance. "Often what we're hearing is, we're afraid to talk to our doctor about this," she said. "And they all had something similar, which is that they felt really alone. They didn't know anyone in the Big Bend who had had an abortion. They thought they were the only ones. They were afraid to talk to people. From the beginning, we have really cared about being really private with people's information, to be really delicate with people's information, to really respect it."

In a panel entitled, "Democrats on the Border," speakers talked through recent legislation for "border security." Panelists included Hays, Brewster County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sara Colando, Presidio County Chief Deputy Joel Nunez, and Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo. The group gave particular focus on the controversial legislation proposed in the recent Texas special legislative session allowing peace officers and state officials to jail and/or deport people suspected of being in the country illegally — something until now reserved under law for federal officers like Border Patrol agents. House and Senate versions of that bill failed to pass as the special session ended Tuesday, as did a bill funding $1.5 billion in border wall construction. The failures were primarily because of contentious relations between House and Senate Republicans, but Abbott immediately started a fourth special session Wednesday to address border issues and private-school vouchers, which also failed to pass.

Hays said Democrats need to be more proactive in their messaging about border issues. "As Democrats, I think oftentimes we get labeled as folks that want open borders and nothing else," she said. "Whatever our campaign is, we have to talk about it so that you can value migrants while also having safe borders."

The legislation allowing arrests and/or deportation was not only likely to violate individuals' rights, but it would also be devastating to county budgets, several panelists noted. Nunez said Presidio County's small jail with 112 beds — usually about half full — is not equipped for a large influx of inmates. "If we start enforcing federal laws, immigration laws, that jail will not be able to hold the number of people that we will arrest. So, it's not realistic for us to be able to do that part of the job."

Barbara Curry, a Fort Davis resident in attendance, said the information from all panelists was "both informative and scary," while also encouraging. "We realize we're not alone, that there are more like-minded people. Listening to them, I said, 'Hey, I need to start getting involved.'"

Alpine resident Cynthia McAlister agreed that the forum was "both highly enlightening and terrifying." "There are a lot of strong minded and strong voiced people out there smart about the issues. And I'm interested in what more I can do to make Texas work better for Texans."

Marfa City Council

(Continued from page 1)

in jeopardy years down the road if the county continued to experience crippling inflation while only being able to raise property taxes by 3.5%.

"Let's go four years down the line, and the county can't make payroll. Then what happens?" said Beebe. "Then we put the land up for sale, to auction to the public, and then it's not a park anymore."

He added that he did not think a previous idea to route the new El Cosmico resort traffic through the park was going to work, and he instead anticipated the county taking on the cost of maintaining Antelope Hills road.

Mayor Manny Baeza said he would like to see the parks board focus on completing Coffield Park improvement projects before taking on the responsibility of an additional park. He said he wanted to know exactly how much money the parks board would need to complete planned improvements, which include a new gazebo with bathrooms, splash pad and closure of the road that crosses through the park.

"My biggest concern is Coffield Park. We wanted that to be a success," said Baeza. "We haven't moved on that park as fast as I wanted to. That should be priority."

Gerfers agreed progress has been slow, but not for lack of trying. The pandemic caused delays, he said, and no construction companies bid on the gazebo upgrade project. He said even if the parks board couldn't afford to allocate significant funds to Vizcaino right away, they would be able to work towards that park's improvement overtime while preserving a valuable green space.

Marfa resident Dawn Shannon advocated for the city take over of Vizcaino Park. She said Fidel Vizcaino's work to establish the park — getting his friend from Fort Stockton to donate grass seed and sod because the county couldn't afford it — need not be in vain.

"He personally went out to turn on the sprinklers in the morning and turn them off in the evening," said Shannon. "He really had a vision for having a public park, a dedicated park, for the people of Marfa."

The city's legal counsel, Firth, explained the city's initial concerns about taking over responsibility for Vizcaino were that the park was not within city limits — making bans on alcohol and off leash dogs, city park policies — difficult to enforce. Roane added that the city needed to find out how much the park would cost annually to maintain and more.

"It's not that it's not possible, but there are a lot of questions that we're going to have to answer," said Roane.

Zoning ordinance changes

City council members also heard from Stephen "Chick" Rabourn, chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, on six potential changes to the city's existing zoning ordinance.

Rabourn explained that internal discussion as well as two public hearings helped inform the report on the zoning ordinance changes, which intend to "allow for more flexibility of use," as well as "improve the city's ability to deal more efficiently with building applications and actively with certain zoning infractions."

He said the commission worked closely with city administrators, including permit specialist Ann Dunlap, to update parts of the current zoning ordinance, which was adopted over 20 years ago in 2002.

The first change included in the report is to "restrict the construction of more than one kitchen in houses within the R-1 Single Family Residential District."

"Ann [Dunlap] found that we were starting to get duplexes cropping up in R-1 and they didn't have a very clear mechanism to prevent this from happening," said Rabourn. "We are proposing to change the definition of a single family residence as a structure with only one kitchen. If it has two kitchens, it's a duplex."

In a follow up call with *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Rabourn clarified that the rule is designed to prevent two kitchens within one main structure, which by definition is a duplex, otherwise classified as R-2, not a single family home, R-1. He said the change would not impact casitas, which have their own separate rules that are not changing under this revision.

He said no retroactive enforcement of existing de-facto duplexes would take place, but moving forward those looking to acquire a permit from the city to add an additional kitchen to a single family home will not be able to do so.

Two additional changes involve "allowing residential use of properties zoned Industrial" and "allowing co-use of commercial properties as both businesses and residences." Rabourn said in many cases these phenomena were already occurring and were presenting enforcement challenges for the city.

Dunlap said she has been unable to issue permits to co-use commercial and residential building projects due to the city ordinance, but old buildings like those on East El Paso Street across from Saint George Hall included commercial spaces and upstairs apartments, making equal enforcement impossible.

"We want the ordinance to reflect what's happening in Marfa," said Dunlap.

Rabourn said allowing residential occupation of commercial and industrial zoned spaces typically does not lead to disturbances, and given Marfa's lack of affordable housing and expensive real estate offerings it made more sense to open up, rather than restrict, housing options.

"To ask people to have a property where they work and also own a property where they live is a pretty big ask," said Rabourn. "In the interest of having working people here, having people do jobs here, having people have their own businesses here, this is just a good thing for town because we need people here to live and to work."

Roane said the zoning changes would not create additional work for city staff. She explained that council's initial review of the planning and zoning commission report would be followed by the city's attorney assessing changes to the zoning ordinance and two additional public hearings.

The two public hearings on the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance will take place soon, the first during a special meeting at 6 p.m. December 14 and the second during a regular meeting at 6 p.m. January 9.

Brewster County Sheriff's Office involved in high-speed chase during Chili Cook Off weekend

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — Last Friday morning, Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson and deputies lined Highway 118 in an attempt to end a high-speed pursuit. The vehicle's driver — Jordan Dartanian Ortiz — was transporting two migrants who had crossed the river in Presidio County and his girlfriend, whose name authorities have not released.

Dodson was notified of a suspicious vehicle driving south by Customs and Border Protection staff at the checkpoint on Highway 118 south of Alpine. The driver — presumably upon seeing that the checkpoint was open — turned around and drove toward Terlingua at speeds of up to 123 miles per hour.

That morning, the BCSO had an unusually high concentration of officers in Terlingua because of the annual Chili Cook Off, attended by thousands of people each November. Deputies set up shop at the Cowboy Mine about 30 miles north of Study Butte.

The sheriff entered the scene about 10 miles south and initially planned to attempt to shoot the vehicle's radiator from the side of the road, but quickly abandoned that idea. "He was going so fast, he could've run me down like nothing," Dodson said.

The officers ended up using Stop Sticks — a device used to puncture tires — and the vehicle eventually slid into a ditch near the Emergency Response Center after ramming into a BCSO patrol vehicle.

In recent years, the term "high-speed chase" has become a buzzword in the world of immigration policy. Back in September, both Congressman Tony Gonzales and Senator Ted Cruz introduced companion bills in their respective chambers that would impose harsher penalties on human smugglers. "My legislation will make traffickers think twice before engaging in a high-speed chase, since it includes serious jail time," Cruz wrote in a press release.

Despite the frequent invocation of the term "high-speed chase," neither the House nor Senate bills use that term — instead, the penalties are imposed for resisting arrest.

Dodson said that actual high-speed chases were something his department had dealt with before, but that Friday's incident marked the highest speeds he had ever seen. "This one was exceptional," he said.

While the pursuit on Highway 118 was terrifying for all involved, Dodson said his primary goal was to prevent these types of incidents from taking place in highly-populated areas. He also was concerned for the people being smuggled by drivers trying to evade law enforcement. "I don't care so much about the guy driving," he said. "But he had passengers."



Thank You
Marfa Volunteer Fire Department
Chaplain Ed Jennings

After 15 years of dedicated service, Ed Jennings will retire from the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department at the end of this month. During that tenure he's dutifully attended countless Monday meetings and selflessly responded to a vast range of emergency calls, from rangeland fires deep in ranch country to structure and house fires to devastating vehicle wrecks. His role, however, went well beyond a first responder. He served as chaplain for our volunteer team, providing critical spiritual and emotional support to firefighters and the public in times of crisis. The reach of his compassion and kindness to the VFD cannot be overstated.

We wish you and Blanca all the best in your new home in San Angelo. Thank you for all the patience, wisdom, advice, good humor and time you've given these past 15 years. Few people make such an admirable, loving commitment to a community. We'll miss you.

Respectfully,

Your friends and family in
the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department

Mistaken report of 2022 campaign contribution highlights some local candidates' failures to comply with election laws

By ROB D'AMICO
for The Big Bend Sentinel

TRI-COUNTY — Former Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara is not on a beach sipping a fancy drink. However, Guevara noted that someone might think that's where she's at after what appeared to be an enormous, unspent donation to her re-election campaign last fall — a check for $23,255.08 from the Project Red TX Political Action Committee (PAC).

That whopping contribution — in a county where donations to candidates usually don't top a couple thousand dollars in total — showed up on a campaign contribution report filed by the PAC with the Texas Ethics Commission on November 1, 2022. Politicos around the county who, long after the election, spotted the PAC's record online started to wonder what Guevara did with all that money.

"We made a mistake," said Wayne Hamilton, who leads Project Red TX. "I looked at my books and … the actual contribution to her was $500. So, it would have been nice to give her whatever it was, 23 thousand, but yeah, it's a mistake." The PAC eventually filed a corrected report with the commission after *The Big Bend Sentinel* inquired about the contribution.

Guevara was shocked to hear about the initial donation report, because she said she didn't get that money. "Now, I can post my pictures of me in the Bahamas," she joked. "Look, this is her and her husband with Mai Tais and cigars in their mouth."

Still, Guevara and other county candidates previously have been dismissive of the importance of something that offers more transparency for citizens to know who is donating what and when — filing the legally required campaign finance reports. "I was so freaking busy," Guevara said of her time before the general election in 2022 when she didn't file anything, and she added that putting the reports together can be "complicated."

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Brenda Bentley pointed out that she always filed required reports and that numerous resources from the Texas Ethics Commission and secretary of state are available to help candidates follow all election laws. Those laws help ensure transparency to voters when deciding if large contributions may be affecting decision-making. Bentley said that with the usual minimal contributions and expenditures locally, the filings are easy. "Why doesn't everybody just turn them in? It's not that hard."

A *Sentinel* review of campaign finance reports shortly before the November 2022 election showed that most candidates for bigger contested county seats were not following the law — with only David Beebe, now Precinct 4 county commissioner, and Frances Garcia, county treasurer, filing timely reports. After The Sentinel ran its October 26, 2022, story on the lack of filings, reports dribbled in from Garey Willbanks, the Republican opposing Democrat Beebe, and from David Chavez, the Republican opposing Democrat Garcia. Guevara's opponent, County Judge Jose Portillo, only filed a report for an appointment of a treasurer on September 28, 2022, but did not file any contribution/expenditure reports.

Portillo said he will now file all required documents, including an annual report showing he received about $8,000 for the 2022 election — including a $5,000 contribution from Cibolo Creek Ranch owner John Poindexter — and has about $800 remaining, with most of his expenditures going to the local Democratic Party.

The Texas Ethics Commission — a bipartisan council that oversees laws concerning campaign finance and registering lobbyists, among many other duties — collects reports from statewide candidates and PACs. Finance reports for county races are filed with the county clerk. All are public records. Statewide and regional candidate filings are searchable on the commission's website. Some counties post their filings online, but Presidio County's documents currently are only available in the county clerk's office.

Candidates must first appoint a campaign treasurer, even if they don't intend to raise or spend any money, and candidates can serve as their own treasurer. If a candidate or officeholder does not raise more than $1,010, they only need to file a semi-annual report, or an annual report, or both, depending on the calendar dates for their status of an officeholder or candidate. (That limit was increased from $940 this year.)

If candidates expect to or end up raising more than $1,010, more filings are required. The exact schedule for filing depends on when a campaign treasurer is appointed, but generally speaking, candidates with opponents must file two semi-annual reports and two reports before each uniform election date — due 30 and eight days before each respective primary and general election.

County races up for election in the March party primaries and the November 2024 election and their current officeholders include: Precinct 1 County Commissioner Bentley, Precinct 3 County Commissioner Jose Cabezuela, County Attorney Rod Ponton, County Tax Assessor Natalia Williams, Sheriff Danny Dominguez, Precinct 1 Constable Estevan "Steve" Marquez, and Precinct 2 Constable Adan "Pugi" Covos Jr.

Candidate filing does not begin until November 11, but some candidates have verified their intentions with *The Big Bend Sentinel*. Bentley is stepping down, and Democratic contenders for her Precinct 1 commissioner seat include Deirdre Hisler, Marfa resident and former West Texas State Parks regional director. Hisler said she's a stickler for record keeping and will file all required reports.

Ponton will face Marfa attorney Blair Park in the Democratic Primary. Both have timely treasurer reports filed and pledged to file all campaign finance reports.

Sheriff Danny Dominguez said he is seeking re-election and would file what was required by law. "Of course, yes sir," he said. "If I take in more than a thousand dollars, I will report it."

Precinct 1 Constable Estevan "Steve" Marquez also is running again and he said he will do filings. Precinct 2 Constable Adan "Pugi" Covos said he was still mulling whether to run again, but that he also would file required documents.

While local races have seen low levels of donations and expenditures for decades, a new dynamic entered the county in 2022 with Project Red TX. The PAC's mission is to recruit and fund candidates in traditionally Democrat-dominated counties, particularly around the border, to try and turn those seats Republican. That PAC's efforts were energized with stronger than expected support for former President Donald Trump in some Lower Rio Grande Valley counties in 2020. When Mayra Flores became the first Republican in modern history to win a congressional seat in far South Texas — the 34th district, which includes Brownsville, in a 2021 special election —it further inspired the PAC's efforts. However, Democrat Vicente Gonzalez took the seat back in the regular 2022 election amidst a "red wave" that never materialized for Republicans in the midterms.

All three Presidio County Republican candidates received Project Red TX backing, but primarily with in-kind donations for signs amounting to $1,262 to Guevara and Chavez each and $700 to Willbanks. Guevara also received the $500 direct contribution. Guevara had dumped the Democrats and filed as a Republican at the last minute before the March primaries, citing her absolute anti-abortion stance and more conservative views on immigration as the reason for the switch.

Guevara said she knew that move would doom her chances, and she was right — losing 1,228 to 608. County primary vote totals are somewhat an indicator of how many potential votes a candidate can win from party faithful, although far greater numbers show up for general elections. For the past six years, Republican Primary turnout hovers around 80 voters compared to about 800 for the Democratic Primary.

In Jeff Davis County, two Republicans won in 2022 to give the party the entire commissioners court. With other Republicans incumbents facing uncontested races that election, the county turned completely red. At the time, the Jeff Davis County Republican chair told The Big Bend Sentinel, "My god, we have a clean sweep in this county." Brewster County now has a mix of parties for county posts, after small gains by Republicans in the last two election cycles.

Despite Presidio seeming to be steadfastly blue, Project Red TX intends to keep spending money in the county trying to recruit new candidates and fund their campaigns, Hamilton said. His PAC also targeted officials in Starr County in the Rio Grande Valley for not filing required campaign finance reports. The PAC's complaints to the Texas Ethics Commission resulted in the agency issuing fines ranging from $500 to $1,000 for non-compliance. Hamilton said he was unaware that his PAC-backed candidate, Guevara, failed to file any reports.

Dan Dunlap, Presidio County Republican Party chair, said the PAC continues to approach him about possible candidates. "They were hoping I'd get some candidates, and they would like to help once again support our Republicans here in Presidio County, but I haven't got any yet," he said. Dunlap said he'll keep trying to get someone red elected, but he knows it's an uphill battle with the Democratic state of mind in Presidio County. "It'll probably be the last blue county in the state of Texas."

Bill that would create new state crime for illegal entry into Texas dies in Senate

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel

AUSTIN — On Sunday, a controversial immigration bill creating a new state crime for illegal entry into Texas died in the Senate. HB 4 — which would allow state peace officers to arrest migrants for crossing illegally — was scheduled to be discussed this weekend. The proposal passed the House, but didn't make it to the Senate floor before the upper chamber called a recess until Tuesday.

At press time, HB 4 had not yet been picked back up. Governor Greg Abbott has called four special sessions so far this year, hoping to tackle unfinished business from the regular session regarding school vouchers, immigration and other hot topics.

The latest session began Tuesday afternoon, and Abbott pledged to revisit the bill. "Texas will also arrest people for illegal entry into our state from a foreign nation, and authorize the removal of anyone who illegally enters our state," his office wrote in a press release.

The bill was originally paired in a package with SB 4, a bill raising mandatory minimums for human smuggling and the operation of "stash houses" from two years to 10 years. SB 4 was successful, but its sister bill will likely have to wait for another special session for a chance to be signed into law.

HB 4 would have created a new state crime for illegal entry into Texas — a class B misdemeanor, with the potential to become a felony depending on the criminal history of the person arrested. The law specified that a peace officer must have probable cause to believe that an individual had crossed the border somewhere other than a port of entry or had presented "intentionally false or misleading representation" to gain entry.

The law would have required those convicted of the crime to be turned over to federal immigration authorities at a port of entry and returned to Mexico or their country of origin.

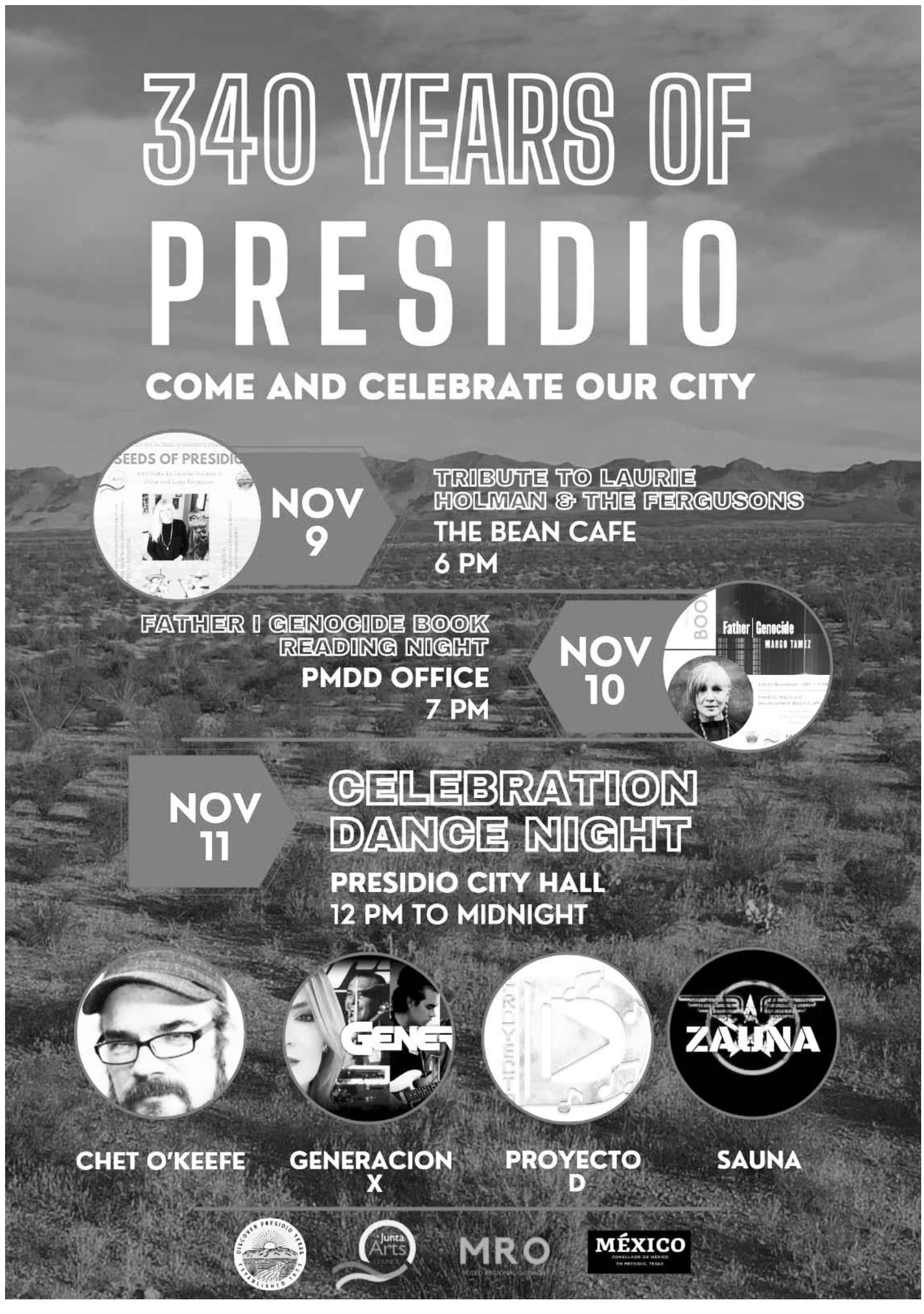
The bill passed the House on October 26 after Republican lawmakers shot down a number of amendments proposed by the other side of the aisle. One Democratic provision that made it to the version of the bill presented to the Senate Committee on Border Security would have prohibited peace officers from making arrests in facilities dedicated to protecting victims of sexual assault.

HB 4 drew ire from its opponents for attempting to supersede federal law, which officially enforces and prosecutes immigration-related crime. Some of Texas' top Republicans believe the challenge to federal power was worth the risk of a legal battle — including state Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has sued the Biden administration over 20 times for a perceived failure to address a "crisis" at the Texas-Mexico border.

Eddie Morales, the Big Bend's representative in the state House of Representatives, voted against the bill.

Though HB 4 failed to reach the Senate, Senator César Blanco spoke out against SB 11, an earlier failed bill that introduced the concept of making illegal entry into Texas a state crime. "The federal government already has an offense for unlawful entry," he wrote in a press release. "This bill will only overwhelm local prisons and court systems with non-violent offenders, and raise taxes on border communities while doing nothing to stem the flow of migrants looking for a better life. We can do better than this."

Some local law enforcement officials were not sold on the idea, either. Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson has long been critical of layering state charges on top of federal charges, on the grounds that the extra pressure to enforce immigration law stretches his already-small department thin and fills the county jail. "I just want the federal government to do its job," he said.



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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This past Thursday I was dining at the Reata with a dear friend when a piece of the chicken fried steak I had ordered got stuck in my throat. It quickly became apparent that a Heimlich procedure was in order, and the Reata staff quickly reacted. One young man rushed over and began to do it. After three or four hard jerks, the morsel came out, and I could again breathe. I didn't panic because I could tell the young man knew what he was doing. In simple terms, he saved my life. I would like to sincerely commend him and the staff at the Reata for their quick action. By the way, I didn't eat the rest of my delicious meal. I took it home and gave it to my dog. She loved it and ate it without incident. Again, many kudos to the Reata and their fine staff.

George Bradley
Alpine

• • •

Editor:

Questions keep popping up in my mind, and I just keep wondering: did El Cosmico always envision using Vizcaino Park as the entryway into their new "enhanced" compound? Was this an integral part of their plan when the 60 acres was originally purchased? And if so, just what made them think they would be granted a road through our park? Did they seriously believe that by offering to pay for the construction and maintenance of their proposed road they would get their way? And if this is not the case, who would have suggested such a plan?

Then another question really pops up: Was the commissioner of Precinct 1, the precinct which is the actual location of Vizcaino Park, initially approached with the road plan, or did El Cosmico opt to use a different tactic? Was the Precinct 1 commissioner consulted at all or was she only consulted after the fact? Was she left out of the loop and blindsided? Am I the only one who wonders about this and finds it very very very strange?

Of course there is always the big question: will the county sacrifice public land for the sole benefit of a private business?

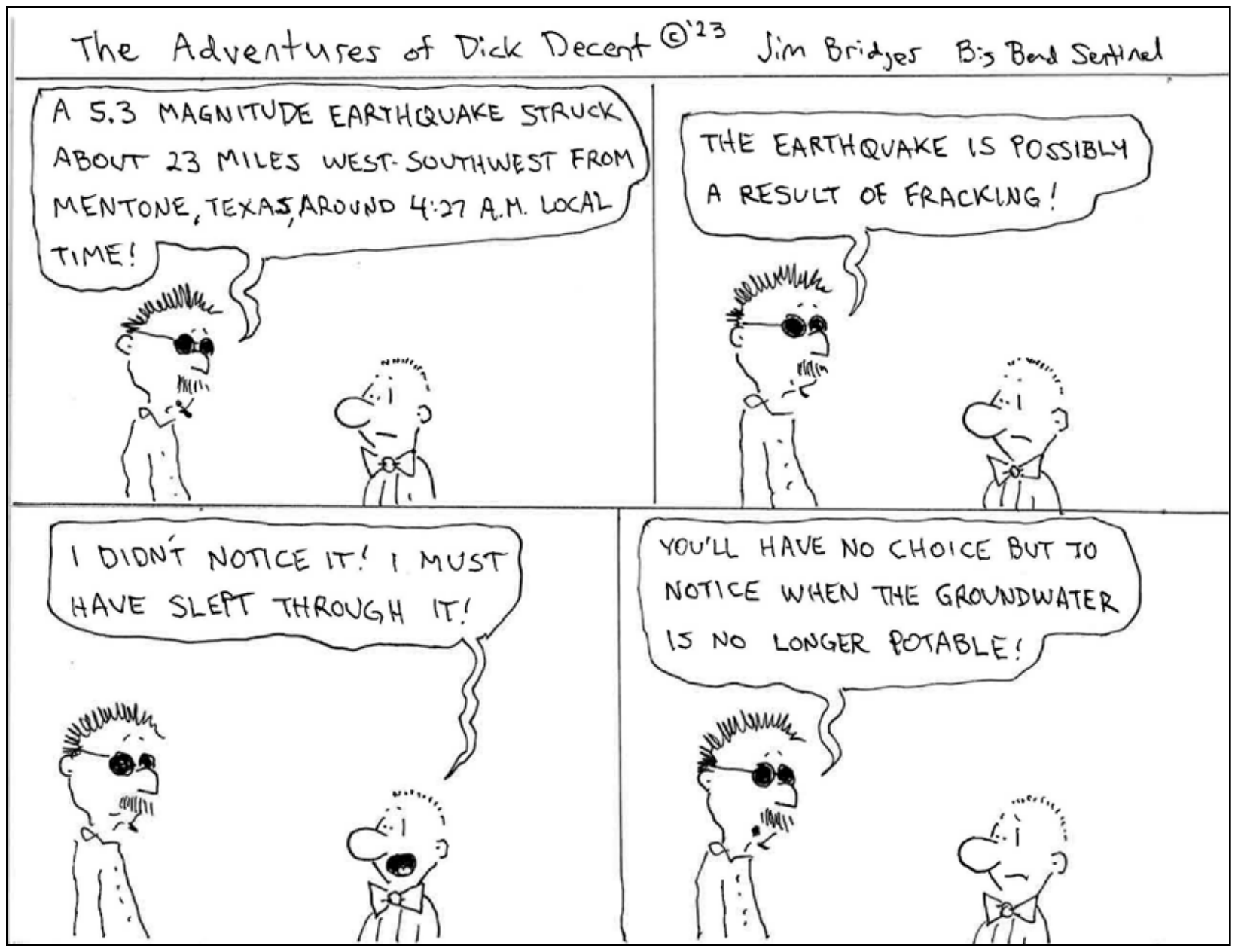
So questions keep popping up in my mind, and I just keep wondering….

Dawn Shannon
Marfa

We want to hear from YOU!

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

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff





OUR WATER MATTERS

Desalination Down Under

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

Perth is a coastal city of 2 million people in Western Australia (WA) that has experienced major climate impacts in recent decades. Rachel Miller, head of water quality at WA's Water Corporation, stated in a recent radio interview that the water mix has seen a "heavy impact in Perth" due to climate change and steep reductions in rainfall. "We used to see a lot more streamflow runoff from our catchments [reservoirs] years ago and we used to see surface water contribute a large proportion of our water supply. Now, we're seeing surface water contribute at most 20%." The drying climate has forced WA's Water Corporation "to produce other different kinds of water sources to keep our city replenished and help it to grow." Perth's current potable water mix includes 30-40% groundwater and 10-20% recycled water with the remaining portion covered by desalination. "We've worked hard here in the Water Corporation to build a water supply mix which means that when we have good years, we can use our high-quality sources and when we have poor years, we can use manufactured water to supply Perth. That way the water is 100% safe. But also, the city can grow."

With its motto of "fresh water thinking," WA's Water Corporation is no stranger to innovation. According to Miller, it is "one of the first utilities in the world, along with Singapore and Orange County in California, to do groundwater replenishment, which is treating wastewater for drinking water." It also built the first desalination plant in Australia in 2016. "So, we've had a lot of innovation, a lot of world experts based in Perth to build in this resilience and security with the different water sources."

The strategy relies heavily on desalination, the process of converting seawater to potable water. In its film titled "What happens at a Seawater Desalination Plant," WA's Water Corporation explains that desalination involves "five main stages: seawater intake, screening, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis and finally, water treatment." The seawater enters the system via intake towers located about 500 yards from shore in the Indian Ocean where the water is about 40 feet deep. The seawater flows into these towers via gravity at a very slow rate, which enables fish and other marine life to easily swim away. This intake flow passes through screens to remove seaweed and other ocean debris. The seawater is then pumped through a series of ultrafiltration filters to remove viruses and bacteria.

This ultrafiltered water subsequently undergoes reverse osmosis (RO), a process involving a complex system of membranes. The water is forced through these membranes at 57 bar, which is enough pressure to push a column of water more than 570 yards vertically up into the air. It is the generation of this pressure that makes seawater desalination four times more energy-intensive than groundwater collection and over 40 times more energy-intensive than water sourced from reservoirs. But Water Corporation's RO systems employ sophisticated energy recovery devices (ERDs) that reuse the pressure energy of the process, which greatly reduces the pumping necessary to pressurize the flow of the ultra filtered seawater.

According to Energy Recovery, a California-based company that manufactures these devices, ERDs "are at the core of saving energy in the operation of any seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility. Isobaric or 'positive displacement' devices … are the most efficient solution available today and can reduce the energy consumption of SWRO systems by up to 60 percent." In addition to these built-in efficiencies, Water Corporation has also partnered with regional power suppliers to construct large-scale wind and solar farms in Western Australia to offset its energy use.

Once the water has completed the reverse osmosis process, it is further treated with minerals and disinfected to make it safe for drinking. The plant's daily output equals the volume of about 122 Olympic-sized swimming pools. This volume is added to the water supply or stored in reservoirs for future use. About half of the seawater that enters the plant becomes fresh drinking water. The other half of the seawater as well as the salt and impurities removed from the processed seawater are returned to the ocean via diffusers. The design and location of these diffusers ensure that the discharged concentrated seawater mixes quickly to minimize any effects on sensitive marine habitats.

Water Corporation's resilient mix of resources provide Perth and Western Australia with the flexibility necessary to better manage the challenges of a hotter, drier future.

Visit watercorporation.com.au/Our-water to learn more.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He is also chairman of the Presidio County Water Infrastructure Steering Committee and president of the Marfa Parks and Recreation Board. Trey has lived in Marfa since 2013.

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Community

Local students collaborate with Ballroom Marfa artist Guadalupe Maravilla on outdoor mural

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Ballroom Marfa courtyard was quiet one evening last week as three artists negotiated "liquid silver" paint pens against a purple-painted wall, taking turns adding and connecting free-form jagged, curvy and sharp lines.

Visiting artist Guadalupe Maravilla partnered with two Marfa High School students, senior Samantha Martinez Ramirez and freshman Josué Soto on the mural, part of his current exhibition *Mariposa Relámpago* at Ballroom Marfa.

Over the course of an hour the mural stretched to cover the surface's entirety, even venturing onto a neighboring wall. Its creation is based on a drawing game Maravilla played growing up in El Salvador called "Tripa Chuca," or rotting guts, where players connect sporadic numbered points on a page without overlapping other player's lines.

Maravilla said the exercise symbolizes the journey of migration, border crossing, and healing through shared experience.

He has played the game, generating unique murals each time, in other galleries and museums where he has shown work, often working with individuals who are undocumented. Maravilla said it is important for him to play with someone who is living in the area because it allows him to learn about how migration works in various geographical regions. He has played with individuals from Ghana, Syria and North Korea.

"That's what makes it really special for me, doing these during the shows, because I get to meet new people that have experience with migration, of many sorts, from all over the world," said Maravilla.

But Marfa's sparse population, proximity to the border, heavy law enforcement presence and Border Patrol checkpoints made involving undocumented individuals in the Ballroom Marfa mural impossible, he said.

The alternative plan to work with the Marfa High School students, who were both born in Mexico, was meaningful because all three of their energies will be embedded into the mural, reflecting intergenerational experiences of migration, said Maravilla, the work becoming somewhat of a shared fingerprint.

"We get into a conversation and get to know each other. It helps me understand the politics and the struggles of immigrants that come here," said Maravilla. "For example, immigrants arriving to New York, [that's] very different than immigrants coming here and [their] challenges."

Maravailla's sharp peaks were accompanied by Soto's more concentrated maze-like patterns and Martinez Ramirez's sometimes sinuous, sometimes chunky, graphics. The silver paint lines activated the newly-conceived mural, reflecting the light of the evening's sunset.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

***Marfa High School Senior and Ballroom Marfa intern Samantha Martinez Ramirez assists with the creation of a collaborative mural that is a part of the museum's latest exhibition* Mariposa Relámpago.**

Upon stepping back to view the mural as a whole, Martinez Ramirez, who is also interning at Ballroom Marfa, said her contributions stood out to her, and it was interesting to see each artist's technique.

"I started off with just doing a line and when I saw [Maravilla] starting to do all the details and stuff, that's when I began to get the hang of it," said Martinez Ramirez.

"I didn't think it would be this big," she added. "There's lots of patterns, definitely not what I expected."

The spontaneously-produced mural remained visually cohesive with the large-scale sculpture also on display in the courtyard, a chrome-plated school bus that is "equal parts sculpture, shrine and healing machine," according to a museum press release.

The intricate sculpture is made up of a total of 500 pieces and took Maravilla's team 10 days to install. It is outfitted with a number of gongs, which the artist and his team played during sound ceremonies for visitors at the exhibition opening Saturday night.

Gongs on one side of the bus display previous Tripa Chuca murals. The "vibrational healing instrument," as Maravilla refers to it, will head next to The Contemporary Austin art museum, then to the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston on its Texas tour.

Judd Foundation celebrates 8th annual 'Ranch Day'

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PINTO CANYON — Last Sunday, the Judd Foundation marked its eighth annual "Ranch Day" at Casa Perez, a rarely-toured property once occupied by the artist along Pinto Canyon Road. With a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, the nonprofit has opened the property to the public once a year since 2014 to further explore Judd's connection to the land and local flora and fauna.

Each year, guests enjoy free food, music and guest lectures along with the opportunity to tour Casa Perez, an early 19th century home that was originally part of a goat ranch. Judd named the property after the Perez family, who lived and worked there in the 1940s.

The house features antique Mexican furniture, two untitled works by Judd and an etching by Spanish artist Francisco Goya.

Casa Perez is just one of three properties in the Pinto Canyon area formerly owned by Judd, including Las Casas, where the artist was buried. For Judd, who preferred the solitude of Pinto Canyon to the bustling little town of Marfa, buying the properties — and leaving them mostly untouched — was an investment in his ability to create.

He also felt he could play an important role in the preservation of local history and landscape. "Here, everywhere, the destruction of new land is a brutality," he wrote in 1989, in response to a neighbor who had cut extensive roads on his property. "I have never built anything on new land."

This year's guest lecturers included botanist Patty Manning of Twin Sisters Natives, a plant nursery where she and her partner tend to and propagate plants native to the Trans-Pecos. She spoke in conversation with Dr. Michael Powell, a professor of botany at Sul Ross and a co-founder of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Fort Davis.

Rainer Judd, president of the Judd Foundation, said that Manning's and Powell's work informed the current-day caretaking and conservation of the foundation's spaces. Over the past year, the Judd team has been working to eradicate invasive species of grass to make room for native plants to take over. "The expertise of Dr. Powell and Patty Manning is a constant source of knowledge and inspiration, and we wanted to share that," Judd said.

She said that — beyond its educational component — Ranch Day is part of a larger project to re-frame popular notions about her father's interest in the Big Bend. "Our hope is that in opening his spaces and sharing his ideas we can inspire new ways of approaching his work and living in our world," Judd said. "Any opportunity to create conversation around issues which affect residents of the tri-county area and beyond is impactful in ways large and small."

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DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

College trip

By SAMANTHA

This weekend a group of seniors and juniors from Marfa High School were taken on a trip by the Alamito foundation to UTPB and Texas Tech.

Friday morning we arrived in Odessa to take a tour of UTPB. The tour was led by a UTPB senior who is majoring in psychology and is on the cheer squad. Many of us students did not like UTPB, due to the fact that it was dry, small and plain (although our tour guide was extremely funny and sweet).

After the Odessa campus, we were taken to the college of engineering at UTPB in Midland, a brand new, more impressive campus.

We then went to eat at Rosa's Cafe, where we ate with Laura Navarrete and Hannah Ibarra, former MISD students who are attending Midland College. After we ate we drove to Lubbock.

We got to Lubbock and went straight to Spirit Halloween, not even to the hotel, and most of us spent the majority of our money on Halloween costumes. Dustin got a Navy sailor costume, Andres got one of Bob Ross. Fern and I also got matching cop and inmate costumes. We tried convincing Zach to get Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz dress, but he did not follow through with the plans. We did some damage at the mall, then finally went to go eat. The wait at Olive Garden was about 30 minutes, so we didn't feel like waiting. Luckily, there was a Raising Cane's Chicken right next door. We all walked out after deciding with Caroline not to wait, not thinking we forgot anything or ANYONE.

A few minutes later, Coach Ojeda ended up walking into Cane's and telling us that we'd forgotten her! She said she came out of the Olive Garden restroom and asked the waiter if we had been seated, she told her no. They looked around the whole restaurant, and we weren't in there. So, she correctly deduced we were next door, and she came to find us.

Then, finally, we went to the hotel where we checked in. Curfew was at 10:30 that day. The hotel had a beautiful pool where we decided we were all going to go hangout. The guys arrived last and saw that the girls were staying dry because it was really cold. So, they had the bright idea to all jump in the pool. We walked back in the room to get blankets. By the time we got back down, Diego was asking the front desk lady for a towel. She very rudely told him the pool was closed.

So, we began to make our way back to the pool to gather our stuff. The receptionist was walking out behind us as she yelled, "Y'all have one minute to get out of the pool, or I'm calling the cops!" The guys were very upset because the gate to the pool was open and there was no signage. Like, how were they supposed to know? She was yelling that there was supposed to be a lock on the gate, which there wasn't! Eventually, Caroline came down and had a few words, telling the front desk lady that we were "so, so sorry, and felt very bad," and a nice, adult lady like Caroline made the desk lady change her tune immediately. After lights out, the boys Doordashed three different meals in four hours, between 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. Coach Ojeda got no sleep, and the boys ate wings all night long.

That was the end of our Friday. Saturday morning was the Texas Tech campus tour. We were gifted goody bags that came with TTU solar eclipse glasses. So, during our tour we actually stopped and got to watch it. We took a very long, detailed tour of the TTU campus. I fell in love with it. There were a crazy amount of people who attended this tour. I'd say there were about nine different groups with like 15 people or more in them. Diego was in charge of picking where we ate that day for lunch. He picked some burger place called Twisted Root. It was very mid.

We got to the hotel room at about 2:54 p.m. and had to be out and ready by 4:45 p.m. for that night's football game against Kansas State. There was no time to take a nap, and let me just tell you Fernanda was not happy. To even drive by the stadium was an amazing experience. There was no parking for the bus, so Coach O dropped us off with Conner and Caroline. The feeling of getting off the bus and seeing all the college students walking around all dressed up for the blackout football game made me extremely excited for college. As we walked in the stadium, we immediately saw the corn dog and pretzel stand. I think I can speak for both Fern and Lore that the pretzels were mid.

Walking to our seats, we were already so keyed up in a sea of red, and they had THE song playing for us seniors: "Back in Blood" by Pooh Shiesty. Zach, Fern and I looked at each other and automatically felt hyped by the vibes. The whole game they had good songs playing, to the point where we found their playlist on Spotify and stole it. There are SO many things that happened at this football game that I could speak about. The jumbotron had a lot of cheering fans and showed a number of prospective boyfriends (the men's track team cheering!) for when I matriculate.

Fireworks went off each time the Raiders scored, which was very cool. There was a moment when Air Force planes even flew over us. The theme was blackout so everyone was in black, and it was also their homecoming. Since it was their homecoming, Fern was extremely excited to be able to see the masked rider ride her horse through the field. But she didn't, she was there, she just did not perform this act. Fern was disappointed. Overall the game was an amazing experience, and I think I could say we all loved it. I am already applying to Tech, but this made me want to apply even more and got me excited to attend college. This is possible because of Caroline and Connor Travis, who provided us with an amazing experience as chaperones on behalf of the Alamito Foundation and Marfa ISD.

NHS

By MESSIAH and ISAIAH

This month's news article we will be talking about the National Honor Society. On September 27, 2023, the National Honor Society inducted nine people, including these two reporters: Messiah Licon, Isaiah Ramos, Piper Donaldson, Ava Flores, Amaya Gomez, Raven Martinez, Kayla Vasquez, Issac Nunez, and Ximena Morales. We decided to ask Mrs. Donaldson, who is the NHS sponsor, what the NHS is and what its role is in our school. She explained, "Membership in the NHS makes someone a part of a National Honor Society, with all students all around the nation who maintain a high grade point average, who do certain things with their community or their school and better themselves. It's an elite society that students can be a part of."

Our next question was, "What does the NHS do for its members?"

She answered that the NHS "looks good on college applications and makes you eligible for scholarships and also gives you bragging rights."

Next we decided to interview the president of the National Honor Society, Senior Samatha Martinez. She was inducted into the National Honor Society her junior year and has been elected president of National Honor Society this year.

The first question we asked was, "What was a good memory from your time in the NHS?"

She answered that she has enjoyed the "inductions and being able to take my cap and gown pictures with the cowl."

We asked, "What is your favorite thing to do in the NHS?" Sam said she enjoys helping set up events and working with others.

Next, we interviewed Jack Marquez, who was inducted into the National Honor Society his junior year and was elected treasurer for this school year.

We asked, "What was a good memory from the NHS?"

Jack said that being inducted with all his classmates and it being a big honor to be inducted was special.

Then we interviewed Jaidan Villa; he was also inducted into the National Honor Society his junior year.

His best experience was: "How I reached out to a professor in Sul Ross for an event. I think it's cool how I was able to do that and switch it up from how it's been these last few years."

Finally, we decided to interview some of the new inductees into the NHS. The first new inductee that we interviewed was Raven Martinez. She said, "Well, now that I am in the NHS, I am excited to start working with the other members to plan events with them to get to know each other better." When we asked her how it felt to be inducted, she continued on, "I'm happy that I got in. I worked very hard, and I am also happy there is a big group of people this year!"

The next new inductee we decided to interview was Piper Donaldson. We asked what is something she is excited for now that she's in the NHS. She answered back, laughing, "I'm excited to be in it!"

Then we asked, "How do you feel about being in the NHS?" She responded back, "Good. I used to be really lazy. My junior high years I did not turn in any of my work, and then in high school I realized I was pretty smart and my hard work paid off to be nominated for the NHS, and now I'm excited about the scholarships so I can get out of Texas!"

Cold Weather Sets In

By FLAVIO

The days are getting colder here in Marfa. The weather is shifting from the once hot and lively summer to a cooler and calmer autumn. This is causing students at Marfa ISD to suffer the cold mornings. Some have brought up how students should be allowed in the auditorium during these cold mornings. Because this year class starts 15 minutes earlier and some students arrive by 7:30 or 7:40, the cold is already becoming a problem.

Coach Alferez, the superintendent of Marfa ISD, has answered a few questions for us about leaving students out in the cold.

He explained, "We do not allow students into the auditorium in the morning, but we do make the band hall available if it's snowing or raining. If the temperature outside is so severe, such as if it's around 30 degrees, 32, they can come in. You know the official number is 35 degrees, you're inside any temperature below that. We'll open up the band hall."

That got me thinking about how things have changed so I asked, "Why are students allowed in the band hall, but not the auditorium?"

"We don't wanna use the auditorium in the morning for specific reasons — it's still being remodeled. We are going to use the auditorium for events such as award assemblies or kind of parent meetings. We'd rather have you inside the band hall … It's also because the band hall is bigger, but at the same time, we also want to take care of our auditorium. In the morning, students come in with drinks, coffee, juice, water and breakfast."

With the interview done with Coach Alferez, I found out that the temperature that allows kids inside is 35 degrees, and that the band hall is the only place to go if it drops down to that temperature, which will surely be every day come winter time. Coach's answers were reasonable, but the temperature should, in my opinion, be raised to 40 degrees, as students are already shivering in poorly-planned outfits in the mornings!



Sports Updates from Marfa ISD athletic director



Photo courtesy of 1A Fan

Francisco Rosas placed 20th at the UIL State Cross-Country Meet with a time of 17:46.1.



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Junior running Back Derick Campos runs with the ball on a kick return from Friday's game against Buena Vista.

By LINDA OJEDA

Cross-country

Francisco Rosas placed 20th at the UIL State Cross-Country Meet with a time of 17:46.1, landing him just a few spots away from a medal at the state championship in a field of 146 runners. Rosas said he was proud of his finish, but vows to remain hungry for another appearance next year at the meet.

Football

The Shorthorns football team was unable to overcome Buena Vista's high powered offense last week, forcing Marfa to miss the state playoffs for the seventh straight year, but not before the team made some noise in the football world with the best record they've had in nearly a decade. The 6-52 loss to the Longhorns brought the Shorthorns record to 7-3 for the season, and next year's unit brings back numerous starters on the 2024 roster with the team already hitting the off-season with a promise to make the playoffs under a new UIL realignment for the 2024 season.

Volleyball

The Lady Horns received numerous post-season honors:

Co-offensive MVP: Maryfer Martinez
Newcomer of the Year: Zoey Salgado
Outstanding Setter: Ava Flores
Utility Player of the Year: Raven Martinez
First Team All-District: Loretta Rivera
Second Team All-district: Itzel Urrutia
Second Team All-district Dariela Munoz
Honorable Mention: Madison Cash



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

10/25

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

10/23

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 13, 2023

ACROSS
1 Word before "salt" or "weed"
4 Down in the dumps
7 Anticipates
13 ___ up (energize)
14 Prefix meaning "all"
15 Style of communication
16 Dad
17 *Critical decision point
19 Train track component
21 Durable wood
22 Close, like a jacket
23 *Person prepping for the end
26 Grain in milkshakes or scotch
27 Gives a +1, online
28 Blood bank classification
30 "Busy" bug
31 Bridal lehenga color
33 American ___ (Massachusetts' state tree)
35 *Work that is often underpaid, undervalued and performed by women
41 "30 Rock" creator Tina
42 Soup with rice noodles
43 Phone no.
45 Rip
48 Stuck, idiomatically
51 Travel document
54 *Club's main attraction, perhaps
56 Medium power?: Abbr.
57 Prefix meaning "one"
58 Leave in awe
59 *Space-efficient divider between rooms ... or a hint to the word at the edges of the starred clues' answers
62 "___ a small world"
65 Pressed sandwich
66 ___ mater
67 Snooze
68 You may make them after messing up
69 Golf prop
70 University stat

DOWN
1 Maple syrup source
2 Genre inspired by punk
3 Feel favorably about
4 Burns slowly
5 Year, in 10-Down
6 Like a chai latte with espresso
7 Big bird enclosure
8 Seven days
9 Paintings and sculptures
10 Spanish island known for nightlife
11 South Indian language
12 Took a 67-Across
14 Writer of celebratory poems
18 Bug repellent
20 "Te ___" (Spanish for "I love you")
23 English voice-over for an anime, for example
24 Newspaper piece with perspective
25 For ___ price
26 "I Want You Back" Spice Girl
29 Green legume
32 Salsa or hummus
34 Gesturing
36 Like a movie about moviemaking
37 Needle hole
38 Fashionable
39 Homesick, perhaps
40 Nevada tourist spot
44 Cross-country romance, for example: Abbr.
46 Greek god of beauty
47 Resonated
49 SAG-___
50 ___-ray
51 Italian scooter brand
52 Religion with the Five Pillars
53 Backbone
55 Silently acknowledge
57 ___-body connection
60 Clatter
61 Futbol chant
63 Faucet
64 Facial site

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

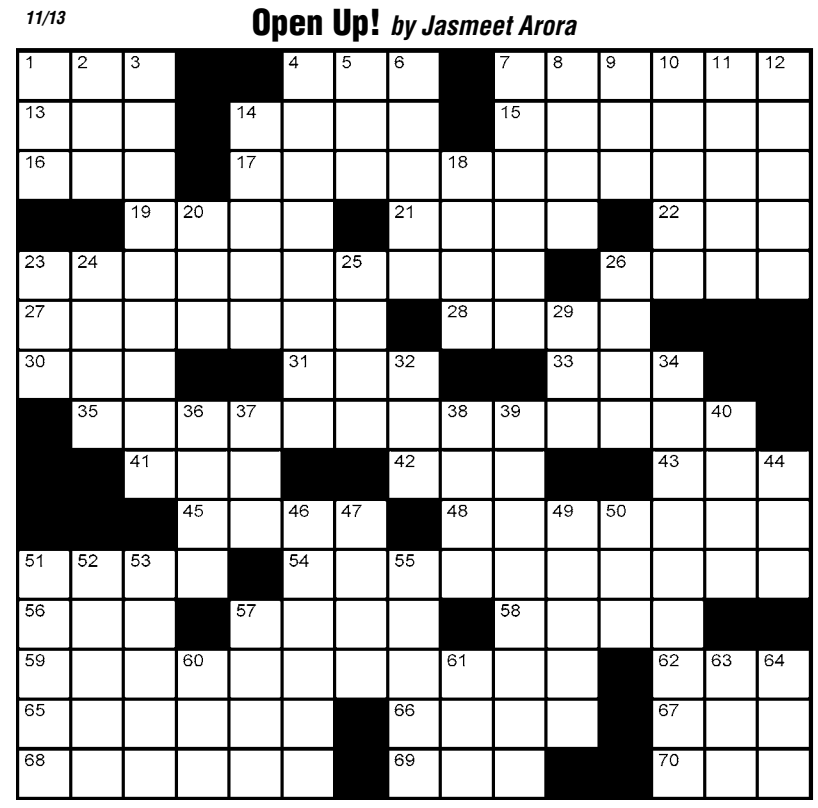
M	A	W	■	O	F	F	■	■	S	T	A	S	I	S
E	M	I	■	A	R	I	A	■	M	A	R	T	H	A
T	E	N	■	H	O	R	N	S	E	C	T	I	O	N
E	N	D	R	U	N	■	I	P	A	■	■	R	P	G
O	T	O	E	■	D	E	M	E	R	I	T	■	■	■
R	O	W	S	■	■	Y	A	W	■	S	H	I	A	■
I	T	S	■	H	U	R	L	■	P	L	A	N	T	■
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R
■	A	L	O	N	E	■	R	E	S	T	■	O	R	E
■	T	L	D	R	■	B	A	R	■	■	L	O	I	S
■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

11/12

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11/13

Open Up! *by Jasmeet Arora*





☺MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU☺

NOV	Thu, Nov 9	Fri, Nov 10	Mon, Nov 13	Tue, Nov 14	Wed, Nov 15
BREAKFAST	DONUT, SAUSAGE	SHORTHORN SUCCESS DAY	SAUSAGE KOLACHE, YOGURT	BREAKFAST BREAD, YOGURT	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH	PIG IN BLANKET, POTATOES, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT	SHORTHORN SUCCESS DAY	PHILLY CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH, CORN, CUCUMBERS, APPLE SAUCE, DESSERT	HOT SANDWICH, CARROTS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, GRAPES	BREADED MOZZARELLA STICKS, MARINARA SAUCE, TOMATO CUP, SALAD, FRUIT

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, NOV 10: HS Girls Basketball vs Grandfalls in Marfa, 5:00pm
FRI, NOV 10: HS Boys Basketball vs Grandfalls in Marfa, 6:30pm
THU, NOV 16: JH Basketball vs Balmorhea in Balmorhea, 5:00pm, 6:00pm

Friends of Ruidosa Church to celebrate community day

RUIDOSA — Piping hot tamales, matachines dancers, inspiring art and rocking music are ready to greet visitors to the Third Annual Friends of the Ruidosa Church Community Day on November 11, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Most important, however, will be a celebration of the significant work the nonprofit has done to restore the adobe's right bell tower, which had long been in danger of collapse.

The Ruidosa Church (El Corazon Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesus) is a striking, historic adobe structure that sits along one of the most remote stretches of the border between Far West Texas and Mexico. Its adobe brick arches — widely thought to be the largest in the state of Texas — frame a view of the Rio Grande riparian zone running through the Chihuahuan Desert. For most of the year, the border hamlet of Ruidosa is quiet. Only a handful of inhabitants now live in the area after the Rio Grande was diverted in the 1950s. When the water left, so did the families whose descendants are now scattered across Texas and beyond.

Friends of the Ruidosa Church, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring and preserving this far-flung sacred space, was given the deed to the Catholic Church after a papal appeal in Rome in 2018. Beyond a faithful historic restoration, the nonprofit is also focused on restoring the church's status as an active cultural space — despite (but also because of) its remoteness.

Each year, 150-200 people make the journey to Ruidosa for the event, some from half a day's drive away. An estimated half of the visitors have family heritage connected to Ruidosa and many contribute oral histories recounting memories of the church and life on the border.

Building on the success of previous years, Friends of the Ruidosa Church is celebrating a significant milestone this year — the right bell tower restoration. To symbolize the progress, the organization is returning the church's original bell to Ruidosa and incorporating it into this year's large scale art installation, featuring a painting by San Antonio artist Matt Kleberg. Along with the bell, the Matachines de Santa Teresa dancers from the town of Presidio, Texas, will return to perform in the church. The matachines tradition combines 17th century Spanish dance forms, brought to the Americas by colonists, with Aztec influences from Mexico, including elaborate feathered headdresses, costumes and puppets. The dance has religious associations and is often practiced to venerate Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Presidio High School students led by architecture instructor Rafael Muniz from Ojinaga and Presidio will also be contributing to this year's art piece. Local Marfa institution Primo y Beebe will perform in the afternoon followed by an intimate performance at sunset by Fared Shafinury, a Persian sitar player who recorded several albums a few miles away from Ruidosa Church.

Ruidosa Church Community Day will be held on November 11, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., in Ruidosa, Texas, about 37 miles north of Presidio on FM 170.

Presidio to celebrate its 340th anniversary with art, poetry and street fair

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — This weekend, Presidio will celebrate its 340th anniversary with a series of events celebrating the area's long and storied past. The event will kick off on Thursday evening with an art opening and will culminate on Saturday night with a community fiesta and dance along the town's main drag.

1683 — the date featured on welcome signs leading into town — isn't the date that the city was incorporated. Instead, it marks the year that Jumano leader Juan Sabeata traveled to El Paso to petition the Spanish to build missions in the area. The Spanish maintained a presence in the area over the next century, eventually leading to the construction of a presidio, or garrison — after which the modern-day town is named.

On Thursday, November 9, the Bean Café (506 O'Reilly Street) will host a tribute to artist Laurie Holman and to the Ferguson family. Holman — who has inspired numerous young Presidians over the years — is known for her paintings celebrating local landscapes and people. The Fergusons will be recognized for their contribution to the music scene in Ojinaga and Presidio.

The celebration kicks off at 6 p.m. and will feature local art by Jorge Avena, Yosdy Valdivia, Andrei Renteria, Alouy Martinez, Anthony Carrasco and Ramon Deanda. There will also be a music recital by former Presidio High School students, Mariachi Santa Cruz and the Resonators.

On Friday, November 10, the PMDD office (Arrowhead Plaza) on O'Reilly Street will host a book reading at 7 p.m. by poet Margo Tamez, a Lipan Apache poet whose work engages Indigenous thought, colonial violence and the poetics of the "unwriteable, unsayable and unthinkable." Tamez will also lead a discussion on Indigenous life in Presidio and the Texas borderlands.

On Saturday, November 11, the celebration will cap off in a festive mood by blocking off the town's main drag for a "Celebration Dance Night" from 12 p.m. to midnight. The dance will feature performances by Presidio favorites Chet O'Keefe, Generacion X, Proyecto D and Zauna.

Book fair November 13-17 at MISD library

MARFA — Marfa ISD's annual Scholastic Book Fair is November 13-17 at the library on the high school campus. Help the school's library reach its goal of adding 600+ new books for all ages.

Hours are Monday through Friday, Nov. 13-17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extra shopping hours are Thursday, Nov. 16, 5 to 7 p.m.

Don't carry cash? Park some money in an eWallet account and your child can shop at the book fair without cash. Can't make it during our hours or live out of town? Shop the Marfa online book fair from November 13-26, where you'll find 3,000 more titles to send to your loved ones.

Shopping teacher wish lists online is a great way to help teachers expand their classroom libraries and earns Marfa 25% of those purchases in Scholastic Dollars. These points don't expire so the school can use them throughout the year to get new books or replace damaged items. Reach out to out-of-town family members and encourage them to shop online. Search https://www.scholastic.com/bf/marfaschools and look for online book fair.

Go to https://www.scholastic.com/bf/marfaschools for any and all book fair information, or contact Marfa Librarian Crawford Marginot at 432-729-5500.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

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Fri Nov 9

Presidio's 340th Anniversary
11/9 - 11/11 in Presidio
Festivities kick of Thursday and continue through Saturday 11/11 with a street dance night celebration from noon to midnight at Presidio City Hall!

Fri Nov 10

Center for Big Bend Studies Annual Conference
11/10 & 11/11 at Sul Ross State University
Come learn more about the history of the Big Bend Region at the 29th Annual Center for Big Bend Studies Conference. More than 30 speakers, including archaeologists, historians, writers, and students will be presenting. You do not need to pre-register to attend. There are limited walk-in spots available. More info at ***cbbs.sulross.edu/***

Sat Nov 11

Fort Davis National Historic Site Free Entry
8:00am - 5:00pm at Fort Davis NHS in Fort Davis
Free entry in celebration of Veterans Day!

Meet the Author at Front Street Books: Jerry Emory
11:00am - 2:00pm at Front Street Books in Alpine
With 4 decades of conservation experience, Jerry is experienced in the environment and science with a focus on Latin America and the Western United States. Stop by to chat about his new book!

Raise the Bell in Ruidosa: Ruidosa Church Community Day 2023
1:00pm - 6:00pm at the Ruidosa Church in Presidio County
Free Tamales & drinks, Matachines de Santa Theresa, Primo y Beebe, installation by Matt Kleberg, community alter, candlelit performance by michael Martinez. All are welcome! More info at ***ruidosachurch.org***

Mon Nov 13

MISD Scholastic Book Fair
11/13 - 17, 8:00am - 4:00pm at the MISD Library in Marfa
Help the school's library reach its goal of adding 600+ new books for all ages! Go to https://www.scholastic.com/bf/marfaschools for any and all book fair information, or contact Marfa Librarian Crawford Marginot at 432-729-5500.

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

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

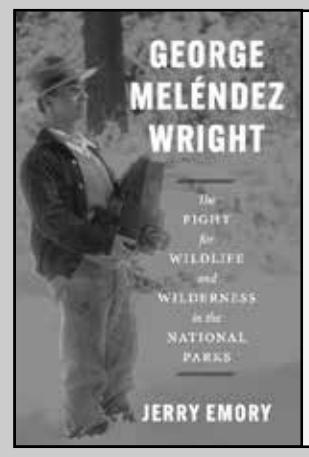
AA (in-person)
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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.

SATURDAY, 11/11
11 am - 2 pm
Meet the Author!
Jerry Emory

FRONT STREET BOOKS



With 4 decades of conservation experience, Jerry is experienced in the environment and science with a focus on Latin America and the Western United States.
Stop by to chat about his NEW book!
121 E Holland Ave, Alpine
Find out more on Facebook & Instagram

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Judd Foundation

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

Advance reservations are required.

JUDD

La Mansana de Chinati/ The Block
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at the gated entrance at 400 West El Paso Street.

The Studios
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at 101 North Highland Avenue.

Visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406 for more information and to book reservations.

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES
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Ben Toro, Associate
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pgagates@gmail.com
moonlightgemstones.com
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1001 W. San Antonio St.
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Big Bend Regional Resource Directory
www.bigbendhelp.org
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.
Brought to you by Big Bend Health and Alpine Public Library

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Classifieds & public notices

JOBS

NOW HIRING

Village Farms

Human Resources/Admin Assistant- performs a range of administrative and clerical tasks to support management and the HR department.

Key Skill & Competencies

- Organization & planning
- Work management & prioritizing
- Verbal/written communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Reliability & Flexibility
- Strong MS Office skills
- Teamwork
- Bilingual (Spanish) is a must
- 2 yrs. relevant experience required

Full-time position with great benefits package which includes; paid vacation, health, vision, dental, life and STD insurance & 401k retirement plan

Submit resumes to aanderson@villagefarms.com applications @ Village Farms Security Stations 3 miles N. Hwy 17, Marfa or 3 miles S. Hwy 17, Fort Davis or call 682.647.1214 ext. 469 for more information.

JOB OPENING

THE HOTEL PAISANO is accepting applications for Customer Service Representative and Gift Shop Sales Associate.

Day and evening shifts, weekday and weekends.

Competitive compensation.

Applications available at the front desk or by emailing manager@hotelpaisano.com

VILLAGE FARMS - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - FAST TRACK TO MANAGEMENT

Village Farms is seeking a detailed oriented individual to join our team as Shipping/Receiving Clerk for our Marfa 2 location.

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties.

Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred.

Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the first 6 months of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or fax resume to (432)375-6241. Applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING FOR 2 CNA OR MA NURSING STAFF
406 S. SUMMER ST. 79843

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Now Hiring
Presidio County/District Clerk's Office is looking for a Deputy Clerk. Full-time office position with Benefits, must be at least 18 years of age to apply. Applications due by December 1, 2023. For more information please contact Florcita Zubia @ 432-729-4812 or Email flor.zubia@co.presidio.tx.us

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alexandra@alexandrarau.com
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la fundación the CHINATI foundation

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.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Bryant Shurley were issued on 10/30/2023, in Docket No. 2021, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to Suzanne Parker Shurley. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:
c/o John Fowlkes
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Michael Bryant Shurley
PO Box 1470
Marfa, TX 79843

FOR SALE

BARN SALE

Friday & Saturday, November 10th & 11th.
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM both days.
18888 Hwy 166 - 9 miles west of Fort Davis.
Look for signs.

Building materials, antiques, primative antiques, tack, dishes & knick knacks, tools and a little of everything.

No early sales.

ESTATE SALE: CASH SALES ONLY

705 North Dees Street
BEHIND SONIC and AUTO ZONE
Fort Stockton, Texas

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY
November 16th, 17th, 18th
CASH SALES ONLY
TIME: 9am TIL 4pm

SOME OF THE ITEMS: Sleeper sofa, lounge chairs, end tables, bedroom furniture, dressers, HP printers, typewriter, dishes, glassware, salt & pepper shakers, Antique Victrolas, Antique Singer sewing machine, Antique trunks, Antique irons, Exercise Bike, lots of iron metal for sale, BBQ pit, table & chairs, iron racks, many more items.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Jose Portillo:
(432) 729-4452

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

Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
City Hall: (432) 229-3517
Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Greg Henington:
(432) 837-2412

Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:
City Hall: (432) 837-3301
Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY
Judge Curtis Evans: *(432) 426-3968*

FEDERAL:
U.S. Sen. John Cornyn:
(202) 224-2934 (D.C. office)

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz:
(202) 224-5922 (D.C. office)

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