

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

7 arrested in connection to Ojinaga cartel murders

By SAM KARAS
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NORTHEASTERN CHIHUAHUA — Last Thursday, seven men were apprehended by state and national police for their alleged involvement in a string of shootings in the Ojinaga area.

After receiving a tip about armed civilians, the Chihuahua Department of Public Safety (SSPE) and the federal Department of National Defense (SEDENA) located two white pickup trucks on a dirt road between Ojinaga and Manuel Benavides. The two trucks attempted to flee the scene and opened fire on the officers as they went.

The men were eventually arrested on foot after taking cover in the brush. In the aftermath, law enforcement also seized 15 rifles, 80 magazines, 1500 cartridges, six tactical helmets and two bulletproof vests.

Many people in the city of Ojinaga and the nearby towns of Manuel Benavides and Coyame del Sotol have been sheltering in place since the weekend of September 6, when six people were killed in a string of cartel-related shootings. A special task force of over 300 troops was deployed to Ojinaga on September 9, and the governor of Chihuahua, Maru Campos, visited the border city on September 11 to discuss the enhanced security measures.

While locals have been gradually returning to work and school, there has been widespread confusion on social media about how dangerous the situation in Ojinaga is — and the rest of the state of Chihuahua, which has suffered violent clashes from Juárez to the eastern border. The heavy military presence — including a helicopter with wailing sirens orbiting the city — serves as a constant reminder of the tragic string of events.

Last Thursday, State Attorney General César Jáuregui assured Chihuahuans that conditions were safe enough for all to enjoy Mexico's annual Independence Day celebrations. A celebration was canceled in the small town of Coyame, but Ojinaga's new mayor, Lucy Marrufo Acosta, decided to go ahead with a festival in the city plaza.

Not everyone was pleased with the announcement. "We call upon [the mayor] to cancel the Independence Day event and parade in the City of Ojinaga because of the uncertainty we are living through," an anonymous group of local parents pleaded on Facebook. "Let's avoid a tragedy."

Fortunately, the celebration went as planned — with a smaller-than-usual but still enthusiastic crowd dancing to local bands.

Despite the many disruptions to daily life in the border city, the Presidio Port of Entry has remained

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 9

HOMECOMING P. 5

OPINION P. 3

CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

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Staff photo by Rob D'Amico

Joe Cabezuela — whose informal reunions led to the formation of the Blackwell School Alliance — dances with U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland.

Blackwell School ribbon cutting provides reflection on importance of new park

By ROB D'AMICO
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MARFA — A dark, overcast sky, cool temperatures and no beating sun rays Saturday afternoon was a blessing for the 100 or so attendees at the National Park Service's ribbon cutting for its newest national park — the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa.

Many Presidio County residents of the Big Bend know pieces of the school's history: A segregated campus for Mexican American students in Marfa from 1909-1965 that finally integrated its students with Anglos 11 years after Brown

v. Board of Education declared segregation unconstitutional; the requirement that students not speak Spanish, with punishment (sometimes corporal) for those who did, and forcing students to bury Spanish words on paper in a cigar-box coffin; how the Blackwell School Alliance nonprofit persisted for years in preserving and elevating the site's history. Still, that history could have been lost to many Americans, hidden in this small Far West Texas town.

"If not for this community's devotion to protecting Blackwell's story, its history could have been lost to time altogether," said U.S.

Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland at the ceremony, which she noted also lands on the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. "Thankfully, Blackwell's designation and today's ribbon cutting set its legacy and its lessons firmly into stone. ... As we kick off Hispanic Heritage Month together, I must tell you that there's nowhere else I'd rather be than right here in Marfa with the Blackwell School alumni who made today possible."

The celebration was spirited, with a mariachi band, Marfa ISD ballet folklorico dancers, food and drink and recognition given to many of the school's alumni present.

Elected officials mingled with local residents, school alumni and scores of park rangers from throughout the region who were easy to pinpoint with their green and brown uniforms and broad-brimmed, domed hats.

Alumnus Joe Cabezuela told the crowd how his simple idea for a school reunion in 2006 led to the formation of the Blackwell School Alliance and ultimately to the country's latest national park. Cabezuela said alumni at the time realized that Marfa ISD planned to sell or tear down the school, which had fallen into "shambles" and needed significant renovation.

(Continued on page 2)

Local school districts join forces to expand career training opportunities

Alpine ISD's nursing program sees growth

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — Medical personnel in training start work at the Big Bend Regional Medical Center this week, arriving at the hospital at 6:30 a.m. for the nurse's change of shift in never worn scrubs.

The trainees are high school seniors from Alpine and Marathon ISDs working to become certified nursing assistants (CNAs). For the eight Alpine High School seniors, all girls, stepping into a real-life clinical setting is the culmination of three years of laboratory and classroom learning they first started as sophomores, when Alpine ISD established its CNA program.

"In a lot of ways it serves as a healthcare primer for kids going into lots of post-secondary opportunities, whether straight into the workforce or into higher education," Alpine ISD Superintendent Michelle Rinehart said.

Now, what started in 2022 as a program with seven student participants has grown to a total of 65 participants, with 23 freshmen this year embarking on the four-year CNA class. "I was really shocked, honestly, that there was such an interest in it," said District Nurse and CNA instructor Gayla Owen. "I know that we're out here in the middle of nowhere, but we have all these young kids that want to be in the medical field. They're just excited."

The CNA certification program, one of Alpine ISD's Career Technical

Education (CTE) offerings — in addition to welding, graphic design and vocational agriculture — is funded by the Big Bend Regional Hospital District. Seed funds in the amount of \$85,000 helped develop a CNA classroom and laboratory at the high school campus, complete with mock hospital rooms, medical dummies, a central supply closet, an EKG machine and a respiratory cart. Each student even has their own stethoscope.

Continual funding around \$65,000 annually covers Owen's salary, supplies, field trips and more. "Our CNA program would not be possible if the hospital district wasn't financially supporting it because we don't have the funding," Rinehart said.

CNA students learn principles of health freshman year, medical terminology sophomore year, anatomy and physiology junior year and complete clinicals senior year. In order to become a CNA they need 60 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours of clinical experience. They also have to pass a state test — part online exam, part demonstration of skills with a proctor.

Owen, a nurse with 24 years of experience, said she is also ensuring her trainees have the basic skills they'd need to work in a doctor's office, like how to perform an electrocardiogram test, even though that skill isn't required to pass the state exam.

The CNA certification alone is enough to get the students a job

right out of high school. Owen herself worked as a CNA part time in college. "I tell these girls all the time that CNAs are like the most important person on the floor," Owen said. "They're the eyes, the ears, they're with the patients a lot. And they report to us nurses. They help with baths and meals, and they play a big, big role in everything."

For some, though, the CNA

certification may be a stepping stone to other jobs in the medical field that require post-secondary education. Members of the CNA senior class — 17 and 18-year-olds — that spoke with The Big Bend Sentinel aspire to become a surgeon, an ultrasound technician, a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nurse, a nurse practitioner and either a physical therapist or to work in

labor and delivery.

Senior Rikki Vega said her experience in the CNA class has been invaluable. "I never would have thought I wanted to go into nursing until this class came," Vega said. "But now I know."

She's CPR certified, knows how to check respiratory rates and blood pressures, has traveled on field

(Continued on page 2)



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Alpine High School Senior Rikki Vega measures classmate Alyssa Duenez's blood pressure as certified nursing assistant instructor Gayla Owen looks on. The nursing class benefits from a lab outfitted with mock hospital rooms.

Blackwell School ribbon cutting

(Continued from page 1)



Photos by David Long

Marfa ISD’s Ballet Folklorico swirls to the music at the Blackwell School celebration.

“Right away, we all said, there’s no way that you’re going to do this,” he said. “That’s our building. That’s Hispanic history in Marfa. You can’t do that.”

Cabezuela and other alumni made a presentation to the school board to save the building, and he recounted the reaction: “And, the superintendent just stood up and said, ‘Joe, I’ve got good news for you. See if you like it and then you

can do whatever you want.’ He said, ‘We’ll give you a one-year lease for a dollar a year, but you have to show something in 25 years. If you do not show anything we’re just going to repossess it and do what we have to do with it.’”

Years of work and countless fundraisers by the alliance led to then U.S. Rep. Will Hurd and current Rep. Tony Gonzales, along with U.S. Senator John Cornyn, in

getting legislation passed to make the school a National Historic Site. President Joe Biden signed the authorization into law in October 2022. In July — after lengthy negotiations with Marfa ISD on the sale of the school — the National Park Service made it an official national park. Additional renovations will be ongoing at the site, but visitors can tour the school room and band hall to view a



Daniel Hernandez, Blackwell School Alliance president.

variety of photos and accounts that show that even though segregated, the students and staff retained a close-knit community that excelled in academics, sports and other activities.

While many talked of the countless fundraisers and preservation efforts by the alliance, Saturday’s event focused even more on what the park status means to Marfa, the school’s alumni, and our nation as a whole.

Alpine ISD nursing program

(Continued from page 1)

trips to Austin for Texas Board of Nursing disciplinary hearings and visited the simulation lab at University of Texas Permian Basin. “We got to see mannequins that could breathe and blink and give birth,” Vega said. “They could moan and groan. It was a good experience.”

When asked what it felt like to find a career direction so early in life, Vega said, “It feels like a relief.” “We’re already starting somewhere, like a CNA is already a job, and we just work our way up from whichever part of nursing we want to be in,” Vega said.

Senior Hope Dominguez agreed that participating in Alpine ISD’s CNA program has given her a sense of where she’d like to go after high school. “I do want to do something in healthcare that relates to nursing,” Dominguez said. “This class has definitely helped push me towards that.”

Alpine ISD eighth graders visit the high school to hear presentations about each of the CTE programs they have the option to join. Dominguez said she was attracted to the field of nursing because she knew she wanted to choose a career that involves helping people.

“I didn’t really know how I could do that, and then when I saw the nursing class, I was like, ‘That’s definitely a way to help people,’” Dominguez said.

Owen said rarely does anyone who enters the program drop out, and even though they are still in training, her CNAs are already in high demand, with partners constantly reaching out to help. Texas Tech, for example, will soon host telemedicine training. “There’s just so many people that want a piece of us,” Owen said.

Students from Marfa and

Marathon ISDs may soon have the opportunity to join Alpine ISD’s CNA program under a new initiative called the Rural Pathway Excellence Program (RPEP). “The RPEP idea is for rural districts to work together across district lines to open up some of their CTE — career and technical education — programs to each other,” Rinehart said.

One of the few public education bills passed in the 2023 legislative session, HB 2209 established the RPEP program and made it possible for districts participating in the program to receive additional CTE state funding — \$3,000 to \$4,500 per student.

But to be eligible for that monetary boost from the state — which Rinehart said could help close funding gaps for her district — the program will have to meet certain state requirements and become a designated “innovation zone,” by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Requirements include having at least three districts and two higher institutions involved — in this case Marfa, Alpine and Marathon ISDs, with less than 1,600 students total, and Sul Ross State University and Odessa College. The Big Bend Innovation Zone is in its planning year, and will not fully launch until the 2025-26 school year.

The initiative is largely being headed up by Yvonne Realivasquez, director of the RPEP program, whose new position is made possible by two donations of \$25,000 each from the Still Water and Permian Basin Area foundations. Realivasquez technically works for the nonprofit Education Partnership of the Permian Basin, but is on Alpine ISD’s payroll and represents all

three partner districts.

Realivasquez said the end goal of the program is to have each district specialize in a CTE program, for example Alpine ISD’s might be nursing, while Marfa ISD’s is welding. While Alpine ISD currently offers several CTE programs, both Marathon and Marfa only offer welding.

But it is likely that new CTE programs will be added once more revenue comes in, just not in the program’s first year, Realivasquez said. Even if no new programs are added, all three districts will get additional money for students participating in the partnership.

While other nearby districts have CTE programs, including HVAC/electrical, JROTC, energy and education, it will be up to a forthcoming market study to determine what industries in the Big Bend region are both in demand and high paying — a requirement of the program — that students might train in.

“Tourism is a huge part of our industry,” Rinehart said. “Does it intersect with this CTE work? Maybe, maybe not, depending on how those studies come out.”

The current plan is to involve 28 students in the program in its inaugural year and grow from there. Challenges, including transportation, still need to be worked out, Realivasquez said. “If you have students from Marfa and Marathon who want to come and join the CNA program, then we talk about, okay, how do we get them here so that they can participate in the instruction, in the practical and the clinical,” Realivasquez said. “There are challenges and all of that — of course there are — because you’re talking about schedules and putting kids on the road.”

the state capital of Culiacán. He instead believes that violence in the borderlands is an intra-cartel “purge.”

Sources from within the attorney general’s office told El Heraldo de Chihuahua that the two men whose bodies were dumped outside a funeral home in Ojinaga were not relatives of Menchaca, as some locals have speculated.

L.M. of Parral, Chihuahua. (While authorities have not yet drawn an explicit link between these men and La Linea, Durango is Menchaca’s home state.)

Jáuregui also doubled down on his comments from last week, quelling rumors that the violence in northeastern Chihuahua is spillover from the Sinaloa Cartel, which is currently waging war in



Photo by the Office of Maru Campos

Maru Campos, Governor of the State of Chihuahua, embraces Ojinaga Mayor Lucy Marrufo at a security briefing last week.

Highlights from speakers at the Blackwell event:

“Too many either don’t know or don’t remember from their history books, perhaps because it’s not in a lot of history books, what a de facto segregation looked like and felt like for the communities nationwide. They don’t realize that entire communities were targeted simply for not being white or for speaking a different language. They might not understand that this era of segregation wasn’t all that long ago, or that it happened as recently as their own family members’ lifetimes. They may not appreciate that racial discrimination didn’t disappear when the laws that upheld it were overturned.”

— Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior

“I have a passion for a donor — an old man that used to do a lot of yard work here in Marfa. You could tell that he was poor and he didn’t have any money. But when we had one of our hamburger fundraisers, he showed up and he and his wife ordered two hamburgers. ... He pulls out a twenty and says, ‘It’s for Blackwell.’ I said, ‘Oh my god.’ That really energized me to think that if this old man that has no money comes out of his pocket with a twenty-dollar bill, we are doing something right.”

— Joe Cabezuela, Blackwell School alumnus and first president of the Blackwell School Alliance

“I am so proud and we are so proud of this community, of this work ... that this was almost lost and the community was able to pull together, that the coalition was able to come together and make sure that this history gets told. ... That it’s left Marfa, it’s left Texas, it went to D. C. and now what we’re standing in front of is going to be a site of pilgrimage. People from all over the world will come to this site to learn about this history.”

— David Lamfrem, vice president of Regional Programs for the National Parks Conservation Association

“I think about my grandparents, Memo and Aurora, my dad’s parents, and my mom’s mama, Susana, who all attended the Blackwell School — and what it would mean to them to be standing on these grounds today, to see this special place and to know that their history is now part of the eternal story of America. This land is filled with such opportunity and the Blackwell School Alliance and everybody that came on afterwards took that opportunity. They ran with it. They lit a torch and they did not let it extinguish until they reached this ultimate goal.”

— Daniel Hernandez, Blackwell School Alliance president

“Our goal is for the Blackwell School to remain a symbol of progress in the nation’s journey towards a more inclusive historic narrative. Sites like Blackwell School allow Mexican Americans to see themselves in U. S. history, highlighting their achievements and their resilience. The park will also provide future generations with a more inclusive and comprehensive history of America.”

— Charles “Chuck” Sams, National Park Service director

“I’m sorry, I’m kind of touched, but Blackwell has a big part in my heart. Now I wasn’t lucky, since I only spent three years here, and most of all of my friends were here for eight years. But I was still part of this. And now with this national park designation, I realize I’m part of history.

— Tony Cano, Blackwell School alumnus

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For more information and to book reservations please visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Last week’s Sentinel had a story about Presidio County’s tax rate and the agreement that the director of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District had made with the previous Commissioners Court regarding a tax swap. This was intended to be a way to prevent any additional tax burden upon the ratification of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District’s ability to levy and collect taxes.

In the interest of providing the public with an explanation, I wish to provide my opinion on the matter. It is correct that the PCUWCD was operating under a subsidy from the county up to the point that Rod Ponton challenged their operating procedure. Without going into too much detail, once the dust settled and the PCUWCD opted for an election to allow themselves to collect a tax, it was agreed by the commissioners at that time to engage in a “tax swap.” This was to be in the amount of the then county subsidy (\$50,000/year) to the PCUWCD. This was used to help garner support for the authority to become self-sustaining. I personally advocated in favor of allowing the district to collect a tax; I also publicly supported the concept of a tax swap in that amount.

Unfortunately, the reality is that Commissioners Court cannot afford to honor the pledge. The gravity of the effects of inflation and a multitude of new state unfunded mandates requires us to exercise our due diligence in collecting our maximum increase of 3.5% (without a possible rollback election) on existing non-exempt property within the county.

Anyone keeping even a lazy eye on inflation can understand that a 3.5% revenue increase does not keep up with even the lowest of cost increases. Our experienced rate of inflation between the 2022 and 2023 budgets was upwards of 8.5%. Between FY 2023 and 2024 it has decreased slightly, but our experienced actual inflation rate looks close to 5.5%. FY 2025 looks to be about the same. The county judge and commissioners have not received any increase in salaries for the last two fiscal years. This year ALL elected officials opted for no raises in order to facilitate small raises for county employees instead (glaring exception: Justice of the Peace Dina Jo Marquez, who filed a grievance after salaries were set and received a \$5,000 salary increase).

As leaders we are trying to do our best to work within our means at all times.

Our adopted budget in 2023 included deficit spending of just under \$478,000. This comes out of our cash reserves, which have been carefully accumulated and guarded over the years following the days of the courthouse telephones being shut off for lack of payment (2011). If the county had granted the full tax swap amount to the PCUWCD of \$111,562.00 requested by the director we would be experiencing a deficit of just over \$415,000 for this fiscal year. Our increase in property tax income over last year (capped at 3.5%) amounts to \$179,195. This trajectory is not sustainable even without granting the tax swap, as 3.5% does not keep up with inflation. Assuming zero new costs, even that impossibility means we’re losing money in real dollar value every year.

It is true that within the complexity of the task of finding things to cut and curtail in our budget, I did not even remember the tax swap until we were far into the depths of creating this year’s budget. As much as I wanted to honor the \$50,000 tax swap that was promised by the previous Commissioners Court and supported as well by me publicly, my duty to restrain our budget deficit has made that not possible.

To this same point, the board of the PCUWCD quickly discovered the myriad hidden expenses of administering a public entity. The expense of internal and external auditors, and of all the processes the auditors check takes time, money and expertise. None of this comes cheap. I commend the PCUWCD for getting their initial approved budget down to merely \$111,562.00. It should not be lost on any discerning member of the public that this number is more than double the cost of running what was essentially functioning as an independent county department, and all governmental entities deal with these burdens.

I’ll wrap up by stating that I would be derelict as a commissioner to forgo a maximum tax rate when that tax rate does not even keep up with the bare bones increases in expenses the county experiences. It might not be my problem today but doing so would bring the county that much closer to insolvency. How would we feel about that?

My apologies to both the PCUWCD and the public for not being able to deliver what we all wanted. Last week’s article quoted me as saying “Commissioners Courts are not committed to obligate future Commissioners Courts and this is exactly why.” It should have read “permitted” in place of “committed,” because it is prohibited by state law. I can promise you that I, for one, will not make this mistake again.

In the interest of keeping this letter succinct, I have edited this from a much more detailed version that can be found in the “blog” section on my website www.beebefortexas.com

Sincerely,

David Beebe
Commissioner PCT 4
Presidio County

...

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Blackwell School Alliance Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring of support we have received throughout the Blackwell School National Historic Site establishment process.

This past weekend’s ribbon cutting event is a true testament to the power of community and the collective spirit that lives in this special place. The list of people to thank is endless — every action, contribution, and word of support for Blackwell over the last two decades has fueled the light of this newly minted beacon of American history.

First and foremost, we’d like to thank the Blackwell alumni of past and present whose strength and resolve have written a new chapter in the eternal story of our community and our country. We are especially grateful that Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and National Park Service Director Chuck Sams were here to witness the transformative power of this designation in service of diversifying the National Parks portfolio.

Thanks to: Primo y Beebe, Mariachi Santa Cruz, Marfa ISD Ballet Folklórico and student volunteers, The Tip Band, and Gabe Chavarria for the wonderful entertainment; Angel’s Restaurant, Big Sandy, Bordo, and Mark Scott and Kaki Aufdengarten for feeding the masses; Border Patrol for serving as our colorguard; Buck Johnston and Camp Bosworth at Do Right Hall for our reception venue; local media for helping promote the weekend’s festivities; Socorro Mena for Loteria; Marfa Public Library for crafts; and especially to Martha Stafford, who dedicated so much of her time and efforts to help make all of this possible.

Special thanks to our nonprofit partners and their teams for their ongoing financial and administrative support — the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Foundation. And we appreciate all the National Park Service employees who came from near and far to help us christen this site that they will now steward.

The love for Blackwell was felt so deeply this weekend, and we can’t wait to see what lies ahead for this national story that will now forever be told from this special place in our backyards. Thank you to everyone for everything — gracias, gracias, gracias.

Sincerely,
Daniel O. Hernandez
President, Blackwell School Alliance



To Marfa,

Thank you very much for voting me as Grand Marshal for the Marfa Lights Festival. It is truly an honor and pleasure to receive the support of the community and serve as your representative in our favorite weekend celebration of the year.

I want to thank the Marfa Chamber of Commerce for the hard work they do keeping our festival going year after year, rain or shine. I also want to thank all the volunteers, sponsors, musical groups and vendors who help make this a great time every year. Marfa Lights weekend is a time for all of us to get together and enjoy friends, family, neighbors and visitors, and this tradition is extremely important for all of us.

I want to especially thank Yosdy Valdivia from Presidio, who painted my portrait for the festival. I never thought anyone would have painted a picture of me, and her painting is wonderful! Once again I would like to express the great honor that you all have given me. I cannot express how much I love this community and how proud I am to represent Marfa. May God bless you.

Sincerely,
Primo Carrasco
Marfa, Texas

OUR WATER MATTERS

Managing groundwater in the Texas Hill Country

By TREY GERFERS

Growth is putting unprecedented pressure on water resources in many parts of the state.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the Texas Hill Country, a region with some of the fastest growing counties in the nation. As one of the groups working “to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the ... clean and abundant waters ... of the Texas Hill Country,”

the Hill Country Alliance (HCA) recently introduced its guide titled “Tools for Managing Groundwater in the Texas Hill Country” at the Texas Groundwater Summit in San Antonio.

As the guide points out “water is the lifeblood of the Texas Hill Country — but the real credit for our region’s success is the water we cannot see: ... groundwater.” In addition to being a source of drinking water, this groundwater feeds rivers. “Twelve of the state’s 15 major rivers have their headwaters in the Hill Country,” according to HCA. But new development is placing increasing demands on the aquifers that feed these rivers at a time when “the region is experiencing more frequent drought.” In addition, “most of this growth is happening in unincorporated areas where regulation is limited.”

The HCA’s extremely well written guide goes on to state that “like groundwater itself, knowing who can do what to manage groundwater can feel evasive and mysterious.” As a result, HCA developed this guide “to demystify the available tools for groundwater management and make groundwater planning and management more accessible across the Hill Country.”

In her presentation at the Texas Groundwater Summit titled, “Opportunities in Subdivision Regulation,” Marisa Bruno, water program manager with HCA, sought to elucidate “what groundwater conservation districts, counties, cities and residents can do to protect groundwater in the region.” Some of the main tools available to groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) include well spacing requirements. “By regulating well spacing, GCDs can protect existing well owners from some of the negative impacts of nearby pumping” while also effectively limiting “the number of wells drawing down the aquifer within a particular district.” Minimum lot sizes are another tool to “regulate well spacing” and “will vary district-to-district based on local

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- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff

aquifer conditions.”

GCDs can also set pumping limits on non-exempt wells. According to Texas law, wells are exempt from permitting if water produced from them is used for domestic purposes or to provide water to livestock or poultry. Exempt wells must also be located on a tract of land larger than 10 acres and be incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons per day. All other wells are non- exempt and require a permit if they are located within the jurisdiction of a GCD.

In setting pumping limits on non-exempt wells, GCDs may consider “reasonable use and/or acreage” and site-specific conditions. The “doctrine of reasonable use” involves an assessment of whether the amount requested by the applicant “reasonably matches the intended use.”

Meanwhile, permit requirements based on acreage are often referred to as a “correlative cap,” whereby the applicant must own or lease enough acres of groundwater rights to support the volume they are requesting. These limits are always required to be based on the best available science and local aquifer conditions, while also taking into account unreasonable impacts on existing permit holders, among other factors.

With public water supply (PWS) systems becoming increasingly common in unincorporated areas of the Hill Country, some GCDs in the region are now requiring that new PWS systems provide a “daily livable minimum standard” to all customers. “This ensures that developers can limit density to unit numbers that their groundwater permit can safely support.” Counties can also get involved. For example, “if groundwater is the source of water for a proposed subdivision,” counties can “require developers to certify that adequate groundwater is available to meet the needs of that subdivision.”

Protecting aquifer recharge areas is another tool available to counties. Voters in counties throughout the Hill Country have passed ballot measures “to fund land conservation over critical recharge zones.” As growth gobbles up ever more land for development, these initiatives are crucial to preserving the surface area necessary to ensure the region’s aquifers are replenished.

Cities have a role to play as well. Since they often operate wastewater systems, cities can invest in “higher treatment standards for wastewater” and set up the “infrastructure necessary to reuse it,” thus creating “a dependable and cost-effective source of water that reduces pressure on groundwater resources,” according to HCA.

While our population density in the Big Bend region and the current demands on our aquifers do not place the same level of urgency on our leaders to respond to these sorts of challenges, the message is clear: greater collaboration among local governments now can only benefit our efforts to prepare for more growth and less rainfall in a hotter, drier future. Visit hillcountryalliance.org/our-work/water-resources/ to learn more.

Trey Gerfers serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. A San Antonio native, he has lived in Marfa since 2013 and can be reached at tgerfers@pcuwcd.org.

‘Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert’ Set to bloom on November 5

MARFA — A field guide to more than a 100 plants of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature and gardening enthusiasts have reason to celebrate this fall as the highly anticipated edition of Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert is set to hit bookshelves on November 5.

This compact field guide, a companion to the lavishly illustrated coffee table book Marfa Garden: The Wonders of Dry Desert Plants, offers readers an intimate look at more than hundred flowering plants native to North America’s largest hot desert. The guide is authored by Jim Fissel, Jim Martinez, Mary Lou Saxon and Martha

Hughes and published by Trinity University Press. The Chihuahuan Desert, spanning northern Mexico, West Texas, and parts of New Mexico and Arizona, comes to life through stunning photography that captures plants in their year-round cycles.

Key features of the new edition include comprehensive coverage of more than 100 Chihuahuan Desert plants, photographs showcasing plants through every season, detailed botanical information for each species, practical gardening tips and USDA classifications, dedicated space for personal gardening notes and a visual

appendix with close-up botanical illustrations.

Whether you’re an everyday gardener, a naturalist, a landscape designer, or simply someone with an interest in dry gardens or the Southwest, Marfa Garden: A Field Guide to Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert promises to be an essential and joyful addition to your library. The book will be available for purchase at local bookstores and online retailers starting November 5. Paperback copies cost \$29.95.

For more information, visit tupress.org.

Geothermal efforts continue building on ‘upside potential’ to attract funders and developers

PRESIDIO — The Geothermal Working Group convened on September 11, 2024, at 5 p.m. to explore financing options for geothermal development in southern Presidio County. The meeting featured a presentation by Jesse Hereford, head of strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement for the North American Development Bank (NADB), offering insights into potential funding avenues for geothermal.

Hereford introduced NADB as a binational “green bank” established in 1994 to finance environmental infrastructure projects along the U.S.-Mexico border. He highlighted the bank's capacity to provide loans for terms of up to 30 years and its experience in financing renewable energy, including wind, solar and battery projects. “Our mandate is to develop and finance environmental infrastructure that improves the well-being of border residents,” Hereford explained. He emphasized NADB's ability to work with both public entities and the private sector, which could be crucial for Presidio's geothermal project.

In attracting potential investors, Hereford cautioned against being

too generous with incentives like tax abatements. “The city and the county need to make sure they’re covered. You don’t want to give away the farm.” Negotiations should also include benefits for the community, with one potential example being “free energy” for Presidio. This, in turn, could help attract even more investment. “Everything is negotiable,” Hereford said, and leaders need to be savvy about what they ask for. The discussion also touched on NADB's grant-based technical assistance program that could cover the cost of feasibility studies or market analyses. According to Hereford, “We might be able to help from that perspective as well.” John Kennedy, city planning consultant with the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) and City of Presidio, seized on the opportunity for technical assistance funding from NADB and commented that the bank “could play a large role” in propelling these efforts forward.

Energy security emerged as another key topic, with participants discussing recent power outages in Presidio. Trey Gerfers, who has been actively pushing the geothermal initiative in Presidio County, inquired about NADB's

experience with geothermal projects in other places. Hereford responded that “geothermal is not something we have done yet,” but detailed several successful battery storage projects NADB has financed in Texas and California.

Presidio’s location on the border with Mexico has already been recognized in earlier discussions as a major advantage. Hereford concurred, noting the project's binational potential. “We’re looking at batteries and transmission lines. We’re looking at storing clean energy and moving that clean energy to where it needs to be within our region.” Hank Habicht, managing co-founder of the Water Finance Exchange, former deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a founder of the American Council on Renewable Energy, chimed into the discussion by stating that “the fundamentals here are great ... There’s a lot of border crossings, as we know, [and] they’ve got lots of issues ... [But] the attractiveness of having a border crossing that’s not controversial has a lot of upside potential. Even the Republican politicians are very excited about the potential for the Presidio crossing and the potential

economic development there.”

Habicht was particularly excited about the opportunities for coupling Presidio’s geothermal electricity generation with new battery technologies. “It’s the right thing to focus on and there’s a lot of interest in the federal government having a high visibility demonstration.” He also emphasized the timeliness of the project. “Over several decades of being involved in water and energy,” he said, “I’ve watched ideas [with] initial excitement and then there’s sort of a lag period. Sometimes people call it a ‘Valley of Death,’ where people are excited, but it takes a long time for it to bear fruit. I think geothermal has been through that sort of Valley of Death ... and I think the time is good for [geothermal] right now.”

Looking ahead, the Geothermal Working Group is preparing for the Geothermal Rising Conference in Hawaii at the end of October. Gerfers and Kennedy will attend the conference to represent Presidio County and connect with leaders, developers and investors from all over the world. For more information on the next meeting of the Geothermal Working Group, contact John Kennedy at john@bigbend.bike.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

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August 1982, 1952

Little Polio Victim Returns to Fort Davis in Iron Lung

Little Eddie Webster is soon to be home again, and many big-hearted Fort Davis citizens are preparing to welcome him.

Eddie will return in an iron lung, and will be brought from Houston to the Alpine-Marfa airport by an army plane, probably Thursday or Friday of this week.

The four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Webster was flown to Abilene last October, a polio victim. In April he was transferred to a Houston hospital from Abilene. Now the hospital is trying out the plan of placing the child in its home with the iron lung and also a chest respirator.

The iron lung is being supplied by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The child was to be brought from the airfield in the respirator. Mrs. Webster had much experience through several months looking after her son in the lung and is termed well experienced in handling it.

It is considered possible that the placing of the iron lung here is the first instance of a lung being placed in a small and isolated town.

Fort Davis people are ready, Mrs. Neill said, to give all friendly aid in bringing the child from the airfield and joining the Webster family in neighborly rejoicing the return of their youngster.

Little Eddie is the great-grandchild of the late E.P. Webster who was one of the first two non-Spanish non-Indian settlers of Fort Davis. The little fellow's father is an employee at a local garage.



Notice of a Public Hearing on the City of Marfa Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code 102.006, a Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget for the City of Marfa will be held at 6:00 PM, September 26th, 2024 at City Hall, located at 113 S. Highland Street, Marfa, Texas. Any person may attend and participate in the hearing. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Marfa City Council will take action on the proposed FY 2024-2025 budget.

The Proposed Budget is built on a proposed tax rate of \$0.328250 per \$100 per valuation (a 2.95% increase).

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$77,510.90 (7.58%), and of that amount, \$11,582.46 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

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Homecoming King & Queen Candidates 2024



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

King candidates, top row, left to right: Francisco Rosas, Diego Jurado, Derick Campos, and Andres Solis. Queen candidates, bottom row, left to right: Janayah Villa, Maryfer Martinez, Loretta Rivera, and Marisa Hernandez

12th Grade King Candidates

Derick Campos: Derick Campos is the son of Janet and Johnny Campos. Derick has participated in football, basketball, cross-country, and track all four years of high school. Derick was awarded all-region cornerback his sophomore year and first-team running back and linebacker his junior year, and he has also achieved many goals throughout his high school football career. During his 2023-2024 basketball season Derick and his team won district champs and made it to the area playoff game. Derick made it to regionals for track his sophomore year and has a big goal for state his senior year. Derick was part of the one-act play group his junior year and is participating in one-act his senior year as well. After high school Derick hopes to play football in college and will attend college in the fall of 2025.

Diego Jurado: Diego Jurado is the son of Yolanda and David Jurado. Diego is proud to be the president of the National Honor Society and a member of the student council. As a member of one-act play, Diego has received special recognition his freshman, sophomore and junior years. He was named to the all-star cast his freshman and junior year, and received all-star cast honorable mention his sophomore year. Diego has been a part of the football, golf, track and powerlifting teams, and was a regional qualifier in powerlifting both his sophomore and junior years

and has made regionals for golf his freshman, sophomore and junior years. Diego has enjoyed working at Cochineal this year and spending his summers working at the City of Marfa. Diego is most thankful for his family that has supported and encouraged him during his high school career. After high school, Diego will attend college in the fall of 2025 and pursue a career as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Francisco Rosas: Francisco Javier Rosas is the son of Francisco Rosas and Crisol Estrada. Francisco is an ongoing member of the National Honors Society and Student Council. Francisco has participated in cross-country and track as well as football his sophomore year. He plans to keep pushing through the pain and continue with high hopes to advance to regionals and state this year. Francisco is also currently employed at The Sentinel and The Water Stop as a food runner and server. After high school, Francisco plans to attend Texas State University and pursue his career as a psychologist, author and artist.

Andres Solis: Andres Emmanuel Solis is the son of Mayra Williams and Jesse Solis, stepson to Shawn Williams. Andres has participated in one-act play three years now and has received two honorable mention all-star cast awards. He also participated in cross-country, track and basketball his junior year.

12th Grade Queen Candidates

Loretta Rivera: Loretta is the daughter of Fernando Rivera and Mayra Lujan. Throughout her high school career, Loretta has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, softball, cross-country and golf. Her junior year she received first team all-district in volleyball and second team all-district in softball. Loretta is a member of the student council serving as president. She has been employed by The Waterstop and The Get Go. After high school Loretta plans on attending Texas A&M to study criminology.

Maryfer Martinez: Maryfer Martinez is the daughter of Sandra and Eric Martinez. Maryfer has participated in volleyball, basketball, cross-country, track and golf throughout high school. She has also advanced to regionals in track and golf throughout her high school career. She has also participated in one-act play in high school. Maryfer was awarded with offensive MVP in volleyball and first team all district

in basketball her junior year. In the coming fall of 2025, she plans to attend Texas State University in San Marcos to study criminal justice.

Janayah Villa: Janayah villa is the daughter of Angela Mediano and Joshua Villa. Janayah has participated in cheer, basketball and softball. Janayah has also been employed at Chianti as a guard. After graduating high school, Janayah plans to attend college in the fall of 2025 to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Marisa Hernandez: Marisa Hernandez is the daughter of Ruben Hernandez and Arlene Connors. Marisa has participated in basketball, welding and science fair. She is currently employed at The Waterstop and worked as a lifeguard for two summers. After high school Marisa plans on going to culinary school or a trade school for welding.

Dukes & Duchesses



9th Grade

Duchess - Adonise Lujan
Adonise Lujan is the daughter of Abraxas Acosta and John Lujan and is currently a member of the Marfa Lady Shorthorns volleyball team. Adonise plans to also participate in basketball, track and softball her freshman year and enjoys spending time with her family, including her siblings Genesis, Aria and Jayden, and hopes to improve in academics and athletics this year.

Duke - Abelardo Marquez III
Abelardo Marquez is the son of Angelica Gonzalez and Abelardo Marquez and is currently a member of the Marfa Shorthorns football team and plays the running back position. Abelardo plans to also participate in basketball, track and golf his freshman year and he enjoys spending time with his friends and family, and playing basketball at the Marfa basketball courts, and hopes to improve in academics and athletics this year.



10th Grade

Duchess - Itzel Urrutia
Itzel Yuliana Urrutia is the daughter of Juana and Sergio Urrutia. Throughout her high school career she has participated in cheer, volleyball, cross-country, basketball and track. Last year, as a freshman, she advanced to regionals in cross-country and track. She plans to continue playing sports for the Shorthorns. Last year, she participated in Academic UIL for journalism. This year, she is continuing in journalism, and she is a member of the yearbook staff.

Duke - Mateo Meza
Mateo Meza is the firstborn son of Aldo Meza Estrada and Alicia Sanchez. He is currently a member of the Marfa High School Student Council and the Student Advisory Committee. He has spent his high school years working diligently on his academics to eventually become the best academic student in his family history.



11th Grade

Duchess - Raven Martinez
Raven Martinez is the daughter of Rosemary Martinez and Ruben Martinez. Raven is currently a member of NHS and Student Advisory Committee as well as the volleyball and cheer team. Throughout high school she has participated in volleyball, cross-country, track, basketball, softball, golf, UIL accounting and science fair. She advanced to regionals in track and golf her freshman year and cross country and golf her sophomore year as well as advanced to state in the science fair. Raven plans to continue playing sports for the Shorthorns.

Duke - Ayven Pippen
Ayven Pippen is the son of Luis Pippen and Felicia Irvin. His sophomore year he participated in the science fair, making it to the state competition. Ayven plans to participate in the science fair again this year, as well as basketball.

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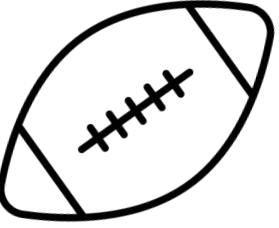
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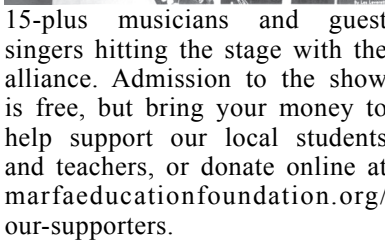
Homecoming 2024 King Candidate

Beat the Vaqueros!

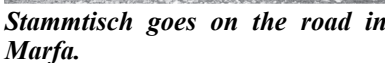
Love Mom and Isabella



Primo y Beebe kick off the show at 7 p.m. followed by some



Stammtisch, German for “regulars table,” is frequently seen in the form of custom signage placed on tables in restaurants, beer gardens or bars in Germany. These tables are permanently reserved for those who are a member of that group. The “meetings” are informal, entirely unstructured, and the ways in which one becomes a member seem rather clandestine. Now you



too can be a “regular” at any table in the world. Never feel left out again. Choose who can join you or not, be elitist or egalitarian. Now is your chance to permanently reserve your table wherever you find yourself to be; emotionally, physically or spiritually.

Kari Englehardt (left), "Botanicals," and Parker Duke, "Sound Collage."

COMFORT — MixHaus Gallery will present their upcoming exhibit entitled “disturbances” featuring work by Texas artists Kari Englehardt, Nate Cassie and Parker Duke. The show opens on September 20 and runs through October 27, with an opening reception on Saturday, September 21 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 716 High Street in Comfort, Texas.

Englehardt is a part-time Marfa resident, and Duke is a Fort Davis resident and McDonald Observatory telescope operator. The exhibit coalesced around three artists' perspectives of the interplay between humans and the environment of West Texas. Englehardt's botanical works of petroleum pyrotemediators, Nate Cassie's oilfield-glazed ceramics and the environmental sound collage of Parker Duke offer individual examinations of this sometimes-fraught relationship. The result is an exhibition of chance sensory beauty derived from the Permian Basin.

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SOLUTION:

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Tickets are \$40 and are available at www.ballroommarfa.org.

Edited by Taylor Johnson September 30, 2024

ACROSS	48	Actress	6	Not fresh	38	Mimics
1	Opposite of post-	Falco of "The Sopranos"	7	Expelled tenant	39	Nothing'
4	Devious trick	Drill leader: Abbr.	8	Killer whale	40	Courage
8	Quirky thing	Early birds?	9	Extraordinary thing	45	A super's might have several attachments
14	Spy fiction writer	Mythical man-goat	10	Unit of age for Fido	46	"Totally not fake, I promise!"
15	Currently airing	"Good heavens!"	11	'50s presidential nickname	47	Seized car, for short
16	First-year player	59 USB ____	12	Sn on the periodic table	51	Hit the links
17	"This doesn't ____ up"	60 Hue observed in photo negatives? (N to R)	13	"Are we there ____?"	52	Enjoy a funky beat
18	Common smoothie berry	63 "Float like a butterfly," e.g.	21	Mind, as a bar	53	Small river
19	Convincing, as evidence	66 Relaxed feeling	22	Hang on to	55	Ignited again
20	Obsessed with not taking sides? (D to N)	67 Enemy	26	Give off	57	Yoga pose
23	Bronte heroine Jane	68 "Go on ... see what's inside!"	27	Ocean's rise and fall	61	question
24	Former South Bend mayor	69 The "A" in A.D.	28	Noticed	62	Presidential rejection
25	Buttigieg	70 "Desperate Housewives" actress	31	Poker payment	63	Corp. bigwigs
29	Hurls, slangily	Longoria	34	Sushi topper	64	Sun, in Spanish
29	Many a high		35	Cozy lodgings	64	Wall Street debut, for short
			36	Carrot or broccoli, briefly	65	They're from Mars, in a metaphor
			37	Buck's mate		

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Matthew Marquez
6th Grade - Oil Pastel & Collage

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, Sept 19	Fri, Sept 20	Mon, Sept 23	Tue, Sept 24	Wed, Sept 25
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST PIZZA, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	DONUT HOLES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	CHEESE OMELET, TOAST, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	POWER BREAKFAST, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	FISH STICKS, POTATOES, CUCUMBERS, ROLL, STRAWBERRIES	PIZZA, SALAD, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT, DESSERT	NO SCHOOL	ENCHILADAS, BEANS, CORN, SALSA, ORANGES SMILES, PUDDING	CHICKEN NUGGETS, MAC AND CHEESE, CARROTS, CUCUMBERS, GRAPES

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19th: Homecoming Parade, Homecoming Pep Rally
20th: Homecoming Game at 7:30, Homecoming Dance
15th: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Iraan in Marfa

Shifting Gears *by David Ding*

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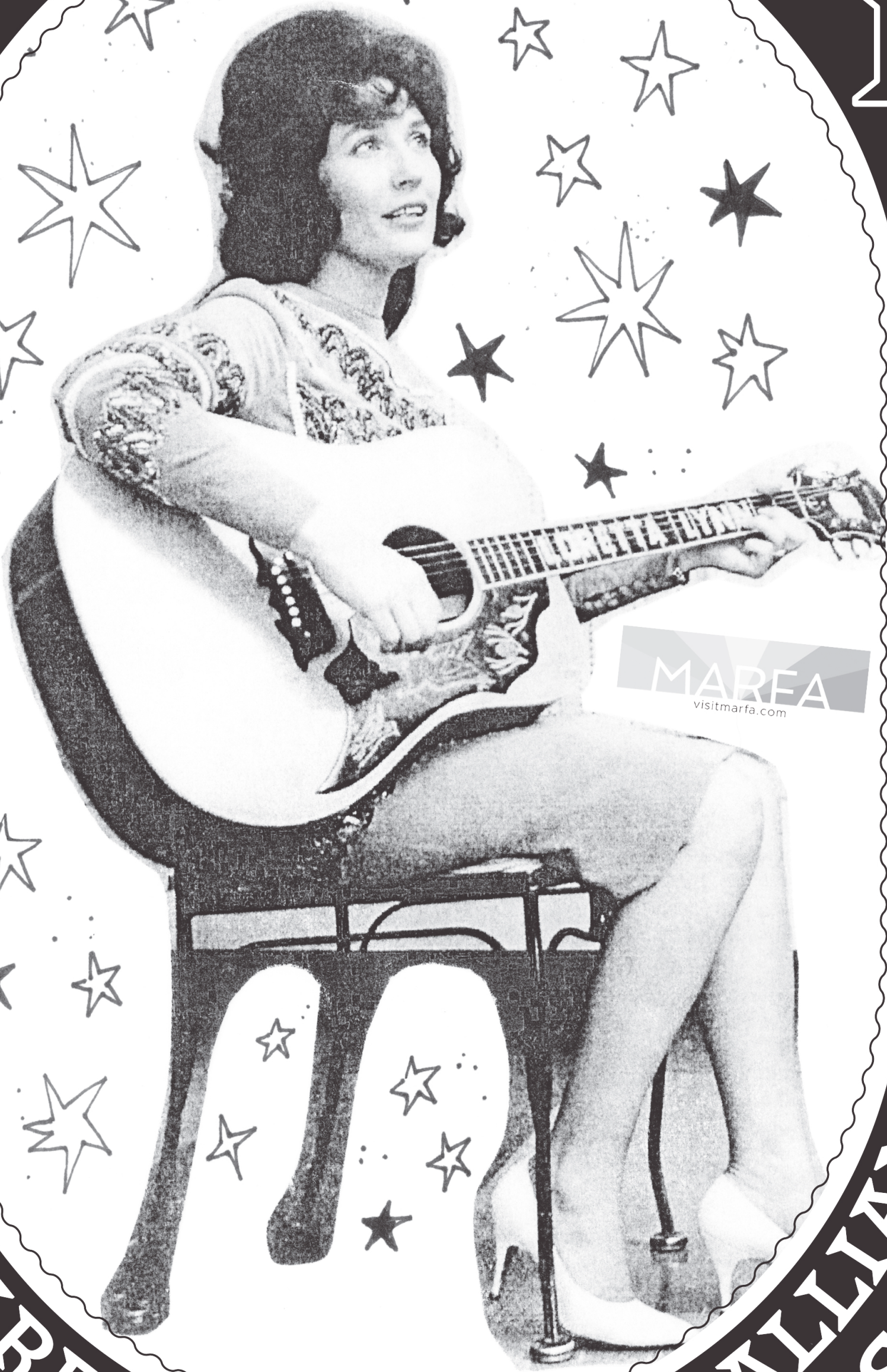
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DISPATCH FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

New principal starts at Marfa High School

By Giselle Torres

After a year without a principal, Marfa ISD was finally fortunate to get a principal at the beginning of this year. By now, most of you have met Dr. Dominguez, our new principal. She has already made a huge impact on the school year and Marfa students and teachers. This year has already seen lots of change and most Marfa students don't know Dr. Dominguez very well yet, since this is her first month of her first year here at Marfa. So, Itzel and Zoey and I decided to interview her and get her points of view so that readers of this newsletter can be filled in! "How did you end up here in Marfa?" we asked. "Well, actually it was because I met your superintendent, Coach Alferez, while I was doing my superintendent certification. We just finished classes in July, through Region 18 in Midland, and he approached me and told me that Marfa ISD was looking for a principal. I didn't know you guys had been without a principal for a year. That makes it even more challenging for me and made it more appealing to me. It made me feel like, 'Let's do it.' I know there is a lot of work to be done but I know that we can get it done together."

She continued, "So I decided to come out here to Marfa. I had never been out here in Marfa, I wanted to come see. This wasn't the only position offer I got. I was also offered in Midland, which, I had already been there before as a secondary counselor, I also have worked at Pecos as an assistant principal, I had thought about going back home to El Paso, because I miss my kids, but I came and visited and I met Mr. Natividad, he gave me a tour of the campus and around town, and I was like, 'Yes! I could do this!' I fell in love with this school and the community. At the interview, there were a lot of people, and they asked me a lot of questions, but now I know why, because they expected someone who knows what they're doing because you guys had been without a principal

for a year. And, yes, this is how I ended up here and I am loving it!" We continued the interview by asking what Dr. Dominguez's expectations for this school year are, and she said, "My expectations are accountability, for everyone from the top down, I am a 'go getter.' That's why when I heard that there was no principal here I was like, 'Let's do this,' because I love coaching teachers. I am not out to get anyone. It is more of, like, how can I better you so you can be better for our kids, for growth. It's not just about the STAAR but also about being the best that you can be, so that is why I have high expectations for everyone."

She continued that her expectations include, "Transparency for you, the students, as well as parents and community. I think communications should be improved, and we have been working on it. I want to have fun, but good fun, with discipline."

"What are you checking for when walking into classes and seeing students in the mornings?" We were asking about her daily policy of going into core classes during the first periods of the day. Dr. Dominguez replied, "Well, I am checking for a lot of things, first of all, I am picking up on the climate, I greet the students. I like to say, 'Good morning! Good morning!' Not everyone says it back, but it's okay, I get it, not everybody is a morning person."

She continued by talking about what else she looks for, saying, "I like to notice the little things like dress code, if the date is written on the board, and the 'We will/I will.' I trained the teachers on the Fundamental Five [a lesson plan template that MISD educators are expected to follow this year that includes We Will/I will statements written on the board each day] so that you guys are learning and being held accountable, because if we don't follow through and monitor, it won't get done. So, I like to keep up with those things as well as greeting you and wishing y'all a good day."

We asked the next question, about behavior, saying, "You have emphasized discipline a lot, and behaviors, while talking to us. What needed to be changed?" "Yes, when I first came in I talked

with Coach Alferez and we looked over the discipline matrix, and [went] over the handbook — making changes. We talked about blankets being a big issue, torn jeans and too much skin showing, like crop tops and spaghetti straps, most of these things were already in the handbook, like the no torn jeans and dress code. As well as students being around in the hallways too much for too long, so all of these things were brought up. But! These rules were not being as enforced as they should have been. So, again, I am just making sure it is there and is being communicated to you students as well as parents. Same thing, going back to the transition between classes, I would like all the teachers to be out in hallways making sure kids are getting to class and following rules as well as to make sure there is no bullying happening. I have already had to go talk to some of the classes and talk about respecting each other, and I am really enforcing these things, because some students need more structure and there has to be consistency."

We ended the interview by asking Dr. Dominguez how she feels about Marfa students so far compared to others at different schools. "I am loving it. A lot of people would tell me like, 'What are you going to do with Marfa?' and I'm always like, 'What do you mean? I want to make growth!' Changes are coming, and changes are here! I don't want to be looked at as bad, I love that you all are very respectful with, 'Yes ma'am, no ma'am,' because that is not found everywhere; I am impressed with you all and I really like it, so far I am really loving being here!"

So, there you have it. The new principal in her own words! We had a good time interviewing Dr. Dominguez and getting to hear her points of view on our students and teachers and overall school, hearing about how she made it to Marfa and how Marfa ISD's advocates on the school board and hiring committee really were interested in her and made her want it. As you read, Dr. Dominguez has told us how she is loving it so far, and we got to hear her side of the story in coming to a new school, making new changes and good impacts on students.

Julie Speed ‘The Suburbs of Eden’ opens at Ballroom Marfa



“Occupied,” gouache & collage, 29.50 x 40 inches, 2024.

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Suburbs of Eden, a solo show featuring 76 works by Marfa-based artist Julie Speed, opens at Ballroom Marfa Friday, September 20, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. Speed and curator Christopher Blay will lead a walk through of the exhibition, predominantly paintings, that take over the entire gallery with three main themes: At Odds, At Sea and At Home.

The Suburbs of Eden is Speed's first large-scale exhibition in Marfa, where she has lived and worked with her husband, musician Fran Christina, since 2006. The vast majority of the works on view are more recent, having been created at Speed's studio, the old Fort D.A. Russell jail adjacent to the Chinati Foundation.

Ballroom co-founder Fairfax Dorn, who helped curate the show, said the inspiration for the exhibition evolved from the ongoing celebration of Ballroom Marfa's 20th anniversary, informed by "the spirit of Marfa and the artists — local, national, international — who have explored making work in Marfa, Texas."

"Speed's paintings and collages are visual stories of the cosmos, and the complex mysteries of being human, which resonate deeply in the context of Ballroom Marfa," added Ballroom Director Holly Harrison.

For Speed, a prolific artist who has shown work across Texas and the greater United States for the past 40 years, the exhibition is an excuse to sink her teeth into a good project and make room for new ideas. "I'm like, 'Oh, boy. Let's finish off the details with this, and then let's go to the next thing'," Speed said.

She has a concurrent exhibition, Cain & Able, on view at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center For The Arts in Lubbock.

When what was originally planned as a two-person show turned into a one-person show this past summer, Speed got to work selecting the 70-plus works, organizing them into themes and measuring gallery walls with the help of the Ballroom curatorial team. Speed said it took several shake ups of plans to ensure the exhibition "kept the flow from gallery to gallery so it makes both visual and psychological sense."

The "At Odds" section of the gallery, painted a deep red, represents human strife, conflict and chaos — a common theme in Speed's work. The "At Sea," section, painted in hues of gray, centers around oceanic scenes and her abstract works. The final "At Home" section, painted shades of black and lit so that the paintings appear to float off of the walls, features scenes of domesticity and the night sky. In addition to paintings, a number of 3D objects are on view.

Speed is known for her figurative paintings that incorporate elements of collage — found, damaged paper from widely-published 19th century biblical, medical and newspaper texts she has been collecting since she was 18-years-old. Her gender ambiguous human forms, often obscured by a third eye or limb, can be found interacting with each other, animals and the environment in literary scenes that offer contemporary takes on timeless themes like war and male domination.

She's always thought deeply about the world, specifically the destruction of the earth at the hands of humans. Her current fixations — with crypto, A.I. and quantum computing — echo concerns she had as a child about The Bay of Pigs and the atomic bomb. "I was trying to understand relativity — like I couldn't. I still can't," Speed laughed.

With most of her earlier works already sold to collectors and no time to borrow them before the start of the exhibition, The Suburbs of Eden features mostly newer works by Speed. One of the latest — titled She Took The Snake (...and left him up a tree with his dick in his hand) — is a biblical, Adam and Eve-inspired scene turned on its head. Adam appears in the tree, where the serpent is traditionally depicted, his torso dripping with blood from his freshly removed rib, in the same pose as the muse in Manet's painting Olympia. Eve, her back turned to the viewer, is walking away wielding the snake, her supposed tempter.

Speed — noting she doesn't have a religious bone in her body — said the stories of Adam and Eve and The Tower of Babble resonate especially now given current events. The exhibition title, The Suburbs of Eden, is one her friend singer-songwriter Shawn Colvin dreamt up for one of her paintings that she put in her pocket and finally decided to use for the Ballroom show. (A recent close encounter with a rattlesnake was another inspiration.)

Speed said she felt the title describes not only that particular painting but "just about all the paintings" she's done in her whole life. "That, for me, is the whole

nut of everything I've been doing. We get to live on this f—ing amazing planet that you look at everything, like every blade of grass and every ant mound and everything. It's so marvelous and so well put together and we're f—ing it up," Speed said.

When she was young Speed suffered from night terrors; her first memory is of a nightmare where she got shot in the head and killed. But the night terrors subsided when she started making art, she said.

Speed is self-taught, having dropped out of the Rhode Island School of Design after just one year. But she gained an invaluable informal education in her formative years when she started working at a gallery in a small town in Connecticut, home to mostly Portuguese fisherman, and selling her drawings.

"There was a gallery that had good New York artists in this little podunk town," Speed said. "I drew every summer I worked there. I also sold paintings, and they went from \$12 to \$15 to \$20, and then I'd have to give the gallery — at that time it was 30% — and then I just kept going."

The gallerist Speed worked under lived a "fabulous, incredible," life, she said. She had been an ambulance driver in World War I, ran a fashion show that traveled the world on elephants and knew Man Ray. The gallerist's sister was a working artist, who Speed recalls being around 6-feet-tall, 65-years-old with a black pageboy haircut. "She'd take her cigarette and blow her smoke up through her eyelashes and make caustic comments. And I'd be like, 'I wanna be her.' I was a chubby little freckled kid," Speed laughed.

She also had a high school teacher who played a key role by affirming her work. Speed recalls him simply saying "These are good. Weird is good," of her paintings. "So I had someone else who would say — okay we're not gonna send her to the shrink," Speed said. "This is art. This is category: art."

The way she describes it, her paintings begin with no final picture in mind. It's a process of "connecting the dots," in her head, Speed said. Her routines of painting, gardening, walking and taking in the night sky allow things to subconsciously bubble to the top. And works may hold multiple meanings. A depiction of strangulation in one of her paintings, for example, is a reference to George Floyd, Speed's mother who died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and the Coronavirus pandemic.

"It's like I've had this soup boiling on the back stove for 60, 70 years — a long time. Everything I ever read, everything that ever happened to me, everything I ever did is in there. And so one thing leads to another thing leads to another thing," Speed said. "So I'm following it, not leading it. I don't think of an idea and then paint it. It's like, I start painting and then make the associations."

There are exceptions for when she gets completely enraged by something, like in 2019 when the state court of Alabama declared abortion illegal even in cases of rape or incest, which resulted in The Rights of Sperm, a painting that appears in the show. The painting's meaning is "not subtle," Speed said.

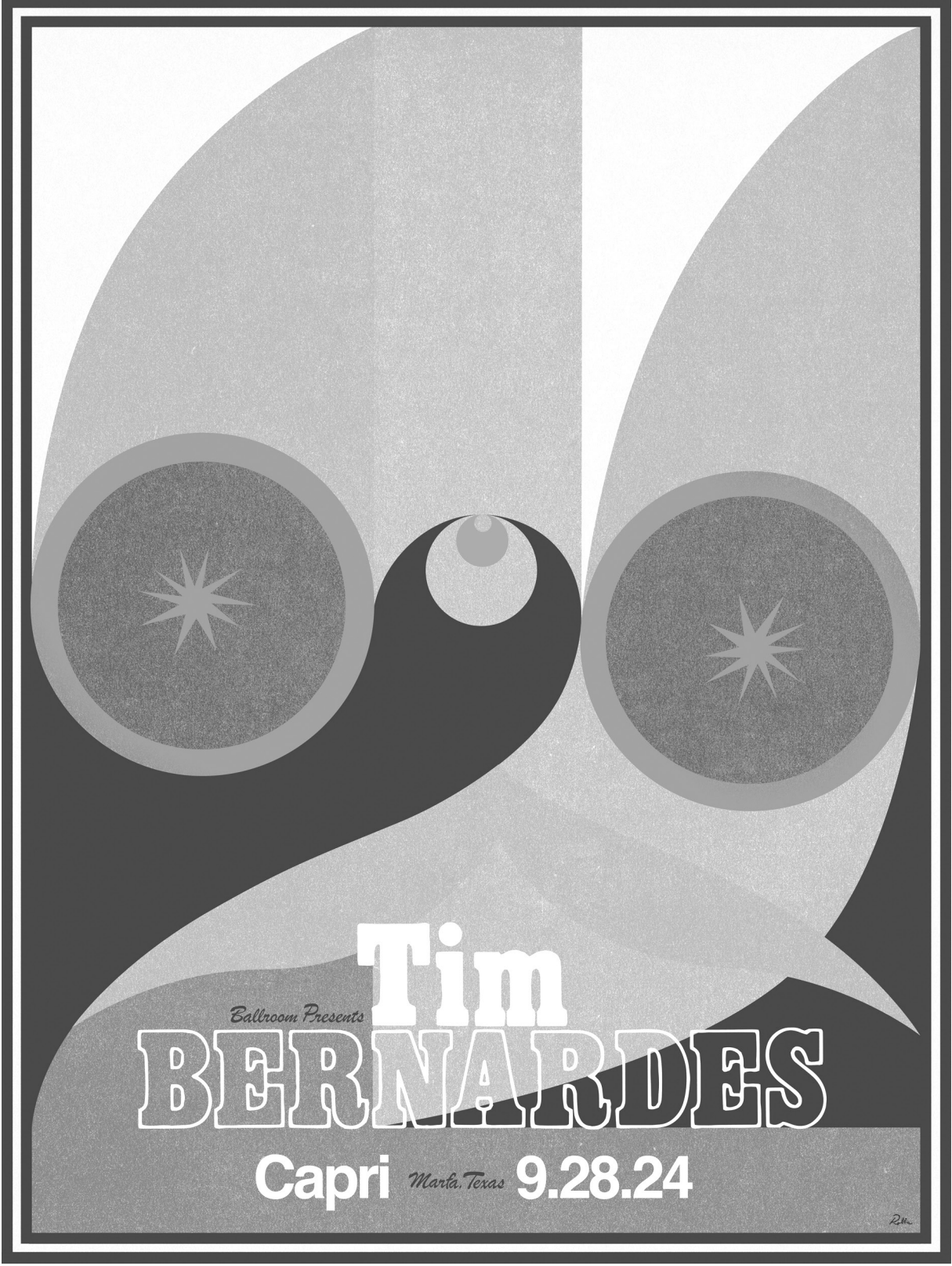
The final work in the show, wryly titled Long Haul (...miracles happen & we get a brain) is a night sky painting juxtaposed by two symmetrical paper squares illustrating a group of men trudging through the snow during a storm, their sled burdened by a large cerebrum. Speed has partnered with Big Bend Conservation Alliance to produce posters and T-shirts of similar works to benefit dark sky initiatives in the region.

"If a--hole billionaires would just stop shooting space junk into the sky and the rest of us would simply put shades on our outdoor lights then maybe maybe future people on the rest of the planet will also be able to see the arch of the Milky Way, our home galaxy, in the same way we still can just about every night out here in the Big Bend," Speed said.

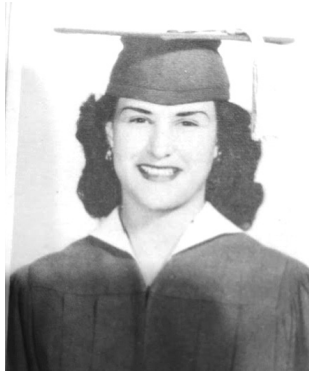
In 2012, Speed and Christina decided to set up a foundation through the Austin Community Foundation that will preserve Speed's studio, work and their home when they pass away through an endowment. At that point Speed stopped selling work through her gallery and quit smoking. Her current goal is to make 400 paintings for the foundation — so far, she's made 250.

Ballroom Marfa, in collaboration with Speed, is planning a number of public programs around The Suburbs of Eden, which will be on view until February 2. Events include a cello concert by Matt Haimovitz on October 19 — inspired by Speed's fondness for Bach's Six Suites for Solo Cello — and spoken word poetry performances featuring local poets and writers responding to the exhibition on December 12. A printed catalog of the exhibition, featuring an essay by Speed, will be available for purchase.

For more information, visit ballroommarfa.org.



OBITUARIES

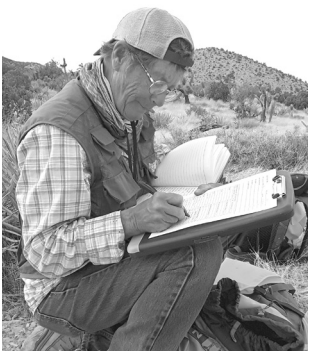


Hensley

Hallie O'Lita Hensley, our mother, passed away on September 9, 2024. She was surrounded by her daughters, Hallie Rey and Ruth Marie, who will greatly miss her presence in their lives. She was born on June 18, 1935, in Marfa, Texas, where she made her home most of her life. She absolutely loved living in Marfa and would often talk about the day she would

return to live out her remaining years. She only left Marfa to pursue a career, and later, after retiring, helped to care for grandchildren. As the foundation of our family, she held everything together for the family. She worked diligently to instill lifelong qualities that helped her daughters grow into the strong women they are today. Friends and family sought out her wisdom, and they gained much from it for direction in their own lives. This was one of many attributes she possessed that immensely touched many lives. She leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and resilience that will be carried forward by all who knew her. Her presence in our lives was a gift, and her absence will be deeply felt. Though our hearts are saddened, we take comfort in the countless memories we shared and the lasting impact she had on all of us. Hallie O'Lita Hensley is

survived by her daughters, Hallie Rey Roman Njoku and husband Philip Njoku, Ruth Marie Roman McWilliams and husband Zane Brent McWilliams; grandchildren, O'Lita Rey McWilliams Schafer and husband Nicholas Schafer, Zane Alan McWilliams, Ryan Brent McWilliams and wife Amber McWilliams, Leah Marie McWilliams Clayton and husband Andrew Clayton, Teshana Lesrey Leavitt Guyton and husband Nicholas Guyton, Tyrel Leland Leavitt and wife Christin Leavitt, and Teal Rhyannon Leavitt; and great-grandchildren, Noa Hensley Schafer, Salem Grey Schafer, Niksen Kjell Schafer, Asher Alan McWilliams, Eloise Isabelle McWilliams and Archer Milo Guyton; and a wide circle of family and friends. Currently services are pending. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of choice in the name of Hallie O'Lita Hensley.



Manning

Patricia Rose Manning, loved and respected by many, died on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Patty has been described as fiercely kind, a rapt storyteller, hilarious, patient, magical, a wonderful cook, an actress, an artist, a teacher, passionate, amazing, a mentor, a friend, talented, special, an amazing listener, fair-minded, empathetic, intelligent, brave, and one of the “Moms.” She will be dearly missed and never forgotten.

Patty “F” Manning was born in Dallas, Texas, on February 9, 1952. Patty grew up in the idyllic Texas countryside around Richardson and Austin, and outside of Stamford, Connecticut. Patty (wearing her Davy Crockett coonskin cap) spent many hours playing in the woods and creeks with her siblings and cousins. She was always curious about critters and plants she encountered. Patty also spent time in Norway and Europe, with family and friends in the mid-1970s. A multifaceted individual, she received a BFA from Baylor University in 1975 and an MFA from North Texas State in 1982. Much of her art was inspired by her love, fascination and very particular attention to the natural world. In the 1980s Patty began her lawn business (Yardwork/Artwork) in Dallas. She was part of an active, diverse, and loving group of friends

who played softball, danced, worked, made art, took road trips to the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, were active citizens who marched in Gay Pride parades, and were active in the Lesbian community. She entertained all her friends with funny and sweet stories of the (mostly) elderly folks she did yard work for.

In the early 1990s, Patty’s evolution continued. She moved to Far West Texas and began studying biology in graduate school at Sul Ross State University. Her focus, under the mentorship of the remarkable biology professors at SRSU, became the unique natural history and botany of the Chihuahuan Desert. Her fascination with botany grew and upon graduating with her MS in biology in 1996, she began her 18-year career with SRSU overseeing the greenhouses, experimental growing plots and vineyard.

During this time Patty began her love affair with native plant propagation. Growing plants for environmental rehabilitation and enhancement became her art. This continued upon retirement from SRSU, when she and partner Cyndi Wimberly started a native plant nursery Twin Sisters Natives. Patty spent many happy hours in the greenhouse at Twin Sisters, planting seeds that she collected or that had been given to her by many of her widespread botany friends and acquaintances. Many plants that Patty grew are underrepresented in the nursery trade. Her plants were often highly sought after. Many of her plants currently reside with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the San Antonio Botanical Garden.

After retirement, she also embarked on further adventures as a field botanist. Working throughout much of the desert southwest, Patty met many interesting individuals who became dear friends. She loved the work, the landscape, the plants,

the experiences and above all the memories she made with so many smart and funny folks. Patty was a forever student. She had an insatiable appetite for learning more about plants and how to grow them. She had such a breadth of knowledge that one friend said, “This is a massive loss.” Indeed, it is. We love you, Patty!

Patty was predeceased by her parents, William Francis Manning III, Lillie Frances Drain Manning, and her older brother Michael Lee Manning. Patty is survived by her partner/spouse of 30 years, Cyndi Wimberly; their son Marley Kim Boyd Jr., wife Tiffany Flores-Boyd, granddaughters Alex Kate Flores and Addison Flores-Boyd; daughter, Mary Shannon Boyd Mois; son Jonathan Matthew Boyd and wife Dana Falconberry; Patty’s brother Robert Manning and husband Jason Hodges; sister-in-law Lynn Etta Manning and her children, Jeffrey Manning and Molly Rutty; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Patty’s family would like to thank Carol Sterns, Dr. Edith Simmons, Dr. Roane McLaughlin, Dr. Robert Tyler Hillman and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Oncology Odessa, Big Bend Regional Medical Center’s Radiology and Lab departments, Angel’s Care Hospice, Prescription Shop Alpine, Big Bend Saddlery, and Alpine Memorial Funeral Home for their attentive, compassionate care. We also want to thank all our wonderful friends and family who helped and supported Patty during her illness.

There will be a Celebration of Patty “F” Manning’s Fabulous Life potluck at the Ritchey Hotel in Alpine on October 19 from 4-6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Patty Manning’s name are welcome to: Alpine Public Library, Big Bend Family Crisis Center, Sunshine House in Alpine, and ACLU Texas.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of 0.000100 per \$100 valuation was proposed by the governing body of the PRESIDIO COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.000100 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	N/A
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	N/A

A no-new revenue tax rate and a voter approval tax rate are not available for PRESIDIO COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT because it is a new taxing entity that has never levied taxes before.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate was held on September 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM in the Jury Room of the Presidio County Courthouse, 300 N. Highland, Marfa, Texas.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER THE ABOVE RATE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
property tax amount = (tax rate) X (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax rate as follows:

FOR: Brenda Witty (Board Chair, at large), Vince Fuentez (at large), Malynada Richardson (Presidio), Cameron McClintock (Marfa)
AGAINST: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: David Williams (Board Secretary, at large)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for PRESIDIO COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT at the Presidio County Tax Assessor-Collector office at 432-729-4081 or natalia.williams.pctac@co.presidio.tx.us or visit www.co.presidio.tx.us/page/presidio.County.Assessor.Collector.

TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY PLEASE EMAIL:
EDITOR@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu
Sept
19

Texas Workforce Career Exploration Fair
9:00am - 1:00pm at SRSU
Career Exploration Fair for students in 9th-12th grade.

Monthly Distribution Day
4:00pm - 6:00pm at Marfa Food Pantry

Gene Reeves
7:00pm - 9:00pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Gene Reeves play from 7-9pm at The Ritchey, no cover!

Fri
Sept
20

Marfa Skate Garden Design Charette
6:00pm - 8:00pm at Marfa Activities Center
Join Skate Ecosystems for a stimulating Design Charette towards the Marfa Skate Garden- an exciting park project that is part sculpture, part athletic facility, part regenerative native plant garden, and part community gathering space.

Neil Trammell
7:00pm - 9:00pm at The Ritchey
Enjoy music from Neil Trammell Friday at The Ritchey!

HS Football vs Sierra Blanca - Homecoming
7:30pm - 8:30pm at Martin Field

Sushi Night w/ Sky Island Culinary
5:00pm - 10:00pm at Alcove Social

Sat
Sept
21

Screening: The Story of Art in America
6:30pm - 8:30pm at Museum of the Big Bend
YOU ARE INVITED to the Museum of the Big Bend for a screening of Amazon Prime Television Program THE STORY OF ART IN AMERICA!

Jess Ledbetter - “The High Desert Hypnotist”
8:30pm at Marfa Spirit Company
Jess Ledbetter is a compelling singer/songwriter originally from Arlington, Texas. A closet songwriter all of her youth, Ledbetter moved to New York City at 18 and earned a Bachelors in Fine Art before being swiftly drawn into the vibrant East Coast music scene.

Lobos Football vs Western Oregon
1:00pm - 5:00pm at Jackson Field
Sul Ross State University Lobos Football faces Western Oregon on Saturday September 21st. Kickoff is 1pm at Jackson Field!

Sun
Sept
22

Presented by...
YOUR BRAND HERE!
Email ads@bigbendsentinel.com

Sunday Slow Stretch w/ Bailey
4:00pm - 5:00pm at La Sala Studio
Reserve your spot online!

Mon
Sept
23

Industry Night
7:00pm - 11:00pm at Alcove Social
*\$1.25 off beer + wine
\$1 liquor + cocktails*

Looking to submit an event?
Scan our QR code here:



Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

Free Zumba Classes
Monday & Wednesday at 7:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes
Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00pm 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 - 12:00pm at Alpine Visitor Center

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

Marathon Public Library
awarded Texas
Book Festival grant

MARATHON — Marathon Public Library recently was named one of 45 Texas libraries to receive a 2024 Texas Book Festival Collections Enhancement Grant. The purpose of this gift is “to share the diversity and breadth of literature” in selected communities across Texas.

Marathon Public Library will use its grant funds to expand, update and enhance its collection for patrons of all ages, and specifically to encourage a love of literature in children while keeping them engaged in the learning experience. “We are deeply grateful to the Texas Book Festival for its support, and we are excited to add to our shelves the books our patrons want and need,” said Dara Cavness, Marathon Public Library director. “With this grant, our library will add almost 300 new books that will cover a wide range of entertaining and educational topics for readers of

all ages.” As the only source of year-round programming for children and adults in this small Far West Texas town, Marathon Public Library plays a vital role in promoting literacy and lifelong learning. In 2023 alone, the library hosted 277 children’s program classes and 38 adult program events.

The books purchased with this grant will complement and enhance the library’s programs and services, ensuring that all community members have access to books for learning, exploring new perspectives, improving creativity, accepting change, igniting curiosity and more. Funding for this grant comes from book sales at the Texas Book Festival and from generous donors. To date, Texas Book Festival has funded 1,442 grants, totaling more than \$3.6 million.



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Classifieds & public notices

Public Notice

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Financial Auditor for year ending December 2024. Any and all proposals to be submitted to the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas, PO Box 879, Marfa, Texas, (432)729-3431, email cramirez@presidiocad.org. All proposals must be received by October 15, 2024. The Board of Directors of the Presidio CAD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

09/12,09/19,09/26,10/03

Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §526.06(b)-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE

\$.066091

per \$100

NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE

\$063041

per \$100

VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE

\$068133

per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 (current tax year) tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) from the same properties in both the 2023 (preceding tax year) tax year and the 2024 (current tax year) tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 (current tax year) tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 25, 2024 (date and time) at Presidio Municipal Development District 608 O'Reilly Street, Presidio, TX 79845 (meeting place).

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Directors (name of governing body) of Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100
(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: _____
AGAINST the proposal: _____
PRESENT and not voting: _____
ABSENT: _____

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division 50-876 • Rev. 1-24/5 Form 50-876

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.
The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Big Bend Regional Hospital District (name of taxing unit) this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	.066091	.066091	There is no change in the tax rate.
Average homestead taxable value	\$100,000	\$158,358	Increase of 58.358%
Tax on average homestead	\$66.10	\$104.66	Increase of 38.56, or 58.34%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,472,795.80	\$1,585,158.20	Increase of \$112,362.40 or 7.63%

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Call 432.244.1076 to view.

RFQ #25-01 DESIGN BUILD CONTRACTING FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE FACILITIES

Presidio County is seeking Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for Design-Build Contracting for High-Performance Facilities from interested and qualified firms for the development, design, build, and ongoing optimization of various facility projects. Copies of the Request for Qualifications can be obtained at the Presidio County Auditor's office 300 N. Highland Avenue, Marfa, TX 79843, or by email at countyauditor@co.presidio.tx.us . Responses are due Friday September 27, 2024 by 4:00pm, and to be sealed and addressed to the Presidio County Auditor, with "Design-Build Contracting for High-Performance Facilities RFQ" clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or box. All RFQ's may be mailed to Presidio County Auditor, P.O BOX 423, Marfa, TX 79843, hand deliver to 300 N. Highland Avenue (County Courthouse,3 rd floor, Auditor's Office), Marfa, TX 79843, or emailed to countyauditor@co.presidio.tx.us . Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. RFQ's received after that time will be considered late. Presidio County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses.

SEEKING APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Presidio County Appraisal District is in search of new Appraisal Review Board members for the 2025-2026 Appraisal year. The Appraisal Review Board is a citizen board that meets periodically to hear property owner protest that cannot be resolved administratively. If you would like to keep busy during the summer months of June-July and part of August and get paid \$150 per day then this might just be for you.
Qualifications follow:

- You must currently reside in Presidio County and must have resided in Presidio County for at least the last two years.
- You cannot be a current employee, officer or member of the Board of Directors of Presidio County Appraisal District.
- You cannot be a current member of the governing body, an officer or an employee of a taxing unit in Presidio County. This includes part-time employment.
- You cannot be a current employee of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- Experience in law, property appraisal, or real estate preferred but not required.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 107 EAST TEXAS ST. MARFA, TEXAS 79843 (432)729-3431 OR EMAIL cramirez@presidiocad.org for an application and more information.

THANK YOU,

Cynthia Ramirez
Chief Appraiser, RPA



Nice home to
lease or sell in
GhostTown

Inquires at
jaywalk@bigbend.net

RD Instruction 1942-A
(Guide 19) (Attachment 1)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Preventative Care Health Services
Owner

605 North Fort Davis Hwy Ste B, Alpine, TX 79830
Address
South Addition to Presidio County Medical Clinic

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of (briefly describe nature, scope, and major elements of the work) South addition to Presidio County Medical Clinic located at 1501 North Erma Ave, Presidio, TX 79845. The scope of work, without any force or effect, involves a 3,167 sq. ft. addition to an existing building. This includes new exam rooms, a nurse station, a laboratory, providers' offices, restrooms, and the expansion of the existing pharmacy.

will be received by Linda Molinar CEO
at the office of Preventative Care Health Services
1605 North Fort Davis Hwy Ste B, Alpine, TX 79830
until 2:00 PM., (Mountain Standard Time) Friday, December 6th, 2024
, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.
The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
New Republic Architects, 7100 Westwind Dr Ste 150, El Paso, Texas 79912
or Bidders can request digital PDF copies by emailing Angel Ramos at
angel@nraia.com For any other inquiries, please contact him at (915) 585-7028.
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of
New Republic Architects located at 7100 Westwind Dr Ste 150, El Paso, Texas 79912
upon payment of \$300.00 for each set.

(1-15-79) SPECIAL PN
RD Instruction 1942-A
(Guide 19) (Attachment 1) (Page 2)

Any BIDDER, upon returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS promptly and in good condition, will be refunded the payment, and any non-bidder upon so returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be refunded \$ 150.00 .
09/12/24
DATE

Reading Group,
Marfa Public Library

The Age of Reason,
Jean-Paul Sartre
930 - 11 AM Saturday
September 21st

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.

Davis Mountains Nut
Company needs
general help and a
management trainee.
Starting at \$12.00 per hour
and going to \$40,000 annually.
Apply in person!

10 Lots for sale in
Presidio, TX.
Each 125 ft. x 40 ft

Sell 10 together or 5 and
5, Block 37 Kelly addition
#1, Lots 1-5, & Lots 20-24.
\$97,500 all.
Text Bob Adams
512 203 7584

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 STATE REVOLVING FUNDS
ADMINISTERED BY 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 for funding through the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) administered by 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.
Kindly visit www.co.presidio.tx.us to download the Request for Qualifications.

HUDSPETH COUNTY JOB POSTING

Hudspeth County Solid Waste Manager Job
Status: Full-Time
Pay Range: TBD

Hudspeth County is seeking qualified applicants to serve as the Hudspeth County Solid Waste Manager. Responsibilities include overseeing all Solid Waste Management operations, including supervising staff, setting long-range goals, and ensuring landfills are operated and maintained according to plans and regulations. Applicant must be willing to submit to a criminal background history check and sign a confidentiality agreement.

Additional Information:

The complete job description and application can be found online at www.co.hudspeth.tx.us under "Job Openings" or at the County Judge's Office at 109 Millican, Sierra Blanca, TX.

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY

Judge Jose Portillo:
(432) 729-4452

CITY OF MARFA

Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor
mayor@cityofmarfa.com
(432) 295-0048

Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com

Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Morrison
councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com

Travis Acreman
councilmembeacreman@cityofmarfa.com

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

BREWSTER COUNTY

Judge Greg Henington:
(432) 837-2412

Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:

City Hall: (432) 837-3301

Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Judge Curtis Evans: (432) 426-3968

FEDERAL:

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

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

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