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

Hospital district reports high numbers of patients at after-hours clinic in Presidio after program launch

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At Tuesday night's Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD) meeting, grant administrator Lynette Brehm reported that Presidians were taking advantage of new healthcare programs made available through grant funding. The data showed positive trends ahead of a grand opening ceremony for the new Big Bend Regional Health (BBRH) Clinic to be held on Wednesday, November 29, and open to patients the following day.

Last June, the BBRHD announced that Presidio and Terlingua would be the recipients of a $5.5 million grant from the USDA to expand local healthcare offerings. Presidio was apportioned the bulk of the funding to establish an after-hours clinic and a community paramedicine program that would serve locals outside of regular business hours and — for housebound Presidians — at their places of residence.

At a well-attended town hall hosted in August, many Presidians complained that they sometimes had to wait weeks for appointments at the existing Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS) clinic — leaving few treatment options for conditions that weren't necessarily emergencies but required quick care, like fevers and minor injuries.

Presidio EMT Jessica Murillo told the crowd that she hoped the new clinic would alleviate these issues. "This is the reality for Presidio," she said. "Unfortunately, there just aren't the resources here."

Through the grant, PCHS was able to extend its hours beyond regular business hours to include walk-in appointments from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, as well as offering care on two Saturdays a month. The program has been up and running since the beginning of September.

Brehm said that — so far — numbers at the PCHS after-hours clinic showed that locals were taking advantage of the new

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Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

During the Friends of Ruidosa Church community day fundraiser on Saturday, Esmeal Rodriguez points to photos of his family members born on either side of the border in and near Ruidosa. Rodriguez, originally born in the region, traveled from California to bring these images to share with the community. He had been attempting to make this trip for many years. READ MORE ON PAGE 5.

City of Marfa announces first round of HOT grant recipients

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Citizens representing local arts, historic and cultural endeavors turned up to a City Council meeting this week to lobby for grant funding for their various projects.

Twice a year council members hear recommendations from a hotel occupancy tax (HOT) grant committee and award funds in four primary categories: advertising reimbursement, arts and culture, historic preservation and sports.

The HOT grant committee is currently made up of Mayor Manny Baeza, Mayor Pro Tem Raul Lara and Tourism Director Jennifer Connors. The grant program is funded annually by hotel taxes the city receives and is geared towards "putting heads in beds," or promoting overnight stays in town.

This year the city budgeted to receive $700,000 in HOT taxes, but the majority of that money goes towards the overall Tourism and Convention Center budget, which includes salaries, building maintenance for the USO, or Marfa Visitor Center, advertising for publications, brochures and more.

State law dictates how municipalities can spend HOT tax funds, and while there is ongoing discussion on the local and state level about widening the use to include city infrastructure projects and more, it is currently limited to supporting tourism activities.

The first round of grants administered is for events taking place between October 1, 2023 and March 30, 2024. This year the city budgeted a total of $35,000 for arts and culture events, $41,000 for historic preservation-related events, $5,000 for sporting events and $20,000 for advertising reimbursements.

Bob Schwab was present to advocate for the newly-formed nonprofit Friends of Hunter Gym, a group looking to restore the 1941 adobe gym and designated historic landmark on Marfa ISD's campus that is not currently being used by the district due to the presence of mold.

Schwab argued that the Hunter Gym restoration will positively impact the local community, preserving an important piece of Marfa's history, in addition to out-of-towners. He said the group plans to hire local contractors to carry out sorely-needed repairs to the structure, and, once restored, to make the space available for future community-wide and school-related events like

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Big Bend Regional Hospital District awards $25,000 to fund anti-abortion Presidio Pregnancy Center

By SAM KARAS
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ALPINE — At Tuesday night's meeting, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD) voted to award $25,000 to the Presidio Pregnancy Center (PPC), out of a roughly $100,000 pot of money allocated by the agency for programs to benefit local healthcare. The center is a crisis pregnancy center affiliated with CareNet, an evangelical, anti-abortion organization that funds crisis pregnancy centers nationwide. The Presidio project launched in September and is still seeking volunteers, funding and a physical office.

Though crisis pregnancy centers often advertise healthcare services, they are not staffed by healthcare professionals and often serve to dissuade women from seeking abortions. There are more than 2,500 crisis pregnancy centers in Texas, which has effectively banned abortion procedures within state lines. The Big Bend region represents a large gap — an empty triangle between clusters of these facilities in El Paso, Odessa and Del Rio.

The PPC is part of a new regional healthcare initiative called the "Big Bend Maternal Care Network" (BBMCN), established earlier this year. The coalition also includes the Big Bend Regional Medical Center and the Sul Ross State University School of Counseling. The network has been seeking grant funding to address gaps in maternal care, given that the tri-county area — and in particular, Presidio — is a majority minority region where many people live below the poverty line and without health insurance.

The BBMCN applied for grant funding from the federal Office of Minority Health and was denied based on a perceived lack of "data to establish need." Newsom said that the coalition would refine its reporting and continue to seek funding. "We're not done yet," he said. "We're going to keep looking for some other opportunities because there is a need and a huge gap in access to maternal health care in the region."

Newsom acknowledged that the PPC could not provide healthcare services, but felt that the fledgling organization might be able to offer a "community based support network" for expectant mothers. He anticipated that the money would be used toward launching the organization's physical location and services.

When asked about the PPC's overt anti-abortion and evangelical agenda, Newsom responded

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Presidio County awarded $1.3 million TxDOT grant for East Marfa connectivity project

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Presidio County was recently awarded $1.3 million in grant funds from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge that will connect east to central Marfa.

The 12-foot-wide, two-way bridge will be located on the north side of the existing Oak Street, or FM 1112, motor bridge and will offer a safe passage for walkers and bikers traveling to and from the east side of town. Sidewalk additions and improvements from Avenue B to the Marfa Public Library are also included in the project.

The current motor bridge, which is located outside of city limits, is owned and maintained by TxDOT, as is the land where the new ADA-accessible pedestrian bridge will be built. County Commissioner David Beebe, who prepared the proposal for the "transportation alternatives" grant and is acting as the project manager, said construction will not begin for a year or more and is not likely to disrupt traffic.

The entire cost of the project is $1.6 million, meaning an additional $300,000 in funds will need to be secured by the county. The grant is reimbursable, meaning that the county will first have to spend money before being paid back by TxDOT, but the project will be done in phases, lessening the financial burden, said Beebe.

Beebe said while costly, the project has the opportunity to create long-term, positive impacts for a traditionally underserved side of town, better connecting the east side inhabitants to the public library, post office, pharmacy, two parks and more.

"That's the kind of investment that you should spend money on," said Beebe. "This could really rejuvenate the entire FM 1112 area close to town. It could make Sal Si Puedes an area that's more family friendly, safer for everybody, less cut off from the activities of town."

As it stands, pedestrians have no choice but to cross via the two-lane motor bridge — which is narrow with no shoulders and sees cars traveling 50 miles per hour — or down through Alamito Creek.

Robert Halpern, who helped facilitate the initiative through his role as workforce and economic development specialist at the Rio Grande Council of Governments, said the

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Ahead of filing deadline, race for county attorney generates enthusiasm

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — In a break from election-season norms, two Democratic candidates have announced their intentions to run for Presidio County attorney — nearly a month from the deadline to file as a candidate on December 11. This spring, incumbent Rod Ponton — who has served two full terms and an unexpired term in office — will face off against Blair Park, another native Marfan hoping to bring a fresh perspective to the post.

The county attorney serves as official legal counsel, representing Presidio County in court and offering advice to local officials about potential pitfalls in contracts, ordinances and other routine business. The attorney's salary is partly paid by the state of Texas and partly by the county from the local property tax pool.

Ponton has served the tri-county area both as an elected official and in private practice for decades. In 2006, he was appointed county attorney to fill an unexpired term and served for two years in that capacity. He was elected district attorney in 2012 and served a full four-year term. He was defeated in the next Democratic primary for DA, but successfully ran for Presidio County attorney, serving from 2016 to the present day.

He said he was grateful for the experience that the district attorney position provided, but preferred to stay closer to home. "I ended up being much happier doing what I'm doing," he said. "I get to try to improve things in Presidio County."

At 33 years old, Park has fewer years as an attorney under her belt, but feels passionately that she can serve the community she grew up in. She spent most of her childhood in Marfa before the family relocated to San Angelo, where she graduated from high school and decided to pursue a career in law.

After working for five years as an attorney in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, she decided to come home during the pandemic. "When you grow up in a small town, you just want to leave it, to get out of here and move to the big city," she said. "When COVID hit, I had the feeling that going back home wasn't so bad — I was really missing home and wanting to be back in Marfa."

Park has generations of roots in Presidio County, representing its signature blend of Mexican, Indigenous and Anglo farming and ranching traditions. Many Marfans remember her grandmother who ran legendary local staple Carmen's Café. "A lot of the old-school Marfans will still remember me as the little girl that ran around the café taking orders," she said.

She has also fostered friendships with transplants to Marfa and hopes to be able to advocate for both groups as an elected official. "A lot of the older people like having that local connection," she said. "Hopefully I can be a kind of a bridge in between the two groups of people — those who are originally from here and then the people who are who are moving in."

Both Ponton and Park also see the position as a public platform to advocate for the needs of county residents. Healthcare is a high priority for the two candidates — in a remote area with limited resources, they see the issue as a literal matter

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

HOT grant recipients

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an adobe seminar, robotics competitions, sports games and more.

He acknowledged that the nonprofit was asking for a substantial sum, $30,000, well over the city's typical historic preservation grant allotment, but said the project will benefit the area economically for years to come.

"We believe this is going to be a long-term important structure and important activity for Marfa," said Schwab. "We want you to be a partner with us in this, be part of this process, making sure that we don't let that building further decay."

Pat Keesey of the Marfa Municipal Alliance for Dead Country and Folk Singers was also present at the meeting to explain the group's desire to host a HOT tax-funded series of performances.

Keesey explained that the alliance was made up of 50 musicians who have helped raise $30,000 over the past few years for local organizations. He said the alliance's members were diverse, playing a mixture of Tejano, contemporary punk rock, country and more, and deserved the city's support for their contributions to Marfa's musical landscape.

"If you could support the music community, they've already given back, they'll continue to give back," said Keesey.

There promoting his new short film shot in Marfa, Ashes to Ashes, was Clark Childers, who argued forthcoming premieres, one in town and one in Los Angeles, would both bring in visitors and highlight Marfa's film scene to national audiences.

"I think we could develop a more thriving film community here if they saw that there was support for more films in Marfa, made by Marfans," said Childers.

Last to address City Council members was Martha Stafford of the Marfa and Presidio County Museum. She said the museum was seeking both advertising and historic preservation grants to revise its brochures, hire someone to manage its social media, create an interactive display, turn its side yard into more of a community park and more.

Before announcing HOT grant recipients, city officials addressed their limitations regarding funding of historic preservation projects at this time, stating the city's own historic and tourism facility projects took precedence. The city budgeted $100,000 for historic building preservation this cycle, a line item within the tourism and convention center budget.

City Manager Mandy Roane and Mayor Baeza explained that the USO was in need of a roof repair or possible roof replacement, the museum floor was still being addressed and the Marfa Activities Center gym — which can be rented out and therefore falls under the tourism umbrella — required upgrades.

"It looks like a lot of the money that we have in historic preservation," said Baeza. "But I believe we're going to use every penny this year on working on our three buildings."

In advertising reimbursement grants, the city awarded $3,500 to Maintenant and $3,500 to Ballroom Marfa. The Marfa Museum, Marfa Chamber of Commerce's Little Amal event and Chinati Foundation all applied but were not chosen for advertising reimbursements.

In arts and culture grants, the city awarded $2,500 to Dara and Prat, $6,500 to Ballroom Marfa, $750 for Marfa Chamber of Commerce's Little Amal event, $5,000 to Maintenant and $2,250 to the Marfa Municipal Alliance for Dead Country and Folk Singers. Other applicants Friends of Ruidosa Church and film Ashes to Ashes received $0.

The Marfa100 received $2,500 from sporting events. Under historic preservation, The Chinati Foundation received $10,000, the Marfa Museum received $8,000 and Friends of Hunter Gym received $0.

Disclosure: Mary Cantrell is a Friends of Hunter Gym board member.

Local Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists offer Chronic Wasting Disease testing

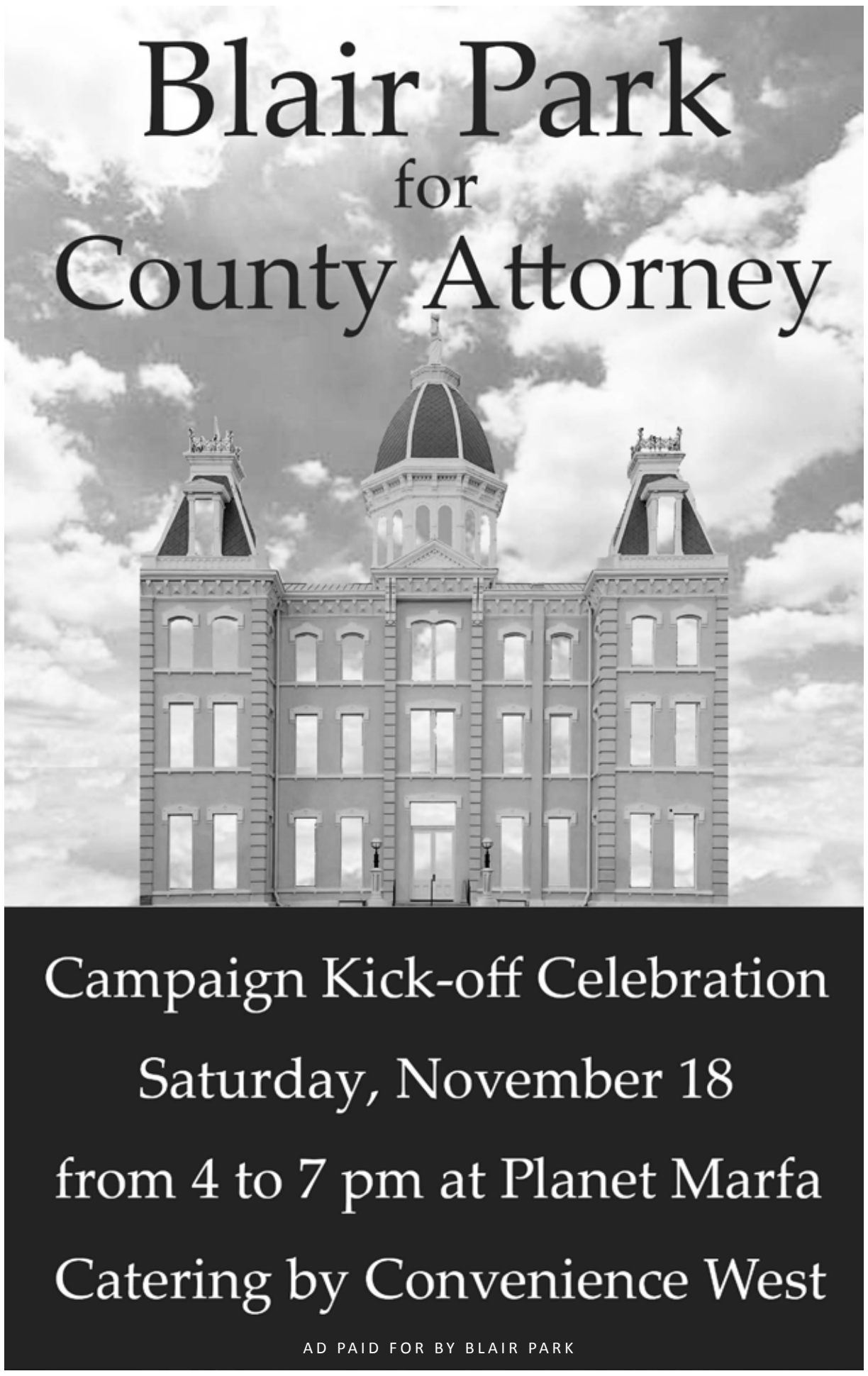
TRI-COUNTY — Local biologists with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) are currently collecting Chronic Wasting Disease samples from road-killed and hunter-harvested deer and elk.

Landowners, hunters and visitors to the region can call a TPWD biologist if they come across a road-killed or harvested deer or elk they would like to have tested for the disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease is fatal and contagious among deer and elk populations. Hundreds of cases have been confirmed since the disease was initially discovered to be present in Texas in 2012. Symptoms may take a while to develop and may not be apparent until the final months of the disease.

The tri-county area is not currently a mandatory testing zone, but continual surveillance is important to ensure the local deer populations remain disease-free.

For more information on Chronic Wasting Disease, visit tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/. To find your local wildlife biologist, visit pwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/technical_guidance/biologists/



Anti-abortion Presidio Pregnancy Center

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by saying that funding organizations with explicitly religious missions is not uncommon in the healthcare industry. Because Lynette Brehm, the board president of the PPC, is both a hospital district employee and a volunteer board member, he was "very sensitive" to potential conflicts of interest.

Newsom stressed that the BBRHD's medical enhancement grants were "reimbursement grants," meaning that recipients had to budget and spend grant money ahead of time before funding could be approved. "If there's something questionable, we've got the opportunity to say this is not part of the scope of the grant, and this is not something that the hospital district is going to pay for," he said. "There's a lot of built-in accountability there."

Other grant recipients included Terlingua ISD and the Sunshine House senior center in Alpine, receiving $4,226 and $15,000, respectively. The board still has around $55,000 to award to potential grant recipients.

The board voted to table proposals by the City of Presidio for safer flooring materials at the Presidio Activity Center gym and for a recruitment program to bring new physicians to the Marfa Country Clinic. Those proposals will likely be revisited at January's board meeting.

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 3. Lot Eleven (11), Block Six (6), West Heights Addition, to the City of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. R11345

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

After-hours clinic

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services — 186 "physician contacts," to be precise, since the service started booking appointments in September. "From day one, they were booking appointments for after-hours," she said.

The new BBRH clinic is intended to supplement the new care offerings at the PCHS clinic and will share space with the Big Bend Regional Hospital District office at 602 West O'Reilly Street in downtown Presidio three days a week: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The grant will also fully fund a pharmacist's salary and work to grow a case management program, which helps chronically ill or disabled patients develop an individualized healthcare plan. Twenty new Presidians had taken advantage of that service in the month of October.

A portion of the funding has also gone towards establishing a community paramedicine program, which enables qualified emergency medical personnel to assist patients beyond 911 calls. The program includes home visits to provide help with medication management, follow-up visits and more.

Brehm reported that the program had seen 31 patient contacts since the beginning of October, and that Presidio EMS staff had been going door-to-door to let people know that the program was up and running. "We've heard some touching stories," she said.

She hoped that these numbers were just the beginning of an upward trend — particularly with the extended clinic services that Presidians had been hoping to see for years. "I'd like to see some more advertising done on that," she said. "Some people don't know that it's open yet, but it's off to a really good start."

Race for county attorney

(Continued from page 1)

of life and death.

Ponton took credit for urging the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to pursue a grant through the USDA for $5.5 million to benefit healthcare in Presidio and Terlingua. Though both communities stand to benefit, Presidio has taken the lion's share of the funding to expand the local clinic's offerings — including after-hours walk-in care — and a community paramedicine program.

He was proud to play a role in getting the hospital district to "open up their eyes" to gaps in care in Presidio. "It can provide Presidio with first-class, American-style healthcare for the first time," he said.

Park has been an outspoken advocate for local healthcare, diving into policy research and talking to folks about what it's like to navigate the system. At a local Democratic Party event two weekends ago, she moderated a panel on "Womens' Health in Rural Texas Post-Dobbs."

She said that — as a woman of childbearing age — she has to travel out of town for appointments, and a season of closures in the labor and delivery wing of the local hospital was a major factor in trying to make decisions about having kids in Marfa. "You hear the horror stories," she said. "Women's healthcare is huge for me."

After a harrowing budget season, Park is also hoping to use her potential platform as an elected official to help find ways to ease the county's financial constraints from the inside. She echoed Ponton's interest in helping the county tap into resources offered by the state and federal governments. "It's really important for someone to be keeping their eyes out for different bonds and grants that can be done to help," she said. "Our property taxes aren't quite covering what we need."

TxDOT grant

(Continued from page 1)

unincorporated community has long deserved a better connection to town.

"I see people walking, and they shouldn't have to walk in the creek or share that two-lane bridge with cattle trucks," said Halpern. "We'll have a pedestrian bicycle bridge adjacent to the vehicle bridge in a couple of years. I think that's great."

Halpern, who lives in Sal Si Puedes, attributed the $1.3 million funding windfall to Beebe's hard work as well as Sal Si Puedes residents' grassroots efforts to show support for the project by writing letters and attending meetings with TxDOT representatives.

Carla De Hoyos, a Sal Si Puedes resident who owns and operates a bar, Vaquero Vibes, with her husband in the area, said the new pedestrian bridge will be a positive addition for both locals and tourists.

"When the warmer days are around we'd love to see more people walking on our side of town versus central," said De Hoyos.

She said the bridge was sorely-needed from a safety perspective, and she hoped more people in the neighborhood would use it to walk and stay healthy.

De Hoyos will be experiencing construction firsthand given her home's proximity to the Oak Street bridge, but said she believes the additional pedestrian walkway will elevate the look of the existing bridge. The project is anticipated to take around three years to complete once construction begins in late 2024 or early 2025, said Beebe.

Beebe said the east side connectivity project will also benefit the growing Antelope Hills area. Part of his fundraising strategy will include seeking out private donations from established and forthcoming businesses in the area like Max Hetzler Gallery and El Cosmico.

Contributions from individual donors are also a possibility, said Beebe, who is working on creating a new county policy that would allow donors to give towards specific government projects versus the county's general fund.

"If somebody writes a $5,000 check, that's $5,000 I don't need to pry out of the county general fund that doesn't have $5,000," said Beebe.

Beebe also plans to seek help from the City of Marfa, he said, if not in the form of cash, through donations of barricades and dirt work. The Friends of the Marfa Public Library have backed the project in addition to the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

The bridge itself represents the largest cost of the project, but curbing, handicap ramps, excavation, signage and more all roll into the final, all-inclusive cost, said Beebe. Due to the presence of Alamito Creek, environmental studies will also be required to ensure the bridge's longevity.

"All this stuff is really expensive," said Beebe. "When you look at the $1.6 million, that is everything included, inflation, overruns, engineering, environmental study, dirt work, berms, removal, disposal, everything."

Despite the county's current financial difficulties, which Beebe is well aware of, strategic investments in the county and its people needed to continue, he argued.

"While we still have the ability to do great projects like this I'm hoping that these things can help propel us towards a better economy, a better economic outlook for the area by investing in some of our areas that have traditionally seen less investment, less infrastructure," said Beebe.

While the connectivity project is currently isolated to the specific stretch of Oak Street, Beebe said the creation of a formal bike plan down the road — that could act as an extension to the forthcoming HWY 67 bike lane from Alpine to Marfa — could mean more grant funds and more accessible walking and biking paths.



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Presidio County received a $1.3 million grant from TxDOT to construct a walk and bike bridge on the north side of the existing Oak Street motor bridge. The significant addition will allow for long-needed safe pedestrian passage from East to Central Marfa.

Public Awareness Information on Natural Gas
From the City of Marfa Gas Department

Natural Gas Safety Tips
• Service natural gas appliances periodically
• Don't use a gas range to heat a room
• Keep liter and flammables away from gas hot water heaters
• Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by proper appliance installation, maintenance and use
• Teach your family to recognize the smell of natural gas

Natural Gas Facts
• Natural gas is a clean, economical and efficient fuel
• Natural gas is very safe when used and handled properly
• Natural gas is non-toxic and non poisonous
• Natural gas has an excellent safety record

If you suspect a gas leak:
• Call the gas department for help on a phone away from the leak
• Eliminate ignition sources and secure leak area
• Do not operate motor vehicles near leak area and provide traffic control as needed

REPORT GAS LEAKS BY CALLING
24 hours on call (432) 295-3050 or 911

REMEMBER: STOP BEFORE YOU DIG!!

Call **811** if any excavation deeper than 16 inches is to occur on your property so gas and other lines can be located in advance

The City of Marfa Gas Department is committed to the safety of our community as well as the safety of the environment

For additional information call or write to:

City of Marfa Gas Department
113 S. Highland • P.O. Box 787
Marfa, TX 79843
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Información de sensibilización pública sobre Gas Natural
Desde la ciudad de Marfa Departamento de gas

Consejos de seguridad Gas natural
• Aparatos de gas natural deben ser revisados periódicamente
• No utilizar una gama de gas para calentar una habitación
• Mantener litros y productos inflamablcs lejos de calentadores de agua caliente de gas
• Prevenir el monóxido de carbono, intoxicación por instalación de equipo adecuado, mantenimiento y uso
• Ense a su familia a reconocer el olor de gas natural

Gas natural hechos
• El gas natural es un combustible limpio, economico y eficiente
• El gas natural es muy seguro cuando utiliza y maneja correctamente
• El gas natural no es toxico y no venenosas
• Gas natural tiene un historial de seguridad excelente

Si sospecha que una fuga de gas:
• Llame al departamento de gas para obtener ayuda sobre un telefono lejos de la fuga
• Eliminar fuentes de ignición y segura zona de fugas
• No operar vehiculos cerca de la zona de fuga y proporcionan control de trafico segun sea necesano

FUGAS DE GAS INFORME LLAMANDO AL
Servicio las 24 horas (432) 295-3050 o 911

RECUERDE: DEJARANTES DE EXCAVAR!!

Llamar **811** si cualquier excavacion mas profunda que 16 pulgadas es que se produzca en su propiedad para gas y otras lineas puede ser localizado de antelacion

El departamento de Gas ciudad de Marfa esta comprometido con la seguridad de nuestra comunidad, asi como la seguridad del medio ambiente

Para obtener mas informacion llame o escriba a:

Departamento de la ciudad de Marfa Gas
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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I've recently been thinking of the children's story of "Chicken Little." When an acorn dropped on its head, a little chicken panicked and ran around exclaiming "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" This makes me wonder about the commissioner who seems to be convinced that our county is in the initial throes of bankruptcy — that the sky is falling!

Well, I get it, the county's budget is extremely important and Presidio County has historically had financial issues, but is this the time to be proclaiming that the sky is falling? Does the commissioner believe that additional traffic generated on Antelope Hills road by El Cosmico campers and wealthy 3-D homeowners will cause so much in maintenance costs that the county will be bankrupted? Is this a "sky is falling" moment with the solution being to sacrifice county land — sacrifice Vizcaino Park in order to placate a private business owner?

Then I wonder if the commissioner's perceived threat of bankruptcy is a "Chicken Little" way to scare us? Is it a ploy to scare us and fool us into believing that we should be grateful to El Cosmico for offering to build and maintain a road through our park, a road that will only be beneficial to their business interests? Are we supposed to believe that this "generous gesture" will help the county's budget, therefore making El Cosmico the hero of this story? Really?!

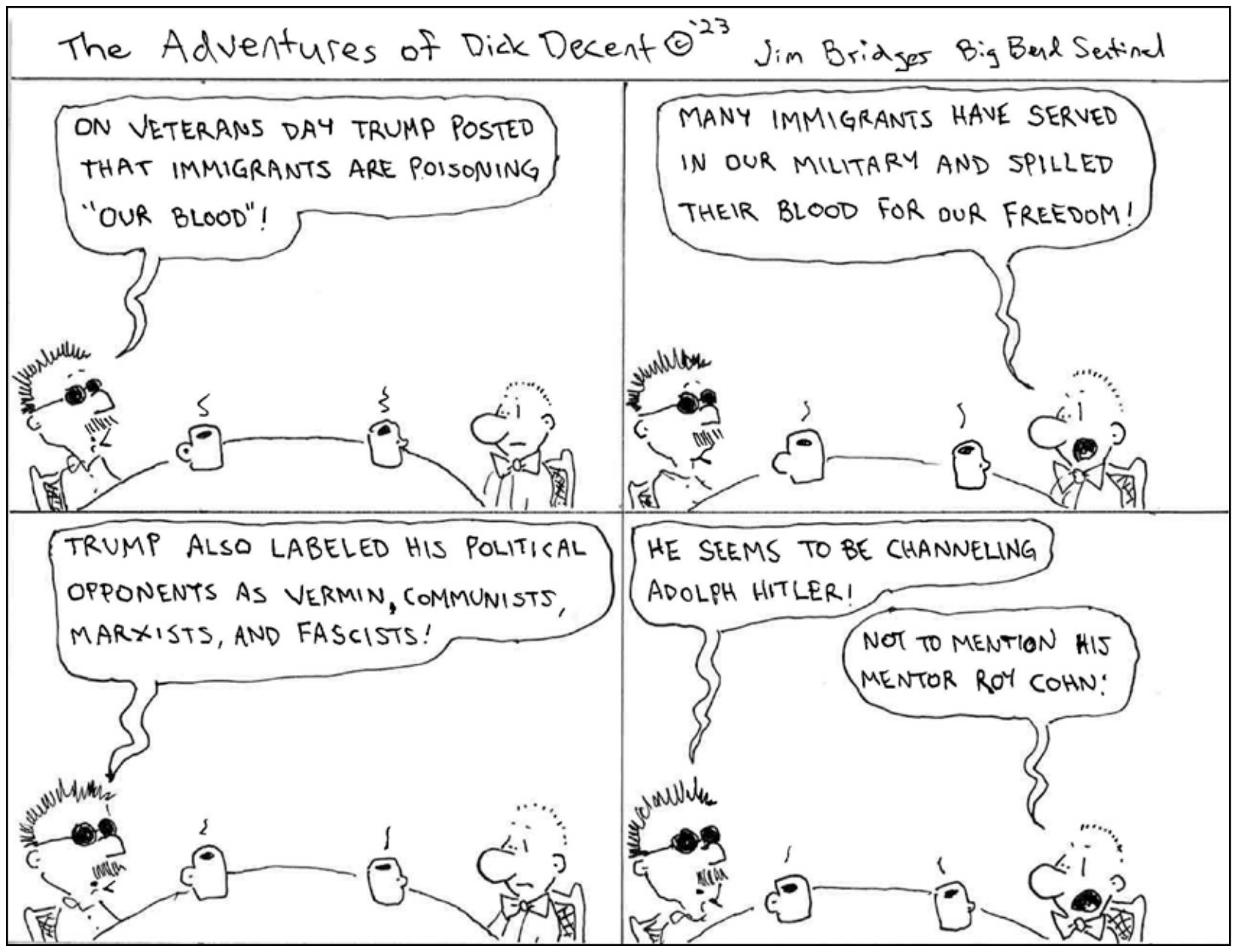
This "Chicken Little" act isn't working for me. What is actually going on?

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***







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HIGHLIGHTED LISTING: Hawk Hill Ranch

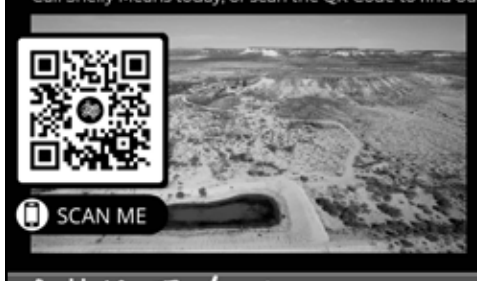


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la fundación the CHINATI foundation

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.

Community

Friends of Ruidosa Church celebrate 3rd annual 'Community Day'

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

RUIDOSA — Last Saturday, the sounds of mariachi and warm conversation filled the air at the third annual "Community Day" hosted by nonprofit Friends of Ruidosa Church. The event drew dozens of people from all over the tri-county area — and as far away as California — who had ties to Ruidosa or an interest in seeing the community's historic adobe church.

The Friends group was founded in 2018 to rally around the cause of repairing an abandoned church in Ruidosa. El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesus — a Catholic church whose claims to fame include what is perhaps the largest adobe arch in Texas — was a community hub in the first half of the 20th century, when Ruidosa was a bustling farming town.

When the church started falling into disrepair in the 1950s, artist Donald Judd approached the Diocese of El Paso in hopes of buying the building to preserve its architectural significance, but church leadership declined to sell.

Nearly three decades later — in 2019 — the Diocese deeded the land to Presidio County, who then turned over the property to the Friends group. Over the past five years, its board members — who hail from all over the tri-county area — have worked diligently to restore the crumbling adobe structure and gather family histories from those who remember the church in its glory days.

Each year's Community Day follows a theme marking what the group wants to accomplish in the year to come. This year's theme was "Raising the Bell."

Board Secretary Mike Green explained that the theme was a nod to the church's long-lost bell. Over decades of neglect, items started disappearing from the church — glass, sacraments, the altar. The bell also wandered off.

Around the time the board was formed, Green started asking around to try to solve the historical whodunit. A friend tipped him off that a former Ruidosa school teacher might have it — when the bell was returned to the Friends, they kept it in the Presidio County Jail for safekeeping.

Four years later, the bell was returned to Ruidosa — marking an ambitious goal for the coming year. "What we're doing is restoring the church front to back," Green explained. "We want to finish the entryway where we can put the bell up."

Another important aspect of the Friends' restoration work is making — and teaching community members how to make — adobe brick. Throughout the year, board members host adobe workshops to help get supporters of the church involved in the process. "The enthusiasm is contagious, and everyone has a great time," Green said.

Ultimately, Green and his fellow board members see the project as a way to honor the past while creating a gathering space in the present day. They'd like to see more community events, exhibitions and church services return to the space. "We say that an active building is a healthy building," he said.

They can't do it alone — to support their efforts, the group is always seeking volunteers and donations. "I think it's good to give back to the community in any way you can," he said.



Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

Friends of the Ruidosa Church board members Mike Green and Clara Benson welcome folks to Saturday's annual Ruidosa Church Community Day fundraiser.

Presidio celebrates 340th anniversary with art, food and fun

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Last week, Presidio celebrated its 340th anniversary with a spread of activities from Thursday through Saturday nights hosted by both the Convention and Visitors Bureau and locals got to enjoy a wide array of homegrown talent, from poets and painters to musicians and street vendors.

The festivities kicked off on Thursday night with an art show at the Bean. The event, hosted by the La Junta Arts Council, was billed as a tribute to Laurie Holman and the Ferguson family — though the show also included work by Jorge Avena, Yosdy Valdivia, Andrei Rentería, Alouy Martinez, Anthony Carrasco and Ramon Deanda.

Holman — a former Presidio ISD art teacher of more than two decades — was initially confused by the term "tribute" to describe the event. "Isn't that something you do for people who have passed away or retired? I'm still working!" she said. "[The organizers] said, 'We don't have to wait to celebrate you.'"

The festivities focused on her work and the indelible mark she's left on generations of Presidio artists. She insists that she couldn't take credit for the boom in young working artists from the area — Presidio and Ojinaga just so happen to be a hub for creatives. "I've had so many students go on to be designers, art teachers, artists," she said. "There's just an incredible amount of talent."

Though Holman isn't originally from the border, she tells people who ask that she's from Presidio. The local culture — with its Indigenous, Spanish and Mexican influences — has found its way into her work. "It's the longest I've ever spent in one place in my life," she says. "Presidio feels more like home than any other place."



Photo by Hannah Gentiles for The Big Bend Sentinel

On Saturday, Generation X from Ojinaga closed out Presidio's 340th Anniversary Street Dance Celebration.

On Saturday, the Presidio Convention and Visitors Bureau hosted a street fair to cap off the weekend, featuring performances by local favorites, including Chihuahua City's Generación X. Around 150 people braved the fog and chilly weather to dance in the streets.

While the celebration ended on a festive note, Arian Velazquez-Ornelas — president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau — hoped that the event would inspire locals to take pride in their own history.

She explained that the anniversary didn't mark the first settlements in the Presidio-Ojinaga area, considered one of the oldest continuously-farmed regions in North America.

Instead, the celebration focused on the year that Juan Sabeata, a Jumano leader, traveled to El Paso to petition the Spanish to establish a mission where the Rio Conchos and Rio Grande met. "He was a messenger — he would travel far and wide to update the different cultures in the region, all the different groups of natives," she explained.

Sabeata's story represents the literal meeting of the local Indigenous and Spanish influences that make Presidio and Ojinaga special. "It's not really something that Texas teaches — it's not in our textbooks, it's not our schools," Velazquez-Ornelas said. "To understand our culture you need to understand how so many people have had an effect on this region."

She hopes that Saturday was just one day of many that Presidians will honor the past. "This community has always had a sense of family," she said. "We can preserve [our history] and continue to show and educate what it's all about so that it's not forgotten."

El Cosmico hosts Friendsgiving benefiting the Marfa Food Pantry

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Locals took shelter from an overcast fall afternoon this past Sunday to break bread for a Friendsgiving fundraiser benefiting the Marfa Food Pantry hosted by El Cosmico at the USO Building.

The event yielded 125 attendees and four boxes full of canned goods totaling around 100 pounds. El Cosmico has raised $8,600 in donations for the food pantry this year and hopes to reach a goal of $10,000 by the end of the year.

Local restaurants including Convenience West, The Sentinel, Margaret's, Alta Marfa, Big Sandy, Bordo, The Riata and Waterstop donated dishes, drinks and desserts for the community meal. Musical guests for the afternoon included local favorites Primo y Beebe and a DJ set by Sweetheart of the Radio.

Marfa Food Pantry Director Genevieve Bassham said she was pleased with the turnout, variety of dishes offered and the chance to get together with old friends.

"I really enjoyed it, seeing a lot of people that I haven't seen for a long time," said Bassham.

She said she was appreciative of the El Cosmico team and food pantry volunteers who helped put the event together. The food pantry plans to give out Thanksgiving turkeys this week during its regular distribution, said Bassham, and will utilize the donated canned goods soon.

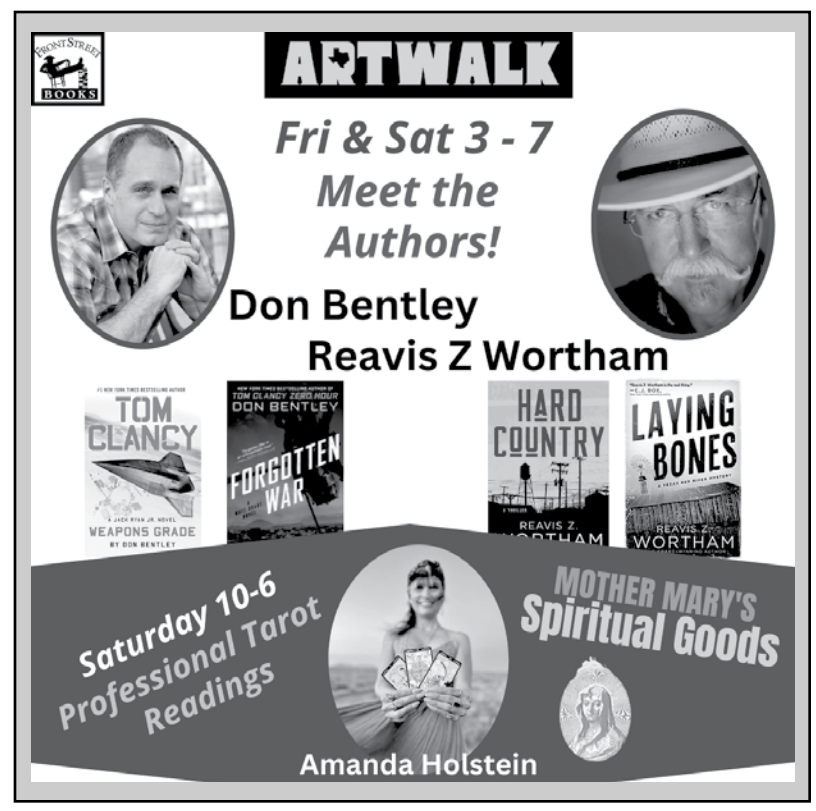
"It's a big help for the Marfa Food Pantry because we give a lot of canned goods," said Bassham.

Kendall Craig, El Cosmico's director of development and community, said the spirit of the Friendsgiving is in keeping with the business' long history of supporting local nonprofits and hosting community events.

"Friendsgiving in support of the Marfa Food Pantry is an event that El Cosmico is proud to host for the second year," said Craig. "It really brings the businesses of Marfa together to support a great cause."

Canned goods and checks made out to The Marfa Food Pantry may be dropped off at El Cosmico's front desk, and donations may also be made online at marfafoodpantry.com.





READ ONLINE AT BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM





MISD announces honor roll and perfect attendance for 2nd grading period of school year

MARFA — Marfa ISD is proud to announce the following students earned a place on the A honor roll, A-B honor roll, or perfect attendance for the second grading period of the year.

A Honor Roll

9th Grade: Vanessa Diaz, Mateo Meza, Dariela Munoz, Belen Soto Torres

10th Grade: Amaya Gomez

11th Grade: Francisco Rosas

12th Grade: Annalise "Jack" Marquez, Isaac Nunez

A-B Honor Roll

6th Grade: Fabian Marquez, Francisco Munoz, Rayleeah Rodriguez, Mariela Rojas, Adrian Salgado-Tarr, Giovanni Van Etten, Alayna Vasquez

7th Grade: Jonea Acosta, Ulises Estrada, Seth Nunez, Jerika Rodriguez

8th Grade: Josaul Baeza, Alberto Salgado, Diego Sanchez, Zoe Tolliver, John Anthony Van Etten, Alexis Villela

9th Grade: Jose Munoz-Bueno, Giselle Torres, Flavio Udave

10th Grade: Piper Donaldson, Ava Flores, Messiah Licon, Raven Martinez, Ricardo Ramos, Sara Salgado

11th Grade: Derick Campos, Marisa Hernandez, Tenessa Hinojos, Diego Jurado

12th Grade: Esdras Flores, Taylynn Licon, Ana Longoria-Morales, Eric Martinez, Samantha Martinez, Fernanda Rivera

Perfect Attendance

6th Grade: Ty Bejaran, Francisco Munoz

7th Grade: Koda Button, Ulises Estrada, Seth Nunez, Tayvian Valenzuela

10th Grade: Ismael Davila, Ricardo Ramos

11th Grade: Diego Jurado, Francisco Rosas

12th Grade: Annalise Marquez

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

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

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
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PLEASE
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THIS
PAPER

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Aubrey Tarr
9th Grade
Watercolor

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 20, 2023

ACROSS
1 Relating to stars
7 Wonderful, in slang
10 ___ vez (again, in Spanish)
14 Go to great lengths
15 Ending for "lemon"
16 Subpar
17 Influencer's material? (In this answer, note the first letter + the last 4 letters)
19 Bring into harmony
20 Desire sinfully
21 Savory taste
23 (Finger on lips)
24 Certain primate
25 Indian state bordering Bhutan
27 Alliance whose HQ is in Brussels
29 Topper for King Charles (... first 2 letters + last 3)
32 ___ chi
34 Zippo
35 Defeated in a footrace
36 Become more viscous
38 "Is that ___ or to go?"
39 Williams with 23 Grand Slam titles
40 Word before "top" or "dog"
41 American currency: Abbr.
42 Preppy fashion choice (... first 2 letters + last 3)
45 Flower bitten during a tango
46 Open, as a bottle
47 "Ew! Stop talking!"
50 Bestselling writer?
51 Slow, to Vivaldi
53 Implement, as feedback
55 Questions
57 Carte blanche (... first 3 letters + last 2)
59 Part of a flight
60 Plead
61 Gymnast Katelyn known for routines gone viral
62 "Como ___ usted?"
63 "Much ___ About Nothing"
64 Meat substitute

DOWN
1 Pet safety org.
2 Barber's sharpener
3 Hoard of treasure
4 Ready to pluck
5 2009 blockbuster with a 2022 sequel
6 Part of a flight
7 Letters from supporters
8 Wednesday, for one
9 Smile radiantly
10 Covert ___
11 Outlets for simple robots?
12 "Thirteen Lives" director
13 Gateway ___
18 "Weird" city in Texas
22 Run up, as expenses
26 Late singer O'Connor
28 Medieval king of legend
29 Muscles worked on arm day
30 Big to-do
31 Opposite of SSW
32 Deep thinkers
33 Cause of turbulence
36 Kitchen amt.
37 Prepare to pray or protest
38 Bird representing Horus in hieroglyphs
40 Way back when
43 Like hair done with rollers
44 Southwestern people
47 Tool for statistical comparison
48 Chocolatey coffee drink
49 Color with a pen
50 Safe spot in softball
52 "Voyage" pop group
54 Spiced tea
56 Place to get a salt scrub
58 Boxing wins: Abbr.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

11/19 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

11/20 **Bear Hugs** *by Chris Evans and Shannon Rapp*



☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

NOV	Thu, Nov 16	Fri, Nov 17	Mon, Nov 20	Tue, Nov 21	Wed, Nov 22
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST TAQUITO	N/A	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK
LUNCH	TURKEY, GRAVY, ROLL,MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, DRESSING,DESSERT	N/A	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, NOV 17: HS Girls Basketball vs Fort Hancock in Marfa, 6:00pm
FRI, NOV 17: HS Boys Basketball vs Fort Hancock in Marfa, 7:30pm
TUE, NOV 21: HS Girls Basketball vs Iraan in Marfa, 6:00pm
TUE, NOV 21: HS Boys Basketball vs Iraan in Marfa, 7:30pm

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Judd Foundation

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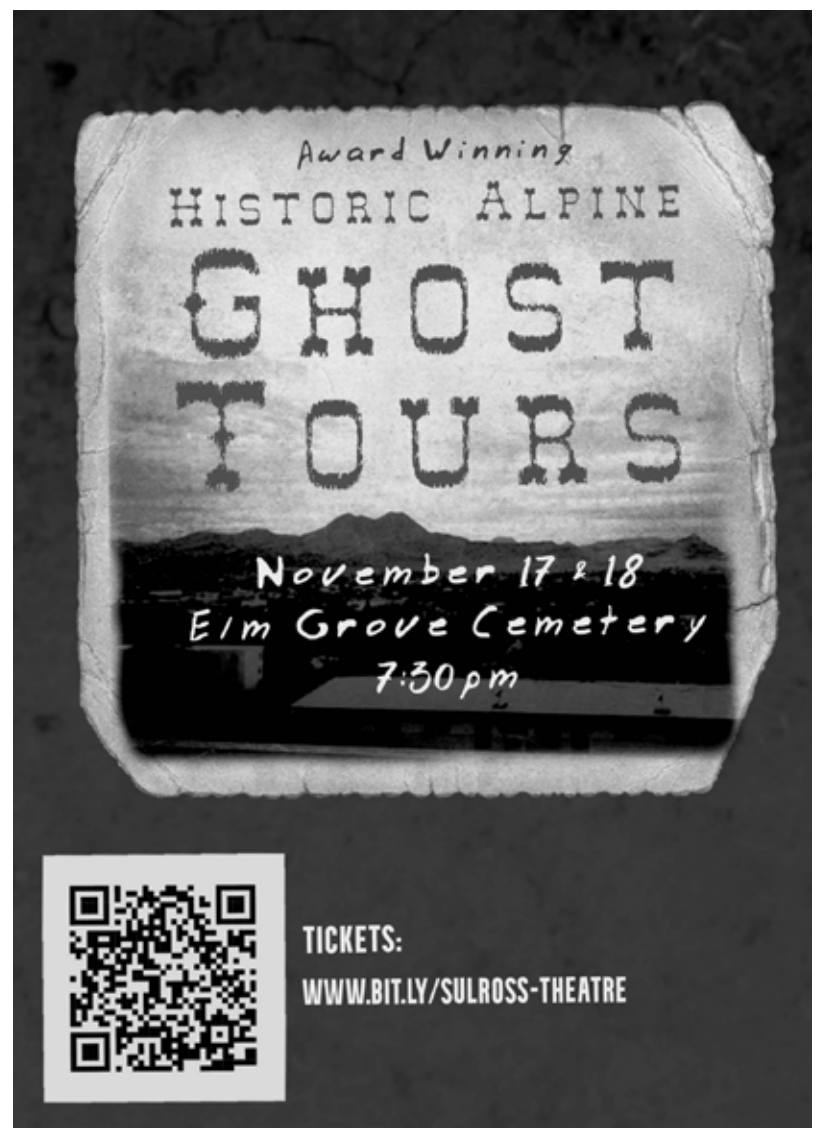
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The Studios
Every day except Wednesday
Guided visits begin at 101 North Highland Avenue.

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

JUDD



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Free community dinner on Thanksgiving

MARFA — Convenience West BBQ and St. Paul's Episcopal Church will continue their tradition of serving a free community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23.

Father Mike Wallens will offer a Celebration of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m. at Convenience West followed by dinner served from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to share a meal of thanksgiving with friends, neighbors and visitors. Convenience West, 1411 West San Antonio St. in Marfa, will provide their award-winning barbecue and smoked turkey. You are welcome to bring a side dish, dessert or donation for the Marfa Food Pantry. Or just bring yourself. Everyone is welcome. For more information please call 214-862-7292 or 432-386-2433.

Slosar is the new Border Patrol chief for Big Bend Sector

MARFA — Walter N. Slosar was selected for the senior executive service position of chief patrol agent, Big Bend Sector, and assumed those duties last week at sector headquarters in Marfa.

"I am honored to be selected to lead and serve alongside the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol in the Big Bend Sector," said Chief Slosar. "We have an important mission to safeguard 517 miles of our nation's border in one of the most rugged and remote regions along the southwest border and to combat transnational criminal organizations exploiting our area of operation."

Chief Slosar entered duty in 1998 with the 384th Session of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy. He was initially assigned to the Santa Teresa Station in El Paso Sector.

Throughout his 25-year career, Chief Slosar has held various leadership positions at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol headquarters, sector, and station levels. Most recently, Chief Slosar served as the chief patrol agent of Miami Sector. Prior to that assignment he served as acting deputy chief patrol agent, El Paso Sector.

Other previous assignments include: division chief, law enforcement operations, El Paso Sector; patrol agent in charge, Santa Teresa Station, El Paso Sector; acting CBP attaché in Guatemala; CBP advisor in Panama; patrol agent in charge, Fort Hancock Station, El Paso Sector; deputy patrol agent in charge, Fort Hancock Station, El Paso Sector; assistant chief, USBP Headquarters; field operations supervisor, Santa Teresa Station, El Paso Sector; and supervisory Border Patrol agent, Ysleta Station and Santa Teresa, El Paso Sector.



Courtesy of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Walter N. Slosar recently became the new Border Patrol chief for the Big Bend Sector. Chief Slosar has been with the agency since 1998.

OBITUARIES



Donaldson

Mary Ann Donaldson born March 25, 1937, of Marfa, Texas, died in her sleep on October 28, 2023. She was married to Bobby Lee Donaldson Sr., ex-mayor and owner of ABC Pump and Hardware of Marfa, who preceded her in death. They had lived and worked in the Marfa community since 1961. Mary Ann, as her friends called her, was manager of the First Savings and Loan in both the Marfa and Alpine branches from the '70s through the '90s. She was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church since moving there in the '60s.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bobby, in 2012 and her oldest son, Alan Wayne Donaldson of Chula Vista, California, in 2019. Other members of her family that have passed are her parents, Floyd Herren Fillpot and Thelma Vetula Fillpot of Satanta, Kansas, along with six brothers and three sisters all originally from Kansas.

Survivors include: one daughter, Cheryl Donaldson-Prausa, and two sons, Bobby "Lee" Donaldson Jr. and Charles "Chuck" Ray Donaldson, all of Marfa; five grandchildren: Jeremy Bouska of Raleigh, North Carolina; April Donaldson-Flores and Kelly Donaldson-Evans from the Houston area, Bobby Lee Donaldson III of Gardendale, Texas; and Kaela Marie Donaldson of Marfa; 15 great-grandchildren, all of whom lovingly called Mary Ann their "Mimi"; one sister, Carolyn Sue Webber of Satanta, Kansas; numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Ann was loved and respected by all she came in contact with and she never stopped giving to others, so may our mother, wife, grandma "Mimi," sister and friend — rest in peace with our Father and Son above!

Services will be on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Marfa.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine.

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Rentaria

Ramon Renteria, a veteran reporter and columnist for The El Paso Times, who covered local news, politics, education, and culture for more than four decades, died on Friday, November 3, 2023, at his home in El Paso, Texas. He was 75.

Renteria was born on July 12, 1948, in Valentine to Felipe and Epimenia Renteria. He graduated from Valentine High School in 1966 and attended Sul Ross State College in Alpine and the University of Texas at El Paso. After a summer job at a newspaper in El Centro, California, he joined The Clovis News-Journal in New Mexico as a staff writer in 1970. He was hired at The El Paso Times in 1975 and eventually rose to become a senior reporter and editor. He won several awards for his investigative reporting and feature writing, including the Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award presented by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Texas State Teachers Association School Bell Awards, and the Texas Headliners Foundation Charles E. Green Journalism Awards. He also mentored many young journalists who went on to successful careers in the media industry.

Renteria was known for his passion, professionalism and integrity as a reporter, as well as his generosity and humor as a person. He covered a wide range of topics, from local government and education to arts and entertainment and human interest stories. He had a talent for finding and telling stories that mattered to the community. He was respected and admired by sources, colleagues, and readers alike.

Renteria also cherished his time away from interviews and deadlines. His pastimes included listening to music, reading, regional road trips, outdoor cooking and trying to grow a garden. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, his dogs, and especially his grandchildren, whom he adored.

Renteria is survived by his wife of 52 years, Noemi Renteria; his mother-in-law, Estella Barraza; his daughters, Noelia Renteria and Ana Renteria; his son-in-law, Ben Ortega; his son, Javier Renteria, his daughter-in-law, Maria Elena Fernandez; and his granddaughters, Stefani, Lluvia, Cielo, Camila, Melanie and Julieta.

Services were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Mission on November 11, 2023 in Valentine.

The family also expresses gratitude to the professionals at University Medical Center and Armonia Hospice Care. Thank you for having the courage to become healers. Thank you for having the compassion to become helpers.

Online condolences may be left at: www.heritagefuneralhome.com

Services were entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home in Van Horn.

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Fri Nov 17

2023 Artwalk Alpine
11/17 & 11/18 in Alpine
Artwalk Alpine's 30th Anniversary! Experience all the traditional events, live music, artists and food vendors, along with all-new special anniversary celebrations. More info at www.artwalkalpine.com

Meet the Authors at Front Street Books
11/17 & 11/18, 3:00pm - 7:00pm at Front Street Books in Alpine
Come meet authors Don Bentley and Reavis Z Wortham!

Historic Alpine Ghost Tours
11/17 & 11/18 at 7:30pm at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine
Alpine Ghost Tours: Graveside Tales is a 50-minute historical walking tour led by an expert tour guide as he takes you through the Elm Grove and Holy Angels cemeteries in Alpine, TX. More info and tickets at www.bit.ly/sulross-theatre

Sat Nov 18

Professional Tarot Readings
10:00am - 6:00pm at Front Stree Books in Alpine
Amanda Holstein will be in the shop for tarot readings and showcasing some goods from her store, Mother Mary's Spiritual Goods.

Folks Swappin' Songs
7:00pm - 8:00pm at the White Buffalo Bar Patio at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Enjoy an evening with unique musicians, locals and travelers alike, create music together on the iconic patio!

Sun Nov 19

Artwalk MUSIC Wrap
4:00pm - 6:00pm at The Ritchey in Alpine
Everyone is invited to bring their instrument and join Musicians Under The Sun In A Circle (M.U.S.I.C.) Hosted by Desert Debo! Visit Alpine will be taking donations..

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

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

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

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

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

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

Storytime
Wednesday at 11:00am at Marfa Public Library

AA (online & sometimes in-person)
Saturday at 12:00pm at https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2 & sometimes in-person at Marfa Public Library

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

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

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

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

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JOBS

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Key Skill & Competencies

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- 2 yrs. relevant experience required

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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.

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

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

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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.

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.

FOR LEASE/RENT

RETAIL FOR RENT

1,339 sf retail space with adjoining 349 sf office/storage for rent beginning Dec. 1.

Building is located in the middle of downtown Marfa. Previous location of Esperanza Vintage.

For more information please call Laszlo at (347) 880-2798 or email: thecornerbuilding125@gmail.com

QUIET AND PRIVATE OFFICE FOR RENT

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One or two year leases are available.

ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE:
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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.

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Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
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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.

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Judge Jose Portillo:
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Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us

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Judge Curtis Evans: *(432) 426-3968*

FEDERAL:
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U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz:
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