

BURN BAN IN
EFFECT, NO
GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Cross Texas
Trail to blaze
through
Big Bend

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — Hikers, bikers and horseback riders will one day have a new adventure to cross off their bucket lists in the form of the Cross Texas Trail, or xTx (“ex-Tex”) — a 1,500-mile trail across Texas from Orange to El Paso. End to end, the route winds through all types of terrain from swampy bayous and sky islands to salt flats and sand dunes.

The ambitious route is the Lone Star State’s answer to the thru-hiking triple crown — the Pacific Crest, Appalachian and Continental Divide trails — which draw outdoorspeople from all over the world and have inspired countless books and films.

While Texas is home to a range of natural wonders, only 4.2% of the largest state in the lower 48 is public land. Most of that 4.2% is concentrated in the remote western fringes, leaving whole ecosystems and cultural zones out of reach for would-be thrill skeers — many of whom might write off the entire state as a destination for outdoor recreation.

Founder Charlie Gandy likes to think of himself as the “catalyst” rather than the leader of the project, connecting ranchers and adventure seekers and volunteers toward an innovative vision. “We’re rebooting Texas,” he said. “We’re opening up peoples’ minds to what they couldn’t see before.”

“Rebooting” is, of course, a punny reference to hiking footwear, but also to Gandy’s attempt to push the boundaries of what a thru-hiking trail could be — and to reconfigure the state’s reputation as gated and fenced-off.

Gandy and his wife, Melissa Balmer, cut their teeth on bicycle advocacy, pushing folks to get active on two wheels through a nonprofit called Bike Texas. The xTx is an extension of that work, bringing sightseers on two feet and four hooves into the fold.

Since a September write-up in Texas Monthly, around a hundred people have signed up to help volunteer. Gandy hopes that the trail will be a “five-year, \$5 million” project that could see boots on the ground by the end of the decade.

While much of the xTx will attempt to connect state and national parks, the gaps in between will be filled by participating local ranches. The ultimate goal is for a carefully-crafted seasonal route with watering holes and places to stay staged strategically along the way. “The route I have created is target-rich with things Texans and visitors to Texas are interested in,” Gandy explained.

One particularly unorthodox part of the plan: Gandy would like to see Starlink internet connectivity along the xTx, both for safety reasons and to be able to offer interpretive materials along the way.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 10

OPINION P. 4

CLASSIFIEDS P. 10

The West Texan Media Group, LLC



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Marfa Hardware Company, a long-standing local business, recently gained a new owner, Yoseff Ben-Yehuda.

A place with everything

New energy, and a new owner, for the Marfa Hardware Company

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The new owner of the Marfa Hardware Company, Yoseff Ben-Yehuda, quickly rummages through a large cardboard box filled with a seemingly random assortment of freshly-delivered items.

“Nothing random about it,” Ben-Yehuda explains. “This is just what the doctor ordered for the store to be restocked another week.”

He’s looking for a striker tip for a regular customer. “For welding ... like to get a spark,” Ben-Yehuda said. “We’re looking for a refill on the flint.”

One of the roll-up doors on the white-painted metal building is wide open, revealing an unusually cloudy day, as numerous supply boxes loaded onto pallets await meticulous placement on the store’s shelves. Customers mill about comfortably, chatting with Ben-Yehuda.

A mild-mannered beagle

named Ruger — after the firearm manufacturer, belonging to employee Vicki Barge — is never far away from her and her restocking cart. “He works mornings, usually,” Ben-Yehuda said.

In October, Ben-Yehuda bought the Marfa Hardware Company, previously owned and operated by Bruce Matney for nearly a decade, but he’s already attuned to the store’s many rhythms. He combs through the store on Saturdays to see what’s missing from the shelves, places an order — typically for around 300 different items — as late as Sunday evening, and receives deliveries on Tuesdays. A Christmas tree a customer ordered on Friday was ready for pick up by Tuesday.

“That I ever thought I could compete legitimately with Amazon is insane to me, but I feel like it’s somehow a modest reality that maybe it’ll happen,” Ben-Yehuda said.

He’s hoping to eventually develop a website for online ordering, but

he’s already made several changes to the business. Signs have been freshly repainted, heavy equipment is now available for rent and Ben-Yehuda is adding a stock of building materials to the store’s offerings. Marfa Hardware Company now carries basic steel shapes — with more available via special order — and will soon expand to offering plywood, drywall and lumber.

“We’re trying to add building materials back in as an experiment to see if that’ll work here,” Ben-Yehuda said. “But Marfa hasn’t had a two-by-four sold in 15 years.”

Ben-Yehuda, who first moved to Marfa in 2010, has held various roles in town. He’s been a Chinati Foundation intern, Food Shark dishwasher, City Council member, and owns his own construction company — his experience as a hardware store customer informs his ownership.

He intends to finish building projects he’s already begun over the next couple of years, he said,

but ultimately make running the hardware store his full time gig. “A big part of the motivation” to take over the hardware store was to have a more family-friendly job, he said — Ben-Yehuda’s wife Adrienne gave birth to their first child, a baby girl named Noa Marie, around six weeks ago.

The new father has had his work cut out for him, familiarizing himself with the hardware store’s extensive inventory — there’s around 10,000 items in stock — and figuring out where everything goes. The sheer amount of items, and the store’s broad appeal to contractors, home owners and casual browsers, leads to some humorous combinations. The dryer vents are next to the door handles; you can buy a saw blade or cut a key with a novelty design.

But everything’s well-organized and clearly visible throughout the many aisles. Ben-Yehuda said restocking can be “addictive,” but “you have to get in the flow.”

(Continued on page 2)

Weekly
clinic in
Terlingua
looking
to expand

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — Over the past six months, Brewster County healthcare advocates have been carefully monitoring the progress of a clinic in Terlingua. Thanks to a major grant from the USDA, local patients can receive top-quality care without having to drive all the way to Alpine or Presidio.

The pilot clinic — temporarily housed out of the South Brewster County Emergency Response Center on FM 170 — has seen 116 new patients since late April. Appointments are available five hours a week on Wednesdays for basic primary care services.

Linda Molinar, CEO of Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS), updated the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD) board at last month’s regular meeting. “Word is getting out,” she said. “We’re really hoping that this grant is the genesis for something that’s sustainable and long term.”

One of the major challenges of providing healthcare in Terlingua is tracking the remote community’s demographics. Molinar said that the team had been able to piece together some patterns from Terlingua residents who traveled to PCHS clinics in Alpine, Marfa and Presidio — most surprisingly, that many of these patients paid through commercial insurance.

Board member Regan Reed pointed out that the need to travel might be skewing the data. “These patients might have insurance because they have the means to get to Marfa or Alpine or Presidio,” he said.

Ashley Grover, a nurse currently treating patients at the new clinic in Terlingua, said that she had her hands full, and that she often received off-the-clock requests from friends and neighbors for basic check-ups. “The clinic is getting very busy,” she said. “I think if we could open more days a week, that would be huge.”

The main constraint of the new clinic — affectionately referred

(Continued on page 3)

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — A 35-year-old man from Florence, Texas, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on November 27 at the summit of Emory Peak, the highest point in Big Bend National Park.

“The entire park community is saddened by this loss,” Superintendent Anjna O’Connor said. “Our sympathy goes out to the individual’s family and friends.”

A group of hikers on the mountain called 911 — which routes to the park’s dispatch center — around 4 p.m. that day to report “a gunshot and a seriously injured visitor,” according to a park press release. Emory Peak, at 7,832 feet, is the pinnacle of a strenuous 5-mile hiking trail in the Chisos Mountains, a popular activity for visitors.

“It wasn’t a remote, all by yourself somewhere out in the backcountry type of incident. It was in a very public, iconic location within the park,” Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services Tom Vandenberg said.

The difficult-to-reach location of the incident, and the fact that it was later in the day with nightfall fast approaching, presented some challenges for first responders. Because the park lacks its own

helicopter, it relies on assistance from entities including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to deploy helicopters out of Alpine.

“We really depend on the support from our partners, and sometimes they’re available and sometimes they’re not,” Vandenberg said. “It was a series of quick calls to them, and luckily we had people that were able to respond.”

Given the late hour, the only course of action, according to Vandenberg, was to place a park ranger at the location via helicopter so they could assess the area and remain with the body overnight before the individual could be recovered in the morning.

The body was transported to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home on Thursday. Investigating entities The National Park Service and DPS ruled the cause of death a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Vandenberg said the tragedy at Emory Peak coincided with a massive water outage that impacted the entire Chisos Basin and with one of the park’s busiest times of the year — with over 1,000 people a day funnelling through the Panther Junction visitor center.

“Our sympathy goes out to the visitor and their family, can’t

imagine what they’re going through,” Vandenberg said. “We are also really proud of our teams for coming together and responding like they did at a very busy time.”

The Thanksgiving week death marks the second suicide in the park

this year. In March, an 80-year-old man from Alpine died by suicide on Grapevine Hills Road. Vandenberg said that frequency is “not unheard of,” considering park visitation remains high.

“As you get more and more



Photo by Cookie Ballou, courtesy of NPS

A view from the Emory Peak Trail in Big Bend National Park.

Suicide at BBNP

(Continued from page 1)

respond to as the National Park Service," he added. "We're here to take care of this place and to allow visitors to come and enjoy it. Unfortunately, things happen, and we respond to those things as we can."

The mental health of first responders and park rangers — who live and work in an extremely isolated region with few behavioral healthcare resources — in the wake of such deaths is also of concern.

Following the suicide of the Alpine man in March, Deputy Superintendent Rick Gupman approached the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to request greater assistance with a long-term mental healthcare solution for park employees and for South County residents.

more broadly.

NPS employees are two hours from the nearest in-person mental health resources in Alpine, he said at the time, and limited to just six online therapy sessions under their insurance. While there has been no significant movement from the hospital district on the matter, Gupman has successfully partnered with the Warriors Research Institute, out of Baylor Scott and White in Waco, to establish a peer support program for park employees.

Gupman said there is no additional funding for this work, and the Warriors Research Institute is providing services for park employees for free. On Tuesday,

two trauma psychologists from the institute — which focuses on serving first responders and veterans regarding “high intensity, critical incident” followup, per Gupman — were on their way down to the park, he said.

Following surveys of park employees earlier this year, the institute recommended the establishment of a peer support program, Gupman said. "Many of us are so transient that people move here, and they just don't have a support network; their families are hundreds or thousands of miles away," he said.

Ten park employees, including Gupman, were anonymously selected by their peers to become

support specialists. The idea is that in the wake of a park tragedy, like the visitor suicide on Emory Peak last week, one of the 10 support specialist closest to a responding ranger will step in to open up a dialogue.

“We try and reach out to those individuals and do routine follow ups just to make sure that they’re doing okay, specifically the ranger that spent the night up on Emory Peak,” Gupman said. “I’ve done several casual follow ups saying, ‘How are you doing? Are you losing sleep? How is this impacting you?’ Just doing that very specific [check in]. That was an incredible, terrible, horrible thing that you had to endure. What’s it like? How are you doing with everything?”

Marfa Hardware Company new owner

(Continued from page 1)

While adding building materials is the most appealing new aspect of the business for him, he said, it's also been fun witnessing the shopping habits of a primarily local clientele — “the homeowner that doesn't care about bulk screws,” or the would-be Dollar General goer that picks up a welcome mat they didn't know they needed.

"I really feel like the stores and restaurants that cater to people that live here diminished as the businesses that cater to visitors flourished, and that's a numbers and cents thing; it makes sense," Ben-Yehuda said. "I do think this is a totally viable business. And I love that people that live here come in and shop."

Because the store is small enough, Ben-Yehuda said,

he can stock things specifically for one individual if they intend to buy it on a regular basis. “I get excited that we can be that responsive,” he said. “It’s worth it for us to be like, whatever you want the answer’s yes, we’ll make it happen.”

Ben-Yehuda brings a distinctly playful attitude to the place. Looking to “cultivate a heavy equipment theme” to the store, he added a selection of John Deere toys and soon plans to release a video promoting new lunchtime hours, in which he sings his own hardware-theme lyrics to “What is Love” by Haddaway. “What is lunch,” he sings. “Baby don’t shut down, no more.”

He stands naturally behind the check out counter,

wearing a bright red Marfa Hardware Company beanie with a mellow jazzy playlist and customer banter enlivening the industrial structure. A customer who does electrical work picks up sheets of sand paper for a sculpture he's working on. He and Ben-Yehuda discuss the joint lottery ticket they went in on together. Another customer combs over '90s Hardware comics Ben-Yehuda bought on eBay which feature a buff cyborg-type hero wielding a metal chain. "A cog in the corporate machine is about to strip some gears..." a tagline on one of the issues reads.

“For me, being a real hardware dork, there's not enough hardware ... Like, ‘Quick go, get the bolt

9/32s,” Ben-Yehuda said of the comic’s dialogue.

The new business owner understands and appreciates the building trade, as well as why the hardware store and what it represents — a go-to general store of a largely bygone era — are so special. “I fetishize aspects of it. I have a hard time accessing the homeowner mindset versus the professional mindset,” Ben-Yehuda said. “If I can guess it’s like a place with everything, most of the useful things you need. Before there was Amazon, there was the hardware store, especially in a small town.”

The Marfa Hardware Company is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Follow the store on Instagram, @marfahardwarecompany, for updates.

Cross Texas Trail

(Continued from page 1)

Presidio County rancher and attorney Pene Ferguson is among the first wave of landowners to hop on board. The White House Ranch, passed down through the women in her family for the better part of a century, is located along a particularly scenic and history-rich stretch of Casa Piedra Road.

The ranch is located along the old Chihuahua Trail, a major trade route through modern-day Far West Texas through northern Mexico that predates white settlement in the area. Long before county seat Marfa was a boom town, the nearby Alamito settlement boasted almost 400 residents by the early 20th century.

Ferguson still runs cattle to pay the bills but has also begun to experiment with a more 21st century revenue stream: running a short-term rental. Faced with the question of what to do with an old ranch house in need of repairs, the family opted to restore the building and open it up to guests looking for an off-the-beaten path experience.

By taking part in the xTx, she'd like to be able to share her family's land and its story with the public — something that the vast majority of visitors to the

nearby Big Bend parks would otherwise never be exposed to. "It's very precious to me because of my family background," she said. "I'm always thrilled when I find someone who finds it interesting too."

Gandy is hoping that even more ranchers hop on board — working directly with landowners, he believes, is a uniquely Texan strategy to get the ball rolling. “Ninety-six percent of the land [in Texas] is in private hands and a lot of it is really jewel-like, like a national park,” he said.

Until then, he hopes that more people will connect with the project through their website and through social media to spread the word. The route is still in flux, and local knowledge will be essential to finalizing the path. “This is an adventure route,” he explained. “It’s the toughest way across Texas.”

Ferguson is hoping to see that vision come to life, having watched generations of folks come through the Big Bend looking to make their mark. “We’ve seen a lot of big ideas out here,” she said.

For more information, visit xtexas.org.

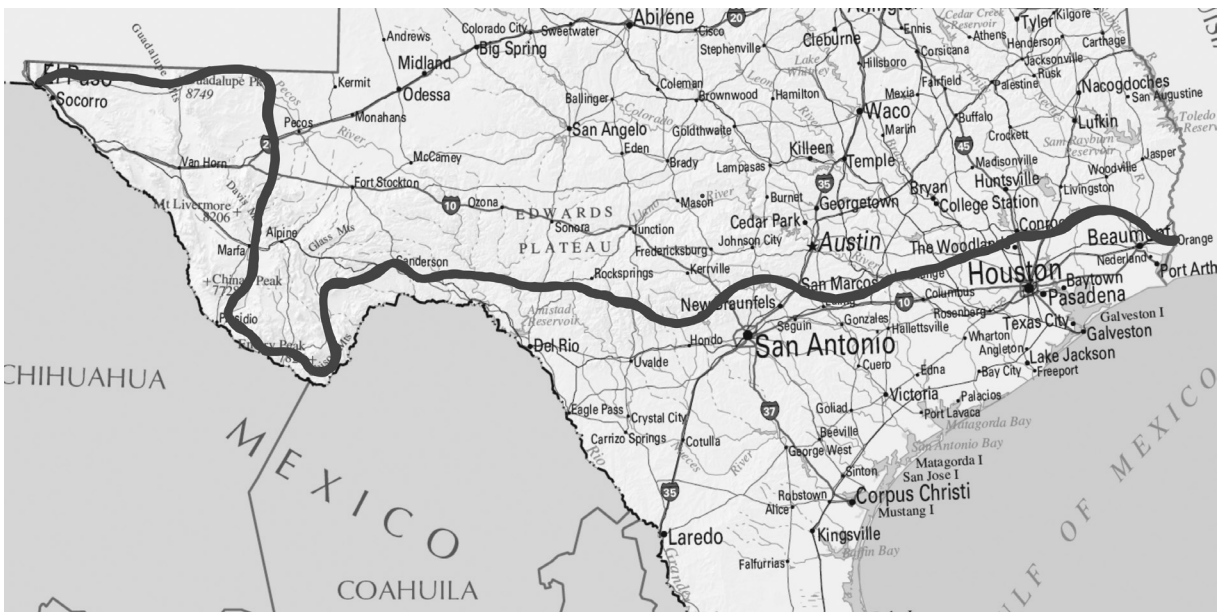


Photo courtesy of xTx

A draft of the Cross-Texas Trail route.



'Tis The Season

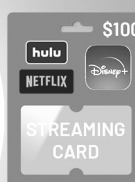
FOR FASTER CONNECTIONS



6 MONTHS FREE*

SAVE UP TO \$1000!

NEW CUSTOMERS GET A



\$100

FREE

\$100

STREAMING CARD

SIGN UP TODAY!

800.592.4781

bigbend.com



HIGH-SPEED INTERNET!

SPEEDS UP TO

1 GIG↓↑!

*TERMS APPLY SERVICE AVAILABILITY BASED ON SERVICE ADDRESS.



Photo Courtesy of The Texas Standard

Charlie Gandy spreads the word to the media that he wants to “reboot Texas” with a trail to hike, bike or ride horseback across the state.

MARFA STUDIO of ARTS *presents*

The Kids Holiday Art Show Party

- Art by Marfa ISD Elementary Students
- Ornament Making Station
- Cookies

Get your picture taken with Santa! (David Beebe)

Saturday, December 7th
106 E. San Antonio St.
2-5pm



Terlingua weekly clinic

(Continued from page 1)

to as “the Closet” — is space. Molinar explained that the grant had not been written to include funding for a permanent space, whether the organization decided to purchase a building or build one from scratch. Like many other corners of the Big Bend, the tourism boom has put a major premium on real estate. PCHS would have to get creative — and lucky. “I need a unicorn,” Molinar said. The other major component of the USDA grant is a community

paramedicine program, which certifies EMS staff to provide primary care services at home for folks who can’t travel to see a doctor in person. Chief Susan Martin of Terlingua Fire and EMS told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that that program had seen success in South Brewster County as well. “People really have trouble getting to the doctor, so they don’t seek help,” she explained. The Terlingua community paramedicine program is outfitted with an

SUV that can travel rugged backroads while still being able to carry everything the team needs to administer check-ups. So far, five patients have signed up for weekly appointments. Martin hopes that other remote communities can learn from their success. “I feel like we’ve opened a door,” she said. “We’ve found a really unique niche for rural medicine.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alpine seeks building inspector after director resignation
ALPINE — The City of Alpine posted on its Facebook page on December 2 that it is actively seeking a third-party inspector to “work with contractors and individuals with pending inspections to minimize delays and ensure projects can continue in a timely manner during the absence of a Building Official.” The head of Alpine Building Services, Robert Rückes, resigned last after conflicts with city officials. The post advised: “In the meantime, please contact Building Services at 432-837-3281, option 2 for assistance with permits, inspections, and other building related needs.”

Roanoke woman survives 30 hours lost in Big Bend Ranch State Park
PRESIDIO COUNTY — Last Wednesday, search and rescue crews on a multi-agency search in Big Bend Ranch State Park were greeted with good news when Debra Staples, a missing cyclist, turned up alive at the Saucedo Ranger Station in the interior of the park. Staples, a 56-year-old woman from North Texas, was separated from her husband last Tuesday morning as the pair set off to cycle the Contrabando Trail System, a popular network of cycling single and double-tracks. Around 9:30 a.m., her husband took off. She followed shortly after, but accidentally took a different trail. Staples suffered a flat tire and opted to leave the bike behind, circling the trail system for five hours. When she came upon her bike again, she decided to take it with her, making her way on foot over 20 miles to the interior of the park. After a 30-hour odyssey through some of the most difficult and remote terrain in Texas, Staples was able to notify search crews of her location and was reunited with her family.



Staff photo by Sam Karas

A warning sign along the Contrabando trail network in Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Alpine PD offers station to receive packages
ALPINE — In an effort to stop “porch pirates,” the Alpine Police Department is offering year-round delivery to the police station, where residents can then pick up their packages at any time in a program it’s calling “Operation Front Porch.”



A Presidio County deputy’s truck pulls to a stop behind a SUV that crashed into a Border Patrol vehicle on Thanksgiving Thursday.

The department advises to ship to:
(Your Name)
Alpine Police Department
309 W. Sul Ross Avenue
Alpine, TX 79830

In order to pick up the package you will need:
1.A government form of identification (state drivers license, identification with a picture)
2.Order receipt/proof of shipment
3.For parents picking up packages addressed to their child(ren), parents must provide proof of guardianship and/or the child's identification.
APD will not charge for their service but noted it will “be happy to take a donation of a Christmas Gift for a child” for the Alpine Police Department’s Blue Santa drive.

Presidio police chase results in collision, injured agent in smuggling case

PRESIDIO — A black SUV filled with an alleged smuggler and undocumented individuals led Presidio Police and county deputies on a chase on O’Reilly Street on Thanksgiving Thursday before smashing into a Border Patrol vehicle near Bomar Street in front of the AutoZone store. According to a news release from the United States Attorney’s Office Western District of Texas, “Three Fort Cavazos soldiers were arrested on criminal charges related to their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to smuggle undocumented noncitizens.” Fort Cavazos is an Army fort based in Killeen, Texas, formerly known as Fort Hood. The release stated: “According to court documents, a U.S. Border Patrol Agent initiated a vehicle stop in Presidio on November 27. The vehicle

fled as the agent approached the passenger side and struck a second USBP vehicle, injuring an agent inside, according to the filed criminal complaint. Presidio County deputies and Presidio police officers eventually stopped the vehicle and apprehended four individuals, three of whom were undocumented noncitizens — one Mexican national and two Guatemalan nationals. The fourth individual was Emilio Mendoza Lopez, who claimed to be the front seat passenger in the vehicle. The driver, alleged to be Angel Palma, fled on foot and was located the following day at a hotel in Odessa. The extent of the injuries to the Border Patrol agent were unknown as of *The Big Bend Sentinel* deadline. The release continued, “Mendoza Lopez and Palma allegedly traveled from Fort Cavazos to Presidio for the purpose of picking up and transporting undocumented noncitizens. A third individual, Enrique Jauregui, is alleged to be the recruiter and facilitator of the human smuggling conspiracy. Data extracted from Palma’s phone through a search warrant revealed messages between the three soldiers indicating collaboration in the smuggling operation.” Mendoza Lopez made his initial appearance December 2 in Alpine before U.S. Magistrate Judge David B. Fannin. Mendoza Lopez is charged with one count of bringing in and harboring aliens, according to the release. Palma and Jauregui are scheduled to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Manske for their initial appearance hearings in Waco on December 6. The two codefendants are charged in a separate criminal complaint with one count of bringing in and harboring aliens and one count of assaulting a federal agent. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza for the Western District of Texas made the announcement for the U.S. Attorney’s Office. HSI, USBP and the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division are investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Cayton is prosecuting the case.

DPS launches new Border Mounted Patrol Unit, graduates inaugural class

From the Texas Department of Public Safety

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is proud to announce the launch of its first-ever Border Mounted Patrol Unit, a dedicated team of highly trained Texas Highway Patrol (THP) troopers paired with equine partners who are equipped to address the unique challenges of patrolling Texas’ rugged border terrain. Today, DPS celebrated the launch by graduating the inaugural 3E Mounted Horse Patrol Class, which will continue to enhance border security through strategic on-the-ground efforts.

“This marks a historic moment for the Texas Department of Public Safety as we continue to innovate and strengthen our efforts to protect the people of Texas,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “The launch of the Border Mounted Patrol Unit and the graduation of its inaugural class represents our unwavering commitment to enhancing border security utilizing unique and adaptive strategies.” The new border unit will enhance border security efforts by supplementing ground troops and leveraging the horse’s unique capabilities in challenging terrain. Working in close coordination with local, state and federal partners, 3E will assist in

locating and apprehending individuals attempting to circumvent established border checkpoints. The three teams, which are comprised of seasoned troopers with a strong foundation in horseback riding and their Quarter Horse partners, embarked on an intensive six-week training program to meet the unique challenges of patrolling the border. The training included four weeks of rigorous instruction through the Customs and Border Patrol National Horse Patrol Program’s Basic Training Course, where the teams honed their skills in navigation, terrain adaptability, tracking and law enforcement operations on horseback.

Following the classroom and field training, the teams completed an additional two weeks of on-the-job training, putting their skills into practice in real-world scenarios. In those two weeks alone, 3E assisted in apprehending 11 individuals attempting to enter the country illegally and also assisted the Kinney County Sheriff’s Office in tracking subjects in bail outs. Overall, this comprehensive training ensures the Troopers, and their equine partners are fully equipped to handle the demands and challenges of patrolling along Texas’ border. Following graduation teams will report to duty stations in Eagle Pass, Carrizo Springs and Del Rio.

Please join us as we celebrate a retirement and open house at Presidio County Court House in honor of:



Frances Garcia



Natalia Williams



Rod Ponton



Brenda Bentley



Jose Cabezuela

December 13th - 11am to 2pm in the Presidio County Court room
-Presidio County Staff

Opinion

Wow, oh wow! What an amazing Thanksgiving we had. It obviously took a village to put together this special time in the Chinati Arena. Thank you to Caitlin and Sandra who gave up their Thanksgiving to make sure everything was available in the Arena. Thank you to Kaki and Mark and Marc for making sure we had plenty of turkey from the smoker and fryer.

Thank you to those known and unknown who provided many scrumptious sides and desserts. The church of St. Paul's always manages to pull this off with many contributors of food and labor. We had volunteers from Ft. Stockton, Marathon, Alpine, and of course Marfa who made sure we had enough tables and chairs and always kept the food tables filled. And finally, thank you to everyone who came with their hunger, their joy and their gratitude. It made for a wonderful event which transformed the Arena into a place of joy and Thanksgiving.

=We are grateful for those who contributed food and money to the Food Pantry. Also, thanks to *The Sentinel* and Marfa Public Radio for helping to inform people of this wonderful event. I always worry that there will not be enough food and yet, the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes rings true! Thank you, God.

The Rev. Mike Wallens
Vicar, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Marfa

...

Dear Editor,

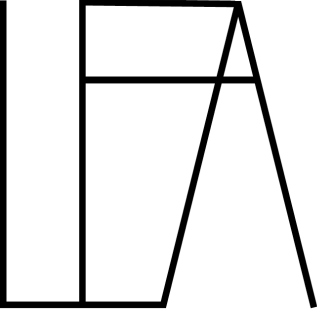
I wanted to praise your most recent DRAWING OF THE WEEK by Ranger Dugan who is a young artist who lives in Marfa and is in the 6th grade.

I was pretty excited by their drawing because it's recognizable — the Marfa tower on

17, I think, and even the church nearby, but it's abstract too and filled with patterning and wild cartoony clouds. I like the cross hatched supports of the tower, and I like that it's a little tipped depending on how the artist looked at it, where they stood, and I bet this is amazing in color. It's full of action. It's a drawing and a film, sort of.

Thanks to Ranger and the paper.

Eileen Myles
Marfa



Lilliana Fields Architect
lillianafields@gmail.com
512.589.8617

Far West Texas Based Architect
specializing in
Residential and Commercial



24 Hour ATM Personal Banking
Loans Business Banking

301 S. Highland Ave. - Marfa
432-729-4344 or 877-729-4344 www.marfanb.com





Mention this ad and get the 10% local discount

Hours: Wed – Thur 10-3, Fri – Sat 10-5 and Sometimes Sunday 12-3

301 W El Paso St, Entrance in the Alley

LOCAL ART - GIFTS - JEWELRY

TICKETS: \$25 historicalpine.org

Christmas in Alpine

Historic Adobe Trail Tour



THE ALPINE ADOBE TRAIL CHRISTMAS TOUR

Saturday, December 7, 2024
11AM - 3:30PM

Join us on a self-guided tour to explore historic adobe built homes, churches and buildings throughout Alpine!

presented by: Historic Alpine, Inc.

The Adventures of Dick Decent ©'24

Jim Bridger Big Bend Sentinel

SANTA CLAUS HAS RECEIVED SOME DISTRESSING NEWS...

I MUST SUMMON MY TOP THREE ELVES!

THE TOP THREE ELVES...

ELVIS!

EGGNOG!

AND DICKENS!

THE INCOMING AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS THREATENING TO SLAP TARIFFS ON US UNLESS WE MAKE THE CHRISTMAS TOYS IN THE UNITED STATES!

I NEED YOU THREE TO GO DOWN TO MAR-A-LAGO TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL!

GOSH SANTA! WOULD IT BE SO BAD TO LEAVE THE NORTH POLE AND MOVE TO SAY, FLORIDA?

ELVES WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE MOVE!

WE'D BE OUT OF A JOB!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MAR-A-LAGO!

OUR WATER MATTERS

Protecting environmental flows in Texas

By TREY GERFERS

According to the Texas Living Waters Project, environmental flows “is a scientific term used to describe the quantity, quality and timing of water that are necessary to sustain the fish and wildlife of a river, wetland or coastal zone.” Environmental flows include “instream flows,” or flows in a river or stream, and “freshwater inflows,” or the flows of fresh water that travel the length of a river or stream and eventually reach an estuary system “where freshwater ... flows into the ocean, mixing with the seawater.” As a coalition dedicated to ensuring that “Texas has the water it needs for thriving communities and abundant fish and wildlife,” the Texas Living Waters Project is warning that the health of our streams, rivers and estuaries “is at serious risk from flow depletion.”

The protection of environmental flows is critical not only for a healthy environment but also for a thriving economy. According to environmental attorney Myron Hess, the Texas Legislature has acknowledged that reality by stating that “[m]aintaining the biological soundness of the state’s rivers, lakes, bays, and estuaries is of great importance to the public’s economic health and general well-being ... new water right permits, even if exceptionally well implemented, would not be sufficient mechanisms for protecting environmental flows and the water quality, seafood production, tourism, recreational fishing, wildlife, ecological, and aesthetic values those flows support.”

In his 2021 report titled “Delivering on the Unrealized Potential of Senate Bill 3 for Achieving Meaningful Environmental Flow Protection,” Hess explains that part of the issue lies in how Texas assigns surface water rights through “appropriation,” which is “the legal process for obtaining a right authorizing a person to divert, store, or take surface water flowing in a watercourse.” Under this system, each right is “given a priority date based on when the right was recorded or recognized. During times of shortage, the water right with the oldest, or most senior, priority date has the first claim to the water.”

Hess puts the current situation into greater context, writing that “[a]lthough the environment was the first user of water in rivers and streams and flowing into coastal bays and estuaries, environmental use of water has been, and continues to be, near the end of the line — and at the tail-end of the priority system — in terms of protection in water rights management in Texas.” Because the surface water rights with the most senior priority “have the first claim on the available water during periods of shortage,” the state’s fish and wildlife could be left “high and dry if proactive steps are not taken soon.” Confronted with this risk, the

Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) in 2007 to provide for the protection of environmental flows in the state’s eight major river basins.

Among other things, SB 3 established “a process for adopting environmental flow standards to inform flow-protection provisions for new water rights” and called for “affirmative strategies designed to help convert some existing perpetual water rights to flow protection purposes.” The Legislature further specified that “flow standards must consist of a schedule of flow quantities reflecting both seasonal and yearly variations that may vary by location.” These flow standards were intended to establish “target levels of environmental flows” and “to guide the inclusion of flow-protection provisions in new permits and to establish the targets for implementing affirmative strategies to help address the impacts of existing water rights.” Hess points out that “[e]nvironmental flow set-asides, through which specific quantities of unappropriated water would be declared off-limits from permitting for other uses, were envisioned as providing a foundation for meeting environmental flow needs, on which protective permit provisions and affirmative strategies could build.”

In the 17 years since SB 3’s passage, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has adopted “initial flow standards ... for most river basins in Texas, but those efforts have stalled,” according to Hess. “The adopted standards, while generally improving upon flow-protection approaches used since 1985, fall far short of protecting the levels of flow scientists identified as being adequate to protect a sound ecological environment.”

Some of the major steps that TCEQ still needs to take include “adopting set-asides, which the agency previously declined to do, where unappropriated flow is available; revising flow standards applicable to new permits to be more protective and more consistent with science-based recommendations; and establishing comprehensive strategy targets for prioritizing efforts to implement voluntary flow protection efforts.” Recommended actions to be taken by lawmakers include “launching a new effort to develop proposals for improving water rights management and for facilitating voluntary conversions of existing rights to flow protection; revitalizing the stakeholder and scientific input processes informing flow protection efforts; and incorporating into the state’s water planning process consideration of affirmative strategies for helping to meet environmental flow needs,” according to Hess.

There is clearly much work to be done, and drought conditions in many of the state’s river basins will only make that work harder. There is also “a risk that some, particularly those who do not understand how much remains to be done to realize the potential of SB 3, may mistakenly believe or assert that ... the challenge of flow protection has been met.” But this, Hess warns, “is far from true.”

Visit <https://texaslivingwaters.org/deeper-dive/delivering-on-the-unrealized-potential-of-senate-bill-3/> to download the full report.

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.

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
432-729-4526
pgagates@gmail.com
moonlightgemstones.com



P.O. Box 1220
1001 W. San Antonio St.
Marfa, Texas 79843
Mon-Sat, 10-5pm
Sunday by Appt

Lapidary • Silversmith • Custom Jewelry • Rocks • Fossils • Minerals



Fostering Wonder Out West

Learn more about our K-5 microscool by visiting www.wonderschoolmarfa.org.

January summit set to encourage collaborations, strengthen communities

ALPINE — Alpine Community Projects is hosting a Far West Texas Community-Building Summit aimed at setting the stage for ongoing collaboration in the region. The two-day event will begin the evening of Friday, January 17, at The Granada Theatre in Alpine with Doug Griffiths, the author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, a book about how to make and keep towns strong and vibrant. The evening will include food and a social hour.

On the morning of Saturday, January 18, the event will resume to discuss how to implement ideas from the night before through breakout sessions and group breakfast and lunch. This process will be led by Liz Miller Grindstaff, Danelle Smith, Malinda Veldman and Michael Looney.

Grindstaff has experience in planning, government relations and management and has worked as both a senior city staff leader and an elected official. With her background, which includes serving as a San

Angelo City Council member, mayor pro-tem, and assistant city manager, she has insights into how cities work, the challenges their leaders face and the solutions they need.

Smith is a native of Abilene and began her career as a Main Street manager in Lampasas, Texas. Her professional experience includes commercial real estate management, retail development and marketing, and downtown preservation/economic development. Her unique background encompasses corporate, civic and nonprofit partnerships working together for a common goal.

Veldman is a licensed mortgage loan originator and special projects coordinator. Her prior work has been in retail sales and management, serving as historic preservation and redevelopment director for the City of Irving, and Main Street program director for the City of Corsicana.

Looney has been vice president of economic

development for the City of San Angelo Economic Development Corporation since 2014.

The book 13 Ways to Kill Your Community is available at Alpine’s Front Street Books and online and is described as offering a no-nonsense, practical approach to community building, which can be easily grasped. It offers practical, implementable steps that can be taken to bring a moribund community back to life. The 13 ways outlined in the book cover topics ranging from ensuring adequate safe water to encouraging residents to shop local and valuing a community’s senior citizens and newcomers. The book also explains the importance of community aesthetics, leaders’ willingness to embrace change, and cooperation among organizations, businesses, agencies, boards and other communities.

Event organizers will reach out to invite area leaders in local government, businesses, nonprofits, churches, law enforcement, and other segments of

the communities in the tri-county area and the greater region. A registration form will soon be available at the event website <https://www.alpinecommunityprojects.org/january-2025-summit>. There will be no charge for attendees, but space will be limited.

In addition to Alpine Community Projects, sponsors of the event include Permian Basin Area Foundation, Still Water Foundation, Benjamin Garcia and The Granada Theatre, Front Street Books and Jean and Chris Cornell. Additional sponsors are still needed for the summit to help fund group meals and other expenses. Sponsorship levels and details are available on the website.

Alpine Community Projects is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and an expressly non-partisan organization that supports, energizes, and undertakes projects that enable Alpine and its citizens to flourish and lead more fulfilling and happy lives at every age.

Fort to receive honorary doctorate from SRSU for support of Center for Big Bend Studies



Photo Courtesy of Sul Ross State University

John “Jeff” Fort III.

From Sul Ross State University

ALPINE — John “Jeff” F. Fort III, a longtime supporter of the Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) at Sul Ross State University, will be conferred with an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters at commencement exercises on Friday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pete P. Gallego Center.

The resolution was presented to the Texas State University System Board of Regents last summer underscoring Fort’s significant support, generosity and his continued philanthropy.

“Mr. Fort has been the Center for Big Bend Studies’ most consequential supporter for over two decades,” the resolution reads. “He has graciously opened his properties, provided critical financial resources and actively promoted our programs to the public and local land stewards while remaining an active scholar in anthropology. Mr. Fort’s dedication to the State of Texas and Higher Education has profoundly impacted the lives of West Texas residents and SRSU students. His commitment to the Center and his land,

which he affectionately calls ‘an outdoor laboratory,’ has enriched the region by providing unique and invaluable insight into the past inhabitants and environment.”

Fort was born in New York City in 1941 and grew up in Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C. He earned his bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering from Princeton in 1963, and his master’s degree in industrial management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1966. He served as the president of Simplex Wire and Cable Company and as the president, CEO and chairman of the board of Tyco International. He retired in 1993, but remained on the board, later serving as the interim president, CEO and chair from 2000-2001. He is a chairman of several private equity companies based in New York and a member of several New York Stock Exchange companies, including Dover Corporation, Roper Technologies, Scott Paper Company and Kimberly Clark.

Fort first came to the Big Bend region in the 1990s and immediately fell in love with its beauty. He

purchased his Pinto Canyon Ranch and contacted CBBS when he discovered a significant rock art site while exploring. Later, he allowed the center unrestricted access to thousands of world-class archaeological sites — most of which he found himself.

Fort helped CBBS to develop its charitable status, enabling gifts from the Brown Foundation totaling more than \$3.5 million. He has personally contributed approximately \$2 million and has facilitated additional support exceeding \$5.6 million. “Your unwavering dedication to uncovering hidden archaeological sites in the Chihuahuan Desert has not only enriched the field of anthropology but also shed light on how humans have adapted and thrived in such an exacting environment,” wrote SRSU President Carlos Hernandez in his announcement to Fort. “Your contributions to SRSU and the Center for Big Bend Studies are a testament to your passion and commitment to understanding the forgotten chapters of Big Bend history.”

Library to feature author of ‘Native Texan’

FORT DAVIS — A recently published compilation of short stories by Joe Holley, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, will be the highlight of a program at the Jeff Davis County Library on Saturday, December 14. The book is written in a very witty, conversational style that reminds one of the late Lonn Taylor’s stories, yet it has many more varied subjects. This free presentation

starts at 11 a.m. and is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Native Texan is divided into five parts beginning with "Texans Who Dropped Out of the History Books (or Were Never There to Begin With)" and includes such individuals as Bigfoot Wallace, Bass Reeves, and Seminole Scouts. Part Two is equally lively with

"Feuding, Mayhem and Madness," which tells of seven events including "E.E. Townsend, the Young Man in the Big Bend Who Came to No Good End," "A Brush with Bonnie and Clyde's Getaway Drivers" and "Pig Wars," which are the timeless battles with javelinas. There is a chapter featuring notable women such as Mary Austin Holley and "Thorny Rose," and the book

concludes with a look at the uniqueness of special Texas places. Each chapter averages four pages in a very readable, colorful, and fast paced format.

Joe Holley will have copies of the book available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments will be available. Contact the library at (432) 426 -3802 for further information.

BBCA collaborates with artist to support river rangers

TRI-COUNTY — The Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) announced a new collaboration with artist Dana Falconberry to support The Big Bend River Rangers.

The Big Bend River Rangers engage students, teachers and their families in protection, connection and reclamation of the Rio Grande. Students in the program explore the watershed, monitor the health of the river, and learn

from elders who are helping to inspire this next generation of caretakers.

Dana Falconberry has designed “The River is Home.” This bandana features the Rio Grande, with its canyons, multiple names — in Lipan Apache, Spanish and English — and the flora and fauna found at the river’s edge. For each bandana purchased, a River Ranger will be gifted one too.

Donations have a bigger impact right now as the Permian Basin Area

Foundation is generously matching donations, helping support youth stewardship and this BBCA program.

The campaign begins December 2, 2024, and will continue through the end of the year. To support this BBCA program or to learn more, visit www.bigbendconservationalliance.org.

Local writer shakes up past stories to create new book on local characters

TRI-COUNTY — Local writer and former Sul Ross languages and literature professor Barbara “Barney” Nelson has just released a new book, One Hundred Horses: Drama as Novel, Memoir as Drama.

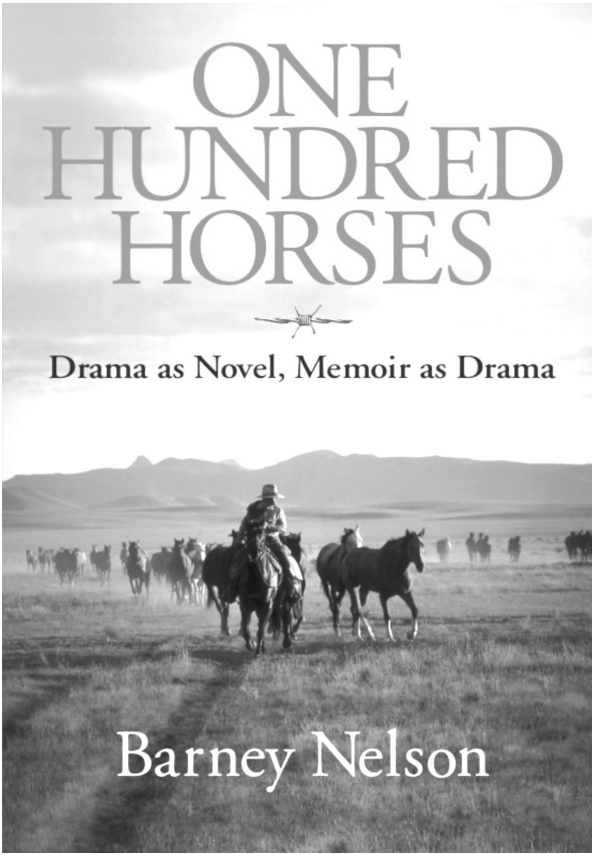
“The book is actually a collection of failures,” Nelson said. “Since retirement, I’ve been teaching myself to write movie scripts because I humbly don’t think anyone has ever done the real cowboy/horse culture justice. But I couldn’t get past Hollywood’s alligator moats full of agents, lawyers, unions, and ‘helpful’ people willing to take money or flesh from naïve wannabes.”

Barney said, “I hated to just throw away all those years of hard work, so I tossed them in a box with some photos and stories about where I got my inspiration, shook it all up, and out came a strange mix. Readers will find many parallels between my fictionalized characters and real local ‘characters’ as well as ranches, camp meeting and local history.”

Nelson also lived on the Marfa division of the Catto-Gage Ranch for two years, so characters are inspired by a Marfa school teacher, sheriff and deputy, Border Patrol agents and “Northern Mexico hot-shot firefighters.” Also included are cameos and photos from the Sul Ross State University farrier school, rodeo cowboys Tuff Hedeman and Cody Lambert, local ranches

(Long X, JD, o6), local people like Nicasio Ramirez, Ramon Hartnett, Marcos Najera, Efren Polido, Chris Lacy, Vince Lavallee, Tommy Vaughn, Roy McBride, and local landmarks like Kokernot Baseball Field and Bloys Camp Meeting.

Barney said the book is dedicated to Don and Linda Coleman, owners of Coleman Well Service. The book’s design was created by local Alpine artist Tish Wetterauer. It is available to individuals at Big Bend



Barney Nelson’s book portrays “fictionalized characters and real local ‘characters’ as well as ranches, camp meeting, and local history.”

Saddlery and Amazon or to local booksellers from Ingram Spark.

“The Rendezvous” is Coming to Fort Davis, Texas

Fort Davis Cow Camp is excited to announce the opening of "**The Rendezvous,**" an event center situated at the site of the former Mountainside Liquor Store in Fort Davis on 105 W. Second Street. Currently underway is the construction of a pickleball/cornhole court, tavern, food truck pads, outdoor kitchen, and event center.

We envision this venue as an ideal spot to offer food and beverage services, outdoor recreation, a listening room for local singer songwriters and a facility for locals to utilize year-round for various private events such as birthdays, quinceañeras, baby showers, and more. We are scheduled to commence operations in April 2025 and are actively seeking food truck owners, bar managers and chefs interested in joining our team. If you have 5+ years of management and operations experience in any of these positions, we’d love to hear from you.

For those interested, please forward your resume to mark.fillman@fortdaviscowcamp.com to schedule an interview. See you soon.

Thanksgiving at Chinati



Photo by Nick Hurt

In a time honored tradition, The Chinati Foundation and St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosted a free community-wide Thanksgiving dinner last week. Attendees were encouraged to bring a dish to share or a donation for the Marfa Food Pantry.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit December 16, 2024

ACROSS

- 1 Get out of Dodge
5 Hit that may go out of the park
10 "Yay, time for the weekend!"
14 JUST before the deadline
16 Ramen vessel
17 Some shared pics
18 Fruit in some gin
19 Water spirit that anagrams to "Aidan"
20 Jabba the ____
22 Genetic material
23 Even score
24 Playful growl
27 Filled completely
29 Like burning passions
31 Bowling places
33 Calf-length skirt
36 People who might edit their own genetic code
38 Harold's role in "Ghostbusters"
39 Not fulfilled, as expectations
40 Name hidden in "ice rink"
41 Departs, in toddler-speak
43 Big doofuses
44 On the ocean
45 Spiny, pungent fruit
47 Quaint negative contraction
49 Tear apart
50 ____ Lingus
53 Word before "milk" or "meal"
54 Snoo who performed at the 2024 Summer Olympics
56 Creator of the Hundred Acre Wood
58 "Snow" crustacean
60 "Since you mentioned it ..."
63 Dance you may do in a lei
64 Dessert made with a root veggie
65 No more than
66 Big doofuses
67 Person who will succeed?

DOWN

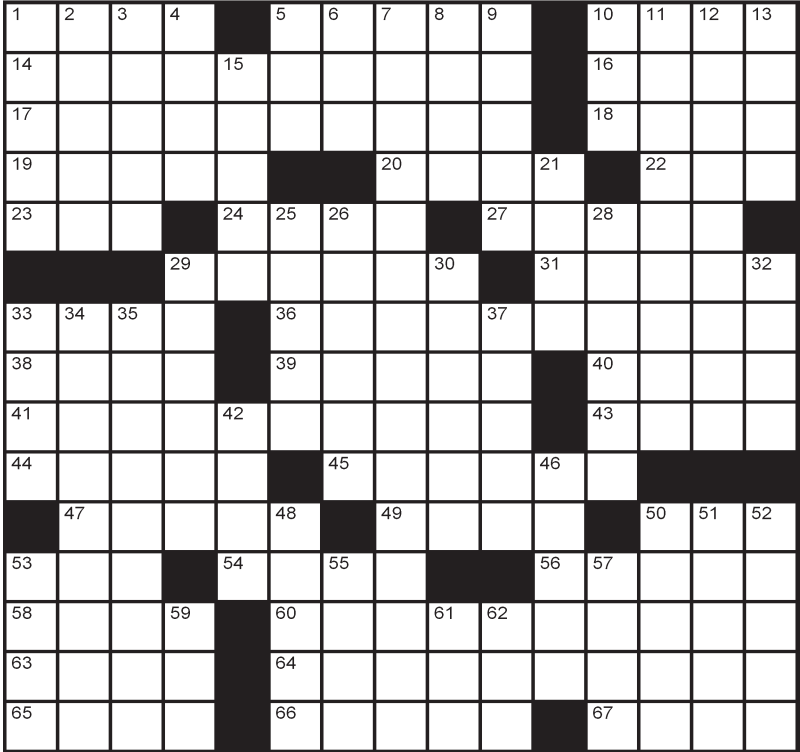
- 1 Fire-starting rock
2 Island near Maui
3 Not a Phase nail polish brand
4 "Tell Mama" singer James
5 Word said twice before "Hooray!"
6 Singer/activist Yoko
7 Vegan entrees with buns
8 Caesar's question to Brutus
9 Takes it easy
10 Atlanta-based channel
11 Peak time period
12 Speculative "Hmm ..."
13 Pest on a dog
15 Mother de la familia
21 Easily scratched mineral
25 Campaign messaging purchase
26 Complained childishly
28 Go up against
29 Gets the suds off
30 "____ off!" ("The race begins!")
32 W-4 IDs
33 Huge, informally
34 "Time for me to depart!"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

USHER ARLO VPS
SKATE PEEP BEAU
CANADA POST ARID
GLOBE EASTLA
USO SCAREDSTIFF
SPUR REV SEGUE
EATERY SEGA OLD
FOOTTRAIL
AWS DUOS SLALOM
SIEGE GOT DIVA
PIANOSONATA BAY
IMPOSE TASTE
ROOM THATSAWRAP
ETRE TALE DIANA
SET EMIR ATLAS

12/15 © 2024 Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

12/16 Winter Thetless Week, Puzzle 1 by Kyle Dolan



DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Matthew Marquez
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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★ ☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

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

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
110 W Washington Steet
Marfa 432-729-4534

PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS
NEWSPAPER

© MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ©

MAY	Thu, Dec 5	Fri, Dec 6	Mon, Dec 9	Tue, Dec 10	Wed, Dec 11
BREAKFAST	STUFFED BAGEL, CHEESE STICKS, FRUIT, MILK, JUICE	WAFFLES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	BREAKFAST STRUDEL, CHEESE CUBES, FRUIT	POWER BREAKFAST, FRUIT
LUNCH	FRITO PIE, BEANS, TOMATOES, FRUIT, DESSERT.	STEAK FINGERS, ROLL, GRAVY, GREEN BEANS, POTATOES, PEACHES	NO SCHOOL	QUESADILLA, BEANS, CUCUMBERS, SALSA, FRUIT, DESSERT	PIZZA, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, FRESH FRUIT, DESSERT

For more sports
events please
visit:

marfaisd.com/events

YOUR AD HERE!
ONLY \$10 / WEEK

Contact
ads@bigbendsentinel.com

YOUR AD HERE!
ONLY \$10 / WEEK

Contact
ads@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESCRIPTION SHOP MARFA

A full-service pharmacy. Now
accepting many insurance plans
for service while you wait.
105 East Oak Street,
next to Marfa Country Clinic
432.729.4244
rxshopmarfa@gmail.com

ALTA MARFA WINERY
Texas Wine & Food
Thursday - Sunday
5:00pm - 10:00pm
120 N Austin St.
instagram:
@altamarfa for updates



MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

No Sports Events

Ballroom Marfa
Presents

AN EVENING OF
SPOKEN WORD
PERFORMANCES

12 December 2024

North Gallery
Ballroom

6 PM

Ballroom is honored to announce Marfa's
very own poets and writers will join us for
an evening of spoken word performances in
response to Julie Speed's *The Suburbs of
Eden*. The event will take place on December
12 that 6pm. The reading is free and open to all.

BALLROOM MARFA

108 E. San Antonio St. Weds-Sat 11-6 Sun 11-3

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM AT
THESENTINELMARFA.COM

‘Tis the season: Marfa Chamber to host holiday parade and tree lighting



Photo by Cody Bjornson

Santa never misses an opportunity to visit Marfa’s holiday parade.

MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce invites the community to participate in a holiday parade and tree lighting this Sunday, December 8, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in downtown Marfa.

All are welcome to join in the parade, Chamber Secretary Lindsay Smith said. “You do not have to have a float. You can walk. You can bring dressed up pets and walk them in the parade. You could come play music,” Smith said. “It is a nighttime parade, so holiday lights are heavily encouraged.”

The parade will start on West Oak — those participating can gather at the library as early as 5 p.m. — and proceed down Highland Avenue towards the courthouse. “The idea is to bring everybody to the courthouse for the tree lighting, so they’ll kind of follow the parade up,” Smith said.

Once at the courthouse a holiday tree lighting — with lights sponsored by Yoseff Ben-Yehuda of Marfa Hardware — will take place. Smith said the Chamber has a community sing along, snacks and warm beverages and activities for kids including a letter writing station sponsored by the Post Office planned. Santa will be making a special stop in Marfa to appear at the event.

Another festive Chamber celebration, hosted in collaboration with Lesley Villarreal of Love, Marfa, will take the form of a Holiday Shopping Crawl across town Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15.

For more information, visit marfachamberofcommerce.org/events

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sul Ross music department sets Christmas program

ALPINE — The Sul Ross State University Music Department will be giving its annual combined Christmas program on Wednesday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Marshall Auditorium.

Band, choir and guitar students as well as faculty and guest soloists will be performing. The concert is, as always, free and all are invited to attend.

Choirs set for Christmas program

MARFA — The Big Bend Community Choir along with the Big Bend children's choir will present their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church at 110 E Columbia St. in Marfa.

The concert is free and all are invited. Immediately after will be a refreshment gathering for all.

Marathon library hosts holiday gathering

MARATHON — The Marathon Public Library will celebrate the holidays on Friday, December 6. The library — at 106 N.E. 3rd St. — will have holiday treats and offers a perfect way to connect with friends and neighbors and get into the holiday spirit. Santa will be making a special appearance with a gift of a new book for each child. Everyone is welcome.

MSA kids art show and ornament party to feature Santa

MARFA — Alert: Santa Claus is coming to town. The annual Marfa Studio of Arts kids art show, featuring art by the elementary school students of Marfa ISD, will take place at the MSA Gallery at 106 E. San Antonio Street on Saturday, December 7, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be cookies, an ornament creation station and the opportunity to have your child’s photograph taken with Santa Claus (AKA David Beebe). There will also be a lot of cool, creative art made by our community’s very young artists, who have been learning about color, narrative, and 3D sculptural fabrication.

This is the 20th year that Marfa Studio Arts has organized and taught art classes through the SITES program at Marfa ISD. Besides coming down to have fun, attendees are encouraged to make your end-of-year donations, which will go directly to our mission: bringing artists from our community into the classroom and teaching kids art!

Make a shortwave radio call to Santa

ALPINE — Kids will have a chance to contact Santa Claus at the North Pole by shortwave radio on Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. in front of the True Value Hardware store at 301 N 5th Street in Alpine.

A shortwave radio is like a walkie talkie that can contact people around the world. The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club communication van will be staffed with "elves" to help children talk to Santa. Dress warmly and come to True Value between 5 and 7 p.m. to have your chance to contact the North Pole in person. For more information, contact Matt Greer at 281-910-7403.

Fort Davis library to sprinkle holiday cheer

FORT DAVIS — Everyone is invited to a special free music program offered by Friends of the Library on Saturday, December 14, at the Jeff Davis County Library in Fort Davis.

Beginning at 4:30 p.m. there will be light refreshments and time to mingle over hot cocoa; at 5 p.m. music will be performed by the Guitar Ensemble of Sul Ross. Local pianist, Lana Potts, will lead sing-a-longs to holiday favorites at 5:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. when the guitar group will conclude with more Christmas carols.

Adobe tour highlights holiday season for Historic Alpine

ALPINE — Join Historic Alpine on December 7 for “Navidad en Los Adobes,” a festive holiday event where you can tour some of Alpine's most historic adobes and churches, beautifully adorned for the season. In addition, enjoy a special Historic Alpine photo installation curated by historian Matt Walter at the First United Methodist Church.

Our resident adobe expert, David Keller, will also host a talk at the historic



Photo courtesy of Marfa Police Department

Police Chief Gilberto Carrillo extends thanks to Dollar General for a large donation to the department’s Operation Blue Santa program.

Ritchey Hotel, offering insight into the significance of adobe architecture and its importance to Alpine's history.

This celebration showcases Alpine's rich heritage and unique adobe architecture, giving you an unforgettable glimpse into the beauty and history of Alpine during the holiday season.

The event is a fundraiser for Historic Alpine, Inc. Attendees are encouraged to remember that all ticket sales are final, private homes are not wheelchair or stroller accessible and avoid high heels that can damage historic wood floors. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit historicalpine.org/historic-alpine-holiday-home-tour/.

Marfa police host cookies and cocoa with Santa

MARFA — The Marfa Police Department toy drive continues with a Cookies and Cocoa with Blue Santa Claus on December 17 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the USO Building at 305 S. Highland.

Photos with Santa will be available as well as games, music, and prizes. The entry fee is an unwrapped toy for Marfa PD's annual Operation Blue Santa. Toys also can be dropped off at the Marfa Police Department, and monetary donations are also accepted; speak to Lt. Nicole Fuentes for monetary donations.

Marfa Chamber sponsors ‘Holiday Shopping Crawl and Dance’

MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a “Holiday Shopping Crawl and Dance” on Sunday, December 14, at 6 p.m.

Participating businesses will be open for special holiday hours from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for all of your holiday shopping needs. Stroll through beautiful Marfa and enjoy festive beverages, travelling carolers, shopping, community and more. Afterwards, head over to Marfa Spirit Co. for a holiday dance featuring local DJs and live music.

Entry into the dance is one unwrapped gift for either children or adults. To sign up as a vendor or participating business for the shopping crawl, please email marfachamberofcommerce@gmail.com. Lesley Villarreal of Love Marfa, working with the chamber, also has posted a list of participating businesses (and other businesses with regular hours around town for an ongoing list) at www.lovemarfa.com/shop-local.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Presented by



www.marfainsurance.com • 432-729-4306

June 14, 1979

Nine Channels to Choose From

How come Marfa has so many TV Channels now? Thanks to a few forward thinking, progressive people Marfa has one of the most modern and complete Cable TV systems anywhere around offering the viewers a selection of nine channels.

How is all this accomplished? "A lot of expensive equipment, a lot of maintenance and a lot of engineering," F. K. Beanland, president of the Marfa TV Cable said. Cable TV first came to Marfa when the struggling young company set up shop in 1957, offering viewers three channels, NBC from Midland, CBS from Odessa and NBC from El Paso.

The first tower was located on the Hippo Ranch north of Marfa with cable coming into town from that site. An ice storm came along and the antenna was destroyed along with a lot of the long spans of cable. The engineers looked around for another site where reception would be better and settled on the present location near Highway 90 northwest of Marfa on the Greenwood Estate. Repeater stations were erected at different locations around the county wherever the engineers could get a clear signal. There are four of the stations now, all beaming their signal into the main tower northwest of Marfa.

The repeater station located at Capote on the Brite Ranch sends in signals from KTSM, El Paso and the Public Broadcasting System. The one on the Lance Sears Ranch between Marfa and Fort Davis brings in ABC Monahans and CBS Odessa. The one on the Dan Ponder Ranch at Twin Mountain brings in NBC Midland while the one on the San Esteban Ranch south of Marfa brings in CBS Odessa. Where do the rest of them come from? There is a white dish looking object located near the main tower, the kind we have seen used in programs about outer space. And that's just the function of this dish, it receives signals from outer space. There is a satellite roa-ming around up there in space that receives and sends 24 different signals. This receiver at Marfa now picks up four of those signals, WTCG, Atlanta, Georgia, WGN, Chicago, Illinois, Home Box Office and C- SPAN that gives us coverage of the VS. Congress.

The ROET (Receive Only Earth Terminal) is beamed at a satellite 22,000 miles above the equator and receives the signal from that distance, sends the signals through a cable into a bank of amplifiers and modulators located in a little house near the main tower. From there the signal goes to the main cable and into your own home. Each channel has a separate set of receivers and modulators. Marfa TV Cable Co. is spending some \$50,000 on the satellite system to bring in these four channels. Receivers for the other channels are located on the main tower. The total investment with all this equipment plus the cables and amplifiers all over town has been considerable, but Marfa has a modern and well equipped system. There are at present 965 customers on the cable at a low cost to the customer of \$8 per month. The HBO channel is an extra charge of \$7 per month.

Less than one-third of the present customers subscribe to H.B.O. Why all this extra expense? "We want to offer our customers the best viewing and give them a choice that will be acceptable to all. We don't charge extra for the PBS, most places do," Beanland said. Henry Coffield, former mayor of Marfa, was the instigator of TV in Marfa, according to Beanland. "He furnished us with a lot of financial backing to get the struggling company started and was a backer all his life," Beanland said.

All this sounds good and very simple, but there is a lot of engineering and maintenance that goes into getting good TV reception. Jake Brisbin is the technician for the system and was the installer of the satellite system and has been instrumental in re-building the system with the new design and equipment. Mike Nunez is teaming the system with Brisbin teaching the technical end. He has some years experience. Just recently he and his brother Robert Lee painted the en-tire tower northwest of Marfa. "This is a requirement of the Federal Aviation Agency. We must maintain lights on the towers and keep them painted international red and white for clear visibility from airplanes," Beanland said.

Among the shareholders in the company are Bill Shurley, Dr. Ben Gearhart, Mrs. Russ Thornsburg, E. K. Beanland, John Newell, Mrs. Joe Buntton, Mrs. Frank Coffield, Forrest Hope, Bill Sohl, Paul Keith and Jake Brisbin. "We are going to continue with our efforts to bring the people of Marfa the best TV anywhere around and the lowest possible dollar figure," Beanland said.

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.

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

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.

JUDD

OBITUARIES



Moya

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Paula "Polly" Moya**, also known as "Wuela" to her grandchildren who loved her deeply, who departed from this world on November 24, 2024, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Born on October 3, 1956, in Alpine, Texas, Polly was a vibrant spirit

whose life was dedicated to caring for others. As a devoted employee at Alpine Nursing Home, she found fulfillment in her work supporting and nurturing the elderly.

She met and married the love of her life, "Moya," in 1983 and they spent 22 blissful years together before his passing. Polly's family-centered nature was one of her most cherished qualities. She enjoyed innumerable moments with her beloved grandchildren, Anthony Marquez Jr., Jacque Marquez, and Damian and Santiago Moya. Her warmth and attentive listening made her not just a family member but also a confidante and a friend. The values instilled in her during her upbringing by her father, a rancher for the 06 ranch, shaped the incredible woman she became. Raised in a close-knit family in Alpine, her roots remained forever

strong in her heart.

Alongside her dedication to family and career, Polly had a zest for life that shone through her love for music — especially country and Spanish genres. Known for her welcoming demeanor, she could light up a room with her infectious laughter and was famed among family and friends for her homemade chili con queso. Polly had a unique ability to connect with those around her, never meeting a stranger.

Her loss is profoundly felt by her surviving family: her sons Anthony Marquez, married to Mari; and Javier Moya, married to Melinna; her dear sisters Angie Marquez and Joanna Alba; and her brother Johnny Marquez.

Polly has rejoined her loved ones who have preceded her in death, including her husband, Manuel

Moya, and her granddaughters, Jolinn and Loraiya Moya. She is also preceded in death by her parents, Arcelia "Elia" and Nieves Marquez Sr., and her brother, Nieves Marquez Jr.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects during the visitation on December 7, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m., followed by a Rosary Prayer Service at 10:30 a.m., and concluding with a Mass at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church located at 406 S 6th St, Alpine, TX, 79830.

Paula "Polly" Moya leaves behind a legacy filled with love, laughter, and strength. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of those who had the honor of knowing her. We will miss her saying, "I LOVE YOU CHINGOS." We will forever carry you in our hearts.



Epsy

Brandon Michael Espy, 23, of Fort Davis, Texas, passed away on November 28, 2024, in Helotes, Texas. He was born on December 23, 2000, in Odessa, Texas. He attended Permian High School where he participated on the flag crew, "The Crew!" After

graduating in 2019 he moved to Fort Davis where he began working on the family ranch while attending Sul Ross University, then moved to Hale Center, Texas, where he also attended Texas Tech University Fall Semester 2021 and Spring Semester 2022. He then returned to Fort Davis and graduated from Sul Ross in December of 2023 with his criminal justice degree. Brandon had moved to Helotes, Texas, in August 2024 to pursue his dream of becoming a DPS officer. He had met an amazing circle of friends with whom he shared many great times.

He brought immense joy to everyone who knew him. Brandon was a bright light in our lives, known for his smile, kindness to others, positive attitude, love of his family and friends; he never met

a stranger and would help anyone who was in need.

At a very young age Brandon gained a love for video games and was a whiz on computer technology. He had an infinite passion for Bloys Camp Meeting where he enjoyed meeting up with cousins, playing games on the porches and helping with the Chapel in The Rocks Youth program. He also loved the ranch in Fort Davis, enjoyed helping with the Sul Ross Rodeo, and lending a hand at the team practices. He was an avid lover of cars, and his passion for life and kindness was evident to all who knew him.

He lives on through his mother, Kitten Cannon, and stepfather, Chris Cannon, of Hale Center; father Joe W. Espy of Midland, Texas; sister Makay Espy of

Midland; grandparents Jim and Sally Espy of Fort Davis; aunt and uncle, Mandy and KC Overturf; and cousins Kellyn and Pruett of Willow Park, Texas; and many other cousins, stepbrother and family members.

A memorial service will be held on December 9, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Sul Ross Arena in Alpine, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be mailed to:

WEST TEXAS NATIONAL BANK c/o Philip Carey
101 East Ave. E.
Alpine, Tx. 79831

Memorials made out to: Brandon Espy Rodeo Scholarship Fund.

We will forever cherish the memories we have with Brandon and hold him in our hearts always.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
Dec
5

Hike with Homeless Dogs

10am - 11am at Davis Mountains State Park
Help a homeless dog have a great time on the trail!

Historic Wassail Crawl

4pm - 7pm at 118 E Holland Ave, Alpine TX
Thursday December 5th sip on warm wassail and explore unique boutiques as you stroll Historic Murphy Street, Holland Avenue, and 5th Street for holiday shopping.

Fri
Dec
6

First Friday Song Swap

6pm - 9pm at Far West Guitars
First Friday song swap is at Far West Guitars 6p-dusk. Bring your guitar, a few songs, and let's just see what happens!

Steven Bennack

6pm - 8pm at Granada Theatre
Come watch Steven Bennack play from 6pm - 8pm.

Big Bend Chorale Concert

7:30pm - 9pm at First United Methodist Church
Annual Christmas C Friday December 6th, 7:30 PM at the United Methodist Church

Sat
Dec
7

Christmas Stroll & Tree Lighting

5:30pm - 7:30pm at Brewster County Courthouse
Stroll down East Sul Ross Avenue with musical performances and holiday lights leading to the Brewster County Courthouse for the tree lighting and a full symphony performance.

Holiday Ornament Workshop

10am - 12pm at Davis Mountains State Park
Come have some holiday fun making ornaments.

Exhibition NowHere no. 0003

5pm - 8pm at 401 S. Highland Ave, Marfa TX
Opening reception Exhibition NowHere no. 0003 "The worlds of Robert Roth" and illumination of Cookie Stone's House Of Christmas.

Dark Sky Tour

7pm - 8pm at Davis Mountains State Park
Come join us as we appreciate some of the darkest skies in the U.S.

Anna La Mare

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Anna La Mare play, no cover!

Sun
Dec
8

Alex Teller & David Miner

6pm - 8pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Alex Teller & David Miner play, no cover!

Looking to
submit an
event?

Scan our QR
code here:



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

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.

COCHINEAL

MARFA

CASUAL FINE DINING IN FAR WEST TEXAS

107 West San Antonio Street
Marfa, Texas 79843

432 729 3300 - cochinealmarfa.com

LEWIS WEIL CO.

FINANCIAL PLANNING
FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

WWW.LEWISWEIL.COM



BBT AWARDED \$4.89 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR RURAL FIBER EXPANSION

BBT IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OVER \$4.89 MILLION IN GRANTS TO EXPAND FIBER OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS, FORT DAVIS, LIMPIA CROSSING, IRAAN, MARATHON, AND ALPINE.

THESE PROJECTS WILL SERVE 513 LOCATIONS, OFFERING SCALABLE SPEEDS UP TO 1 GIG/GIG WITH A LOW-COST OPTION OF 100/20 MBPS.

THIS EXPANSION AIMS TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY, SUPPORTING FAMILIES, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT WEST TEXAS.



A VANGUARD
FOR EXPERIMENTAL & TRANSGRESSIVE MUSIC
FROM TEXAS AND BEYOND

Come TOAST THE DESERT WITH US!

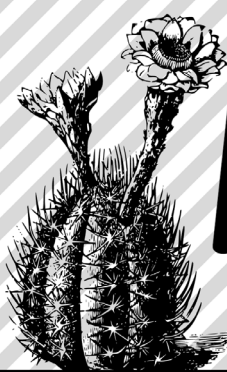


DISTILLERY TOURS • DREAMY COCKTAILS • GIFTY THINGS

FINE
SPIRITS
BEER
& WINE

NATIVE
TREES
& PLANTS

LOCAL
PRODUCE
& WARES



CACTUS LIQUORS

405 S Highland • (432)729-7070
cactusliquors@gmail.com



Specializing in Texas Ranch
and Rural Properties

Cleat L. Stephens, Broker

FindARanchOutWest.com

EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM FOR ADVERTISING RATES

Classifieds & public notices

ART NEWS

MAINTENANT features Mazurek sculptures activated by sunrise and sunset

MARFA — Marfa resident Rob Mazurek presents Earth Sun Sky Cloud 1 and 2 — a pair of screen mesh sculptures with mirror cores activated at precise angles at sunrise and sunset, and Vying for Eternal Grace #1-4, four large scale paintings on canvas using marking paint as its basic material. The exhibition at MAINTENANT — 1825 Rabbits Road — will run through Sunday, January 5.



Vying for Eternal Grace by Rob Mazurek.

Hetzler Gallery to host Katharina Grosse artist talk

MARFA — To mark the conclusion of artist Katharina Grosse's exhibition, The Super Eight at Galerie Max Hetzler, an artist talk between Grosse and Tim Johnson will take place at 11 a.m. Sunday, December 8.

Hetzler Gallery is located at 1976 Antelope Hills Road. The event is free and open to the public.

The exhibition consists of seven new works on canvas which Grosse painted in her studio in Aotearoa New Zealand in early 2024 specifically for this presentation. Grosse worked as an artist in residence with the Chinati Foundation in 1999 and returned to Marfa for the first time in 25 years. The artist worked in Galerie Max Hetzler's studio during the run of the exhibition from May to December.

For more information, visit maxhetzler.com/exhibitions/katharina-grosse-super-eight-2024

The Chinati Foundation welcomes 2 new trustees

From the Chinati Foundation

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati announced the appointment of Heather Pesanti and Neil Subin to its board of trustees. With nearly 20 years of curatorial experience, Pesanti brings with her a deep commitment to supporting artists and a unique understanding of both the regional and global arts ecosystems of which Chinati is a part.

Subin, who has generously supported Chinati for nearly a decade, spends most of his time in Marfa; as a neighbor and collector of Donald Judd artwork, he is intimately familiar with the foundation's history and mission.

"We are thrilled to welcome Heather Pesanti and Neil Subin to the Chinati Foundation's Board of Trustees," said Board Chair Lee Baumann Cohn and Co-chair Sam Hamilton in a joint statement. "Both extraordinary leaders in their fields, they share a sincere interest in supporting Chinati's work and a commitment to expanding the Foundation's communities of friends."

"As we embark on several key projects to better care for the art, architecture and land that visitors experience at Chinati, we look forward to the wisdom and support that Heather and Neil will provide. We are grateful to have them as part of our dynamic and growing board, which includes leaders from the arts, business, academia, law, architecture, design and philanthropy," added Caitlin Murray, director of the Chinati Foundation.

Heather Pesanti is curator and vice president of Dimensional Fund Advisors, a money management firm based in Austin, where she oversees an international corporate art collection across 15 global offices. Additionally, Pesanti serves on the Learning and Engagement Committee at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Advisory Council of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to Dimensional, Pesanti was a museum curator for nearly 20 years, most recently as senior and then chief curator of The Contemporary Austin from 2013 through 2021. During her tenure, she organized monographic exhibitions and outdoor commissions with over 20 artists as well as thematic exhibitions, including Strange Pilgrims and The Sorcerer's Burden: Contemporary Art and the Anthropological Turn. Previous curatorial appointments include curator of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery (now Buffalo AKG Art Museum) in Buffalo, New York; the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the MCA Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

Neil Subin is an entrepreneur, investor, part-time Marfa resident, collector of Donald Judd, and longtime supporter of the Chinati Foundation. Subin currently serves as chief investment officer for MILFAM, a single-family office.

Throughout his career, Subin has served as a director and major shareholder for several telecommunications companies through various cycles of their growth and development. He has extensive experience as an investor, including roles as managing director of the investment advisor to Aspen Advisors and as chairman of Broadbill Partners. He currently serves on the boards of Alimco Financial Corp, Centrus Energy Corp, Frontiersman Holdings, Inc., and Quantlab Financial LLC.

Blum paintings showing at RULE



Eric Blum's work will be on display at Marfa's RULE Gallery through February 15.

MARFA — RULE Gallery is currently presenting Eric Blum: Paintings. This solo exhibition marks the artist's third with the gallery and first in its Marfa location at 204 E San Antonio St. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eric Blum's paintings invite viewers into the margins of perception — those liminal spaces where the boundaries of form and amorphousness blur. Developed through delicate layers of ink-drenched silk and beeswax, Blum's compositions hover between the tangible and the ephemeral, the actual and the perceived.

His expansive palette ranges across each painting, offering shades of lush green, plum brown, and ice cream pink — building atmospheres that resist immediate recognition, rewarding slow and contemplative engagement. Blum's artistic process is a balance of intention and intuition, guided by chance and transformation. Initial drawings serve as the foundation for his works, but through a series of flips, rotations and excisions, the original forms are often fragmented or entirely transformed.

These layered "misunderstandings," as Blum calls them, result in dreamlike anagrams of his initial ideas — each painting a visual puzzle that lingers like the fading remnants of a memory.

Eric Blum was born and raised in California and now lives and works in New York. He has been represented by RULE Gallery in Denver since the 1990s, debuting with a solo exhibition in 1998. Blum's work has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the U.S. and internationally, with notable shows in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, Santa Fe, Denver, Madrid and Paris.

D'oh!



Photo courtesy of Alpine Police Department Facebook page.

On Wednesday morning, yet another truck slammed its payload — hay — into the Highway 90 railroad bridge entering Alpine.

The Alpine Police reported on Facebook: "Highway 90 at the west end of town is closed. The bridge on the west side of town has been struck and suffered damage. Traffic will be detoured to Mosely Lane. Big trucks (18 wheelers) will not be allowed to detour and must use Hwy 118 if westbound and Highway 17 in Marfa [through Fort Davis] if eastbound. Duration of the closure is unknown at this time."

The City of Alpine has been working with TxDOT for a solution to the problem of numerous trucks hitting the bridge.

Around the Big Bend

The Big Bend Sentinel recently launched a new online feature — Around the Big Bend — designed to let our community find and post events. The response to our weekly print calendar has been great, so we're taking it a step further by bringing it online too. You can get a weekly reminder by signing up the email newsletter below.

Anyone can post events for free, with options to boost visibility with payment www.bigbendsentinel.com/events.

The calendar already is pre-populated with postings on other websites around the Big Bend, which makes it the go-to place for anyone interested in what's going on in Marfa, Presidio, Fort Davis, Alpine, Marathon, Terlingua and beyond.

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

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

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

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)

Bringing together buyers and sellers of
ranches and unique properties throughout Texas



Protecting Clients. Conserving the Land.
Offices in Fort Davis and Austin
432-426-2024 www.KingLandWater.com
info@KingLandWater.com

Preventative Health Care Services is hiring for the following positions:

Accounting Asst., Bookkeeper, Nurses (CNA, LVN or RN),
Nurse Supervisor in Marfa, Family Nurse Practitioner, CMO,
Dentist, Director of Nursing in Marfa, Human
Resources in Alpine.
For information on application please call:
Cathy 432-837-4812

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.

**Long Term
House Rental**
3 bedroom, 2 bath, large
kitchen, open dining
and living room. Fenced
yard, sprinkler system.
712 west 4th street
469-879-7037

**Application has been made
with the Texas Alcoholic
Beverage Commission for a
mixed beverage permit by
Fort Davis Cow Camp, LLC
d/b/a Fort Davis Cow Camp
located at 105 W Second St.,
Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County,
Texas 79734. Mark Fillman -
managing member.**

**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!

Maisie Crow	Editor-in-Chief
Max Kabat	Publisher
Rob D'Amico	Managing Editor
Sam Karas	Reporter
Mary Cantrell	Reporter
Ariele Gentiles	Copy Editor
Tyler Sousa	Designer / Advertising
Mary Etherington	Office Manager
Maria Gerardo	Distribution
Marisa Chacon	Distribution

Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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.