THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Presidio County officials hope to boost economy through Marfa airport improvements

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — At Wednesday's meeting, the Presidio County Commissioners Court discussed potential improvements to the Marfa airport. Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe presented updates with Airport Director Chase Snodgrass that they hope will improve the functionality and safety of the facilities — and potentially pull in a little cash.

The court first discussed updating the county's land lease policy to reflect new language in leases offered to hangar owners. The topic might sound to most like a dry housekeeping item — but Beebe explained that the airport's policies have been "a very touchy subject" for years.

He said that tensions had flared in commissioners court eight years ago when Loretto Vasquez held his seat. Local pilots and hangar owners were fired up because the county had been following a standard Federal Aviation Association guideline requiring that any structures left behind at the end of a lease become the property of the county. "The amount of protest at that meeting was severe," Beebe said.

As of January 2024, the county's official policy now no longer requires that structures at the airport become county property after leases end, and the county "does not discriminate" when it comes to allowing hangar-owners to lease or sublease their buildings to others. "We want people to have their hangars and to be using their hangars," Beebe said. "If anything, this county is maintaining too many buildings that we're not using."

Per TxDOT figures, there are 30 "based" aircraft at the Marfa Airport. Despite its relatively small size, the airport is for the most part a self-sustaining entity: its chief source of revenue is fuel sales, not the leasing or sale of land. "We're a model for how other towns of this size should be doing it," Snodgrass said.

He said that shifts in Marfa airport policy were contentious because of the airport's history. It was originally an army airfield that was then donated to the county after World War II. For decades, it was self-governed by a board of local pilots. "People went and built structures, there were no rules," he said. "Trying to transition from that to very stringent rules today requires a slow steady process that

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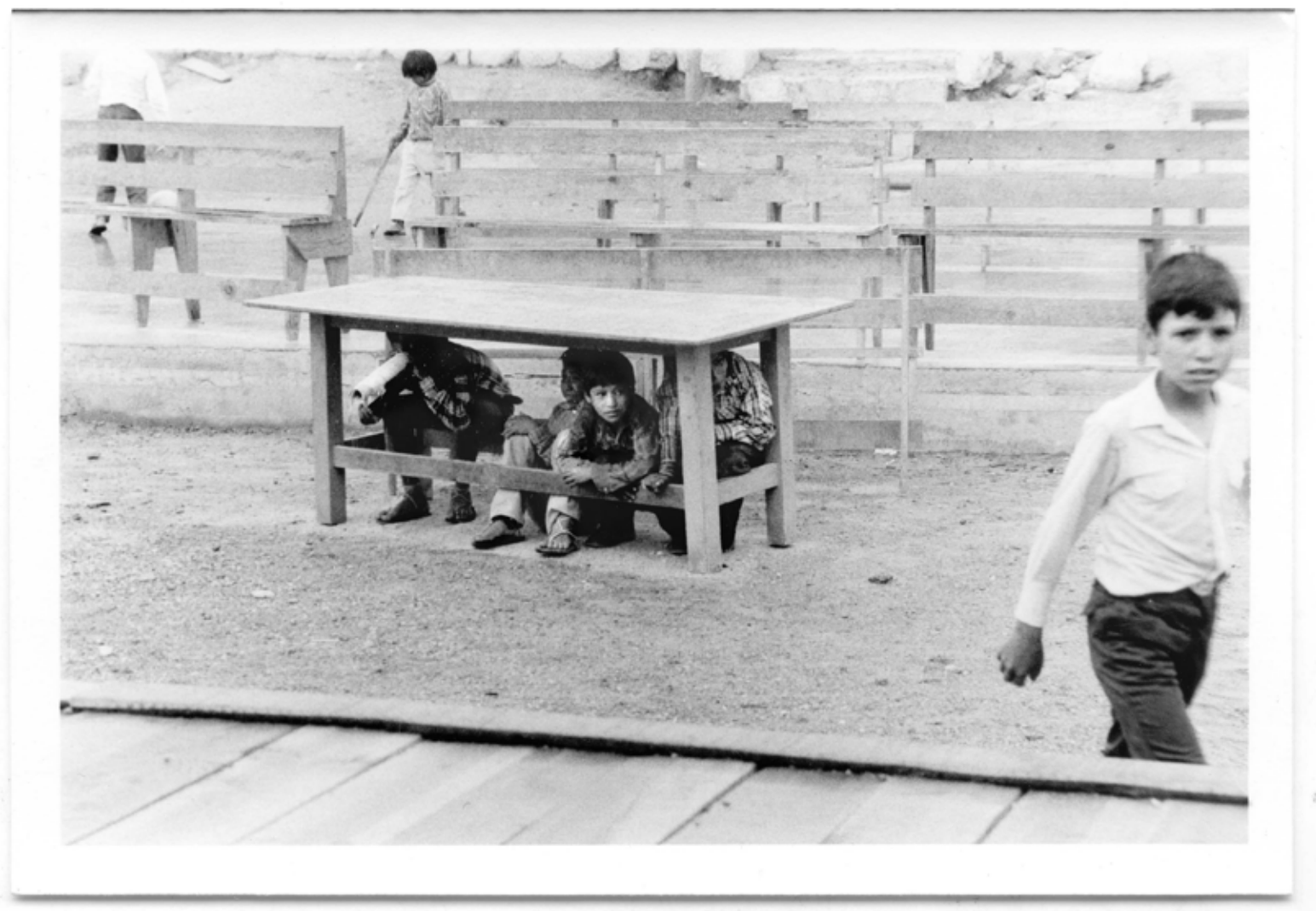


Photo by Don Burgess. Courtesy of the Don Burgess Collection, Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University

The life's work of linguist and photographer Don Burgess — who helped document and preserve the language of the Tarahmara people of Chihuahua, Mexico — including books, manuscripts and photographs was recently donated to the Archives of the Big Bend in order to be preserved for future generations. READ MORE ON PAGE 6.

Water in the Desert Conference springboards Rio Grande Research Center revival

By MARY CANTRELL
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ALPINE — Far West Texas was the center of the water world last week as legislators, landowners and researchers from across the state gathered for the first-ever Water in the Desert Conference held at Sul Ross State University.

Around 265 attendees gathered for the three-day conference organized by local entities including the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI), Dixon Water Foundation and Rio Grande Joint Venture as well as state-wide nonprofits Environmental Defense Fund, the Texas Water Foundation and more.

The gathering focused primarily on Chihuahuan Desert hydrology and featured panels on groundwater management, water policy at the Texas Legislature and land stewardship. It also promoted Sul Ross University's Rio Grande Research Center (RGRC), a 15-year-old water resources department that is currently undergoing an institutional revamp.

Alpine native Adeline Fox, a water communications professional now living in Central Texas who sat on the event's planning committee, said one of the goals of the conference was to bring awareness to Far West Texas' water issues and to make the RGRC more of a hub for research in the area.

"This is the start of that conversation, to really amplify the work that's being done there and then also increase the knowledge so that more students will come to Sul Ross and want to study water," Fox said.

As it stands now, the center only has one employee — its director, professor Kevin Urbanczyk — and initial funds from Congress and the U.S.D.A. have long since dried up. This year, Urbanczyk intends to give the center a renewed focus, possibly a new name and stronger financial legs to stand on.

Urbanczyk said the Water in the Desert Conference helped expose the RGRC to potential funders that may be interested in supporting research efforts in the region. "I'm hoping that with this momentum we can get the center moving," Urbanczyk said. "We have to get funding coming our way — that's really key."

An influx of funds will help support additional

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Big Bend Rep. Eddie Morales calls for temporary suspension of asylum

By SAM KARAS
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EAGLE PASS- Last Tuesday, Texas House District 74 — which includes the Big Bend and a large chunk of the Texas-Mexico border — state Rep. Eddie Morales posted a clip from a press conference on his Facebook page calling for a temporary suspension of asylum, which he believed would be "a humanitarian act to protect migrants." He wanted to see the process suspended until an acceptable border security bill passed through Congress.

Morales' comments came in the wake of a tragedy that struck Eagle Pass on January 12: a migrant mother and her two children drowned attempting to cross the river near Shelby Park. Customs and Border Protection officials were alerted to two other migrants in distress on the same cold evening; they were prevented from reaching the migrants by a blockade of Texas National Guard members at the park's boat ramp maintained by the state of Texas.

Shelby Park — a 47-acre property owned by the city of Eagle Pass on the banks of the Rio Grande — has transformed from a tranquil place for weekend ball games and picnics into the nexus of a power struggle between the state and federal governments. Since 2021, funding from Operation Lone Star has gradually trickled down into the park, turning it into a base camp for Texas Department of Public Safety operations.

As the *Texas Tribune* reported on Monday, no one is allowed to enter Shelby Park without permission, and federal law enforcement is strictly prohibited from entering — all under the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott.

In his comments, Morales made it clear that he had criticisms of both the state and federal government's response to the incident and said that he was disappointed in the general discourse around the "migrant surge." He said that the hysteria was blocking politicians from trying to reach common-sense solutions — and could potentially harm his hometown of Eagle Pass. "They would rather use this community as a prop for their political theater at a time when Americans are expecting their elected officials to get to work and fix the issue," he said.

The right to asylum is protected by the federal

(Continued on page 2)

Murillo pleads guilty to production of child sex abuse material

By MARY CANTRELL
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ALPINE — Marfa resident Sonya Murillo pleaded guilty last week to one count of production of child sex abuse material. She is facing a maximum of 30 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

As of press time, a sentencing date for Murillo has yet to be determined. "A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors," the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) wrote in a press release. Murillo reached a plea agreement with the USAO, but the court filing on the terms of that agreement is sealed and unavailable to the public.

Murillo, 32, has been held in federal custody since her arrest in June 2023. Videos of Murillo sexually abusing a minor were discovered by Texas Department of Public Safety officers during an investigation involving Murillo's former boyfriend Patricio Javier "P.J" Serrano, the USAO wrote in the release.

Serrano, 36, was charged and pleaded guilty to possession and transportation of child sex abuse material last October. He faces five to 20 years in prison for the transportation charge and up to 20 years in prison for the possession charge. His sentencing date is set for February 27.

Both Serrano and Murillo were involved with local youth. He was a coach for girls 10 and up at the Big Bend Amateur Softball Association, and she was a regular substitute teacher at Marfa ISD.

After Murillo's arrest on child sexual exploitation charges last summer, some Marfa ISD parents and teachers raised concerns about the school district's inaction following the news. They took issue with the fact that no communication was sent out to the public and no resources for students, like counseling, were initially offered.

"I felt like they could have done a lot more," said a former teacher, Jackie Hernandez. "It was like everyone knew, but it was still not talked about. [It was] very hush, hush."

At the time, the school district acknowledged the public's frustration and said they would work to improve communication with the community. "The Marfa Independent School District (MISD) Board of Trustees and Interim Superintendent

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Feedback sought for area road, transportation improvements

TRI-COUNTY — Texas Department of Transportation planners are seeking input on $244 million in projects to be officially included in the El Paso district's Rural Improvement Program (Rural TIP), and a virtual presentation and local meetings will be held next week to discuss 59 roadway-related projects proposed by the agency for 2025-2028.

Past Rural TIP projects for the tri-county area primarily focused on highway rehabilitation like sealing and coating, but the improvements can cover anything transportation-related, including sidewalks, bike lanes, pavement repair, improved signals, bridges, safety improvements and turning lanes.

Rural TIP is a short-range program developed by the El Paso TxDOT District in cooperation with rural planning organizations that covers a four-year period and contains a prioritized listing of all projects proposed for federal funding. The Rural TIP is a primary component of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that will incorporate funding for projects in rural and urban portions of the El Paso District.

Transportation projects cannot receive federal funding unless they are included in the Rural TIP. The TxDOT El Paso District planning and programming territory is about 21,700 square miles covering six counties: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio. "Our district is larger than nine states and road use varies by county," said El Paso District Engineer Tomas Treviño. "It is important for residents to review program information and let us know what is important to them."

Attendees will have two options to participate in the public meeting, learn more about projects, and provide feedback. Virtual and in-person options will present the same information. The virtual public meeting is not a live event, and a presentation and materials will be posted on the web by 4 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, January 30. (Go to www.txdot.gov, search "Meetings" and select "El Paso.")

In person options will be in an open house format and will be held in Van Horn, Alpine and Presidio.

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time
Van Horn – El Capitan Hotel
100 E. Broadway
Van Horn, Texas 79855

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time
Alpine – Alpine Civic Center
801 W Holland Ave
Alpine, Texas 79830

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time
Presidio – Presidio Activity Center
1200 East O'Reilly Street
Presidio, Texas 79845

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Friday, February 16, 2024. For more information visit the TxDOT program page online: 2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program El Paso District (www.txdot.gov, search "Meetings" and select "El Paso")



Water in the Desert Conference

(Continued from page 1)

center staff as well as more research, education and outreach initiatives. Urbanczyk is still in the process of shaping the newly-revived center with university administrators. There is a possibility that the center could be expanded to include natural sciences other than water, like biology, chemistry, physics and paleontology.

Urbanczyk said he wants the RGRC to have the "synergy" of a full-fledged, permanent center, with public newsletters, exciting research projects for undergraduate and graduate students and community services, similar to what the Borderlands Research Institute has achieved. "The BRI model, I mean, they've done such a good job with that," said Urbanczyk. "And there's room for another one, or so the administration thinks."

Projects he has kept afloat at the center include efforts to manage water level data for the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District and to monitor a springs system in the Lower Canyons of Big Bend National Park.

The Lower Canyons springs system — which can only be accessed via an eight-day canoe trip — is little known, said Urbanczyk, but provides vital to the flow into the Rio Grande River, pumping on average 250 cubic feet per second.

That research at the center will continue, he said, and could also be accompanied by water quality testing and further investigations into the under-studied Igneous Aquifer, which stretches across most of the Big Bend region.

The desire for more research locally comes at a time where Texas water issues — problematic disposal wells in the Permian Basin, aging infrastructure, drought, the decline of springs — are coming to the forefront. The most recent legislative session resulted in the creation of the Texas Water Caucus, a new group dedicated to water policy, as well as the Texas Water Fund, a $1 billion investment in water projects that passed with 77% of the public vote.

Sen. Charles Perry, chair of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Rep. Tracy King, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee; and Sen. César Blanco sat on a panel about water policy at the Texas Legislature at last week's water conference in Alpine.

State leaders agreed the $1 billion investment was just a drop in the bucket and discussed the need for a more sustainable water infrastructure funding source, similar to continual funding TxDOT receives for road and bridge maintenance. "Water's not sexy. It's long term and it's expensive," said Perry.

Legislators frankly discussed a potential reality in which water is less affordable and less available, one that could be remedied with the help of new technologies and conservation efforts. The treatment and re-use of produced water — a fossil fuel extraction byproduct — and need for more desalination plants were brought up as potential solutions.

The management of local groundwater resources — the Chihuahuan Desert's only water supply — was the topic of a panel involving Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis and Reeves county groundwater conservation districts (GCDs.) While the districts vary in regards to origin and funding model, all agreed there are regional data gaps regarding groundwater availability.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has been monitoring water levels in the area since the 1970s, but its reach is limited — determined by landowners' willingness to provide access to the wells on their properties. While some GCDs in the state have enough money to hire field technicians to monitor water levels, many in the tri-county area are running on small budgets ranging from $50,000 to $90,000, with few resources compared to their massive jurisdictions.

Urbanczyk, who serves on the Brewster County GCD, likened their district to a "leaky ship." Commercial users in the county, which are by law required to obtain a permit from the GCD and report levels of water usage, are going unchecked. "There's only five permitted commercial users of water, and there have to be 100 actual users of water that should be permitted," Urbanczyk said.

Aquifers underneath South Brewster County and Big Bend National Park, including the Santa Elena Aquifer, are not yet mapped by the TWDB, and little is known about the Marathon Aquifer. Urbanczyk said groundwater availability models developed by the TWDB of the Marathon Aquifer are only conceptual, due to the fact that the agency was unable to gain enough land access.



Photo by Scott Del Vecchio

Sen. César Blanco and Sen. Charles Perry participate in a "Water Policy at the Texas Legislature" panel at last week's Water in the Desert Conference at Sul Ross State University.

"That's really one of the biggest problems for the Igneous too, we just don't have enough information," Urbanczyk said. "We don't have enough monitoring occurring at strategic locations."

Fox said the need for more groundwater data and greater landowner cooperation was a big takeaway from the conference. She said there are often misconceptions from landowners that the water level data will be misused, when in reality it helps scientists understand more about a vital resource everyone relies on.

"There needs to be — and the districts understand this — more collaboration with those private landowners to basically communicate the benefit of having this data without making it fearful, without making it scary," said Fox. "We have your data for good, to use it to help us better understand the region."

Clay Miller, of CE Miller Ranch in Jeff Davis County, participated in a West Texas landowner panel in which he and others discussed the need for greater landowner involvement and commitment to conservation. "I think the challenge really, where water is concerned, is to try and get away from, 'Well I'm not going to be around, what do I care?'" Miller said. "I think it's important for us, as stewards of land and water, to think about the future."

A recap of the Water in the Desert Conference from "Our Water Matters" columnist Trey Gerfers can be found in the Opinion section of this week's Big Bend Sentinel.

For more information, visit bri.sulross.edu/events/water-in-the-desert-2024/

Rep. Eddie Morales

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Refugee Act of 1980, and promises that non-U.S. citizens on U.S. soil who fear returning to their country due to "likely loss of life or freedom for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political belief, or membership in a particular social group" will not be forced to return to their countries of origin.

In recent years, Republican politicians have tried to curtail the asylum process under fear that there are simply too many migrants trying to come to the United States. Abbott lashed out by putting asylum seekers on buses and shipping them to "sanctuary cities" in other parts of the country who have voiced political support for migrants.

As a Democrat, some worry that Morales is breaking with the rest of his party on his approach to immigration. Morales instead insists that politicians from other parts of the country simply don't understand the reality of life on the border. "And at the end of the day, I am the voice of everyone in House District 74," Morales said in an interview that aired on Dallas' Fox 4 in October. "As such, sometimes it's imperative that we call out our own whenever we think that they're not doing enough. This is one of those issues."

Fernando Garcia, executive director of the Border Network for Human Rights — which has a satellite office in Presidio — feared that Morales' approach was the opposite of a "humanitarian" solution and would do little to dissuade migrants from coming to Eagle Pass. "Under the current asylum restrictions, asylum seekers are being forced to take isolated, dangerous, and remote routes to reach the U.S. and submit their claims," he said. "Our nation would see a barbaric increase to the already alarming numbers of deaths at the southern border."

Garcia called for a "legal, safe and dignified" asylum process and funding for border-related projects to be funneled into "welcoming infrastructure" instead. "A real, humane and effective solution to address the overwhelming number of migrant deaths at the border begins with the application of asylum law as intended," he said.

Marfa airport improvements

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everyone can see."

County Judge Joe Portillo raised an important question in Marfa's hot real estate market: is there anything in the lease that expressly prohibits people from living in their hangars?

Snodgrass explained that — technically speaking — the lease does not, though FAA regulations prohibit hangars from being used for general storage, workshops or for anything other than a place to park and shield an aircraft from the elements. Despite the gray area, he said that he had had very few problems with tenants misusing their structures.

Next, county officials discussed how to use a quickly-expiring pot of money: the Marfa airport has an accumulation of state and federal grant funding of around $1.6 million dollars left over from as far back as FY 2021. If the funds are not committed to a project this upcoming year, they will no longer be available for use.

Snodgrass said that his proposed top priority went to improving the existing taxiway. For most local pilots, it's long enough to comfortably maneuver — but for the larger private jets that land in Marfa for busy event weekends, it requires a series of sharp turns to navigate.

Beebe agreed, pointing out that it wasn't in the airport's best interest for "million dollar customers" to feel wary of touching down in Marfa. "It's bad for business," he said.

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Candidates for commissioner and county attorney team up for campaign event in Presidio

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — Last Saturday, Precinct 1 Commissioner candidate Samuel Sanchez and prospective County Attorney Blair Park joined forces for a campaign fiesta at the Presidio Stockyards. Despite the chilly weather, attendees sipped cold drinks and danced to live music provided by Zauna, a local fan favorite.

Both candidates hoped the food and fun wouldn't distract from their message. Sanchez and Park both wanted to bring a fresh perspective to county politics. "We want to be able to serve our people, serve our county and try to make it better for everybody," Sanchez said.

The two candidates are distantly related: Sanchez's dad is first cousins with Park's grandfather. (Neither knew the other was running until Park's aunt got a call from Sanchez updating her on recent happenings.) Both have deep ties to the region spanning generations — which they say fuels their desire to make a positive impact.

They also hope their roots will help people from all over the county come together. Sanchez owns the Presidio Stockyards and a trucking company that imports cattle to the United States. Cattle cross the border, are processed through the stockyards and then are shipped north to feed lots.

Park hails from Marfa, where she works as an attorney. She grew up taking orders at Carmen's Café, a San Antonio Street institution. The family moved to San Angelo when she was a teenager, where she decided to pursue a career in law and spent five years in Dallas-Fort Worth before returning home to Marfa.

Around 200 people trickled in and out of Saturday's event. Both Park and Sanchez were pleasantly surprised by how many came from other parts of the county — a healthy portion of the crowd traveled from Marfa, and a few came from Redford, Shafter and Ruidosa. "We want to make it better for everybody," Sanchez said. "Not just Presidio or Marfa, not just one city — but to bring everybody together."

Sanchez said that his focus was pursuing grant funding to help improve county services. He didn't want to criticize the performance of past commissioners, but said that it was time for a change. "It's not that they're not doing a good job — we just want to make it better," he said.

Family ties aside, Park thought he was a great candidate for the job. "I think everyone who knows him knows he's a very genuine person," she said. "He's just interested in everyone's wellbeing."

As county attorney, Park would prosecute misdemeanors and advise the county on legal matters. She said that one item potential constituents wanted addressed was that they wanted to see the county's docket expedited — in other words, processing those misdemeanor cases faster.

More generally, she wanted to emphasize to Presidio voters that she would fight for them. "I think the main issue down here is access to the same county services that we have in Marfa," she said, pointing out that services like accessing birth and death certificates and filing deeds excluded folks who couldn't make the hourlong trek. "I want to make it a better, more efficient system for everyone."



Photo by Hannah Gentiles

During their campaign social in Presidio on Saturday, candidates Samuel Sanchez and Blair Park engage with community members ahead of the local Presidio County elections.

Murillo

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would like to publicly apologize to the students and to the parents of those students who were directly impacted by the Serrano/Murillo cases currently under investigation," the board wrote in an August 2023 letter to the editor. "Our priority is to offer our immediate support directly to those families who may be affected."

Murillo's attorney, Bart Medley, did not return requests for comment on her guilty plea. Assistant U.S. attorneys Amy Greenbaum and Kevin Cayton are prosecuting the case.

The FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, Texas Department of Public Safety and Marfa Police Department are investigating the case. The case was brought as part of "Project Safe Childhood," a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched by the Department of Justice in May 2006.







PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For the past several years, the unwanted dogs and cats of our area have found a second chance at life by being transported to other shelters in other states.

Unfortunately, because these other places have become saturated with our overflow of animals, this option is slowing down. The result is that many West Texas shelters are now going back to the three-day rule: after three days, it's an automatic death sentence for the dog or cat. Puppies and kittens are also being killed. "Euthanasia" is defined as humanely killing, and hardly applies here as there is nothing humane about the routine killing of innocent dogs and cats and puppies and kittens.

A couple of years ago, Jeanine Bishop of the Alpine Humane Society and the West Texas Rescue Coalition created and sponsored 15 low-cost spay and neuter clinics. It was an incredibly promising project for our region; the community stepped up and took advantage of the opportunity by doing the right thing by spaying and neutering their pets. Then the money ran out, and the clinics were stopped.

It is expensive and time consuming to neuter one's animal with our limited resources in West Texas. But seven accidental puppies in the backyard now equate to seven other puppies being killed in a cold and dank shelter. This is a graphic and depressing reality, but it is necessary to know it. The shelters are full; the rescuers are worn out. The options for saving the lives of our unwanted and excess pets are disappearing.

PLEASE do the right thing and take responsibility for your own animals.

PLEASE spay and neuter before any more unwanted animals are born.

PLEASE do not adopt a puppy or kitten unless you can make this commitment.

Mary Baxter
Marfa

• • •

Dear Fort Davis Community,

Happy New Year! We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we move into an exciting 2024. We are delighted to introduce ourselves as the new leadership team of the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center. Manny Dutchover has been elected as board president, and Pam Knapen has joined as the executive director. Together, along with our dedicated board members, we are committed to serving and enhancing Fort Davis.

We would like to take a moment to introduce the individuals who make up our executive board: Jeremy Bentley as vice president, Teznie Pugh as treasurer, and Deanna Hebert as secretary. Each member brings a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted passion for our community. We are grateful for their dedication and look forward to working closely with them. In addition to our executive board, we are privileged to have a diverse board of community and business leaders who have graciously accepted the responsibility of serving Fort Davis.

They are Myra Meads, Matt Blackman, Tim Roberts, Amanda Dyer, Jennifer Whitesell, Audrey Hurley, Suzan Moreland, James Smith, Matthew Walker, Velvet Hartnett and Locke Ann McIvor. Their expertise and commitment will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and prosperity of Fort Davis.

Please join us at our upcoming Open House, scheduled for Monday, January 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for you to get acquainted with our board, learn about our initiatives and enjoy cocktails and light refreshments. We have been working diligently on revitalizing our office and branding, creating a warm and welcoming space that reflects the spirit of Fort Davis. We cannot wait to share our fresh new look with you.

Among other improvements, we are excited to announce our upcoming website, which will serve as an invaluable tool in promoting local businesses, area tourism, and events. Our goal is to create a dynamic online platform that showcases the beauty and uniqueness of Fort Davis, attracting visitors from near and far. The website will feature comprehensive listings of local businesses, highlight attractions and landmarks, provide a calendar of events, and offer resources for both residents and tourists. Stay tuned for its launch, as it promises to be a game-changer for our community.

This year, we are also thrilled to present a lineup of annual events that will be nothing short of spectacular. From The Coolest 4th celebration to the Doug Moreland and Family Barn Dance, movies on the lawn, the fall Moon and Tune Festival, and the grand finale Frontier Christmas and Chamber Gala, there will be no shortage of excitement and entertainment. These events will not only bring our community together but also attract visitors, boosting our local economy and fostering a sense of camaraderie among residents and businesses alike. We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and join us in creating unforgettable memories together.

Fort Davis holds a special place in our hearts. The sense of community, the remarkable people, and the unparalleled beauty of our town make it a true gem. As the Chamber of Commerce, it is our responsibility and privilege to welcome visitors and share all that Fort Davis has to offer. However, we cannot do it alone. We need your support and involvement to continue moving forward. Whether you are a business owner, a resident, or a passionate community member, we invite you to join us in supporting the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce. By becoming a member, you contribute to the growth and vitality of our town, helping us create a thriving community for everyone.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or simply want to lend a helping hand, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of our Board. We are here to assist you and work together in making Fort Davis an even better place to live, work, and visit.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead.

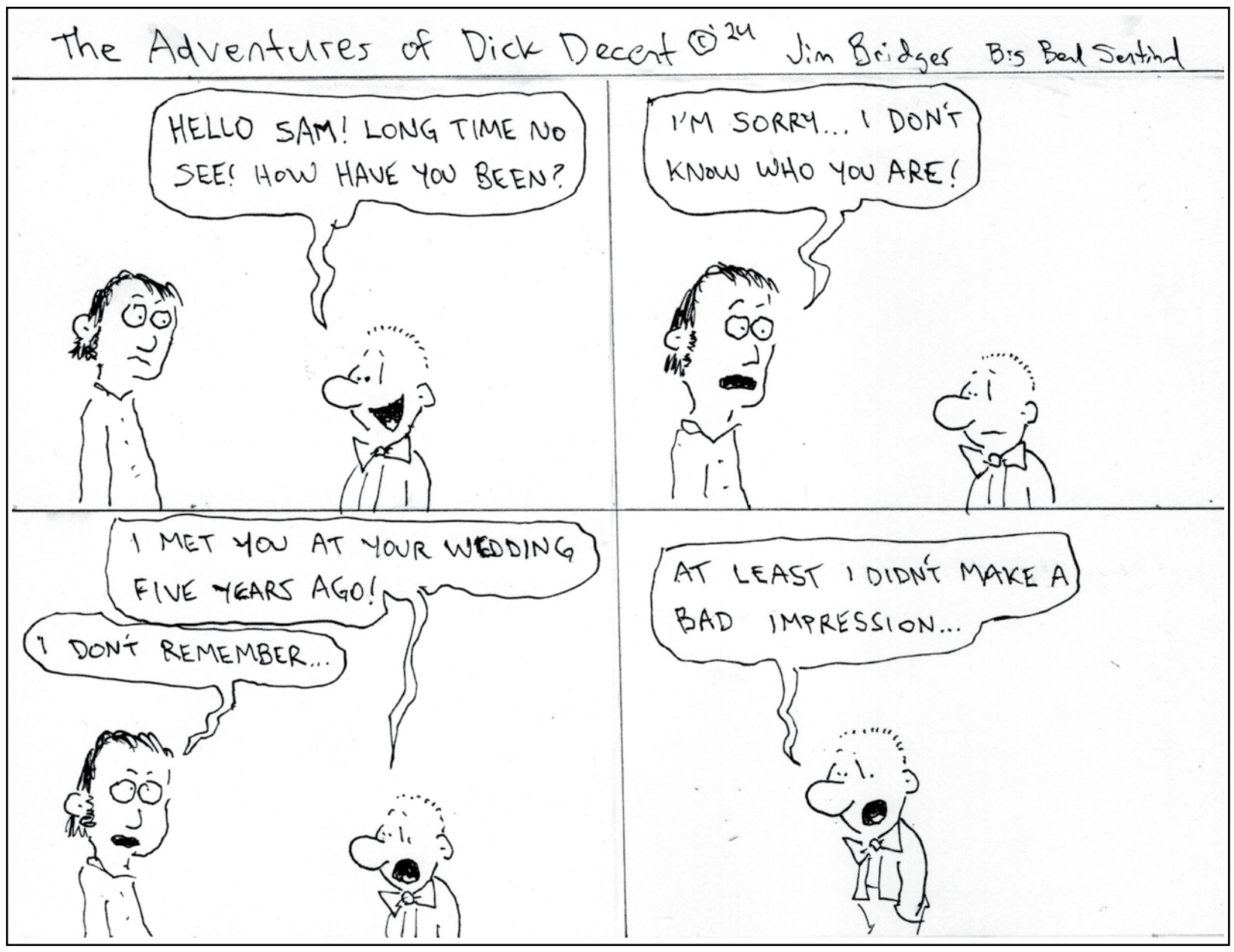
Warmest regards,

Manny Dutchover, President
Pam Knapen, Executive Director
Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

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***



AROUND THE BIG BEND

Upcoming Voter Registration Events

Presented by The Tri-County Voter Promoters (additional dates TBD)

Thursday, January 25, 11 am – 2 pm
Morrison True Value Hardware
301 N 5th St, Alpine, TX 79830

Friday, January 26, 11 am – 2 pm
Marfa Post Office
100 Highland St, Marfa, TX 79843

Saturday, January 27, 11 am – 2 pm
Alpine Farmer's Market
105 E Murphy St, Alpine, TX 79830

Saturday, January 27, 11 am – 3 pm
American Legion Hall
905 O'Reilly St, Presidio, TX 79845

Tuesday, January 30, 11 am – 1:30 pm
Morgan University Center, Sul Ross
E Sul Ross Ave, Alpine, TX 79832

Saturday, February 3, 11 am – 3 pm
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Thursday: Yin Yoga at 6:00pm
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Saturday: Vinyasa at 10:00am
New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

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OUR WATER MATTERS

Water in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

Sul Ross State University hosted the first ever Water in the Desert conference last week. With over 250 attendees, many illustrious sponsors and partners, and a who's-who of experts and elected leaders on the program, the conference was one of the most ambitious gatherings dedicated to water issues ever undertaken in the region.

One of the overarching messages at the conference was the challenge posed by the "long-term drying that is happening in the region," according to Dr. Robert Mace of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. The Big Bend region currently receives between 10 and 20 inches on average per year, depending on elevation, with "more rainfall at higher elevations," according to Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk of the Rio Grande Research Center at SRSU.

As rainfall patterns continue to change and precipitation potentially decreases, it will be increasingly important to understand the amount of water that actually reaches the area's aquifers. Recharge of the region's aquifers is up to 5% of precipitation, but some aquifer recharge is as low as 1% of precipitation. "You have to have the right geology to accept that recharge," according to Urbanczyk, and this is further complicated by the complex geology of the region which makes it difficult to predict recharge. In essence, we need a "change in mindset," said Urbanczyk. We need to "shift to conservation as we see changes in precipitation."

Several legislators at the conference also touched on the need for a change in mindset, especially when it comes to our complacency about water. Senator Charles Perry (R), chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs, stated that "everything starts and ends with water." And yet, "as long as the taps are running, no one is interested" in solving the water challenges we face. "People procrastinate until they absolutely need" to act, he said. "There are some people who think they have more water than they could ever use. I think they're wrong."

Representative Tracy King (D), chairman of the Texas House Natural Resources Committee concurred, stating that we need to be aware that there is "a finite quantity" of water. In many parts of the state, groundwater pumping is "basically a mining operation" because that water is ancient and not being replaced by recharge. King said that his "hope and prayer is to show people" that this is an issue worth paying attention to "before you turn the tap and all you're sucking is air." People need to embrace conservation "before it is forced upon them," he said.

One solution, according to Perry, is to establish a permanent funding source for water infrastructure, similar to the state's "perpetual funding source for roads … so it's not such a political battle" every legislative session. Water "is not a state issue," Perry said. "It's part of a national conversation." We need a "commitment of vision and resources."

A group of landowners at the conference agreed on this commitment of vision. According to Clay Miller of the CE Miller Ranch in Jeff Davis County, "Our job is to somehow secure the land and the water, which go hand in hand, for the sixth generation." And this is best done if landowners "lead by example." The challenge lies in finding the resources. "It's just a constant struggle," said Tammy Fisher of the Double T Ranch and Askew Fisher Ranch in Sutton County. Between rising prices, estate taxes, aging infrastructure and maintenance costs, many landowners are feeling the financial squeeze. Despite the challenges, though, the landowners agreed on their role as land stewards. Mo Morrow of the McIntyre and Morrow Ranch, who also serves as Brewster County commissioner, stated that "our responsibility is to the land" to be good stewards. "It was done for me. I need to do my part." Miller agreed, stating, "We may be stewards of the land. But everyone in this room is a steward of the water."

Stewardship was another major theme of the conference in a discussion led by Bonnie Warnock, dean of the College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Sciences at SRSU, who asked her panelists, "How can we translate stewardship principles to urban landowners?" Catherine Eaves, mayor of Alpine, replied, "Education, education, education" of elected leaders so they can bring the message to the people. She also emphasized that "the greatest water use [in towns] comes from watering our lawns."

Warnock stressed the need to be aware of how different landscapes require different approaches and to avoid a "one and done" mindset. In the end, "We need to keep learning," she said. Conservation, awareness and education are all vital themes that continue to surface in discussions about water and the future. With any luck, the Water in the Desert conference will become an annual event dedicated to tackling these issues.

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

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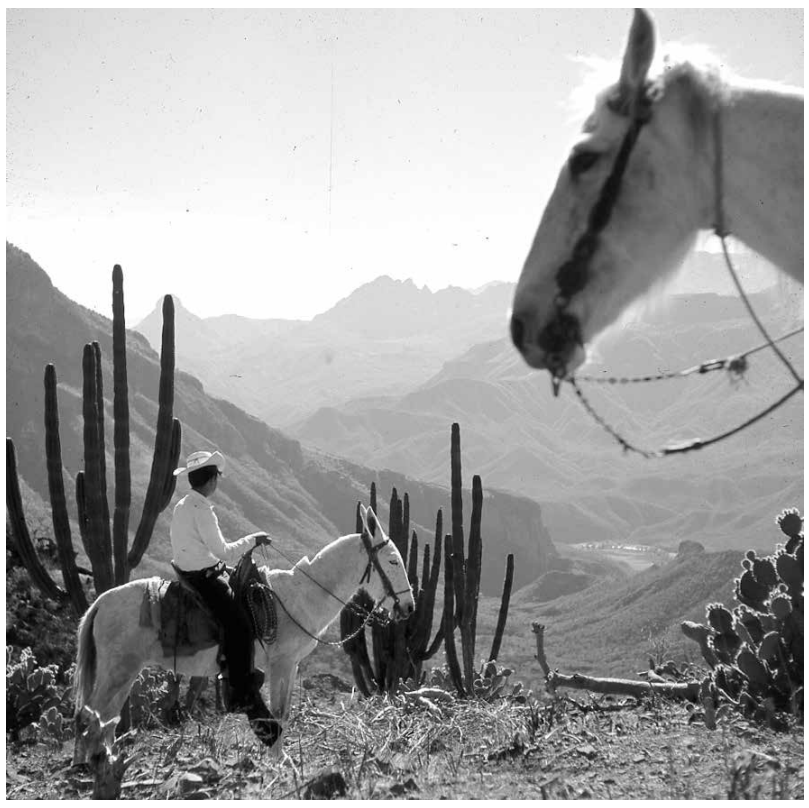
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Chinati is an art foundation created by Donald Judd and opened to the public in 1986.
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Photos by Don Burgess. Courtesy of the Don Burgess Collection, Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University

A selection of linguist and photographer Don Burgess' color slides recently donated to the Archives of the Big Bend document the environment and customs of the Tarahumara people, a community indigenous to the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico.

Don Burgess collection gifted to the Archives of the Big Bend

Rare books, photographs and manuscripts document the language and culture of the Indigenous Tarahumara people of Chihuahua, Mexico

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — The collection of linguist and photographer Don Burgess, a man originally from Alpine who spent most of his life in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico documenting the Indigenous Tarahumara people, was donated to the Archives of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University in December.

Burgess, who passed away in 2022 at age 83, worked to promote and preserve the language of the Tarahumara, also referred to as the Ralámuli, an isolated, agricultural community living in the rough terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountains historically under threat due to encroaching settlements and cartel violence.

His daughter, Lisa Maria Burgess, said he wished to donate and make available his research materials — oral histories, manuscripts, books and photographs — for future generations. "He fell in love with that place and those people, and he found a way to be part of protecting that culture," Lisa said. "His goal with this collection is to make it accessible to generations in the future, whether they're academics or the Tarahumaras themselves."

The Archives of the Big Bend also houses the photographic collection of Glenn Burgess — Don's father who notably documented the establishment of Big Bend National Park. Don first traveled to Chihuahua as a teenager in 1955 with Glenn who was covering the construction of the Chihuahua al Pacífico Railroad (the Chepe) for newspapers in Texas.

The two collaborated on a book about the harrowing construction of the route, which expanded trading opportunities by connecting the Pacific Coast to the central U.S. Don returned to Chihuahua in 1959 to work as a construction worker on the project before obtaining degrees from Texas Western College (now The University of Texas at El Paso).

He and his first wife, Esther Carlson — who was from Samachique and familiar with a specific dialect of the Tarahumara language — returned again in 1964 specifically to study the languages. "We went out to Tarahumara country to survey the different dialects, and we spent about a year just walking up and down the mountains trying to figure out where the language changed, to see if it changed enough in some areas to where we would have to do books for different parts of the tribe," Don said in an oral history interview collected by UTEP's Institute for Oral History in 1977.

In 1965 Don and Esther received permission from the ejido, communal land held by the Tarahumara, to build an adobe home in a valley in Rocoroibo near a creek. In the oral history interview, Don recounts the challenges of making contact with the Tarahumara in those early days.

"[We were] trying to establish relations with people who didn't particularly want to establish relations with us," he said. "We had to prove ourselves first to them. A lot of times we'd go to a house, and we'd be walking up to the front door, and they'd be running out the back."



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Head of Archives Victoria Contreras sifts through print materials in the Don Burgess collection, one of the repository's newest acquisitions.

Developing conversational abilities was difficult because Tarahumara homesteads were spread across the landscape and there was no central village. Don and Esther went as long as two weeks without seeing another person, he said. Initially, community members feared the acts of tape recording or writing down the language would effectively take it away from them, Don said.

"There's a lot of cultural opposition to anybody helping an outsider, especially to do something like learning the language," he said. "They're not quite sure what you are going to do with it."

When Don and Esther arrived in the Sierras, the three dialects the Tarahumara spoke were all oral and had never been translated into writing. Don worked alongside Tarahumaras for decades to develop a written form of the language, one that evolved over time as they decided how to write out various sounds.

He worked with Mexico's Ministry of Education to produce books in Ralámuli for schools on family genealogy, history and culture. He also worked — with the help of second wife Marie Burgess, who had experience as an I.C.U. nurse — to produce medical books on common illnesses such as tuberculosis and diarrhea. Some of the work was supported financially by the Mexican government, who desired to strengthen the country's Indigenous communities by preserving their languages.

"The government of Chihuahua was really interested in having the written language but then also producing books for that community — collections of stories or vocabulary books or whatever was going to support that community in maintaining that culture and in being a healthy community," Lisa said.

In his oral history interview, Don said he also encouraged the Ralámuli to author their own books on their cultural traditions. "One of the main things that I've tried to do is get Tarahumaras to write their own books," he said. "To write down how they hunt and fish, how they play their sports."

There was also a missionary aspect to Don's work — he translated the Bible into Ralámuli and received some funding from churches in addition to funding from the Mexican government and from individual donors. He took countless photographs during the time he spent living amongst the Tarahumara in Rocoroibo, Tierra Blanca, San Rafael and Creel. He documented sporting events and special events like rain ceremonies.

Lisa, who grew up in the Sierras with two other siblings, said her brother recalls an instance where he and Don walked for two straight days to photograph a game involving two teams competing for a ball with wooden sticks. "He would go to great lengths to get to places where he could take photographs of a cultural event," Lisa said.

The Tarahumara are known for their long-distance running abilities as well as their agricultural traditions, cultivating maize and beans in the mountains and fruit in the canyons, Lisa said. Her father, initially an outsider, managed to find his place there. "My dad had been going out there for years, and he was a very quiet, respectful listener. He really gelled with the Tarahumara culture."

"If you saw him speaking Ralámuli with somebody he would be speaking in the way they speak," Lisa said. "If you didn't realize that he was a foreigner you would think that he was really part of the community."

In 1997, the government of Chihuahua formed a committee to codify how the Ralámuli language was written. Don served as the committee chair and worked alongside Mexican linguists and Tarahumara peoples. In 2015, Don was recognized by the government as a "guardian of the word" for his work to protect the native language.

He published dozens of books — some of which are available for free online — on Tarahumara language and culture in his lifetime and was documenting one of the specific dialects up until his death in 2022. Don collected rare, old dictionaries of the Tarahumara vocabulary — earlier attempts to document the language from 1571, 1826 and the 1900s.

Victoria Contreras, head of archives at Sul Ross, is now in the process of accessioning, digitizing and storing the Don Burgess collection, which measures 13 linear feet of books alone, with another 6 to 8 feet of manuscripts, color slides and prints.

"From what I've been able to find, it seems to be the largest collection of specifically Ralámuli Tarahumara materials from either side of the border," Contreras said.

Don's artifact collection — baskets, pottery, sports equipment and other cultural items relating to Indigenous communities of the Chihuahua region — did not meet the archive's scope and was gifted to the Amerind Museum in Arizona.

Contreras said she was grateful for the ongoing efforts in both the U.S. and Mexico to preserve native languages, and Don's collection may prove useful for faculty of Sul Ross' newly-established Anthropology Department.

Lisa, who is fluent in three languages and writes bilingual children's books, said she is grateful to have grown up with a sense of a multilingual world — aware that learning other languages allows for travel and exposure to different world views. Don researched the ways the Tarahumara viewed colors — for example, how they ascribed genders to rainbows and considered blue and green two shades of the same color.

"If we can value a multilingual approach to the world, it opens doors and makes it possible to speak to people and travel and not feel that you have to be isolated in one language or one culture," Lisa said.

For more information or to make an appointment to view the Archives of the Big Bend, visit library.sulross.edu/archives/

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Jasminne Mendez teaches 13th Annual Marfa Live Arts Playwriting Program

By JD GARCIA

MARFA — The New Year brings many things: to some a fresh start, to others the promise to live a better life, and to Marfa High School students — another installment of Marfa Live Arts' Playwriting Program.

The 2024 workshop, which is being taught this week by Houston-based writer Jasminne Mendez, marks the 13th year of the program. Mendez is a Dominican-American award-winning author, poet, playwright, translator, director and actress. Along with writing plays staged at The Globe Theatre in Odessa, Texas, and Milagro Theatre in Portland, Oregon, Mendez has authored several children's books and is a co-host of the poetry and writing podcast "Inkwell." Mendez is also a co-founder of the Latine literary arts organization Tintero Projects. On Sunday her novel *Aniana Del Mar Jumps In* received the Pura Belpré Award at the Youth Media Awards.

This week Mendez joins MISD English teachers Linda Ojeda and Donel Lara in leading the students through techniques to unlock the creativity within them. Though this is Mendez's first time working with Marfa students, for over 15 years she has taught high school students in theater and creative writing. "Teaching workshops for high school — especially theater and creative writing workshops — is probably my favorite job. I even like it more than writing or performing myself," Mendez said. "I love the unique personal stories the students come up with. Even if they're nervous or hesitant at first, I love seeing how their voices and stories grow with each draft and workshop." The students, she added, also have a flexibility that promotes creativity and experimentation.

"I love being able to laugh and experiment with students and encourage them to take risks. Often some of the best writing I've ever read comes from teens because they're not jaded or clouded by how they 'should' write or what they 'should' say," she said.

Mendez's Afro-Latine Dominican background, she added, also helps in connecting with students of a Hispanic heritage. "As an Afro-Latina, Latine students in Texas are often surprised that I'm Latina since I don't look like who they're typically used to seeing as a Latina," she said. "But when they find out that we have a shared background, language and values, it definitely allows them to open up more and feel safe and connected to me and my teaching methods." For Mendez, this connection helps expand the student's understanding of how much they can experiment with language and dialogue. "I love it because I get to encourage them to use Spanish, English or Spanglish in their writing, and it's a sort of permission that many Latine students haven't been given with their writing in the past," she said.



Photo by Tina Rivera

Marfa Live Arts hosts award-winning playwright Jasminne Mendez this week at Marfa High School where she is teaching the 13th Annual Playwriting Program to all students.

For the workshop itself, Mendez's philosophy is simple: "Students should come prepared to play! Experiment! Take risks! And above all, be willing to tell *their* stories," she exclaimed. "I believe we all have a story to tell and all our stories matter. My hope/goal for this week is to find that spark of a good story in each student and teach them the playwriting craft tools and elements that will help them tell their story on stage." Throughout the week, she said, the students have been led through character building, which emotional states they wish to convey to an audience, and different methods used to tell a story. They also have been given a crash course on how to edit and revise to "hopefully write something they can feel proud of in the end."

The playwright's residency brings her into Marfa for the first time, which adds extra excitement for Mendez. "I have really been looking forward to learning and connecting with the Marfa Shorthorns. I always learn something from students and am always able to take nuggets of their wisdom with me," she said.

The Marfa Live Arts Playwriting Program, she added, has been a boon to the community, as it has helped connect the local population with the arts. "I think that any time the community can bridge the gap between schools and the arts community, it's a beautiful thing," she said. "I think the work the organization has done and is doing is necessary. It's the only way to build future theater audiences, theater makers and artists. To be able to provide the space, time, resources and platform to have young people's voices and stories be heard is one of the most empowering and wonderful things any organization or person can do."

In the 13 years of the Playwriting Program, over 1,350 one-act plays have been written by students. And as always, the program will culminate with a live performance of student works at the Crowley Theater with local actors taking on the roles created by the student playwrights.

For more Marfa Live Arts information, please visit www.marfalivearts.org.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Miso Yuzu Fish from Cochineal

Photo courtesy of Cochineal

MISO YUZU FISH (4 portions)
Miso Yuzu fish is a dish from Cochineal's Japanese-inspired menu. Enjoy the last days of this menu on Friday, January 26, and Saturday, January 27, from 5 to 10 p.m. at Cochineal. The menu will feature this dish with nameko mushrooms from the Big Bend Fungi Co.

INGREDIENTS
1/2 cup mirin
1/2 cup sake
1/4 cup yuzu juice (may be substituted with equal parts lemon and lime juice)
4 tablespoons white miso paste
2 teaspoons tamari
3 tablespoons sugar
4 sable fish filets, skin on, approx 4-6 ounces each (other fish can be substituted, such as salmon)
vegetable oil to cook

INSTRUCTIONS
1. To make the marinade/sauce, combine mirin and sake in a small saucepan. Bring just to a boil and take off the heat. Whisk in miso paste, sugar, tamari and yuzu juice. Let cool to room temperature.
2. Reserve some of the marinade to serve with the fish as a sauce.
3. Marinate the fish with this in the refrigerator for 2-3 hours (or overnight for more flavor).
4. Preheat the oven to 400ºF.
5. Heat a pan on medium-high heat (preferably non-stick) and add high heat oil to coat bottom of pan.
6. Remove fish from marinade and place skin side down in pan.
7. Cook for 3-5 minutes.
8. Flip the fish over and place in oven for approximately 5-8 minutes.
9. Serve over rice with the reserved sauce (do not use the marinade which was coating the fish).

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Courtesy of Davis Mountains State Park

A covey of Montezuma Quail have been feeding almost every afternoon since mid-December at the Interpretive Center at Davis Mountains State Park.

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110th anniversary of the Battle of Ojinaga marked with theatrical showcase

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

OJINAGA — Last Friday night, the Consejo Ciudadano de Cultura Ojinaga (Municipal Cultural Council) hosted an evening of monologues, documentary film and music to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Ojinaga. Officials from City Hall filled the front row to take in performances and remarks by historical experts, local musicians and young performing talent.

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution began, eventually ending a 30-year dictatorship in Mexico and establishing a constitutional republic. The revolution was led in part by Pancho Villa, a controversial figure regarded by some as a bandit and by others a freedom fighter. His legacy is honored throughout Ojinaga in sculptures, murals and events like Friday's performance revue.

In 1913, Villa captured the city of Juárez and gradually started pushing the Federales out of cities down the road in Chihuahua. On the morning of January 10, the Villistas gathered around the border town of Ojinaga and fighting began in earnest the next evening.

The battle was devastating to the Federales, who suffered around 3,500 casualties versus the rebels' 35. Surviving soldiers and civilians crossed the border into Presidio and headed to Marfa in a column of refugees rumored to be 12 miles long. "The tattered line of former Mexican federal soldiers, women and children, followed by horses, burros and dogs, as they straggled over the mountain roads in clouds of dust, was a sufficient picture of an army in retreat," reported the *El Paso Herald* on January 14.

The Federales' loss marked not just a tactical turning point in the war but a cultural one as well. Earlier that month, Villa — who found himself strapped for cash — signed a contract with the Mutual Film Corporation to take a cash advance in exchange for his help in making a biographical film about his life. (The footage has since disappeared.)

A documentary screened at the show on Friday featured a clip from *The Life of General Pancho Vill*a, a film that attempts to recreate the vanished biopic. In the scene, onlookers on the American side of the river tossed back beers and took in the battle through telescopes and binoculars.

The general himself — played by Antonio Banderas — emerges from the chaos, peacocking for the cameras. "It's the dread Robin Hood of Mexico," one of the spectators whispers.

A still from the original *Life of General Pancho Villa* — a photograph of Pancho Villa in Ojinaga astride his horse, Siete Leguas — would go on to be what Professor Juventino Juárez describes as an "icon of the revolution."

In his book *The Battle of Ojinaga*, Juárez — who gave remarks at Friday's event — compares Villa's conquest of northern Chihuahua to the Greeks' mythological overthrow of their enemies in the Trojan Horse. "In Ojinaga he solidified his stature as an invincible warrior," he wrote in the book's foreword.

While the battle was cause for celebration among the revolutionaries, the American press reported nothing but fear and dread. "There is something hideously shocking, outrageously at variance with the spirit of peace and humanity in the sight of this carnival of blood at our very doors," the Leadville, Colorado, *Herald Democrat* reported on January 12.

The Battle of Ojinaga was the region's first taste of life in what would become known as the "Bloody Bend." In March 1916, fighting spread across the border in a raid on Columbus, New Mexico; two months later, the Villistas would topple Glenn Springs, a U.S. military outpost in what is now Big Bend National Park.

On Christmas Day in 1917, the Villistas raided the Brite Ranch outside of Marfa, resulting in four deaths. The raid would go on to spark a wave of anti-Mexican violence in the region — most notably the Porvenir Massacre, in which 15 Mexican American boys and men were executed by a posse of local ranchers and Texas Rangers.



Staff photo by Sam Karas

Lidia Gallegos performs a monologue called "La Noche Fría," which commemorates the bravery and suffering of women who lost their sons and husbands in the Mexican Revolution.

Villa was assassinated on July 20, 1923, marking the end of a tumultuous life that permanently transformed the country he called home.

The goal of Friday's event was to remind the audience how critical the city of Ojinaga had been in the making of modern Mexico. "Chihuahua was the center of the revolution," explained Jorge Carrera Robles, director of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) of Chihuahua, who made the three-hour trek to the border for the event.

"In this region there were the first stirrings of revolutionary change," he said. "The Battle of Ojinaga marked the possibility of a democratic and populist government."

Museum of the Big Bend to host guitarist, film producer Nick Hurt in free show on Feb. 2

ALPINE — The Museum of the Big Bend on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine will host an evening with guitarist and filmmaker Nick Hurt on Friday, Feb. 2.

This special presentation will feature a guitar recital by Hurt, followed by a screening of his film, *Serenade, I Miss You*.

There is no charge for the community to join this event at the Cultural Events Center in the new Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building. The doors will open at 5 p.m. while the show runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Hurt, a guitarist and instructor of music at Sul Ross State, embarked on a creative journey in early 2021 by commissioning new guitar works from several Austin-based guitarists, including Zeke Jarmon, a musician rights advocate and member of the band Batty Jr.; Justice Phillips, composer and administrator for Austin Classical Guitar; and Claire Puckett, songwriter and member of the bands Mother Falcon and Hikes.

Serenade, I Miss You features performances of those new works for guitar as well as insights, humor and philosophy from the composers themselves.

"It is an honest and intimate portrayal of four young musicians' creative inspirations," said Matthew Hinsley, director of Austin Classical Guitar. "This is the movie all musicians wish would be made about musicians, giving insight into the craft and voice to the hopes behind the performances everyone sees on stage."

"We are delighted to host Nick and share this unique fusion of live music and cinematic art with our community. It's an opportunity to experience multiple layers of the creative process," said Museum Director Mary Bones.

For more information, email maryb@sulross.edu.

READ ONLINE AT BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM

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.

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

1/10

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

1/2

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 15, 2024

ACROSS
1 Procedure done to "Stayin' Alive": Abbr.
4 Top ___ Entertainment
8 It's phony-baloney
12 "Look what I found!"
13 Scraped knees and paper cuts, for example
15 Revolutionary car component?
16 Butter ___ (small pastry)
18 Finally lost one's temper
19 A moral person will take the high one
20 Achieve greatness
23 Straightforward class
24 Set someone up to rap
28 Certain MLB players during the Steroid Era
30 Opera whose title anagrams to "coats"
31 That girl
32 Sticky situations
37 Thing
38 Express happiness
41 Ad writer's muse?
43 Controversial kind of powder
44 Winter clock setting in NYC
47 Employ against
49 Like Everest, vis-a-vis Fuji
51 Start dancing
56 Two-finger message
57 Quickly photograph something
59 Univ. instructor
62 Angered
63 Poetic tributes
64 Wife of Jupiter
65 Prepare to propose
66 In-flight guess, for short
67 Person with a mystical gaze
68 Craft website
69 Single situp, say

DOWN
1 Calicos' comfy cots
2 Ancient Egyptian ruler
3 Concern for the World Wildlife Fund
4 Qatari capital
5 Grammy, for instance
6 Like a highway with more lanes
7 Car insurance giant
8 Cook in the shell, as an egg
9 Kitchen gizmo brand
10 Chicken ___ king
11 Ticked, as a box
14 "Cut it out!"
17 "Rent" actor Diggs
21 It's what you deserve
22 Sewer animal
25 Cosmetics icon whose first name appears in many crosswords
26 No-return service?
27 Scottish cap
29 Religious branch
33 Jamaican music genre
34 Nickname that omits "vatore"
35 Corner key
36 X-rated reading material
39 Cheers on
40 Classic Windows slogan
41 Baby lion
42 Sch. in Baton Rouge
45 Discharge, as hormones
46 Syrupy substance
48 Granny, to a Brit
50 "Morbius" star Jared
52 Word after "question" or "quotation"
53 State a viewpoint
54 ___ parking
55 Fencing blades
58 In an unoccupied manner
59 Comfy sleepwear
60 Regret
61 "The loneliest number"

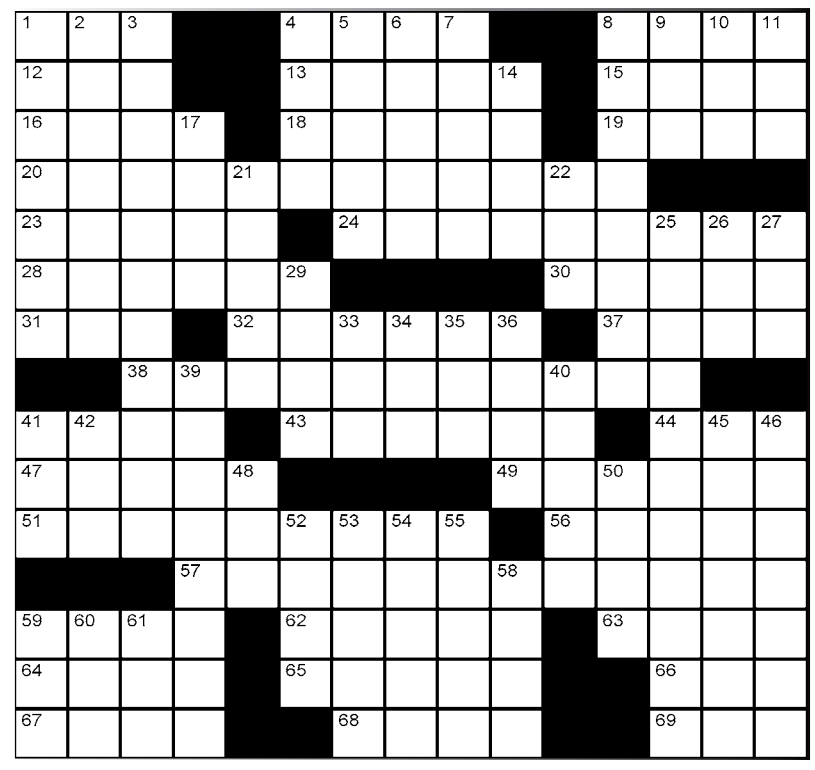
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/14

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www.upuzzles.com

1/15 **Everything's Still in One Piece** *by Jeffrey Martinovic and Evan Park*



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JAN	Thu, Jan 25	Fri, Jan 26	Mon, Jan 29	Tue, Jan 30	Wed, Jan 31
BREAKFAST	FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE	N/A	CEREAL, TOAST	BURRITO, HASH BROWN	STUFFED BAGEL, CHEESE CUBES
LUNCH	X-TREME BURRITO, CORN, CUCUMBERS, ROSY APPLESAUCE, DESSERT	N/A	BREADED DRUMSTICK, BISCUIT, SALAD, POTATOES, FRUIT	FRITO PIE, BEANS, TOMATOES, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, DESSERT	PIZZA, CELERY, CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT, SHERBET

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SAT, JAN 27: Powerlifting at Andrews HS, 8:00am Girls & Boys
MON, JAN 29: JH Basketball vs Sierra Blanca in Marfa
TUE, JAN 30: HS Basketball vs Fort Davis in Fort Davis

FROM THE ARCHIVES



NEW OWNER FOR PAISANO SATURDAY—A former resident of New York City, more recently of Coleman, B. K. Mallan liked El Paisano Hotel so well when he saw it last year that he determined to become its owner. Tomorrow transaction details are to be finished which will make it his.

Former New York resident, buying El Paisano Hotel

Volume 21, Number 47, January 31, 1947

B.K. Mallan, Texan Six Years, Gets Business Property Erected in 1930

Scheduled for consummation here today is a financial transaction in which B.K. Mallan, Coleman, will become the owner of El Paisano Hotel, buying the business property which has been owned in recent years by the heirs of the late C.N. Bassett, El Paso, and Mrs. Madelyn Metcalf.

Mr. Mallan who has had Texas interests about six years is in the steel warehousing business in New York City. Recently he sold a part of his ranch property in the Coleman area and in a telephone message to the Sentinel Thursday noon he said that he and Mrs. Mallan and the children, Jean, sixteen, and Tommy, twelve, will live here. Their girl is a student at Hockaday School and Junior College, Dallas.

No announcement of the purchase, previous to the one today by the Sentinel, has been authorized by Mr. Mallan, he said yesterday. Asked as to the purchase price, Mr. Mallan said that the figure $175,000 might well be considered the correct one.

Mr. Mallan said that he could not make any announcement at this time in regard to the management of the property which he will take possession of Saturday. In telling of the investment he is making here, he said:

"Last summer we were through Marfa and the hotel appealed to me a great deal; in fact, the appeal was so great that I commented to Mrs. Mallan — 'I'd like to own that business.' An investigation as to the ownership was made and the transaction of securing it is to be completed in Marfa Friday."

The Paisano corner was formerly the location of the Episcopal Church building.

Manager of the hotel since June, 1934, has been E.S. Powers who has operated it for the owners as one of the Gateway group of hotels in the Southwest. Mr. and Mrs. Powers came here from California where he dealt in hotel and other type of leases.

The hotel was opened under the ownership of the builders — C.N. Bassett, H.L. Birney, R.E. McKee, and Marfa people who invested $27,000 in securing the site for the building. The Marfa people were interested about six years and then the three El Paso men secured title. Mr. McKee has not been an owner for about three years.

The hotel has sixty rooms and one apartment and is modern in every respect, with coffee shop and tavern operated by the hotel.

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OBITUARIES



Clark

NOW AND THEN
What was future, now is past.
What is now will never last.
The way it works, I don't how.
But all we really have is now.
—Jim Clark

James Val Clark, Jim to most, was born on February 19, 1927, in Lockhart, Texas, to Roy Thomas Clark and Ada Masur Clark. He passed away peacefully in his home in Austin on January 7, 2024.

During his nearly 97 years, he was many things — great-grandfather, grandfather, father, husband, son, brother, uncle, friend, PhD, athlete, coach, teacher. He'd tell you, self-effacingly, he'd been a bureaucrat too. Above all, he was a gentle soul dearly loved by many. Yet his kindly demeanor housed an iron will and a wry wit.

He graduated from Lockhart High School in 1944. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1945 to 1947, much of it in the post-World War II occupation of Germany and Czechoslovakia.

After his honorable discharge in 1947, he enrolled in Southwest Texas State Teachers College. While there, he met and married the love of his life and best friend, Martha "Marty" Elizabeth Allen of Sabinal, Texas.

He completed his bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics in 1949 and began teaching in the Industrial Consolidated Independent School District in Jackson County, Texas. Shortly after completing his master's degree in 1952, he became high school principal in the Industrial Consolidated Independent School District. For a while, he was the youngest high school principal in Texas. As a high school principal, he opened the school to the community as a shelter in 1961 during Hurricane Carla, which made landfall during the fall semester as a Category 4 storm.

In 1963, Jim, Marty, and their daughter Val moved to Lake Jackson, Texas, where both Jim and Marty worked for Brazosport Independent School District — Jim as the director of guidance and research, and Marty as a teacher of English and art at the high school.

After many summers in Austin, he completed his PhD in educational psychology in 1968 from the University of Texas. He joined the Texas Education Agency in that year as the director of Exemplary and Innovative Education Programs. Later at the TEA, he served as director of Guidance Services, director of Urban Education, director of School Liaison, and eventually as deputy to the commissioner of education. He retired from the TEA in 1990.

For years, he was active in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry as senior warden and as chair of the long-range planning committee. He served as president of the Texas Personnel and Guidance Association in 1976 and the Texas Association of Counselor Educators in 1975. He served as vice president of the Capital Area Psychological Association from 2004–2006.

He was predeceased by his wife of 70 years, Marty Clark; his brother, Thomas Clark; sister-in-law, Ann Clark; and sister, Ann Clark Minter. He is survived by his daughter, Val Clark Beard of Alpine, Texas, and her husband, Tom Beard; his granddaughter, Martha Beard-Duncan of Austin, Texas, and her husband, Michael Duncan; great-grandson Theodore James Duncan, sister-in-law Carolyn Allen of San Antonio, Texas; five nieces and nephews; and untold thousands of students whose lives he touched.

A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 2128 Barton Hills Drive in Austin, Texas, on January 27, 2024, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church or the charity of your choice.

Jim was the kind of person who drafted his own obituary in advance, and he closed it with this: "Many thanks to all of my friends who have made my life such a good experience. It was a good ride. Bless you all."

• • •

Hollen

William "Skipper" Weatherford Hollen

Feb 7, 1944 - January 18, 2024

William "Skipper" Weatherford Hollen left this world just three weeks shy of 80 years, reminding us to the very end that he had lived a very good life. It was one filled with travel and adventures, not with possessions.

Born in El Paso to Dr. Theodore Thomas Hollen Jr. and Emma Katurah "Cheta" Weatherford Hollen, he was a force to be reckoned with and developed his sense of adventure, humor and strongly held opinions on just about everything early in life.

He graduated from Pecos High School where he met and married Anna Marie Hoyt of Pecos, Texas, and they had one perfect daughter, Shelly Ann Hollen, so found no need to have any more children. They separated in 1978 and eventually divorced, and from then on, Skipper swore off marriage and kept to his decision to remain single until the day he died. He had no grandchildren but found that role filled by the lovely Ruby Worth Evans, daughter of Sid and Chrysti Evans. Worth lovingly referred to him as her Skippaw. He adored her and she adored him, and there was very little in life that gave him as much joy as simply taking her to town for a McDonald's run or watching her rodeo.

A man of many skills, from a prolific storyteller to being able to manage complex calculations on the fly, he followed several career paths. He owned his own trucking company, dabbled in real estate, worked for a marine salvage company in Galveston, cowboyed on the family ranch south of Marfa, Texas, and finally worked as a construction supervisor with STR Constructors for wind farms and building projects across Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico for over two decades. He served as a consultant on independent projects until the day he passed.

Skipper had a larger-than-life personality that was hard to forget, and he touched many lives, whether he was making them laugh with his numerous stories or infuriating them with his unfiltered commentary on weight, age or politics. When he could no longer leave the house due to his oxygen limitations, he entertained himself by making a sport out of verbally insulting spam callers until they refused to call back.

He loved to cook and often assisted his brother-in-law, Glenn Moreland, in chuckwagon competitions. The entire family looked forward to his annual Christmas distribution of homemade red enchilada sauce and tamales, both pork and green chile chicken.

Skipper is survived by his daughter, Shelly Hollen, and her husband, Michael Wood; his ex-wife, Anna Hoyt; his older brother, Ted Hollen; sister Patty Moreland and her husband Glenn Moreland; and nine surviving nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by both parents and his youngest sister, Nancy Hollen Black, and her son Damon Black, and brother-in-law, Ricky Black.

He leaves behind a refrigerator with four squeeze margarine bottles, a bottle of horseradish sauce that expired in April of 2019, a tube of hamburger meat so old that it had buzzards gathering, countless collections of doodads, gimme hats, pocket knives, but more importantly, he leaves a long list of family, friends and neighbors who adored him, a huge hole in each of our hearts and lives that will be long in healing.

If you are so inclined, donations can be made to the COPD Foundation, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Skin Cancer Foundation or Bloys Camp Meeting Association.

• • •



Stringfellow

Tana Williams Stringfellow of Alpine, Texas, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Saturday January 13, 2024.

Tana was born in Marfa, Texas, on April 24, 1955, to Dewey and Ginny Williams. She attended school in Marfa until the fourth grade, until the family moved to Van Horn, Texas, where Tana graduated high school in 1973.

After high school, Tana moved to Fort Worth where she married Bob Penquite and they had one daughter, Ashelea Morgan Penquite. Tana was also stepmother to Bob's daughter Shelley.

Tana and Ashelea eventually moved to Florida where Tana began her distinguished paralegal career.

In 1992 Tana was a founding member of the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations and served on this association for 15 years. In 1993, she served as president of the Northeast Florida Paralegal Association and she also served on the Paralegal Program Advisory Council for the University of North Florida from 1993-1999, as well as receiving the outstanding Alumni Award in 1996. Tana was bestowed the distinguished award, 2002 Paralegal of the Year Runner-Up, by the leading law magazine, *Legal Assistant Today*.

In 2009, Tana became a member of the Executive Committee of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. where she served until 2011. During her career, Tana served on the Florida Bar on various committees. She was on the Standing Committee on UPL from 1992-2000, co-chair of the Special Committee on Paralegal Regulation from 2005-2006 and the Florida Registered Paralegal Standing Committee from 2008 until her retirement in 2018.

In 2018, Tana Stringfellow retired and moved back to Texas. She bought a home in Alpine where she volunteered for Meals on Wheels and served on the Family Crisis Center board and eventually started back to work. She enjoyed putting her skills to good use at Big Bend Title Company.

In her spare time, Tana was an avid gardener and loved her herbs and flowers, especially using them in her own cooking. She enjoyed hunting and shooting with family, was avid about natural health and a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa.

Tana is preceded in death by her parents Dewey and Virginia (Ginny) Williams of Fort Davis and nephew Logan Williams of Alpine.

Tana is survived by her daughter, Ashelea Penquite of Tennessee; her brother and his wife, Mike and Leslie Earline Williams of Alpine; niece and her husband, Michelle and Kacee Murff of Junction; nephew and his wife, Lance and Judy Williams of Perrin; and three great-nieces and five great-nephews.

A visitation was held on Monday, January 22, 2023, at 8 a.m. followed by a funeral service at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue in Alpine, Texas.

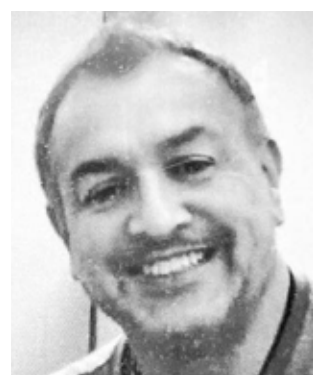
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Family Crisis Center of Big Bend, The National Diabetes Association, or charity of your choice.

Services are entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.

• • •

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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Valenzuela

Leroy Valenzuela of Tampa, Florida, passed away after a brief illness on January 20, 2024. He was born on August 18, 1962, to Jose and Maria Valenzuela of Odessa, Texas, formerly of Marfa, Texas. He was an Army veteran and FHA VA USDA underwriter.

Leroy is survived by his husband, Larry Henry, of Tampa, Florida — together six years and married five years.

He also is survived by: five sisters — Rosa Gomez and Sanaida Alvarez of Marfa, and Patsy Molina, Delma Leal and Christine Del La Cruz of Odessa, Texas; his niece, whom he considered and loved as a sister, Joann Valenzuela of St. Paul, Minnesota; and three brothers — Johnny Valenzuela (Maria Luja) of Odessa, Salvador Valenzuela (Alicia Valenzuela) of Pampa, Texas, and Joe Valenzuela of Odessa; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jose and Maria Valenzuela; a sister, Margie Armenta; a nephew, Abel Armenta; and a brother, Jerry Moya.

Our brother will be greatly missed as he was a very happy, friendly, outgoing person and had a ton of friends. He will always be in our hearts. Funeral services are pending.



Rest in peace, Brother, as it was God's will to leave us. Amen

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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.

City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Vacancy
The City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Commission is seeking letters from citizens interested in filling a membership vacancy. Members of the commission must be 18 years of age or older and reside within the Marfa city limits.

Anyone wishing to be considered to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest to City Manager Mandy Roane via email at mroane@cityofmarfa.com or in person at 113 S. Highland Ave. no later than **2:00 PM Friday, February 9, 2024.**

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Commission and its duties, please reach out to Mandy Roane using the above information.

The City of Marfa Board of Adjustment has scheduled a Special Meeting for February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p. m. in the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland Street, Marfa, Texas. This meeting is open to the public. The Board members will discuss and render a decision regarding:

- A Variance Request No. 24-01, requested by Yoseff Ben-Yehuda from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front yard setbacks at 703 E. Washington Street, also known as Block 24, Tract #4, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-02, requested by Yoseff Ben-Yehuda from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front yard, side yard and corner side yard setbacks at 214 W. Galveston Street, also known as Block 32, Lot 11, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-03, requested by David Branch from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding side yard and rear yard setbacks at 907 W. San Antonio Street, also known as Block 117, Lot 7 and 3' of Lot 6, City Addition.
- A Variance Request No. 24-04, requested by David Branch from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front yard and side yard corner setbacks at 420 N. Spring Street, also known as Block 72, West 13.5' of Lot 4 and all of Lot 5, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-05, requested by Mark Cash from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding a garage setback at 417 N. Gonzales, also known as Block 77, N Part of Lot A and all of Lots 1-2, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-06, requested by Jason Kolker from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding a corner side yard setback at 1518 W. Sacramento, also known as Block 26, Lot 9, West Heights Addition.
- A Variance Request No. 24-07, requested by La Banda, LLC from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front and side yard setbacks at 400 E. San Antonio Street, also known as Block 38, Lot 5, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-08, requested by Trey Siller from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front, rear and side yard setbacks at 500 E. Texas Street, also known as Block 69, W/2 of Lot 5, Original Town of Marfa.
- A Variance Request No. 24-09, requested by Amos Campos and Hannah Jeffers from the requirements of Marfa's Zoning Ordinance, regarding front, side and rear yard setbacks at 1501 W. Sacramento, also known as Block 25, Lot 3, West Heights Addition.

Additional information concerning the above Variance Requests is available by calling Ann Dunlap, Board of Adjustment Secretary at (432)729-4315.

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JOBS

VILLAGE FARMS - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - FAST TRACK TO MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Please call first before arrival.

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)

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) by Glitch Marfa LLC dba Glitch Marfa, to be located at 108 E El Paso Street, Marfa, Presidio County, Texas 79843. The officer of said limited liability company is OXALIS DAO LLC managed by STEPHEN MCKEON AND DEREK SCHLOSS.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Ellen Buren Melvin were issued on 1/17/2024, in Docket No. 2023, pending in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, to Jimmy Melvin. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:
c/o John Fowlkes
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1470
Marfa, TX 79843

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NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF
Rae Arlene Hunter Matthews as Independent Executrix of the Estate of Gerald Vance Hunter, Deceased. Pending in the Brewster County Court, Cause NO. PR03143. TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE: WHEREAS, on the November 29, 2023, in the Brewster County Court, the undersigned duly qualified as the Independent Executrix of the Estate of Gerald Vance Hunter, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary on this estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Any person indebted to said estate is hereby notified to pay same to the undersigned. Rae Arlene Hunter Matthews Independent Executrix of the Estate of Gerald Vance Hunter, Deceased. Address: c/o Lane and Countryman, 1045 Cheever, Ste. 103, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

NOW HIRING

Village Farms

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

Key Skill & Competencies

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

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

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

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

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

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Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
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Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

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

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

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

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

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

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