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Presidio City Council talks cost-saving measures for the recycling center

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At Tuesday night’s meeting, the Presidio City Council discussed cost-cutting measures at the city’s recycling center. With next year’s budget cycle already looming, city leaders explored the possibility of partnering with Permian Basin recycling company BRI instead of entrusting most of the materials to TDS (Texas Disposal Systems).

While all present considered the program a success, it does carry a hefty price tag: the city leases its compactor from TDS for about \$350 a month. The company then charges an additional \$1,500 to empty the machine, which typically happens twice a year. “It’s my concern that if it’s costing that much, we were going to have to shut [the recycling center] down,” said Elvira Hermosillo, who originally started the city’s recycling program in 2012.

Hermosillo was right to worry. In the fall of 2021, former City Administrator Brad Newton asked the city council to dismantle the recycling program to cut costs. Presidio ISD students mobilized in protest and offered to take over the program on a volunteer basis.

The compactor — which Presidians can fill with their plastics, aluminum and paper — is just one of two machines at the volunteer-led facility, which opened in the spring of 2022. The other is a cardboard baler that was purchased originally on a grant for the school district, but now serves the whole community. Baling cardboard makes it more compact and easier to transport.

Hermosillo said that cardboard disposal is a significant issue for local businesses. Stores like Dollar General, DY and Lowe’s generate a large amount of cardboard waste every day — much of which ends up in the city’s landfill. The bundles are also worth some cash — a ton of recycled cardboard is worth around \$80, a modest sum that Hermosillo explained could be re-invested into the center’s costs. However, there are currently no buyers for the city’s baled cardboard, which is slowly stacking up in a warehouse in the Presidio Stockyards.

BRI — the San Angelo-based recycling company that had offered Hermosillo a potential plan for collaboration — said it would be happy to help the city find cardboard buyers. If the city were to have its

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Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Sleeping Figure, a permanent gift from artist Matt Johnson, was installed this month on the Marfa Invitational's sculpture park grounds. The massive art piece is constructed out of 12 decommissioned shipping containers. Johnson said in his experience, most audiences are receptive to the work, with a minority thinking it's "just a pile of junk." "But I think that's the case with most art," Johnson said. "It comes with the territory of being an artist and making things."

Marfa Invitational regains nonprofit status, installs ‘Sleeping Figure’ sculpture

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — After several months of tumult, including the loss of nonprofit status and allegations of financial mismanagement, the Marfa Invitational has regained its nonprofit status from the Internal Revenue Service and erected a monumental installation, Sleeping Figure, on its sculpture park grounds.

The 150-foot-long, 40-foot-tall sculpture made up of 12 decommissioned steel shipping containers is a permanent gift from Los Angeles-based artist Matt Johnson and resembles a basic human form in repose against the backdrop of Marfa’s grasslands and passing freight trains. Its prominent placement on the outskirts of Marfa

comes at a turbulent time for the Invitational. The IRS had revoked Marfa Invitational’s charity 501(c)(3) status in May after it failed to file tax returns for three years in a row.

Following the initial news of the nonprofit status loss this fall were the resignations of multiple Marfa Invitational board members and the filing of a charitable trust complaint with the Texas Attorney General’s Office by Board Advisor Kathleen Irvin Loughlin. In the complaint, Loughlin alleged director Michael Phelan spent the majority of \$150,000 she donated for the construction of a permanent building on the sculpture park grounds on personal and travel expenses. Phelan has denied the allegations and has since returned \$25,000 to Loughlin.

The Attorney General’s Office did not

respond to requests for comment on whether an investigation into the Marfa Invitational was taking place. Loughlin told *The Big Bend Sentinel* she did not have any updates on the matter.

The organization announced on social media in December it had recently regained its nonprofit status. According to a letter addressed to Phelan from the IRS dated November 30, 2023, the organization’s 501(c)(3) nonprofit status was reinstated effective May 15, 2023.

“Having demonstrated that all legal and financial records are up to date, filed, and in compliance, Marfa Invitational would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to its top-tier legal and financial teams. Including West Texas legend Liz Rogers,” Phelan wrote in a statement

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Culberson County smuggling case to be heard by full bench of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals

By SAM KARAS
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CULBERSON COUNTY — On the afternoon of December 24, 2020, the United States Border Patrol station in Van Horn received a phone call from a “concerned citizen” about a group of people loading large rectangular bundles into a car at a rest stop along I-10. Law enforcement flagged the vehicle and the driver was pulled over by DPS troopers about 20 miles down the road.

As the troopers would later testify in court, they first saw a female passenger with a large square bundle on her lap and a young child sitting on the center console. They discovered four other bundles shoved into the backseat and hatchback area — and were surprised to also find two men, contorted to fit in the cramped leftover space.

The two men in the backseat — Mexican nationals Martin Moncada de la Cruz and Victor Manuel Campos Ayala — would go on to be charged with a very serious federal crime: possession with intent to distribute over 238 pounds of marijuana. In March 2021, a jury found them guilty and each were sentenced to 60 months imprisonment with five years of supervised release.

Then, in June 2021, counsel for the defendants filed an appeal, which was argued before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in October 2022. Two judges on a three-judge panel ruled in favor of vacating the defendants’ sentence — but that wasn’t the end of the story.

The court did something unusual. Without prompting from either party — sua sponte, in legalese — the dissenting judge called for a do-over. Next Wednesday, the case will be

heard before all 17 judges of the Fifth Circuit in something called an en banc review.

Alpine attorney Shane O’Neal — who was tapped to represent Campos in the appeals process — said that en banc cases set precedent, impacting future lawyers’ understanding of the issues at play. “It’s fairly important and very, very rare,” he said. The 17 judges will revisit the case’s key concerns, including a question that has dogged this court before: if you touch something, does that mean you possess it?

“I just helped”

On Christmas Eve in 2020, Campos and Moncada were just two hours from friends and family when their American dream unraveled in

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Fort Stockton attorney launches DA campaign against incumbent Ori White

By SAM KARAS
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83RD DISTRICT — At the close of December’s filing deadlines just two candidates for the Big Bend region’s district attorney’s office filed to run: incumbent Ori White, who is seeking a second term, and former DA, Fort Stockton-based attorney Jesse Gonzales. The DA’s office prosecutes felonies in Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis and Pecos counties and serves an elected four-year term. Both Gonzales and White are running as Republicans, so the spring primary will decide the election.

Gonzales was born and raised in Fort Stockton and has stayed relatively close to home his entire life, choosing to serve his home community through private and public practice. After

graduating from high school, he earned a BA from Sul Ross in political science and went on to earn a degree in law from Texas Tech University.

While completing his undergraduate degree, Gonzales served as a part-time deputy for the Fort Stockton police department. That experience left him with an insider’s understanding of law enforcement — a perspective that he feels helps him as a prosecutor. “I want to continue what I’ve done in the past — working alongside law enforcement, letting them know that there’s somebody on their side,” he said.

Gonzales brings a different kind of experience to the job as well: from 2009 to 2012 he served as the 83rd District’s attorney. He ran for reelection, but lost in the general election to Rod Ponton.

If elected, he has pledged to push politics to the side in an inherently political job and focus

on the task at hand. “If you take the approach of trying to please everybody, it seems like you lose sight of what the job is about,” he said.

He conceded that a lot has changed in the district over the past 12 years: the tourism industry has boomed, oil and gas has fluctuated. Gonzales feels that border issues have changed in tone and intensity over the past decade as well.

Despite what he feels is an escalation of conflict on the border, he says the people who call the area home have stayed the same. “Just because it’s borderland Texas doesn’t mean that it’s all militants on both sides,” he said. “There’s colleges, high schools, young people, retired persons, everything. They should be able to feel like they’re safe and somebody supports their law enforcement.”

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City of Marfa receives half a million dollars from state for street repairs

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — City officials announced a \$500,000 state grant recently awarded to Marfa for street repairs, a significant amount of new money that will allow the city to stretch its repair budget farther to tackle even more rough spots across the city.

In December, the Texas Department of Agriculture awarded the City of Marfa the grant to repair Abbot, Madrid and Kelly streets.

“We’re excited to do the work on the streets,” said City Manager Mandy Roane. “We know that they need to be done. This is a way for us to defer some of the cost so it’s not all on city funds, so that we can stretch the funds we have a little bit further.”

The grant comes from the department’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which aims to improve living environments for low to moderate income residents in rural areas.

The City of Marfa received the full grant amount it requested and will be required to pay a match in the amount of \$25,000, which was already in the city budget, Roane said.

The city hopes to start work on Abbot, Madrid and Kelly streets as early as this spring after putting out bids for a contractor. Crews will repave the streets and improve or repair curbs, Roane said.

The three streets were not chosen at random. They met the grant’s specific requirement of 51% or more of the street’s population qualifying as low to moderate income. For Marfa, that is defined as earning around \$40,000 a year or less, Roane said.

The grant also requires that surveys are attempted at 100% of the homes on the street with 80% responding, making the application process rigorous for city officials.

“This year we had a couple of volunteers — folks who work here at the city and city council members — who literally go door to door with a survey and ask questions about how much they make, how many people live there,” Roane said. “Then we have to do the math that way. We can’t qualify for the town as a whole.”

Roane said the Marfa Housing Authority, which has properties along the streets being repaired, also assisted with the grant process. The City of Marfa has received CDBG grants in the past, said Roane, but blocks that meet the low to moderate income population qualifications that haven’t already benefited from the grant are becoming harder to find. “The mixture of streets that hadn’t been done and that will pass those surveys, the areas are getting smaller and smaller,” she said.

In addition to grant money, council members and city administrators budgeted \$2.1 million in tax note funds for additional street repairs this fiscal year. Streets the city may target for that round of repairs — which have yet to be formally approved by council — are Third, Mesa, Gonzales, Summer and Edinburg.

Roane said the city would prefer to use the same contractor for both the CDBG and tax note-funded streets to get better prices on materials, but there is no guarantee that will work

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Marfa Invitational

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to Glasstire earlier this month. Phelan declined to comment further on the reinstatement when reached by *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

The January installation of Johnson’s *Sleeping Figure* is the first of two large-scale sculptures to be installed on the Invitational’s sculpture park grounds this year, Phelan said in a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel*. The second large-scale sculpture, gifted by artist Ryan Schneider, and additional “outdoor works” are set to “debut” spring 2024.

Sleeping Figure was commissioned by Desert X, an arts organization that presents site-specific installations in desert environs in Southern California and Saudi Arabia and cost \$200,000. The work was on view in Palm Springs in 2023 before being permanently gifted to the Marfa Invitational. “It’s an honor to have this piece put on permanent display in Marfa, and I am very excited that its life gets to continue and live on,” Johnson told *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Johnson said *Sleeping Figure* has been complimented by its proximity to functioning train tracks both in Palm Springs and Marfa. “I like the idea of the sculpture being sited near an active freight line because one gets

“It’s a celebration of our railroad roots, transformed into an artistic landmark, inviting us to appreciate our journey from simple railroad stops to communities rich in history and artistic expression”

the feeling that the containers were plucked from the passing train by a giant kid playing with blocks,” he said.

Johnson often utilizes everyday objects and industrial materials in his artwork, forming baguettes or cinder blocks into human figures. He said *Sleeping Figure*’s steel shipping containers relate to the human body because both are means of consumption.

“The containers are ultimately vessels of commerce and consumer consumption,” Johnson said. “We are the consumers and our bodies are also vessels of consumption, so there’s a distinct relationship that can be drawn between the material of the sculpture and its figurative form.”

Sleeping Figure started out as a small-scale mock-up before being input into 3D modeling software to generate blueprints for a structural engineer, Johnson said. Assembling the sculpture involves forklifts positioning the parts and welders affixing containers into place.

Abbey Branch, Marfa Invitational board member and founder of the Alpine Historic Association, said *Sleeping Figure* represents both the history of Alpine and Marfa as railroad stops as well as the artistic

communities that exist in each town today.

“It’s a celebration of our railroad roots, transformed into an artistic landmark, inviting us to appreciate our journey from simple railroad stops to communities rich in history and artistic expression,” said Branch.

In a statement to *The Big Bend Sentinel* Phelan thanked Johnson as well as the Desert X team for facilitating *Sleeping Figure*’s installation in its “final resting place” on the Marfa Invitational grounds. Dates for the 2024 Marfa Invitational art fair, which typically occurs in May, have yet to be announced. Phelan did not respond to a request for comment on whether the event will take place this year.

Loughlin and Board Member Alex Scull previously told *The Big Bend Sentinel* they were concerned that the sculptures on Marfa Invitational’s grounds “will not be properly maintained by the nonprofit entity.”

Johnson said he believes the work is in good hands, and he appreciated the fact that the Marfa Invitational persevered to get the work installed. He said the gift’s stipulations include the sculpture being returned to him if the Marfa Invitational ceases to exist or if they decide they no longer want to house *Sleeping Figure*, but otherwise people can “expect to see it there forever.”

Smuggling case

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a matter of minutes on the shoulder of I-10.

Two days before, they crossed the river at Ojinaga with Karina Castro-Hernandez and her young daughter and spent the night together under a bridge. The four were strangers: Campos and Moncada happened to be from the same town but they had all made it to the border from interior Mexico without a guide.

The crew hitched a ride from a young man in a gray Nissan who promised to take them all the way to Odessa. Everything seemed to be going smoothly until he dropped them off at a highway rest outside of Van Horn and told them to wait.

Around a half an hour later, he returned — but this time, the car was stuffed with large burlap bundles.

Castro-Hernandez sat in the front seat with a large bundle on her lap and placed her daughter on the center console. Moncada and Campos wedged themselves as best they could in the back.

DPS pulled them over less than a half an hour later; Border Patrol followed close behind.

State troopers put the driver — a 17-year-old who carried no identification except a high school ID — in handcuffs while they searched the vehicle. Border Patrol Agent Eric Ramos helped the mother and daughter out of the vehicle, offering some words of comfort and promising the young girl snacks when they arrived back at the station.

At trial, Ramos testified that he also had a brief conversation with the two men while helping them out of the confined space and into a transport vehicle. He asked them if they knew what they were sitting on. They indicated that they did.

“Why did you help with the drugs?” Ramos asked. “I didn’t,” Campos responded. Ramos doubled down. “Why did you cross the drugs?” “I didn’t, I just helped.”

A lot of ink would eventually be spilled over that phrase — and a lot of discussion in court, including testimony by a Spanish-language translation expert witness. The prosecution leaned on the choice of the word “helped” to substantiate the “intent to distribute” part of the felony charge looming over the two men.

Campos’ attorney at the time, Stephanie Milliron, moved to suppress her client’s statements because she felt that the prosecution was focusing on a phrase used in casual — though heated — conversation, not in a formal confession.

She argued that her client had been questioned without being properly informed of his rights — commonly referred to as “Miranda rights,” after the *Miranda v. Arizona* Supreme Court Case that requires law enforcement to advise suspected criminals of their right to remain silent and their right to retain counsel before being detained and interrogated.

Throughout the appeals process, the question of whether or not Campos had been “detained” at the time he said that he had “helped” with the drugs was raised

again and again.

O’Neal described the scene in an appellate reply: “When Campos was held in the car by troopers and agents for over 30 minutes, surrounded by uniformed, armed officers, watched each of his fellow passengers be formally arrested, and asked accusatory questions that went to key elements of the offense, he was in custody to the degree that Miranda rights should have been read to him before he gave partially, inculpatory answers.”

The prosecution disagreed, and pointed to the fact that both Campos and Moncada would go on to acknowledge they understood the nature and severity of their situation in an interview with Valerie Kettani and Javier Bustamante of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Legally speaking, they argued that if Campos had wanted to walk away from the scene without answering any questions, he could have.

O’Neal stood his ground. “He would not have been able to simply leave on his own had he so desired,” he wrote. “He could not have driven away — he did not own or control the car. There was no practical way to leave the remote area on foot.”

“There’s only one reason you have that much dope”

In their interview with the DEA, agents Kettani and Bustamante asked the men if they understood why they were in trouble. “That’s just the way things are,” Campos reportedly said. “I was in possession of the marijuana.”

His counsel argued the opposite. “I would tell you that those marijuana bundles were possessing these defendants,” said Sandra Stewart, representing Moncada, at trial. “They couldn’t even get out without the law enforcement taking the bundles.”

Stewart and fellow attorney Milliron went so far as to call on their expert translator witness to explain the similarities between the words *posición* and *posesión* in Spanish, suggesting there might have been room for error in the agents’ interpretation of their clients’ confession — were they in possession of the marijuana, or in position?

From the very start, both parties seemed in agreement that the bundles of marijuana were not in the car when the migrants initially hitched a ride from Presidio with the kid in the silver Nissan. Kettani — who authored the original criminal complaint against the two men — said as much on the stand.

How the bundles got in the car is a mystery. Moncada indicated to Kettani that he had helped rearrange the bundles before getting back in the car at the rest stop, but didn’t seem to know where they originated.

The defense felt that there was a significant gap in the narrative that might have been filled if the government had not deported another witness — Castro, the young mother who had also ridden to Van Horn — before she could become a part of the legal proceedings.

The prosecution argued that whatever Castro had to say would have been essentially the same as what everyone else had said — the narratives offered by all parties in the case had consistent, overlapping details. When this claim became a cornerstone of the two mens’ appeals, they held firm.

They also explained that Castro would have had to be separated from her daughter if she had been detained for the purposes of being able to appear in court. It was the height of the pandemic, they reminded the court, and bed space was limited.

At trial, Stewart toed the line between sympathy for Castro’s situation and what she’d hoped to see for her client. She didn’t want to see a young mother and daughter locked up separately — but she also didn’t think it was fair that they weren’t. “Why are these people on trial and she’s not?”

“The 17 judges will revisit the case’s key concerns, including a question that has dogged this court before: if you touch something, does that mean you possess it?”

The testimony of the driver, a young man identified as a U.S. citizen residing in Mexico, is also absent from the record. All the documents have to say is that he was “denied federal and state prosecution” because he was a minor at the time.

At trial, U.S. Attorney Eduardo Mendoza derided Campos and Moncada for taking advantage of the other vulnerable people in the silver Nissan, arguing that the holes in the story were entirely their fault. “These grown men are putting the blame on a 17-year-old boy,” he said in his closing arguments. “They want you to believe that they walked into the country with a female and their daughter and saw someone that they have never met and said, ‘Hey, can I have a ride?’”

He felt there was a lot left unsaid by all parties. “There is only one reason that you have that much dope,” he said.

The government’s case rested on the facts: that the two defendants were discovered by multiple law enforcement agencies to be lying on felonious amounts of drugs. “By moving the bundles around in the car and

getting back in, they became participants, and not mere knowing spectators, in the driver’s enterprise to move marijuana and the aliens,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Durbin wrote in a reply to the appellate court.

Phil Lynch, attorney for Moncada, fired back. “The facts in this case highlight Moncada’s lack of control ... to get the ride they wanted, they had to accommodate the driver and the marijuana, contorting themselves to fit in the car and riding in absurd, uncomfortable positions,” he wrote.

“Here, the evidence is plentiful that Moncada’s purpose in riding in the car amidst the bundles was to get a ride to continue his journey into the United States,” Lynch continued. “Nothing suggests he had any interest or intent in the marijuana’s destination or owner.”

In a panel opinion, Chief Judge Priscilla Richman and Judge Jennifer Elrod wrote their opinion in favor of the defendants on the ground that the act of rearranging the bundles did not impute “ownership, dominion or control” over the cache.

In a caustic dissenting opinion, Andrew Oldham argued that that fact alone was enough to incriminate the defense. “With all due respect to my esteemed and learned colleagues, sitting on, hugging and otherwise being sandwiched between and under 283 pounds of marijuana constitutes possession of it,” he wrote.

In the vast majority of cases, the proceedings would have ended with a two-to-one favorable panel review, and the defendants would have been released after having waited out more than half their sentences in appeals purgatory. Instead, a majority of the circuit’s 17 judges voted to hear the case as a full bench — referred to as en banc.

An en banc decision for this case could have far-rippling legal repercussions. In 2021, the Fifth Circuit heard *USA v. Smith*, a case with a similar concern at its core. In 2019, a convicted felon in Midland confessed to having “touched” a friend’s gun; he was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm. The court ultimately ruled that the defendant having “touched” the firearm was insufficient grounds to convict — there had to be something more to show control over the weapon.

This Wednesday’s proceedings could test the court’s opinion in the *Smith* case, as en banc opinions tend to trump run-of-the-mill panel decisions.

Whatever the greater implications for case law might be, Lynch wrote to *The Big Bend Sentinel* that he was disappointed that the proceedings had dragged on for so long. “We are hopeful that, after reviewing the law on possession and its many cautions that possession be proved by actual control, not assumed or presumed from proximity, the en banc court will validate our position and Mr. Moncada, who has said from the first that he was merely a traveler who accepted a ride, will be freed.”

Richard Durbin, representing the U.S.A. in this case, declined to comment.



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National Trails Office, public discuss historic designation of Butterfield Overland Trail

By MARY CANTRELL
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FORT DAVIS — A years-long process to share the history of the Butterfield Overland Trail — a historic 1800s mail route that winds across Jeff Davis County — began last week with a public meeting at the county’s courthouse hosted by the National Trails Office, a division of the National Park Service (NPS).

The Butterfield Overland Trail — a 3,292-mile stretch beginning in Missouri and Arkansas that crosses seven states, ending in California — was established as a National Historic Trail in January 2023 by Congress. There are 21 National Historic Trails and 11 National Scenic Trails across the country. The honor is meant to commemorate the impact travel had on the formation of the nation.

The meeting in Jeff Davis County was one of 18 such events the National Trails Office is hosting across the route’s seven states from October 2023 to February 2024. The office’s role is to present historically accurate, consistent information across sites by partnering with local communities on trail marking, signage and preservation of archeological resources.

“We do not own or manage any of the land that the National Historic Trails traverse,” said National Trails Office Outreach Coordinator Angélica Sánchez-Clark. “So, it’s really through public and private partnerships that we fulfill the core purpose of National Historic Trails, which is historic preservation, public use and enjoyment.”

The National Trails Office is in the public meeting stage of a three-year planning process that will culminate in a comprehensive plan to be released in 2026.

Carole Wendler, National Trails Office acting superintendent, addressed about 40 attendees at the start of last week’s meeting to explain that her team of outreach specialists, geographic information system (GIS) specialists and historians were eager to hear feedback from locals on their knowledge of the trail.

“There’s been a lot of scholars, a lot of research done on the Butterfield Overland Trail, which is the reason that it was declared nationally significant and made a National Historic Trail,” Wendler said. “But our process right now — in going through a comprehensive planning process — is to help refine that, help us learn as much as we can about the route in local communities.”

The Butterfield Overland Trail was active in the area

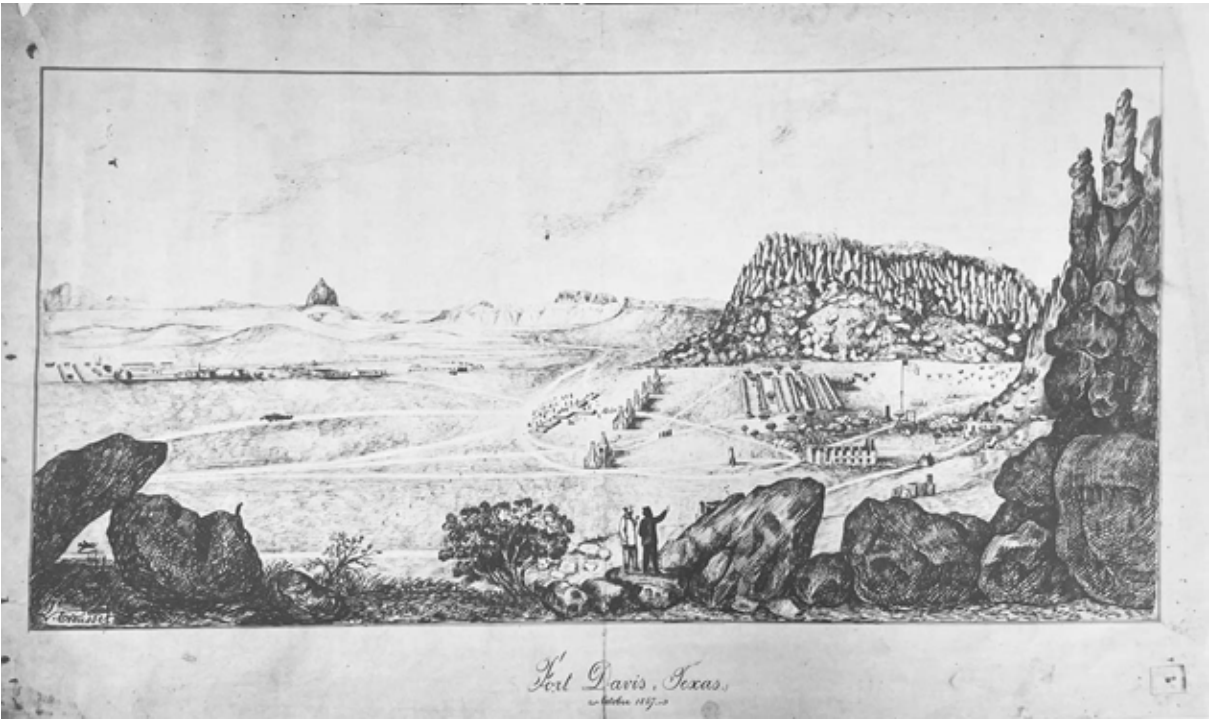


Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

A reproduction of a lithograph depicting the U.S. Army barracks and Overland Mail Station at Fort Davis October 1867, years after the route was out of commission.

from 1859 up to the start of the Civil War in 1861 and utilized an existing mail route referred to as “the lower road.” Businessman John Butterfield was awarded a contract from Congress in 1857 to establish a mail route from the eastern part of the country to California to expedite mail services.

Save for the Old Overland Trail Museum in Fort Davis, which is located along the route and provides a wide range of historical information on the county, there is little public recognition via plaques or signage that promotes the trail’s history.

Nick Myers, the lead historian on the project, said the trail is notable in that its creation was an unprecedented logistical undertaking involving the construction of new roads and infrastructure. It also served as a projection of federal power into new territories. “If you think about what government actually is, and what the state actually is, in these cases, in frontier situations, it was often the twin pillars of the Army and the mail,” Myers said.

A number of stagecoach stops — where drivers would access nearby creeks or springs and change out animals— were located in the Fort Davis area, according to an essay by Larry Francell, a local who has authored several books on Fort Davis’ history and who attended the meeting.

Francell writes that all but one of the stagecoach stops, which is located on the grounds of Fort Davis National Historic Site, are on private property. Wendler and other National Trails Office employees made it clear to meeting attendees the NPS will not force private landowners located along the historic trail to make it open to the public. “Our role has nothing to do with private land use,” Wendler said. “We really work with anybody who’s interested and willing to work with us.”

Wendler said tourists may visit publicly accessible sites of interest intermittently along the trail, but rarely do visitors try to follow the trail’s exact route. The office’s GIS team maps the route using satellite

technology, allowing users to visualize the trail while warning them not to cross onto private land, according to GIS specialist Brian Deaton, who was present at the meeting.

National Historic Trails, like the Pony Express and Trail of Tears, also administered by Wendler’s office, differ from National Scenic Trails like the Pacific Crest Trail that are designed for long-distance hiking. National Trails Office employees took questions from the audience after their presentations, and lead planner Jill Jensen said the agency’s next steps will be to conduct tribal outreach along the route and return to the Fort Davis area in the fall for field work.

Mary Williams, chairman of the Jeff Davis County Historical Commission, who was present at the meeting, said she thought the event was well-attended and seemed to put property owners located along the trail at ease.

“I think people were optimistic about what’s going to happen,” Williams said. “I think the landowners were glad to know that there isn’t going to be any push to acquire land. There’s not going to be any push to identify landowners.”

Williams said the designation and forthcoming promotion of the Butterfield Overland Trail as a National Historic Trail will likely bring even more visitors to the historically rich area.

“A lot of people want to do all the national parks,” Williams said. “They’ll travel all over the United States to do the national parks. Well, there are people that want to do all the trails.”

Dave Larsen, Fort Davis National Historic Site superintendent, said he and his team were excited to dig further into the history of the stagecoach stop located within the fort and plan to search through records to learn more about the volume of mail that came through the site.

Larsen said the National Historic Site will be an opportunity for the public to access the history of the trail moving forward. Larsen said his team will assess how they can introduce the story of the Butterfield Overland Trail to 50,000 annual visitors and look into educational opportunities for local students.

For more information on the project, including maps, visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=118557>

Ori White

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Apart from prioritizing law enforcement, he wants to keep his practice constituent-centered. Most people won’t ever interact with their local district attorney’s office — but he wants to keep it approachable all the same. “It’s peace of mind in knowing that if either your friends or your neighbors or your family has to have an unfortunate circumstance where they’re a victim — or

even an offender — we want them to know that they’re being treated fairly,” he said.

He hoped that voters would turn out to make their voices heard in this election. “I look forward to improving the office to where the community and law enforcement community at large has confidence in the office of the district attorney,” he said.

City of Marfa

(Continued from page 1)

out given the current market.

“Right now, it seems like so many crews are so busy that they sort of have a pick of jobs,” Roane said. “We may not be as attractive. Even though \$2.5 million dollars is a lot of money to us for streets, for some companies, it’s not a big job.”

Part of the CDBG grant process involves selecting an engineer from a specific list, and the city will work with Frank Spencer out of El Paso for those streets. For the other city streets being paid for with the \$2.1 million tax note, the city will work with its new engineer JACOB[MARTIN, out of Abilene. JACOB[MARTIN is

set to visit Marfa next month to go over city projects, including streets, said Roane.

Engineers are brought in to see what condition streets are in, assess angles for runoff and water diversion and more. Roane said fixing Marfa’s streets is an ongoing, costly process, but city staff is working hard to improve failing streets for Marfa’s residents.

“I have every expectation that the engineers, the contractors, and our staff will make sure that those streets are done correctly,” said Roane. “We will give everyone the best streets we possibly can with that and then hopefully move on to some more city streets and continue working.”

Presidio City Council

(Continued from page 1)

recycling picked up by BRI, the city would receive a portion of cardboard sales. The company can also offer rebates for #1 plastics, colored plastics, newsprint, mixed paper, aluminum and electronic motors — none of which the Presidio Recycling Center has been selling.

The collaboration between BRI and the City of Presidio will not be a formal contract like the company carries out with larger cities in the Permian Basin. Instead, the Presidio Recycling Center will be treated like another stop on BRI’s route — when the company has to pick up recycling in the area, Presidio can be added to the route for \$500 each visit.

While no firm estimates have been developed yet for how much working with BRI could save the city, reduced monthly costs and potential cash from recycling sales indicate it would be a better deal for the city. The collaboration also could expand the range of materials the recycling center is able to accept, but the

BRI system would require a different approach from the TDS compactor. Currently, Presidians who want to recycle only need to separate cardboard from their plastics, tin and paper. To take advantage of the new system, materials would have to be more carefully sorted.

Cities served by BRI elsewhere have also had issues with contamination, meaning that non-recyclable trash was added to the load — because Presidio’s recycling center isn’t self-serve, there’s less room for error, but it’s an issue that will take special attention and dedication to prevent.

Though Hermosillo said that these issues would need to be ironed out before committing to the program, Presidio Mayor John Ferguson — a recycling center volunteer himself — wanted to see the new recycling collaboration roll out on a three-month timeline. “I’m hoping we’ll just continue doing this and get better at it,” he said.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

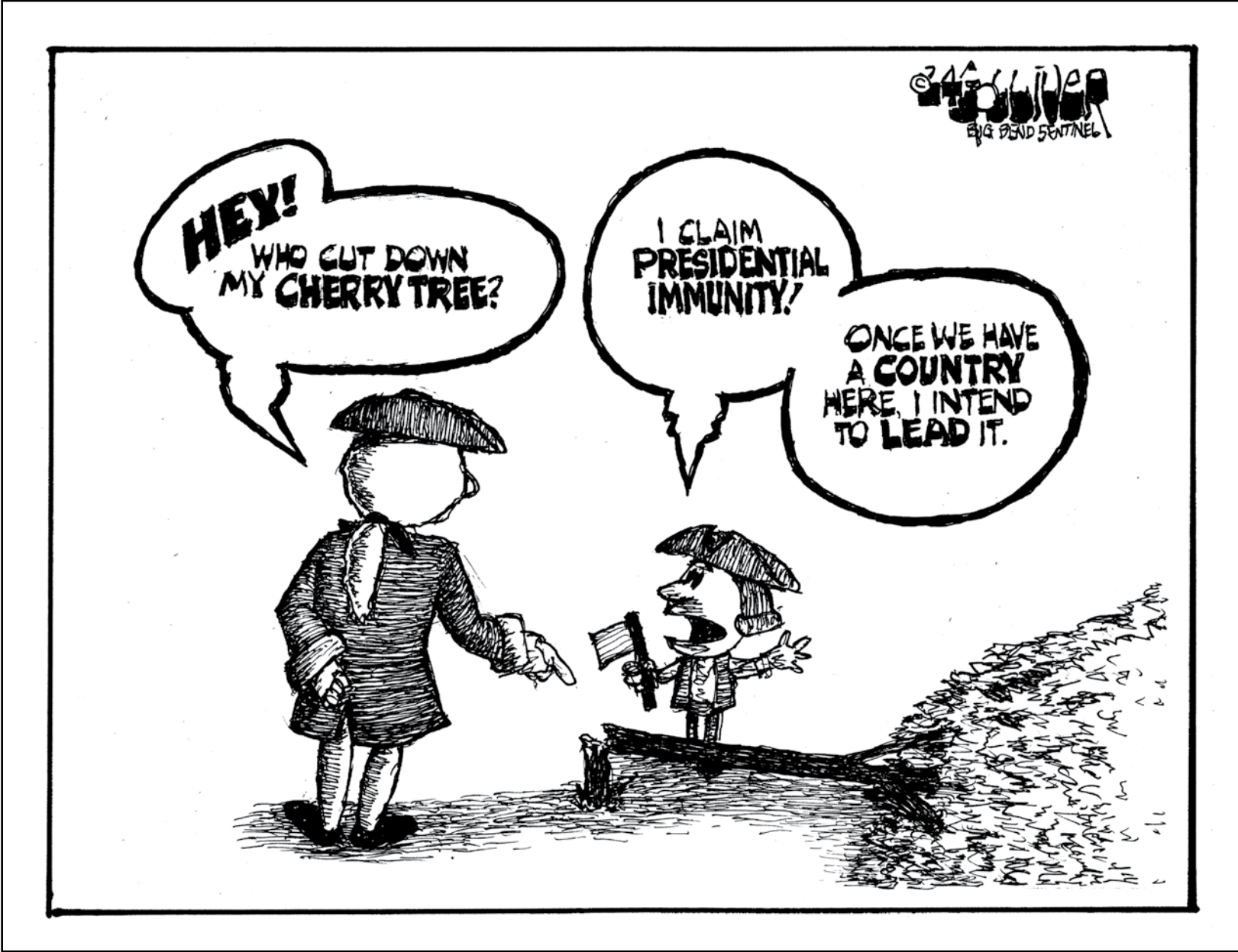
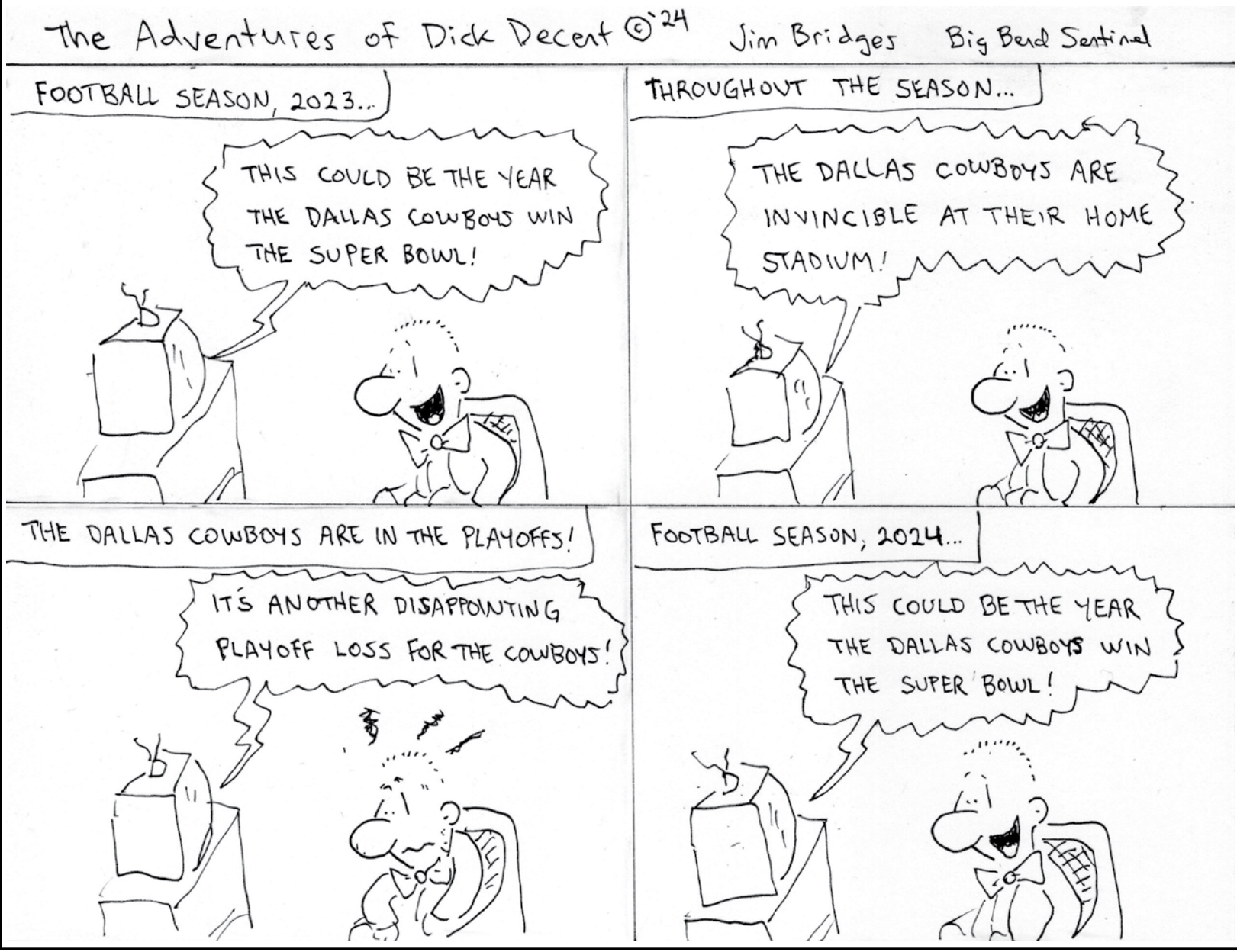
With the start of a new year, the Food Pantry of Alpine would like to thank our good friends and neighbors, Rick Stephens and Herman Acosta. We could never have been able to build or maintain our first-class facility for the benefit of our clients without you!

Food Pantry of Alpine

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.
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- We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff



Judd Foundation

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JUDD

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The Studios
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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.



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Community



Staff photos by Mary Cantrell

Left: Alpine ISD Senior Tannin Ritchie, who has been showing animals at the Big Bend Livestock Show for ten years, shows off one of her pigs for the judge. Right: Local FFA students Amanda Ahrens, Kevin Perez, John Ritchie and Tannin Ritchie competed in the swine show last weekend as part of the 80th annual Big Bend Livestock Show.

80th Annual Big Bend Livestock Show promotes family, agricultural traditions

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — The Alpine ISD Agriculture Barn was abuzz with activity last weekend as goats, pigs, lambs and their student handlers prepared to meet judge’s gazes amid a crowd of spectators leaning against corrals and taking photographs from bleacher seats.

The crisp winter air drifting through the barn was met with smells of strong coffee, savory pulled pork burritos and, naturally, animal manure. Many of the attendees — shouting words of advice and encouragement from the sidelines — were family members of those competing.

Ribbons and prize money were tucked into blue jean back pockets as students, ranging in age from elementary to high school, courted their animals around the small arena and awaited the judges verdict.

Tannin Ritchie, a senior from Alpine ISD, competed Saturday morning in the swine show. She has been

showing animals with Alpine FFA for the past 10 years. Along with her two brothers who are in the fifth and seventh grades, Ritchie works year-around to prepare animals for the Big Bend Livestock show as well as other state competitions.

“It’s year-around feeding, getting up at 6 a.m., going to feed your pigs, working all day, bathing, shearing,” Ritchie said. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun.”

Ritchie said it was emotional competing in her very last Big Bend Livestock show after so many years with the program, but she is confident her little brothers will carry on the family tradition. Between the three of them, they managed to take home a number of awards, including reserve grand champion and grand champion as well as a few first- and second-place ribbons this past weekend.

“I’m pretty proud of me and my brothers and how we placed, the work that we put into it and our showmanship,” Ritchie said.

Ritchie said that competing in livestock shows while growing up has helped her learn leadership skills, responsibility and valuable real world lessons. She encourages other students to get into the agriculture industry. “It’s hard to stick with when you’re a little kid because it’s not as fun and a lot of work, but as soon as you can understand the values of it and grow a love for showing it’s amazing,” Ritchie said.

Prize money Ritchie has won from showing and selling animals has gone into a savings account she intends to use for college, she said. Ritchie is currently interning with local veterinarian Dr. Allen Ray and hopes to attend Texas Tech to study animal science and one day become a veterinarian.

Doug Fox, Alpine FFA Sponsor, said it is a joy knowing the livestock show has thrived for 80 years, and he does not see the enthusiasm for the event slowing down anytime soon. Fox said the event means a lot to the students who work hard for several months

in advance to prepare their animals with feeding, exercise and training. He said it is also an opportunity for families to work on a shared project.

“It is not just a student project, this is a family oriented program that allows families to do something together, which is getting to be more difficult in this day and time,” Fox said.

He said the support of the community is key to the livestock show’s success, and the annual auction following the show — for which proceeds go directly to students — helps support their work and enables them to continue to show animals.

“The tri-county community really supports the students and all their hard work. The people and businesses really come out and support the students both emotionally and monetarily,” Fox said. “This is a great way to kick off the New Year each year.”

The Chinati Foundation announces 2024 artists in residence

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati is pleased to announce its 2024 artists in residence: Farah Al Qasimi, Morgan Bassichis, Willie Binnie, Carmina Escobar, Troy Montes Michie and Charisse Pearlina Weston.

This year, each artist will spend up to two months living and working among the art, architecture and land at Chinati.

“We are thrilled to welcome another extraordinary group of artists to Chinati this year,” said Director Caitlin Murray. “The intimate, unstructured nature of the Artist in Residence Program invites unexpected connections among our community and encourages artists to explore new ideas.”

Bassichis will be the first artist residency of 2024 and will soon arrive in Marfa. They were last in Marfa in 2021 as part of a residency at Ballroom Marfa with artist DonChristian Jones organized by Daisy Nam.

Bassichis is a comedic performer who has been described as “fiercely hilarious” by *The New Yorker*. Their work often uses humor, music and popular education to activate lineages of Jewish anti-Zionist thought and queer radicalism.

Bassichis was born in 1983 in Newton, Massachusetts, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Their recent performances include “A Crowded Field” (Abrons Arts Center, 2023), “Questions to Ask Beforehand” (Bridget Donahue, 2022), “Don’t Rain on My Bat Mitzvah” (co-created with Ira Khonen Temple, Creative Time, 2021), “Nibbling the Hand That Feeds Me” (the Whitney Museum of American Art, 2019), and “Klezmer for Beginners” (co-created with Ethan

Philbrick, Abrons Arts Center, 2019).

They wrote the introduction to the 2019 Nightboat Books edition of 1977 cult classic, *The Faggots & Their Friends Between Revolutions*, and they are the author of *The Odd Years* and co-editor with Jay Saper and Rachel Valinsky of *Questions to Ask Before Your Bat Mitzvah*, both published by Wendy’s Subway. Bassichis has released two albums: *March is for Marches* with Ethan Philbrick (Triple Canopy, 2019) and *More Protest Songs! Live From St. Mark’s Church* (Danspace Project, 2018).

The foundation’s Artist in Residence Program was established by Donald Judd in 1989 and remains fundamental to the artist-centered mission that Judd imagined for Chinati. Since its inception, more than 175 artists from more than 25 countries have participated in the residency program, which does not require that artists produce new work but offers time and space for the development of ideas. Many artists conclude their time in Marfa with an open studio presentation, talk or performance that is free and open to the public.

Chinati’s Artist in Residence Program is currently nomination-based. In making the final selection, Chinati considers the diversity of experiences, backgrounds, and approaches that artists bring to the program, which is generously supported by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation.

A full list of past Chinati artists in residence is available online at <https://chinati.org/programs/artists-in-residence/full-list-of-chinati-artists-in-residence/>



Photo by Mario de Lopez

The Chinati Foundation announced its 2024 artists in residence this week. The first artist, Morgan Bassichis, will begin their residency in Marfa this month.

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Sports updates from Marfa ISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Basketball

The Marfa Shorthorns hang on to their winning streak with the the girls and boys teams both taking down Terlingua and Sierra Blanca in a five-day span with double-digit wins. Marfa’s girls team continues to be led by strong offensive performances by Ava Flores, Raven Martinez and Maryfer Martinez. On the defensive side, Janaya Villa, Ana Gallegos and Liani Salcido have shut down their opponents in consecutive games. Alejandro Rodriguez and Derick Campos continue to lead the boys

team in points scored for Marfa while senior Zach Wilson works the point position and commands the team to its third straight win.

Powerlifting

The Shorthorns powerlifting team opened up its season in Monahans Saturday with great results from several team members. Jack Marquez placed first overall in the women’s division with the following statistics: Squat: 330 lb. Bench: 165 lb. Deadlift: 310 lb. Total: 805 lb. In the men’s division, Diego Jurado scored the following: Squat: 375 lb. Bench: 275 lb. Deadlift: 415 lb. Total: 1,065 lb.



Left: Marco Ruiz attempts to get the Shorthorns possession on the opening tip off. Right: Madison Cash plays defense in a game against Van Horn..

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Memo Guardiola
11th Grade
Colored Pencil

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

© MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ©

JAN	Thu, Jan 18	Fri, Jan 19	Mon, Jan 22	Tue, Jan 23	Wed, Jan 24
BREAKFAST	DONUT, SAUSAGE	SHORTHORN SUCCESS DAY	CINNAMON ROLL, BACON	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	POWER BREAKFAST
LUNCH	TEXAS BASKET, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT	SHORTHORN SUCCESS DAY	ENCHILADAS, BEANS, CORN, SALSA, ORANGES SMILES, PUDDING	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC AND CHEESE, CARROTS, CUCUMBERS, FRUIT	PIZZA, TOMATO CUP,GARDEN SALAD, PEARS

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MARFA SHORTHORNS
SPORTS CALENDAR

FRI, JAN 19: HS Basketball vs Dell City in Dell City, Girls 5:00pm, Boys 6:30pm
SAT, JAN 20: Powerlifting at Fort Stockton, 8:00am Girls & Boys
MON, JAN 22: JH Basketball vs Dell City in Marfa
TUE, JAN 23: HS Basketball vs Balmorhea in Marfa



Photo courtesy of Marfa ISD Athletics
Jack Marquez and Coach Pena, after the season opener in Monahans.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 8, 2024

ACROSS

1 Pepper quantity
5 Adjoin
9 Boston airport
14 Despicable
15 Japanese soup base
16 Came to light
17 Carpentry teacher, at times?
20 Worked for the 40-Across, maybe
21 Removes, as a ticket stub
22 Flat-faced dog breed
23 Home of Arizona State University
24 Hold back, as the tide
26 Sales rep who visits metal shops?
31 Word after "lily" or "landing"
32 "Better Call _____" (AMC series)
33 Freddie Mercury or Bruno Mars, vocally
34 Autobiographical website heading
36 Cajole
38 "The March King"
39 Slapstick desserts
40 M16's U.S. counterpart
41 Engine work mentor?

DOWN

44 Hair metal singer
45 Smooth-talking
46 Sweetie
47 Cork beverage?
51 Stranger, slangily
53 Artificial intelligence branch ... or what 17-, 26- and 41-Across impart?
56 Thoroughly enjoyed
57 Building's accessibility feature
58 Jazz singer
59 Rendez-vouses with
60 Lend, as five bucks
61 Invitation request

11 Like a frequently chosen option
12 Since
13 Soft ball brand
18 Flight segment
19 Knocks, as a raven might
23 Opposite of false
24 Involuntary movement
25 Simply not done
26 "The Office" receptionist
27 "Golly!"
28 When they roll, it's time to leave
29 "Honest!"
30 Halloween choice
32 The Enterprise and others
35 Troop entertainment grp.

36 Candle cord
37 "That's mildly funny"
39 Talladega warmup circuit
42 Wu-Tang ____
43 Edmonton team
44 Sign towed by a plane
46 "A guy walks into a ..."
47 Mosque leader
48 Give a 10 out of 10, maybe
49 Slushy drink brand
50 Closed
51 Mesmerized
52 "As seen ____"
54 Angry
55 Mountain pass

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
	20						21							
		22					23							
24	25					26					27	28	29	30
31					32					33				
34				35					36	37				
38								39				40		
41					42	43					44			
				45							46			
47	48	49	50							51				52
53									54					55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu
Jan
18

Hike with a Homeless Dog
10:00am - 11:00am at Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis
Help a homeless dog have a great time on the trail! Join our pack at the Interpretive Center and give a rescue dog from Grand Companions of Fort Davis a fun morning on the trail. Maybe you'll find your new forever friend! This is a recurring event on Thursdays. More info at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/davis-mountains/hike-with-a-homeless-dog/2024-01-18>

Davis Mountains 101
1:00pm - 2:30pm at Davis Mountains State Park in Fort Davis
Take an introductory deep dive into the Davis Mountains on this easy walk 'n' talk. Join park volunteers (and master naturalists) on this 1.5 - 2 hour easy hike along the scenic Skyline Dr. Trail. As you take in the majestic views, learn about the interrelatedness of Davis Mountain history, geology, climate, flora, and fauna. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/davis-mountains/davis-mountains-yesterday-today-and-tomorrow/2024-01-18>

Fri
Jan
19

Teddy Bear Sleepover at Alpine Public Library
1/19 from 4:00pm - 5:30pm & 1/20 from 11:00am - 12:00pm at Alpine Public Library in Alpine
Read to your teddy bear and then kiss them goodnight at the Alpine Public Library Friday January 19th! Come pick your bear up and enjoy story time Saturday morning! All teddy bears receive a blanket knitted by APL Yarn Arts.

Sat
Jan
20

Art Supply Swap
2:00pm - 4:00pm at Talent Studio, 102 N 8th Street in Alpine
Bring your new or gently used art/craft supplies. For this swap, we ask that you only bring small-to-medium items - nothing that weighs over 10 lbs/5 kgs.

Community Appreciation Day at Century Bar & Grill
5:00pm - 10:00pm at the Holland Hotel in Alpine
The Holland Hotel is expressing their appreciation for the community with a night of great music and great drink specials! The Century Bar & Grill is closed for renovations but is open for this one night only to say farewell ... for now! The Swifts play at 7:00pm!

Gary Gorence at 12 Gage Restaurant
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the Gage Hotel in Marathon
Come hear some live music! Reservations are recommended.

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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 during the holiday season. Please call or visit business websites to confirm that event is happening.

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

OBITUARIES



Applegate

William "Bill" Lee Applegate passed away on January 3, 2024, after suffering from complications of an abdominal aortic aneurysm which ruptured while hunting on December 10, 2023. Bill remained in critical condition, fighting hard for three and a half weeks. Bill was surrounded by his family when he passed on the morning of January 3.

Bill lived a full life in his 63 years on earth. He was head-strong from the get go, enterprising, and an incredibly hard worker, often saying, "We're burning daylight," because he would work from sun up to sun down pretty much every day of his life. Bill did a lot of things in his life, among them was fence-builder, rancher, Federal Land Bank president and teacher, but his favorite was trapper. Bill fell in love with trapping as a child and did it before and after school, on weekends and well into his adult life around other jobs until he earned enough money to pay off his mortgage, allowing him the freedom to trap full time. Bill was active in various trapping associations and causes — most notably the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association, serving in various roles including president. Bill loved nature; his goal for trapping was never to eradicate a species but to promote healthy balance within the animal kingdom and preserve trapping for future generations.

Bill was born at an Air Force base in Dover, Delaware, on July 12, 1960, to Lee Roy and Lucy Applegate, but they soon moved to El Paso. His family grew to include his brother Steve and sister Leslee. Bill's childhood was filled by helping around the house, repairing cars with his father, working on windmills with his grandfather, hunting and ranching with his uncles.

Bill graduated from Ysleta High School and then attended Sul Ross State University where he met his wife Gloria Watkins; they

were married May 17, 1981. After graduating with a B.S. degree in agricultural business, Bill was hired at the Federal Land Bank where he rose up through the ranks to become president of the Marfa branch. Bill was not a natural speaker, but to improve his skills he became active in Toastmasters and listened to countless tapes about public speaking and negotiation, which he also made his daughters reluctantly listen to.

Bill and Gloria had two daughters, who were supported and loved in so many ways. Bill worked to instill life lessons and leave behind life skills for his daughters in order to make them strong and independent. While Bill was often all about the hard work, he could be silly and carefree, especially on vacations or at parties. Regardless of if he was being serious or silly, he often commanded the room with his confidence and had a mesmerizing smile.

Bill was a Christian who gave his heart to his Lord, prayed daily, giving thanks for all he had, and wanted more than anything else to eventually be united with his loved ones in Heaven. Bill may have passed on, but he is at peace, finally able to rest after a full life filled with hard work and lots of love; he now resides with his Lord and Savior.

Bill is survived by his wife, Gloria Applegate; his children Katy Applegate, Hollee Applegate, and Troy Warren; his three grandsons, William, Wyatt and Jackson Warren; his mother Lucy Applegate; his brother Steve Applegate; sister-in-law Angie; niece Michelle; nephews Steven and Michael Allen Applegate and their mother Charlene; his sister Leslee Martin; brother-in-law Cody; and nephews Michael Lee Christiansen, Shane and Norman Martin. Bill was preceded in death by his father, Lee Roy Applegate, who passed in April 2023, as well as beloved grandparents, uncles and aunts.

The funeral service will be held at the First Baptist Church in Marfa on Saturday, January 20, starting with visitation at 10 a.m. and service at 11 a.m. CST, which will be followed by lunch. Afterwards, the burial will take place at the Sierra Blanca Cemetery at 4 p.m. CST/3 p.m. MST on January 20.

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

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

...



Rodriguez

Jose Willie Rodriguez, 80, of Alpine, Texas, passed away after a brief battle with cancer on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, with his family by his side.

Jose, affectionately known by many as "Pancha," was born on February 10, 1943, in Alpine to Charles and Clara Gallego Rodriguez. A lifelong Alpine resident, he operated several successful businesses and was a talented chef. The combination of being self-employed and cooking for others gave him the opportunity to bring people together while working with his family and teaching his children both a skill and hard work ethic.

Jose is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marlene; and his children, Dina Jo Baeza and her husband Omar, Sarah Jo Baeza and her husband Julian, Willie Joe and his wife Janie, Marco Joe and his wife Carmen, and Jacob Joe and his wife Amanda.

He enjoyed being a grandpa to Joseph Agustin Rodriguez, Kamille Lisette Baeza, Ellene Loralia Rodriguez, Shyla Giselle Hernandez, Allanah Cerise Galindo, Matias Omar Baeza, Josiah Atticus

Rodriguez, Aiden Silas and Lukas Elias Rodriguez. He recently had the joy of becoming a great-grandpa to Alessia Mae Hernandez. He is also survived by his brother Roberto and sisters Celia Ramon and Hortencia Rodriguez. He was preceded in death by his parents Charlie and Clara, siblings Celia (la Negra) Rodriguez, Charlie (Sonny), Jaime, Ofelia Ward, Manuel, Chano, Velia, and Ruben.

Jose had a passion for life. He enjoyed staying fit, especially through swimming. He liked to stay busy, working part time right up until his illness. He loved to take in the nature around him, spontaneously taking his family mountain climbing or on a motorcycle ride. He loved to present beautifully prepared meals for clients, but especially for the people he loved. His real joy came from music — singing, dancing and playing music. He was the life of the party. His family's fondest memories of him usually revolved around music. He would light up at the sight of seeing them all gathered together to sing and dance.

In the months before his death, Jose was learning about many Bible promises from his wife, children and grandchildren. This brought him great comfort and hope. He passed away at peace.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue in Alpine, Texas.

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

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As we near almost 100 years of publishing news in the Big Bend, we are excited to announce a new weekly addition to our paper. Each issue, we'll look back into the archives and share a story with you.

The Big Bend Sentinel has long been a community newspaper — covering everything from prom to property taxes, basketball to border politics. We take state-wide, national and international stories and localize them. We hold power to account and share lighthearted news of the day.

We start this new endeavor with an amusing front page story from January 29, 1953.

Mixed-up motorist hunts Texarkana

Texas is a big state — and sometimes it seems even bigger. The other evening a tired and somewhat desperate traveler drew into Webb's station. "Please, how do you get to Texarkana," he asked.

"Just get on highway 67 and stay on it," was the reply.

"Well, I'm on an emergency call from Arizona to Texarkana. From El Paso I went on 80 to Dallas and they told me there just the same thing — 'get on 67 and stay there.' I did, I thought, and I ended up at the international bridge beyond Presidio. I knew Texas was a mighty big state, but I've been driving for days — and I want to get to Texarkana."

So the hapless motorist, who had traveled some 600 miles from El Paso to Dallas and was within 185 miles there of Texarkana, had gotten on Highway 67 all-right — and stayed on it to the bitter end past Presidio. Only he had gone the wrong way, added another 600 miles from Dallas to Presidio with only about 725 more to go to Texarkana after he had gotten back to Marfa.

Texas is big all right — entirely too big to get turned around in.

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Classifieds & public notices

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQs) FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO ASSIST THE COUNTY WITH ASPECTS OF THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES OF SEVERAL WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR FUNDING FROM THE ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS PROGRAM (EDAP) OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS

Presidio County is requesting a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested and qualified consulting engineering firms for professional engineering services to assist the County with aspects of the planning, acquisition, design, and construction phases of several water and wastewater projects that have been approved and funded through the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) of the Texas Water Development Board. The selected firm(s) or person(s) will be retained to provide engineering services to implement these water and wastewater projects. Visit www.co.presidio.tx.us to download the Request for Qualifications.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT by O'REILLY CONCEPT LLC dba CASA AGAVE, to be located at 101 W. O'REILLY ST, PRESIDIO, PRESIDIO COUNTY, Texas. Officers of said corporation [OR OWNERS OR PARTNERS] are RAYMUNDO LOZANO JR (OWNER) and MATTHEW RYAN MENA (OWNER)

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- Attention to detail
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- 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.

THE MARFA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

THE MARFA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS A VOLUNTEER-LED NON-PROFIT FOUNDED IN 1912

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Attending meetings
- Providing organizational leadership
- Promoting local business
- Producing community events including the Marfa Lights Festival and Holiday Bazaar
- Fundraising

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE EMAIL:
MarfaChamberOfCommerce@gmail.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

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

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CITY OF MARFA Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor <i>mayor@cityofmarfa.com</i> (432) 295-0048 Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem <i>councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com</i> Mark Cash <i>councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com</i> Eddie Pallarez <i>councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com</i> Mark Morrison <i>councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com</i> Travis Acreman <i>councilmembeacreman@cityofmarfa.com</i>	BREWSTER COUNTY Judge Greg Henington: (432) 837-2412 Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves: <i>City Hall: (432) 837-3301</i> <i>Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us</i> 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)



THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

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I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
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Isaiah 41:10

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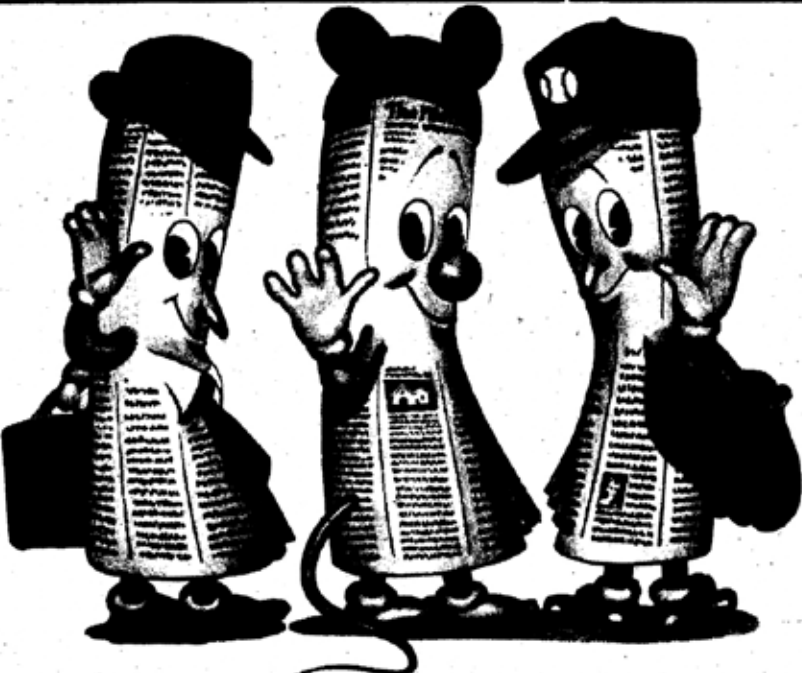
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