

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Jeff Davis court settles architect selection question for community center

By JEANINE BISHOP
For The Big Bend Sentinel

FORT DAVIS — Following a special Monday afternoon session, Jeff Davis County commissioners are no closer to selecting a contractor for renovations to the former retail store purchased by the county to serve as a community center and evacuation shelter. They were able to settle item one, approving the request for proposal (RFP) process used to name Rhotenberry Wellen Architects of Midland as the architect for the community center project.

County Grantsman Larry Francell reminded the court that architects fall under the category of professional services, therefore not requiring an RFP process. Rhotenberry Wellen was named the county’s architect of record for the renovation of the county clerk’s office several years ago, and they have since performed that role on several projects.

Commissioner John Davis made the motion to accept Rhotenberry Wellen as the architect for the community center project. Commissioner Jody Adams seconded the motion and Commissioner Royce Laskoskie was the lone opposing vote.

Agenda item two was an effort to approve a contractor for the work and allow County Judge Curtis Evans to sign a contract once the required environmental review for the project has been completed. A lively discussion on the action included interjections from several citizens in attendance as well as Francell and County Attorney Glen Eisen as to the advisability of contractor selection at this time, particularly under the terms of the pending HUD federal grant for the project. As they addressed the subject, commissioners did resolve one issue that had been carrying over for several meetings when they opened the contractors’ sealed bids. Only two bids were received and commissioners revealed the names of the contractors but not the amounts of their bids.

Bidders were Aztec Contractors from El Paso and Six Rose’s Construction LLC, which has addresses listed in both Fort Davis and Sierra Blanca. After opening the packets, Davis made a motion to table the agenda item until a future date, with Commissioner Roy Hurley providing a second. The motion passed with affirmative votes from all commissioners but Laskoskie, who appeared to have not voted.

Following the meeting, judge’s clerk Sandra Chambers said the project’s environmental review was progressing and communications from the HUD review authority indicated that the process is basic, focused primarily on the potential presence of endangered wildlife or significant archeological materials on the site.

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC



National Park Service employees Steve Cape, Jeff Leininger, and Rick Gupman help clear a mammoth tire from the Rio Grande at Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park as part of a cleanup for National Public Lands Day.

Photo by Sarah Loftus

‘It’s no gold mine’: Commissioners consider tolling the Presidio International Bridge

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At last week’s meeting, the Presidio County Commissioners Court voted in favor of asking the state to transfer ownership of the international bridge to the county. Their vote is the latest episode in almost seven decades of trying to take control of the American side of the port of entry, which many see as a diamond in the rough. But like any contested treasure trove, control over the crossing has led to broken promises, numerous lawsuits and — in one particularly extreme instance — a murder.

Whether the county takes any lessons from its own past, there are few other case studies to look toward. The Presidio International Bridge is currently the only vehicle crossing in Texas owned by the state; all others are owned by their host county or city. It is also the smallest and least profitable, but its unique position near the booming Permian Basin makes it an attractive potential investment.

Throughout his two budget cycles in office, Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo has been explicit about the state of the county’s finances after running deficits — inherited, in part, from his predecessor — that threaten critical services like

roads and access to the courthouse in Marfa and its annex in Presidio. “There’s no cherry on the ice cream,” he said. “In fact, there is no ice cream.”

Portillo sees the bridge as a major opportunity and a chance to put Presidio County on the map. The bridge currently doesn’t have the capacity for 24/7 cargo crossings; slow demand has made U.S. Customs hesitant to hire inspectors that could grow the port’s capacity to handle agricultural goods.

In the long term, Portillo hopes that boosting business on the border will create jobs and boost the real estate market. Slow tax roll growth — a fraction of a fraction

of a percent annually — means that the county’s profits aren’t keeping pace with inflation. Besides property taxes, the county has no money-making enterprise except for the Presidio County Jail, which provides a small, unreliable income from hosting federal prisoners.

H. Cowan of Solitaire Homes raised several concerns about the county’s true motives in seeking control of the bridge, which he thought could quickly become a money pit instead of a source of profit. “No way in heck should the state give up that bridge,” he said. “What you’re really talking about is you have a budget shortfall in

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Woman arrested for impersonating an attorney, string of alleged crimes in her wake

By ROB D’AMICO
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TRI-COUNTY — A Marfa woman arrested Friday and charged with impersonating a local attorney is also under scrutiny from police and others for allegedly lying in court filings during her eviction proceedings, forging the name of another attorney, identity theft and hacking into a co-worker’s computer.

Marfa police officers arrested Sarah Lagrange Schutz, 41, of Marfa on two counts of online impersonation. She was released Saturday on a \$8,000 bond. Penalties for the charges range from a third-degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor.

The charges were sparked by a conflict between Schutz and her landlord, Natania Frydman, who ultimately filed eviction papers on August 15 after Schutz was behind two payments on her rent. Attorney Liz Rogers represented Frydman in the proceedings and contended that Schutz is trying to retaliate against Frydman.

Rogers confirmed with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) that someone filed a complaint against Frydman for offering wellness services without a proper license, but the agency wouldn’t reveal the complainant’s name.

A friend and former co-worker of Schutz’s from Louisiana then supplied Rogers with text messages

Schutz had sent him. *The Big Bend Sentinel* obtained a portion of those messages, which were included as justification for probable cause in the warrant for Schutz’s arrest. When the friend asked who filed the complaint with TDLR, Schutz responded: “I did — and I said my name was Liz Rogers. Her lawyer and I’m reporting her [to] the Texas Attorney board for her ugly ways.” The friend asked not to be named for privacy reasons.

The discovery led Rogers to file the impersonation complaint with the Marfa Police Department, which then issued an arrest warrant for Schutz and took her into custody on Friday, Sept. 27.

In a phone interview Sunday, Schutz said she never filed a



Sarah L. Schutz

(Continued on page 2)

Kelly Perez named interim city manager

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — The Marfa City Council passed a resolution last week appointing Kelly Perez as the interim city manager for the City of Marfa.

Mandy Roane resigned from the city’s top administrative role, which she held for over four years, two weeks ago. Perez has been serving as the city secretary under Roane since August 2021.

Mayor Manny Baeza told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that the city will also open up the job to outside candidates. The city will accept job applicants for the city manager

position until 3 p.m. Thursday, November 7. The job posting can be found on the city’s website and in this week’s paper.

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, resume or CV, and references via email addressed to mayor@cityofmarfa.com or via mail addressed to Mayor Manuel V Baeza, PO Box 787, Marfa, Texas 79843.

Baeza said the City Council will discuss the city manager position at their regular meeting, currently scheduled for November 12. The city secretary job will not be posted until a later date, pending the city manager decision.

Baeza said he is looking forward to continuing to work with Perez and is confident that she is up for the job transition. “I have faith that Kelly will keep us going in the right direction,” Baeza said.

“Mrs. Roane has brought her up to date with the upcoming projects. Kelly has a very strong work ethic. She has taken on additional roles in the city and has excelled. The city is in a good position going forward.”

In addition to regular city secretary duties, Perez — prompted by council members — also oversaw a revamp of the city’s hotel occupancy tax collections and short-term rental

permitting, resulting in consistent enforcement of both new and existing laws.

Perez said she is sad to see Roane, who she worked with closely for three years, go, but is “honored to be stepping up in her absence” and eager to show council members that she is capable of succeeding in the role.

“Filling her shoes is going to be a huge feat, but I’m willing to take on the challenge,” Perez said. “I’m excited for the opportunity to expand my governmental knowledge, grow with the city and serve the community; even if only for an interim amount of time.”

Future of mammography services in limbo as healthcare leaders talk next steps

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — Local healthcare leaders are searching for a solution to the Big Bend region’s lack of mammography services after the August discontinuation of Mammos on the Move, a 10-year-running mobile mammography program run by company Desert Imaging.

“We’ve now lost those services, and the closest place to get a mammography is in Midland-Odessa or El Paso,” said Lynette Brehm, executive director of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District, in a board meeting last week.

It is recommended that women ages 40 to 74 “at average risk for breast cancer” receive mammograms every two years, according to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, meaning a significant percentage of the area’s population has been left without access to potentially life-saving screenings that help detect early-stage breast cancer.

The Big Bend Regional Medical Center is proposing that the hospital district invest in a permanent mammogram machine for the hospital as well as associated updates to its X-ray room. Other options, like bringing in another mobile mammography unit, are also being explored.

“We’ve looked at several different options when it comes to mammography, in terms of what if we were to purchase? What if we were to lease? What if we were to look at another mobile unit coming out here and what would that mean?” said Regina Terrazas, director of physician practice management at the hospital.

The hospital district previously made quarterly payments of \$6,100 to Desert Imaging for the Mammos on the Move unit to visit Alpine, Terlingua, Marfa and Presidio for about a week total per quarter, with patients being charged \$100 per screening. Brehm told *The Big Bend Sentinel* hospital district payments helped subsidize the service so they would come to the area.

Terrazas said a new estimate that the hospital received to contract with a different mobile mammography unit, Assured Imaging, involved a \$5,000 minimum to bring the unit to the area, and a required minimum of 30 studies, or exam of one breast, at \$250 per exam, amounting to a total of \$12,500 per event in the area.

When Desert Imaging announced it was discontinuing the Mammos on the Move program, the company told Brehm it was a business decision made in part due to tighter state regulations and costs involved with dispatching the mobile unit, according to Marfa Public Radio.

Terrazas explained that the alternative option of purchasing a new permanent 3D mammography machine for the hospital is estimated to cost around \$350,000 including shipping, and the hospital is asking the district to invest \$250,000 into the equipment.

Upgrades to the hospital’s X-ray room — not necessary, but ideal considering aging equipment — totaled \$247,000, she said. “Our building’s been there since 1999 as has most of our equipment, and some of our radiology equipment is aging out,” Terrazas said. “As we look to bring in new services, we also look to upgrade and come up to speed, and part of that is having a digital radiology unit to be able to support the new services and the

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Presidio International Bridge tolls

(Continued from page 1)

the county, and you’re looking for something to fill that hole.”

Nearly all conversations about the bridge have included charging tolls on the American side to make the enterprise self-sufficient. Mexico currently charges 30 pesos, or about \$1.50, to cross; the American side does not charge a toll.

Most of Cowan’s employees live and work in Ojinaga, but a small handful commute from Ojinaga to Presidio every day. He said they were a textbook example of daily bridge commuters who would be unfairly impacted by the change, many of whom are working-class folks who live on the Mexican side of the border to cut costs.

Perhaps Cowan was right to bring up the issue — given that literal blood has been shed in Presidio over bridge tolls in years past.

The ballad of H.E. Dupuy

Over a hundred years ago, before there was a vehicle crossing between Presidio and Ojinaga, there was a rancher who operated a ferry as a side hustle. E.A. “Dogie” Wright, one of the first Border Patrol Inspectors in the Big Bend, once told an interviewer that the ferry had to get creative as more cars hit the road — he remembered watching the anonymous rancher lash together two rowboats to take a Dodge touring car across the river.

That arrangement didn’t last long. The vehicle crossing between Presidio and Ojinaga dates back to 1926, when Congress approved its construction and the operation of a port of entry open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for vehicle traffic and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for “merchandise.” Businessmen H.E. Dupuy and T.B. Anderson split the construction tab, which was \$35,000 (around \$623,000 in today’s money.)

Dupuy later took over his business partner’s interests and became sole owner of the bridge, which he operated remotely from El Paso, for the most part. Folks in Presidio were not pleased with Dupuy’s absentee leadership, particularly his collecting of tolls, “which irked people,” in the words of former Border Patrol Inspector Owen Oates.

Oates claimed to be a witness to the aftermath of a particularly dark event in Presidio’s history — one that was extensively covered by *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Dupuy’s sole employee was a teenager relegated to “a little hut” on the U.S. side of the bridge,

where he collected tolls from people using the bridge in either direction. In an investigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, federal officials “expressed amazement” at the hefty tolls. “Dupuy appeared to be avaricious — not an attractive trait,” Oates recalled.

The word “irked” became a buzzword in *The Sentinel* in 1959, when tempers flared over the bridge during a particularly slow season for business, which some people blamed on the tolls. “A light drizzle fell on Presidio Wednesday evening, hardly enough to wet the ground, but it did cool the temperature somewhat even though tempers are still red hot in the valley town,” Jim O’Brien reported on August 27 of that year. “Townpeople are especially irked with bridge-owner H.E. Dupuy, who still has not handed his proposal for settlement to the Mexican government.”

That week, Mexican police issued a warrant for Dupuy’s arrest, demanding their fair share of bridge tolls collected over the course of three decades. Dupuy had also been charged with revoking free passes for certain locals and for charging higher rates to Mexican nationals crossing the bridge, hiking the fee from 16 to 65 cents over the summer of that year in retaliation.

Representatives from Ojinaga wanted to make it clear that their demands did not signal anti-American sentiment — they offered the equivalent of \$120,000 in pesos to anyone who would help start construction on a new bridge. “All this has given the people of the area new hope and a desire to band together and fight back at the bridge owner who is bringing the wrath of these people down on his head,” O’Brien wrote.

The Presidio County Commissioners Court was hoping to work around Dupuy, gathering interested business boosters to collaborate with the Mexican government. They felt that the issue was popular enough that they could hold a bond election and voters would be willing to make an investment.

Dupuy and his lawyer, Ray Pearson, warned that taking over the bridge business wouldn’t be a panacea to the county’s chronic problems, even if folks outside the political realm supported it. “It’s no gold mine,” Pearson said. “I can say that fees collected would not support a man and his family in luxuries.”

Precinct 3 Commissioner Dr. Clyde Vaught was under fire from his constituents, most of whom wanted Dupuy ousted. By most accounts, Vaught was a well-liked, hard-working physician who served the poor communities along the border with the help of his wife, Filomena. (One of Vaught’s claims to fame was delivering a baby in Ruidosa, a baby in Presidio, and a baby in Redford on the same day.)

A less-gentle side of Dr. Vaught surfaced on the night of October 2, 1959, when shots rang out in Presidio — leaving Dupuy slumped over dead in the front seat of his car.

“Our bridge is the poorest and least built-up of any of the ports, and there’s a reason for that”

Vaught told *The Sentinel* that he left home to pay a house call to a patient. When he stepped out of his car, he saw a blue vehicle following him. Dupuy was behind the wheel, shouting something he couldn’t make out.

Vaught claimed that Dupuy had been acting strangely in the weeks leading up to the shooting, wearing a long wool trench coat around town in the late-August heat. “I couldn’t tell if he had a gun hid under that coat or not,” he said.

Being unable to see his foe’s hands, Vaught “couldn’t take a chance” and shot the businessman through the jaw. He said he was on edge after weeks of stalking and harassment from Dupuy and his lawyer, who allegedly called him to say he was on his way to Presidio “to finish [him].”

A grand jury indicted Vaught on murder charges a month later. But Dupuy was so widely disliked that the shooting didn’t seem to harm Vaught’s reputation too much — in December of that year, he filed for a chance at reelection to his seat on the commissioners court. “It was, some say, a tragedy of comic proportions — or vice versa,” wrote Patrol Inspector Oates.

Dupuy Jr. takes over the booth

The courts ultimately decided that Vaught acted in self-defense, but the process drained him financially and he moved away to seek more lucrative opportunities. Dupuy’s son Frank took over operations on the bridge, slashing toll rates as a gesture of goodwill.

But the conciliatory spirit didn’t last long. Perhaps in retaliation for his father’s death, the younger Dupuy fought the county’s effort to build a new bridge tooth and nail in a nasty decade-plus legal fight that stopped just short of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Then — as now — folks were frustrated with the speed at which the privately-owned bridge was repaired and expanded. Dupuy filed for two separate federal permits for bridge construction but never actually began the project. Many considered the bridge dilapidated beyond repair. (He insisted it was “as safe as any.”)

Meanwhile, Presidio County was trying to take control of Dupuy’s bridge and eventually build a new one, the cost of construction offset by toll revenue. “Maybe the application is a delaying action in an effort to keep Presidio County from getting a new bridge,” *The Sentinel* editor Pat Ryan mused in a column on May 31, 1973. “Don’t really know, but after two previous applications were made and no work was done, how can we depend on any work being done on the reconstruction of the bridge now?”

Mexico once again expressed support for Presidio County’s bridge in March 1976, when about 300 folks from Ojinaga staged a protest that halted traffic. Then-Mayor Ernesto Poblano gave a statement: “This is a peaceful expression of the people of Ojinaga to let the people in Washington know we are as interested in the new bridge as the people of Presidio County,” he said. “We are also protesting the high tolls and arbitrary tolls that have been and are being charged by Dupuy.”

On July 2, 1976, Presidio County was granted a permit to construct a new international bridge, and continued efforts to try to buy the bridge from Dupuy. Like his father before him, Dupuy said he didn’t understand the county’s rush to take control of the bridge, given how little revenue it generated — especially given the new bridge’s \$1.75 million price tag.

“If it were [profitable], I’d be down in the Bahamas fishing or in Hawaii, living in one of those condominiums,” he told the Fort Stockton Pioneer.

In 1982, a federal permit for construction of the new bridge was altered to put the state of Texas in charge. “Originally, Presidio County had intended to build and pay for the bridge itself, using toll revenues,” then-Presidio County Judge Charlie Henderson told *The Sentinel*. “However, the plan was financially unworkable.” (He did not elaborate further but had been on a long and frustrating quest for funding from Washington.)

Meanwhile, at the old bridge, Dupuy had a change of heart and gave permission to the City of Presidio to collect tolls — for the first three years of its incorporation, it was the infant city’s largest source of income. But he withdrew that permission in 1984, upset that city officials had not fought the new bridge and simultaneously filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction against the county’s commencement of bridge construction.

Dupuy was legally unsuccessful, and the family’s name slowly faded from the headlines after being a reliable source of irksome news. The bridge was quietly sold to a man named Bob Burns from Michigan, who paid \$21,396 for the ruins and 1.38 acres of land.

The Sentinel called him at his home on the Upper Peninsula and asked what he was going to do with the property. “I have several different plans ... ideas,” he said.

A drop in the bucket

Whatever Burns’ plans were, they never came to fruition. The new bridge opened for business in 1986 and has operated mostly the same ever since — the United States and Mexico split the bill for construction, and users only pay a toll to cross from Mexico back into the United States.

The county has asked the Legislature numerous times for the ability to charge a toll since the ribbon was cut 38 years ago.

In 2005, then-State Representative Pete Gallego filed a bill championed by city and county representatives that sought to transfer ownership of the bridge from the state to the county. Gallego “didn’t expect to encounter significant resistance” from the Legislature but did note that it would be a long process,

since permission would ultimately need to come from Washington.

Local leaders circled the wagons, forming a four-member board called the Presidio International Port of Entry (PIPE) to guide administration of the bridge. The bill would need to pass the Legislature before the transfer could travel up the pipeline to the federal State Department, which could alter the permits for the bridge to give construction and tolling authority to the county.

Gallego and the PIPE board hoped to charge \$1.50 for tolls, generating about \$1.4 million in revenue each year. (The bill passed the Senate but not the House.)

Last year, County Judge Joe Portillo took a similar bill to the Legislature that took the plan a step further and would make the Presidio International Port Authority — something like the grandnephew of 2005’s PIPE — a taxing entity, like the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District or the Big Bend Regional Hospital District. (In a reversal of fortunes, this bill passed the House but not the Senate.)

At Wednesday’s meeting, County Attorney-elect Blair Park took a moment to address concerns about tolls on the bridge. She pointed out that these conversations have always been paired with ideas about how to offset the financial burden for the locals who cross the bridge the most — whether through discounts or through a toll tag like those used in sprawling urban areas.

She thought that the tolls were a small price to pay — literally — for a revitalized bridge. “Our bridge is the poorest and least built-up of any of the ports, and there’s a reason for that,” she said. “The state doesn’t have a very active ownership of the bridge down here because they don’t want to, and that’s fine. But when cities or counties own it, they do what it takes to make the bridge successful.”

Precinct 4 Commissioner David Beebe has long been a supporter of the bridge, despite frequent public admissions that the bridge doesn’t directly benefit his Marfa constituents in any way except more traffic at the four-way stop. He doesn’t see the bridge as a cash grab, but instead a way to bolster the county’s economy in a way that will eventually benefit everyone. “It’s a drop in the bucket, but we need more drops,” he said.

Mammography services in limbo

(Continued from page 1)

new equipment that’s coming in as well.”

There’s also the matter of hiring and training a technician to work the new mammography machine, Terrazas explained, an annual personnel cost of around \$87,000 the hospital intends to take on.

It is possible that temporary technicians could be brought on while permanent staff are being trained, she said. The hospital is also anticipating a lag in the shipment of the mammography machine; it is not likely that it would arrive at the hospital for another six months if approved for purchase, Terrazas said.

Still, a permanent mammography machine for the region would be a long-term investment in healthcare that has serious advantages, she argued, allowing women to receive expanded care locally even though the hospital lacks a cancer center. “It’s not one

supporter and everybody’s trying to get to that one supporter. They would be daily services. And then we would have the ultrasound capability, and we have our general surgeon who, if there’s unfortunate results, can do the biopsies and can do the mastectomies,” Terrazas said. “So a patient can have the total care here in our area, versus having to leave the area, with the exception of oncology, of course.”

Hospital district board member Valyndy Henington expressed concerns that the cost of the program remained low, noting that the preexisting \$100 was still prohibitive for some women. Individuals enrolled in the county indigent care program with the hospital district receive the entire cost of their mammogram covered. Terrazas and Hospital CFO James Bracken explained that the hospital would

charge \$200 for screenings. In a follow up with *The Sentinel*, Terrazas said patient’s individual insurance plans will determine the price, and self-pay patients have a reduced rate of \$80.

Bracken said the hospital is ready to act “as fast as possible,” on the initiative. “The community needs it,” he said.

But, while they showed overall support for the idea, hospital district board members were hesitant to swiftly approve the costly expenditures for the new mammography machine and X-ray room upgrades given that they were already on the precipice of passing their upcoming fiscal year budget that evening.

It is likely that the district would have to dip into its fund balance to cover the initiative, which is healthy

at \$7 million.

“I think it’s definitely needed and a line of investment that we could partner with y’all on and work out something,” said Board Chairman Buddy Cavness.

Brehm told *The Sentinel* that discussions with the hospital will certainly continue, but the hospital district’s current budget “doesn’t include an extra \$500,000 of allocated funds.”

“Every dollar of our budget is thoughtfully allocated,” Brehm said. “The board needs to learn more about the costs associated with bringing a mammography here and how a partnership could potentially work before an informed decision is made.”

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Opinion

Pinchi Umami to feature grilled delectables at The Sentinel



MARFA — For the first two Fridays in October — the 4th and 11th — Pinchi Umami will be teaming up with *The Sentinel* to celebrate the arrival of fall. From 4:30 p.m. on, delicious snacks cooked directly over the fire on a Mill Scale grill and cold and refreshing drinks will be available for purchase in the courtyard.

Pinchi Umami — a project from Michelin-starred chef Michael Diaz de Leon and Marfa locals Molly Mandell and James Burke and operations maven Ryan Prieto — is reimagining what it means to be a restaurant in 2024. Instead of something rooted in one specific place or the confines of four walls, Pinchi Umami is breaking down borders and barriers. While its locations vary and can pop up anywhere around the world, the Pinchi experience remains grounded in its most deeply held values: collaboration, reciprocity and curiosity.

For this exciting pop-up at *The Sentinel*, Diaz de Leon, who is also a James Beard finalist, will be joined by Mexico City’s Alonso Madrigal. Madrigal is the mind behind the restaurant Malix, which earned a coveted spot in the 2024 Michelin guide, and is currently helming the opening of the country’s first zero-waste restaurant, Baldío. Together, he and Diaz de Leon artfully combine Mexican heritage with ancestral techniques and influences from around the globe.

Pinchi Umami will also be taking over the Alta Marfa Wine Bar on October 7 and 8 for a walk-in, à la carte experience and co-hosting a wine dinner featuring a five-course tasting menu with Alta Marfa on October 10. Tickets are at altamarfa.com/events. Enter LOCAL30 at checkout for some extra gratitude!

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SAVE THE DATES

BLACKWELL BLUEPRINT is a collaborative ideas workshop to spur creativity and vision for the successful future of the Blackwell School National Historic Site.

Make plans to share your ideas with a team of planning and design professionals and people involved with the park and the community.

Become part of the vision of how a national park can benefit Marfa and the region.

THURSDAY, OCT 24, 5-6:30 PM
RECEPTION AND IDEAS SESSION
Share your thoughts and hopes for Blackwell School National Historic Site and how it can impact Marfa.

SATURDAY, OCT 26, 12-2 PM
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
See ideas brought to life through the eyes of designers, planners and architects and share your thoughts.

LOCATION: Blackwell School National Historic Site, 501 S. Abbot St. Marfa, TX, 79843

Contact: Please contact Cristobal Lopez at clopez@npca.org for any questions.

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the Adventures of Dick Decent ©'24 Jim Bridges Big Bend Sentinel

DICK'S WAIT IS OVER...

AT LONG LAST, THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE IS ABOUT TO AIR!

TIM WALZ COMMITS A GAFFE...

I'VE BECOME FRIENDS WITH SCHOOL SHOOTERS!

THEN J.D. VANCE STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE...

DONALD TRUMP SAVED THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT!

VANCE CONTINUED...

DON'T LISTEN TO EXPERTS!

VANCE WAS ASKED IF TRUMP LOST THE 2020 ELECTION...

I PREFER TO FOCUS ON THE FUTURE!

THEN THE POST DEBATE ANALYSIS...

TIM WALZ SAYS HE'S BECOME FRIENDS WITH SCHOOL SHOOTERS!

AT LEAST IT WAS CORDIAL!

OUR WATER MATTERS

Groundwater and food security

By TREY GERFERS

One of the most compelling panels at this year’s Texas Groundwater Summit was called “Groundwater Crossroads: Perspectives from Agriculture, Ranching, and Wildlife.” The panel was moderated by Jim Bradbury, an attorney and adjunct professor at Texas A&M Law School, who specializes in agricultural law, water law, conservation and real estate. Bradbury was joined on the panel by David Gibson, executive director of the Texas Corn Producers; James Oliver of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; and Andrew Earl, director of conservation at the Texas Wildlife Association.

Bradbury opened the discussion by asking the panelists to comment on how they viewed the “long-term drying trend” that Texas has been experiencing over the past decade or so. Gibson noted that “drought is something we live with” as farmers. Wells “used to be free-flowing” in dry times and some farmers liked depending on their wells because they could better control their crop irrigation. “We didn’t know any better back then,” he said. But now we “manage our water minute by minute” with “help from USDA and the soil conservation service.” Despite this assistance, 25-75% of the costs of upgrading irrigation systems and other efficiency measures are borne by the farmers, said Gibson, who are “doing everything they can” to be able to “pass their farms onto the next generations.” Oliver agreed that the situation is difficult. “We’ve been losing wells,” he said, and “some users can’t find water ... We’re losing thousands of acres a year from our working lands [to non-agricultural uses] ... Concrete is the last crop.” Gibson concurred by asking, “Do we want to use our water to grow food or to grow grass and play golf on?”

Bradbury framed the issue as a battle between urban growth and rural communities. “Cities have the money,” he said. “They’re going to grow, [and] agriculture is going to be sacrificed ... If we call this a conflict ... how do we reconcile that?” Earl responded that “it all comes down to resources to understand impacts ... and put some teeth” in the regulations intended to balance uses. Gibson expressed concern that groundwater conservation districts do not have the funds to respond to challenges by cities and big users. Oliver agreed with Bradbury’s characterization of the “urban/rural divide.” But he emphasized that ranchers “really strive to be the best stewards” of the land. “We are the sponge,” he continued.

“We are the key to healthy groundwater.” More collaboration is needed to deal with “carving up the land” for homes. “Not to be anti-development,” Oliver stressed, but “we need to be aware of what we’re doing” to the land.

Earl felt that “putting a value to groundwater conservation would be huge.” One idea could be more conservation easements, which involve “yielding your development right,” said Earl, in order to maintain the land “as a sponge” to catch as much of the rain that falls on the land as possible. Oliver agreed, but stressed the need to find “voluntary” ways to “incentivize conservation.”

In addition to the loss of working lands for our food supply, Bradbury wondered about the impacts of urban growth on nature. “What are the biggest threats on the horizon pertaining to wildlife and open space?” he asked the panelists. Earl stated that laws always seem to “attack conservation efforts,” and there is “growing illiteracy to the value of conserving” our open space. He also lamented that —

“We are the sponge. We are the key to healthy groundwater”

with Texas in an extended drought — “the rains just seem to camouflage the reality we’re in.” He urged folks to look more closely and notice that springs aren’t flowing, and this is impacting wildlife. “We need to spread the word that open spaces are infrastructure. Aquifers are infrastructure.” And, as such, they need to be protected.

Gibson expressed concern about maintaining local agricultural economies. Texas is currently the “number two” agricultural state and “number three” dairy producer in the U.S., he said. “What happens to our food supply when that goes away ... if we just become an urban society?” In other words, are we sleepwalking into dependence on imported food?

A member of the audience asked if any thought had been given to food security and “setting aside an untouchable water volume” for food and fiber? Bradbury responded, “I think that’s an excellent point.” In a subsequent interview with “Our Water Matters,” Bradbury elaborated that the desired future conditions (DFC) model used by groundwater conservation districts to project aquifer drawdown over a 50-year planning window “could and should be applied to a lot of areas that affect us ... Just like groundwater, we should model and determine the volume [of water] and sources of food that we will need 60 years from now. Once you have made that determination, it allows you to work backwards to assess what we should be doing now” to ensure that we have the groundwater and working lands we need. “Food is too important to leave it to chance.”

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@pcuwc.org.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Brewster County Road and Bridge superintendent retires

ALPINE – Brewster County Road and Bridge Supervisor Frenchie Causey presented at his last meeting of commissioners court Tuesday before his retirement after 21 years of service.

He will be replaced by Road and Bridge worker Johnny Salcido. Commissioners praised Causey for his long service to the county. “This is the best job I’ve ever had,” he told the court.

The meeting was over in 45 minutes, one of the shortest county commissioners meetings in recent memory.

Alpine City Council agrees to program for scrapped tires

ALPINE — The Alpine City Council Tuesday approved changes to its solid waste management program, including adding free dumping of scrap passenger-car tires. The changes eliminating the fee for dumping is intended to discourage the illegal practice of putting tires in dumpsters. But the ordinance also provides penalties of as much as \$4,000 per violation. City Manager Megan Antrim said that amount is the same as the state assesses.

The council also agreed to participate in the Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. Antrim said the state will pay for Adelina Beall’s Environmental Services Department to operate a Summer Tire Amnesty Program to help eliminate tires in dumpsters. Residents will be able to take scrap tires to the Hal Flanders Recycling Center until a trailer on site is full.

The longest discussion was around a request by Perla Baeza for a special-use permit to allow her to apply for a state on-premises malt beverage permit on the site of the former farmers market. Three Murphy Street residents spoke against the permit, citing noise, parking and sanitation issues. The lot is across the street from the old Ritchey Hotel that does have outdoor music most evenings and sells alcoholic beverages.

Baeza spoke in favor of her application, saying she doesn’t like loud music and does not intend to have a bar. In fact, she said she could do without the alcohol if needed. Baeza said she just wants a quiet area where families can meet. The beer would provide something for adults to enjoy with their conversations, she said.

The lot does not include a building, and Baeza said in the short term she will use portable toilets until she can build restrooms. She also does not plan for a kitchen in the near term and, if food is required, a food truck could be allowed in. Several discussions were centered around things that would not happen any time soon, but Baeza said she needs the city permit now so she can pursue the state license.

Another long discussion came near the end of the three-hour meeting on an item that seemed to be fairly routine. Councilmember Rick Stevens, who lives nearby, proposed the city install a “speed lump” on Avenue B near Sul Ross State University to reduce or eliminate the number of drivers who speed up and down the road that leads to Hancock Hill. He said the speed limit is 20 miles per hour. A stop sign was erected near where the ownership of the street changes from Sul Ross to the city, but that didn’t succeed so Stephens paid for a flashing light to call attention to the stop sign. He said that also did not help. Stephens also offered to pay for the speed lump when it was suggested the city didn’t have the funds in the budget for the request. After a long discussion on a motion to approve the request, including two amendments to the motion, one that failed 2-3 and one that passed, council agreed to “study” putting either a speed lump or a bicycle lane on the street.

Big Bend Regional Hospital District announces Medical Enhancement Grants

At last week’s meeting, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District announced the recipients of this year’s Medical Enhancement Grants, which allow local non-profits and other entities to request support for projects that support the agency’s mission.

This year’s grantees are as follows:
Alpine Christian School (\$2900) for student medical supplies, AED service and a nurse to provide health screenings. Alpine Public Library (\$6000) to renew the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory, helping connect locals with critical services. Terlingua Fire and EMS (\$7000) for community outreach education, including health education classes for community members. Sunshine House (\$12,500) for community health workers to build relationships with isolated seniors. Texas Tech Health Sciences Center (\$14,400) to pay for medical student housing. Alpine Emergency Services (\$5,400) for mannequins for advance rescue training and CPR. Marfa EMS (\$27,000) for critical ambulance equipment. Highland Drug (cost to-be-determined) for vaccine clinics. Marathon Primary Care Services (\$50,000) toward bulking up programs for seniors “to improve the ability for vulnerable residents in Marathon to live comfortably and safely in their home.”

Artists, craftspeople sought by Marfa Studio Arts

MARFA — Marfa Studio Arts is looking to add some artists and craftspeople from the Big Bend area to offer their work at their studio shop. The shop is housed in a prime location on San Antonio Street in the Marfa Public Radio Station building.

All work will be taken on consignment, with a small commission to be used to help fund educational and gallery programs. MSA is looking for smaller-scale art objects such as ceramics, jewelry, etc. With fall and the holidays around the

corner, this is an excellent time of year to make your art available to locals and visitors alike.

For consideration, please send samples of your work with a short biography and any questions to info.marfastudio@gmail.com. No drop-ins.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 14, 2024

ACROSS

- 1 Squabble
5 Storage structure
9 Deeply dislikes
14 Sightseeing excursion
15 Gardening coil
16 Put forth
17 Mystical glow
18 Tiniest bit
19 Bowler's hangout
20 Like advanced courses
23 Dozed
24 Morales of "Ozark"
25 Blue Jays' home: Abbr.
28 NBA star Westbrook, to fans
30 Bagel choice
32 ___ and cheese
35 Leader without clout
38 Texter's disclaimer
40 Volleyball filler
41 Colossal, informally
42 Exercise for a beginning piano student
47 Francisco
48 Titular girl in a Helen Hunt Jackson novel
49 Clothing tag letter or number

- 51 Lennon's love
52 Certain Egyptian
55 Land parcel
58 Custom-tailored, or like the ends of 20-, 35- and 42-Across?
62 Suspect's story
64 Deceitful person
65 Group of three
66 Oscar winner Berry
67 Tibet's continent
68 Divisible by two
69 Sugary
70 Put on the market
71 Ruby and scarlet

DOWN

- 1 Antlered animal
2 Fills a cup with coffee, say
3 Related to hearing
4 Wall Street figure
5 Japanese massage technique
6 Owl call
7 Lauder of cosmetics
8 Great buys
9 More weighty
10 Wheel connector
11 Spin yarns
12 Bard's "before"

- 13 Pig's digs
21 "___ and away!"
22 Dawn direction
26 Alpha's opposite
27 Showed again on TV
29 Places to luxuriate
31 Total
32 Prefix with "wave"
33 Jordan's capital
34 Herbal tea variety
36 Insta post
37 Taylor Swift's musical periods
39 Spanish word for "eye" (that's also a palindrome!)
43 Taking off some pounds
44 Seldom seen

- 45 Word-for-word
46 Poetic Pound
50 Egg hunt holiday
53 Book of maps
54 Gem State capital
56 Word after "bell" or "learning"
57 Gave it a whirl
59 Competent
60 It's always delivered in the same box
61 Ages and ages
62 Satisfied sounds
63 Barrister's field

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

10/13 © 2024 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

Gauging the Situation by Susan Gelfand

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
	23						24				25	26	27	
				28			29			30	31			
32	33	34			35				36	37				
38				39				40				41		
42					43	44				45	46		47	
48									49			50		
51					52		53	54		55			56	57
				58	59				60					61
62	63						64				65			
66							67				68			
69							70					71		

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Ranger Dugan
6th Grade - Oil Pastel & Collage

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

MAY	Thu, Oct 3	Fri, Oct 4	Mon, Oct 7	Tue, Oct 8	Wed, Oct 9
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST SANDWICH, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	WAFFLES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	BREAKFAST SANDWICH, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	POWER BREAKFAST, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, CHIPS, CELERY, CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT, SHERBET	CHICKEN PARMESAN, ROLL, GREEN BEANS, CORN, PEACHES	NO SCHOOL	QUESADILLA, SALSA, BEANS, CUCUMBERS, APRICOTS, ICE CREAM	PIZZA, BROCCOLI, CORN, FRUIT

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

3rd: Odessa Invitation HS Cross Country Meet
4th: JH Football vs. Grandfalls, HS Football vs. Grandfalls
5th: HS Volleyball vs. Ft. Davis



Sports updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Lady Horns triumph in 5-set thriller against Marathon Mustangs
Marfa's volleyball team delivered a thrilling performance Tuesday night, claiming victory on the road in a packed Marathon gym. The match went the distance, with Marfa edging out Marathon in a hard-fought five-set battle, gaining crucial momentum as they prepared for their district opener on Saturday.
Marfa was able to win sets one and three with ease, but set five was a true test for the squad in the form of endurance, mental strength, and determination, and the Lady Horns were up for the five set challenge. Critical serves by Itzel Urrutia and timely plays by key players Zoey Salgado, Raven Martinez, senior Loretta Rivera, and Ava Flores were instrumental in Marfa's win.
Martinez led the Horns in kills, along with Rivera, which had fans watching the duo answer each play with intensity throughout the match. Salgado's incredible defense, highlighted by multiple point-saving dives, kept Marfa in long rallies, while Flores continued to shine as the team's leader in assists.
Marfa now looks to extend their winning form as they host Fort Davis this Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Shorthorn Gym.

Football team loses by 1 point
The Shorthorns football team was unable to overcome a late Sanderson surge last Friday night and dropped the game by one point, 43-44. Highlights of the game included several strong runs by Maverick Milligan for the Horns, who finished the night with four touchdowns, 380 yards, and 18 tackles for Marfa.
Diego Jurado continues to be Marfa's leading blocker, to the benefit of the Shorthorns' running backs and full backs. Garry Webb had one touchdown and Derick Campos scored two for Marfa.
Marfa will host Grandfalls Friday with junior high starting at 5 p.m. and varsity starting at 7:30 p.m. The varsity game will be preceded by First Responders' Recognition Night and Elementary Recognition Night.



St. Paul's hosts annual Blessing of the Animals

MARFA — St. Paul's Episcopal Church will continue the tradition of the annual Blessing of the Animals in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. All are invited to bring your beloved critters to the courthouse lawn in Marfa — dogs, cats, iguanas, hedgehogs, etc.
The bottom line is, you bring it, they'll bless it! And if children want to bring a favorite stuffed

animal, they will bless those as well.
This free event will be Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. to noon at the Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. Everyone is invited! Attendees are also encouraged to bring food, toys and other pet supplies, which will be donated to Grand Companions in Fort Davis and the Alpine Humane Society.



Father Mike Wallens greets a puppy at a previous St. Paul's Blessing of the Animals.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.01 per \$100 valuation was proposed by the governing body of the PRESIDIO COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.01 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 30, 2024, at 7:00 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: David Williams (Board Secretary, at large), Vince Fuentez (at large), Malynda Richardson (Presidio), Cameron McClintock (Marfa)
AGAINST: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Brenda Witty (Board Chair, 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.

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Marfa ISD PTO seeks secret pals

MARFA — The Marfa ISD Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is seeking members of the community to sign up to become Secret Pals for district teachers.

This program has been a great success for the last two years and has really lifted the spirits of everyone on the Shorthorn campus, so the PTO is running the Secret Pal program for a third year.

Here's how it works:
You will be emailed a list of your favorites of your chosen staff member. Once a month, beginning October through May of next year, you will deliver or have mailed something special to the campus office clearly marked with your pal's name on it (but not your name — you'll reveal your identity in

May!). That gift will be secretly delivered to your pal. Please only choose one staff member to uplift. Small gifts and cards mean so much to our hardworking staff throughout the year! If you have any questions, email the PTO at ptomarfa@gmail.com.

- 1) Sign up on the Sign Up Genius link.
- 2) Next week you'll get a list of your staff member's favorites.
- 3) Once a month, deliver something to the school office clearly marked with your pal's name, but don't reveal your name.

To sign up, tinyurl.com/marfa-isd-secret-pal.

OBITUARIES



Poindexter

Donald Thomas Poindexter was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He passed away peacefully on September 20, 2024, in Alpine, Texas.

Don leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Patricia Poindexter; his daughters Jill Wise (Franklin) and D. Lynn Poindexter-Turk (Gregory); his grandchildren Danielle Sliger, Hannah Olson, Arielle Zahir and Lucas Turk; and great-granddaughter Audrianna Sliger.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father Ellis and Mary Poindexter and brother, Jack.

Don, born May 10, 1936, grew up in Indianapolis, graduated from Shortridge High School and received a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Purdue University. After completing the ROTC program in high school and university, he entered the Army and became a captain. He

served overseas for two years and in the Army Reserves for five.

Don and Pat met in Detroit, Michigan, and were married in 1963. Don was first employed by Liberty Mutual and then began his 30-year career with Texaco, spending the majority of it in Houston, Texas. After retirement, Don and Pat moved to Fort Davis where they have become active members of their community.

He had a passion for all things automotive from rebuilding car engines to attending Indy 500 races. Don also enjoyed genealogy and was active in the Poindexter Descendants Association. At gatherings with friends and family he was known for his bartending skills and amusing stories. Most importantly, Don was a devoted member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Alpine, Texas.

A memorial service honoring Donald's life will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 2 p.m., with visitation starting at 1 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Alpine.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Donald Poindexter may be made to either Redeemer Lutheran Church or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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

Condolences may be left at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.



Flores

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Armando Roman Flores** on September 20, 2024. He was the beloved son of

Aristeo Roman Levario and Maria Flores Padilla, brother of Socorro, Salvador Hermila, Romelia and Jesus Ruben Roman Flores.

Armando, called El Guerito, was a loving man, selfless and prioritized others' welfare above his own. He was benevolent and he loved his family very much. He will be deeply missed by his family and close friends.

The funeral service will be held at Cuchillo Parado, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at MobileMorticianofTexas.com: www.mmofxtexas.com

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thu
Oct
3

David Keller

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

Kiwanis Club Spaghetti Supper

5:00pm - 7:00pm at Alpine Elementary School
The cost is \$10 dollars and all the money raised go back into the community!

Fri
Oct
4

3rd Annual Big Bend Bluegrass Festival

4:30pm - 10:00pm at Alpine Civic Center
The Big Bend Bluegrass Association invites everyone to enjoy 2 days of lively music October 4th and 5th at the Alpine Civic Center. Doors open on Friday at 4:30pm and music starts at 5pm.

Abstract & Specific

5:00pm - 8:00pm at Bld 98 Museum
Painting and Sculpture Exhibit by Featured Artists Craig Schowengerdt Mia Muratori Paul Oglesby Dana Edelman.

Magic The Gathering

6:00pm - 9:00pm at Magical Warehouse
Magical Warehouse is hosting weekly Magic the Gathering games. Every Friday from 6-9PM!

Sat
Oct
5

Blessing of the Animals

10am - 12pm at Presidio County Courthouse
St. Paul's Episcopal Church will continue the tradition of the annual Blessing of the Animals in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals.

Permian Championship Wrestling

5:00pm - 8:00pm at Granada Theatre
Brace yourself for bone-crushing action as Permian Championship Wrestling storms into the historic Granada Theatre on October 5th!

3rd Annual Big Bend Bluegrass Festival

11:30am at Alpine Civic Center
The Big Bend Bluegrass Association invites everyone to enjoy 2 days of lively music October 4th and 5th at the Alpine Civic Center.

Sun
Oct
6

Bluegrass Festival Wrap Party

4:00pm - 10:00pm at The Ritchey
Can't get enough of the Bluegrass Festival... there's more! Sunday at The Ritchey! It's the official wrap party on the 3rd Annual Big Bend Bluegrass Festival starting at 4pm

Etran De L'air

5:00pm - 10:00pm at The Pony

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Mon
Oct
7

Industry Night

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

Kodenkan Jujitsu

7:15pm - 9:15pm at La Sala Studio
Come practice Kodenkan Jujitsu, more commonly known as Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. Adults Only. Contact Merrill "Britt" Pauls at 432-294-0162 for more information.

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

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October 8, 1959

Presidio shooting laid to toll fight

Two rifle shots rang out in the early evening dusk at Presidio last Friday night and Howard Eugene Dupuy, 76, owner of the international bridge connecting Presidio with Ojinaga, Mexico, slumped over in the seat of his late model automobile, dead.

Charged with the rifle slaying of the man who has made headlines recently as the central figure in a toll dispute, was Dr. Clyde Vaught, Commissioner of Precinct 3.

The slaying was the culmination of several weeks of bitter dispute between Presidio merchants and the bridge owner, who had steadfastly refused to lower the rate being charged Mexican Nationals to cross the connecting span.

District Attorney Lucius Buntun stated this week that the 83rd Judicial District grand jury will get the case when it convenes at 10 a.m. July 16.

According to Dr. Vaught, who related the incident to a Sentinel correspondent, the shooting occurred as follows:

Dr. Vaught had left home to visit the home of a patient. As he got out of his car another automobile drove up behind his parked vehicle and when Vaught turned around, he saw it was Dupuy.

He stated that the victim was shouting something at him. "I couldn't tell what he was saying, but he was doing some cursing," he added.

Vaught stated that he did see Dupuy's hands, and he added, "I wasn't taking any chances, I reached into the front seat and pulled out that old 44-40 of mine and aimed it at him and fired. The first shot hit him and the second landed in the car."

Vaught added, "I couldn't take a chance that he had a gun because, you know, he threatened me before."

One shot entered Dupuy's left jaw and severed his jugular vein. He died a few seconds later, apparently from loss of blood.

Cause of the shooting was laid directly to the friction which had been built up in Presidio since July 16, when bridge tolls were raised for Mexican Nationals. Presidio merchants had tried desperately, on several occasions, to come to some compromise with the bridge owner, but to no avail.

It was reported that the wealthy El Paso realtor was advised of this situation and arrived in Presidio Thursday.

In describing the shooting Dr. Vaught stated, "You know, that fellow had been walking around town for a couple of days wearing that long black coat and the temperature in the high 90s."

Witnesses who saw events prior to the fatal shooting stated that Dupuy and a Presidio farmer, close friends, were sitting on the porch of the old Starr Hotel, owned by Dupuy, when Dr. Vaught drove past on his way to visit a patient. Witnesses stated that the friend nudged Dupuy and pointed to Vaught's car. The witnesses told a Sentinel correspondent that Dupuy immediately got into his vehicle and followed the Presidio County commissioner.

Mixed emotions greeted news of the slaying. Most residents of Presidio were concerned with the outcome of the bridge dispute.

Vaught was arranged before Justice of the Peace J.H. Cass late Friday evening, which was investigated by Tommy McCall, deputy sheriff, and Presidio County Sheriff Earnest Barnett.

Bond was set at \$5,000 which Dr. Vaught promptly put up.

OFFICIAL & WEATHER
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
Vol. 34
No. 39
Published Yearly on May 1st

THE BIG BEND Sentinel
TRADE IN MARFA
IS ALWAYS
A GOOD BUY

Marfa, In The Big Bend - World's Finest Climate - All Year Round!
MARFA, PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1959 PRICE 10c NO. 39

Slaying Goes To Grand Jury

Marfa Omnibus
The slaying of Howard Eugene Dupuy, 76, owner of the international bridge connecting Presidio with Ojinaga, Mexico, last Friday night, was the subject of a special issue of the Big Bend Sentinel, published today. The issue contains a complete account of the slaying, including the testimony of Dr. Clyde Vaught, Commissioner of Precinct 3, who fired the shot which killed Dupuy. The issue also contains a complete account of the toll dispute between Dupuy and the Presidio merchants, and a complete account of the toll fight which has been going on for several weeks.

Presidio Shooting Laid To Toll Fight

The slaying of Howard Eugene Dupuy, 76, owner of the international bridge connecting Presidio with Ojinaga, Mexico, last Friday night, was the subject of a special issue of the Big Bend Sentinel, published today. The issue contains a complete account of the slaying, including the testimony of Dr. Clyde Vaught, Commissioner of Precinct 3, who fired the shot which killed Dupuy. The issue also contains a complete account of the toll dispute between Dupuy and the Presidio merchants, and a complete account of the toll fight which has been going on for several weeks.

Air Tour Group Will Stop Yearly

The annual Air Tour Group, which has been visiting Marfa for several years, will stop here on its tour of the Big Bend area. The group, which is made up of pilots and their families, will be in Marfa for a few days, and will be visiting the various landmarks of the area. The group will be staying at the Starr Hotel, and will be visiting the various landmarks of the area.

Judd Foundation

Experience Donald Judd's art as installed within his former living and working spaces in downtown Marfa. These spaces, including his libraries and studios, consider his ideas for the permanent installation of art within historic buildings.

Judd Foundation is open Tuesday through Saturday and offers two distinct guided visits. Please visit our office, 104 South Highland Avenue, or website for the current schedule.

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

Free for residents of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.

JUDD

Classifieds & public notices



National Night Out

Photos Courtesy of Marfa Police Department

The Marfa Police Department hosted its annual National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday evening at the Presidio County Courthouse. The event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Area law enforcement joined the department to meet the community and celebrate with music and food and kids’ photos with NNO characters Officer Chase and Officer Hopps.

Marfa Police Department Chief Gilberto Carrillo said this year his department expanded its efforts to get more sponsors for more giveaways, including bicycles.

At left, Elenna Alvidrez meets Officer Chase.

READ MORE ONLINE AT
BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM

la fundación
the CHINATI
foundation

Chinati is an art foundation
created by Donald Judd and
opened to the public in 1986.

Chinati is open Wednesday through
Sunday. Office hours and guided
tour times are seasonal. For details
and reservations, please come to
the Visitor Center (1 Cavalry Row)
or go to chinati.org/visit.

Free entrance is available for residents
of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.



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

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Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
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BREWSTER COUNTY
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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)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION AND POSTING OF NOTICE OF ESTRAY

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO

CASE # 24-085

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Sheriff Danny C. Dominguez, who after being by me duly sworn deposes and says:

After the herein described estrays were impounded, I made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in the county where said estray was found. The search did not reveal the owner of said estray.

I did then advertise the impoundment of said estray in the BIG BEND SENTINEL NEWSPAPER. I also posted a copy of the **Notice of Estray** and the **Notice of Impoundment of Estray** on the public notice board of the courthouse of the county in which the estray was found.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 5th of October 2024, said estrays will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at 10 a.m. at the Presidio County pens at Vizcaino Park in Marfa, TX 79843.

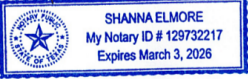
Said Estrays are described as the following:

1 horse, breed - quarter horse, color - bay, sex - male stallion, age 3 years, brand/marks/ identifying characteristics - crescent on head, no brand

WITNESS my hand, this the 24th day of September, 2024

SHERIFF DANNY C. DOMINGUEZ
PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS

SWORN to and subscribed before me by Sheriff Danny Dominguez this the 24th day of September, 2024.



Shanna Elmore
Notary Public
County, Texas

My commission expires: 03/03/2026

The City of Marfa is hiring a City Manager. Marfa is a General Law Type-A city under the council-manager form of government. The City Manager will serve as the chief advisor to the Mayor and City Council in the overall strategic direction of the city and delivery of city services.

For a complete job description and list of qualifications, please visit <https://cityofmarfa.com/jobs>. Applications are due Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 3 p.m. CST.

The City of Marfa is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

304 S. Gonzales
3 BR / 1 1/2 Baths
1432 SqFt
- Newly Remodeled
Call to inquire
432-249-02934

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!

Home and Ranch Handyman

For all the things in and around the house
Please call Lee Donaldson
432-295-1056 Or
432-358-4445
donaldsonjrb@gmail.com
Leave a message
I'll be there
Thanks

For Sale Home At 217 E Tx Marfa TX 79843

1174 Sq ft
Lot 3, 3354 Sq Ft
Value \$288,000
Call (432) 287-4988
Need man for yard and to fix gate also heavy lifting in home. Need woman for house cleaning.

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.

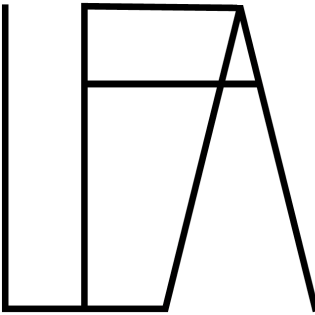
10 Lots for sale in Presidio, TX. Each 125 ft. x 40 ft

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

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



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The Big Bend Sentinel (ISSN 1076-1004 USPS 055-800) is published weekly, on Thursdays, 50 times a year by West Texan Media Group LLC, Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843. Annual subscription rates are \$50 in Presidio, Brewster & Jeff Davis counties, and \$60 elsewhere in Texas and the United States. Special rates apply abroad. Periodicals class postage paid at Marfa, Texas 79843.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843.