

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

It’s time for candidates to file for local city council, school board elections

By MARY CANTRELL and ROB D’AMICO
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MARFA — The candidate filing period for the May 3 General Election is now open with a filing deadline of 5 p.m. Friday, February 14. Early voting runs from April 21 to April 29, 2025. Voters will decide on Marfa City Council candidates as well as Marfa ISD School Board candidates and any ballot measures.

In order to qualify to run in the General Election, candidates must have resided in the respective city where the office is held for at least six months, must be 18 years of age or older, be a U.S. citizen, and must not have been convicted of a felony. A full list of qualifications can be found on the secretary of state’s website.

Marfa City Council

The terms of Mayor Manny Baeza, Mayor Pro Tem Raul Lara and City Councilmember Travis Acreman will be up for election this coming May. Baeza has served three two-year terms as mayor, having first been elected to the position in 2019. Before that he served as a council member. Baeza said he intends to file for reelection to continue his current role as mayor.

Lara has served three two-year terms on city council, two as a councilmember and a third as mayor pro tem. Lara said he intends to run for reelection. Acreman was elected to his first term in 2023 and said he plans to file for reelection.

City council members and the mayor serve two-year terms. Council members are “at large,” meaning they do not fill a specific seat, convene twice a month and are paid \$50 per meeting. The mayor is paid \$100 per meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to pick up applications in person at City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave. Applications are also available in both English and Spanish online at <https://cityofmarfa.com/government/page/elections>. To submit applications, individuals may file in person at City Hall, mail their applications to City Hall at PO Box 787, Marfa, TX 79843, or email them to secretary@cityofmarfa.com.

Marfa School Board

The terms of Marfa ISD school board members Teresa Nuñez, Ruben Martinez, Phil Boyd and Jay Foster are up for election. Boyd, Place 5, and Foster, Place 3, were recently appointed but still have to file to keep their seats. Nuñez, Place 7, has been on the board, most recently serving in the role as board president, since 2016, meaning she’s served three three-year terms. Nuñez said she intends to file for

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Feb-bray-ary is for love

“Donkey Love,” by Dana Ohlsen, an entry in the #alpinetxphotocontest, signals the month of love.

County talks deputy housing, renews immigration disaster declaration

By SAM KARAS
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MARFA — On Tuesday morning, the Presidio County Commissioners Court voted to approve an application for state funding via Operation Lone Star that would provide new fleet vehicles and upgrades for the sheriff’s office, to the tune of \$760,809. The agency will set aside a chunk of that funding to purchase two single-wide trailers for deputy housing, in a bid to boost applications for open positions on the force. “We’re having a hard

time recruiting deputies,” explained Chief Deputy Joel Nuñez.

Law enforcement entities in the Big Bend have long struggled with recruitment and retention, and the Presidio County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) is no exception. With average home prices on the market hovering around half a million dollars in Marfa, attracting talent on a county salary can be tough. Existing department staff saw a boost in 2023, when SB 22, a bill passed during the last legislative session, gave Sheriff Danny Dominguez a substantial raise and

nearly tripled humble constable salaries — but there’s still room to build out incentives for potential employees.

The PCSO believes that providing housing is a major step in the right direction. Nuñez said that Solitaire, a Presidio-based maquiladora that manufactures homes in Ojinaga and ships them all over the region, offered “a really good discount” to get the project up and running. Commissioners supported the idea and discussed potential locations for the deputy housing on county-owned land — near the rodeo arena

in Antelope Hills seemed like a promising location, but the final plans have yet to be set in stone.

The PCSO has received funding off and on from Operation Lone Star since the program’s inception in 2021. After witnessing record highs of migrant apprehensions in late 2020 and early 2021, Gov. Greg Abbott set aside state funding to help supplement the cost of law enforcement and court proceedings in border counties. Most law enforcement entities in the Big Bend have benefitted from the

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League of United Latin American Citizens chapter coming to the Big Bend

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — Soon, the Big Bend region will have a local chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a national civil rights organization founded in 1929 to strengthen Latino communities.

This week, Ramon Rodriguez Aranda and Hilary Scruggs Beebe — who are also affiliated with the Presidio County Democrats — and Garrett Mormando, an activist who is helping the chapter get on its feet, held informational sign-up sessions in Fort Davis and Marfa to recruit local LULAC members.

With the help of the Jeff Davis County Democrats, the fledgling LULAC chapter was able to recruit around 14 individuals, putting it over the 11 minimum requirement for a local chapter.

The Presidio County Community Fund is helping pay for start-up costs, and once paperwork is finalized, Aranda will serve as the president of the chapter. The council, the first of its kind in the region, is open to everyone. Meeting format and frequency is to be determined.

An initial chapter meeting, which LULAC Texas State Director Gabriel Y. Rosales will be present for, is to take place later this spring.

Aranda and Beebe said they are excited to tap into the extensive network and resources available through LULAC, which will help support other local political organizations like the Big Bend Democrats PAC and Presidio County Democrats.

LULAC’s advocacy areas include pension reform, voting rights, immigration reform, the environment, education and healthcare access.

Aranda said he plans to leverage LULAC’s resources on voter education and voting rights to help improve voter turnout among the Hispanic population — which makes up the majority

of the county. He also received a sponsorship from LULAC to attend a young leaders conference in Washington, D.C.

Given the current political turmoil surrounding immigration issues, and Presidio’s County’s location along the border, Beebe said it also won’t hurt to be armed with LULAC legal and organizational resources if needed. LULAC made headlines in the fall of 2024 for their role in defending Democratic Texas House candidate Cecilia Castellano after Attorney General Ken Paxton launched a voter fraud investigation that involved pre-dawn raids at the homes of election volunteers.

Taxidermy grease-trap battle ends with closed business, dismissed case

By ROB D’AMICO
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ALPINE — A city citation charge against an Alpine taxidermist shop for not having a grease trap was dismissed by a prosecutor on February 4 after it was clear to city officials that the business was closed and its building is listed for sale.

“Since the property is for sale, there is no longer going to be a compliance issue because the business will no longer be

operating,” City of Alpine Secretary Geo Calderon wrote in an email. Alpine Municipal Court records confirmed the dismissal with two stated reasons: “In the interest of justice” and “Other: property subject to sale.”

The Hip-O case ignited controversy in Alpine in November after some residents accused city officials of government “overreach” for their continued assertion that the shop needed to follow city code and install a grease trap because it processed meat. For then-head of

Alpine building services, Robert Rückes, the issue was clear: follow the ordinance, which states that if you discharge grease or oil as a business — without quantifying how much — you need a trap. (Rückes resigned in early December and is now running for City Council in the May 3 election.)

Hip-O’s owner, Howard Parsons, objected and after several months of tense discussion with city officials, he elected to go to trial to fight the \$500 citation from Rückes. He then also decided to shut down after Hip-

O’s 15 years in business. “Due to the actions taken by the City of Alpine restricting our ability to operate our business, we will be closing shop,” he posted on Facebook in November. Many Facebook users commented that it could significantly impact Alpine-area hunters, because there are no other nearby options for processing game. Parsons told The Big Bend Sentinel at the time that he would likely close for good in early December after they finished

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New county historical commission meets, gets new chair

By ROB D’AMICO
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — The newly-appointed Presidio County Historical Commission (PCHC) held its first meeting Saturday in Marfa and discussed a variety of projects and organizational needs that the commission may tackle this year.

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Deirdre Hisler spearheaded the reboot of the commission last August. She said at the time that her constituents had raised concerns about the informal nature of the organization and lack of communication from the commission’s leadership.

On January 8, the Commissioners Court appointed the following members to the body: Martha Stafford, Sam Karas, Anibal Galindo, Bobbie Meader, Jesusita Mondragon, Arian Velazquez-Ornelas and County Attorney Blair Park. Appointed members who served previously on the board are Robert Arber and Terry Bishop.

The PCHC also voted to recommend that the Presidio County Commissioners Court appoint Arian Velazquez-Ornelas as chair. On Tuesday, the Commissioners Court approved the appointment. PCHC also elected other officers: Stafford as vice-chair, Karas as secretary and Meader as treasurer.

State law says a county “may” appoint a historical commission, and if it does it should be composed of at least seven members with two-year terms who are appointed by a county’s commissioners court every two years in odd-numbered years — thus the January appointments. Hisler said previously that most of the people serving on the commission last year were appointed in 2020, and their terms expired in 2022.

Hisler, who is not formally on the commission, said her attendance Saturday was to help organize the body and that she wouldn’t be attending meetings in the future unless the group needed her help.

Velazquez-Ornelas agreed that the session was an organizational meeting to start a process for creating new by-laws, ensure the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has the correct contact information and establish committees at the next meeting. “In general, it was getting to understand how the commission works,” she said.

Representatives from the historical commissions in Jeff Davis County and Brewster County — Jerry Dumas and Thomas Alex respectively — also shared how their commissions work, the committees they use and the types of requirements often needed for THC.

The commissioners did discuss one specific item — descendants of the 15 men and boys killed in 1918 at the Porvenir massacre in Presidio County attempting to get death certificates for those murdered.

As reported in The Big Bend Sentinel on February 6, some of those relatives are expressing frustration at what they perceive are roadblocks by Presidio County in issuing what are called “delayed death certificates.”

“We talked about the Porvenir death certificates and how we need to get more information first and foremost to understand if and how we can support that process and whether it’s legal,” Velazquez-Ornelas said. PCHC members voted to table the item to discuss in the future.

The PCHC will meet again on Monday, February 24, at 6 p.m. in Presidio, location to be determined.

Blast for the past



Staff photo by Sam Karas

Thomas Alex, a Terlingua resident and former Big Bend National Park archaeologist, applies a special cleaner before power washing away graffiti from the 1936 Milton Faver state historical marker in Shafter. A handful of Shafter residents gathered with him last Thursday to help Alex erase the word “colonizer” spraypainted on the granite by vandals in January of last year.

Local city council, school board elections

(Continued from page 1)

reelection. Martinez, Place 6, was appointed in 2022 and has served one three-year term. He said he intends to file for re-election.

School board members convene once a month and are volunteers. They

serve three-year terms. School board elections have been canceled the past three years due to too few candidates vying for the seats. Interested candidates may visit the Marfa ISD Administration Office, located at

400 W. Lincoln, to pick up a packet from the superintendent’s secretary, Griselda Hinojos.

Taxidermy grease-trap battle

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final mounting projects already underway.

According to a letter from Parsons’ attorney to the city, the key to their defense was that Hip-O is on East Highway 90 on an annexed piece of land with no city water or sewer service. Thus, whatever they were putting down their small sink would go to a septic tank and not hurt the city’s water system. (Grease will clump and clog city wastewater lines without a trap to capture it.)

However, Rückes told The Sentinel in November that when septic tanks are pumped, the water and solids are taken to the city water treatment plant. So, any grease collected from the tanks will end up in the water treatment

system, which is in continual need of maintenance and repair, he said.

Parsons said in November that he had never had the septic tank pumped. It’s unclear if that meant since he bought the business in the summer of 2021 or in the 15 years the business had been running.

On Monday, Hip-O employee Sam Cook said he’s still angry about the city’s actions and the shop’s closure — which is now complete — because he loved his job. “I’m 65 years old and I just got laid off from a job,” he said. “I’ve never been laid off or fired or anything like that in my whole life.”

Cook’s account of the case dismissal is different. He said a representative from the Texas Attorney General’s Office came to Alpine to look at the

city’s case and said it was “unconstitutional and illegal.” “They come down here and they’re like, ‘My God, what are you doing?’ Everything you’ve done is against the law. You can’t treat people like that,” Cook said. Parsons would be pursuing a lawsuit over attorney fees, he added.

Parsons did not return requests for comment on the dismissal, whether the Attorney General’s Office was involved and whether he planned to sue.

City Secretary Calderon said in an email, “The city has not spoken with anyone from the Attorney General’s Office regarding this matter.”

“The city plans on enforcing our current code regarding grease traps in annexed areas,” he added.

Brewster County signs off on new Terlingua clinic

By SAM KARAS
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TERLINGUA — At Tuesday’s meeting, the Brewster County Commissioners Court signed off on funding for a new clinic in Terlingua, approving up to \$150,000 “for the purchase of a skid-mounted portable to be used as the main clinic facilities” and up to \$50,000 for utilities installation.

The project was spearheaded in large part by Reagan Reed of the Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD), who wanted to fulfill a long-time dream for many South Brewster County residents. Reed told

commissioners that he had connected with promising programs via the Texas Medical Center Innovation Factory in Houston.

Reed invited one of those innovators, Dr. Toby Hamilton of Hamilton Health Box, to present to the board in December. Hamilton specializes in “microclinics” — a hybrid in-person and telemedicine set-up that allows for quality healthcare with minimal overhead. “I think this community has stumbled into an opportunity that other communities would bend over backwards for,” he said.

At January’s BBRHD meeting, the board voted in favor of entering a three-year contract with Hamilton Health Box, pitching in \$14,000 a month. The company — which is for-profit — will cover much of the

initial investment, and the hospital district will cover especially needy patients via their indigent care program.

County Judge and former Terlingua Fire and EMS Director Greg Hennington was supportive of the project, knowing first-hand the challenges of seeking out and providing healthcare in the area. Hennington believes that tourists with private insurance can make up some of the financial cost of caring for a heavily uninsured population and divert run-of-the-mill sunburns and sprained ankles from requiring emergency care. “I’m real optimistic that over the next three to five years it’ll be here, and it’ll be here long after I’m gone,” he said.

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Immigration disaster declaration

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funding, with the exception of school law enforcement, which is excluded from the program.

Applying for Operation Lone Star funds requires an extensive reporting process. Counties hoping to receive money from the program must also pass a “disaster declaration” about the state of the border, following procedures similar to when counties solicit help from the state from natural disasters or public health crises. The state’s own declaration stresses that “the surge of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas-Mexico border pose[s] an ongoing and imminent threat of disaster for a number of Texas counties and

for all state agencies affected by this disaster.”

In July 2022, then County Judge Cinderela Guevara first issued a disaster declaration for Presidio County that included language about an “invasion” of migrants — a term that has drawn ire from advocacy groups, who believe that militarized border rhetoric has sparked hate crimes like the 2019 Walmart shooting in El Paso, committed by a person radicalized by the thought of a “Hispanic invasion of Texas.” (The new document does not include this language and instead refers to “unprecedented levels of illegal migration.”)

Presidio County will likely continue to benefit from the program in the years to come. Operation Lone Star has been making national headlines this month as the state seeks reimbursement for the \$11 billion spent on the program since 2021. Supporters argue that that spending was only necessary because the Biden administration did not adequately address immigration issues. “It is time Texans are repaid for footing the bill for Biden’s failures at the border,” wrote Congressman Roger Williams, who filed a bill on the subject on Tuesday.

One Tail at a Time celebrates launch in West Texas

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — On Saturday evening, well over 200 people turned out to Siempre in Marfa to toast the official West Texas launch of One Tail at a Time, an animal rescue organization. Great Danes and Chihuahuas mingled while kids dashed through the tables and party-goers grooved to a performance by the Marfa Municipal Alliance — all while supporting a great cause.

One Tail at a Time grew from the rescue efforts of Terlingua’s Heather Hall and has grown to include a wide web of volunteers, fosters and animal control officers from Sierra Blanca to Sanderson. The crowd matched the diversity of the vast region the organization serves, with folks coming in from all over the Big Bend to celebrate.

In 2024 One Tail at a Time West Texas rescued a total of 766 pets with the help of 53 fosters and 9 payrollled team members, clocking over 60,000 miles in trips between far flung towns.

Saturday’s event featured a tasty spread donated by local businesses and individuals including the Water Stop, Roux Alpine, Angel’s Restaurant, Socorro’s Tamales, Julie Fisher, Bitter Sugar, Aster, Para Llevar, Cactus Liquors and Sawtooth Projects. Dillon Orr was the emcee, Jerram Rojo shook hundreds of margaritas and Crystal Albright served as official photographer.

Hall’s West Texas rescue work grew out of a collaboration with former Presidio Animal Control Officer Sergio Carrasco. Carrasco, Hall and their fellow advocates worked to transform local shelters from high-kill, low-resource operations to being places of empowerment for all things furry and four-legged.

As One Tail at a Time, the crew joins a network with offshoots in Portland and Chicago. The three Tails are independent, but share resources and expertise where possible. “We exist in a collective to try to do more for our own communities,” Hall explained.

The party was a preview of other exciting things to come: In April, the organization will debut a brick-and-mortar storefront in Marfa to host community programming and other events. Adoptable pets will be named in honor of all things Marfa this month in celebration — meaning you could own a Judd of your very own for a low adoption fee.

Hall was grateful for the support of the community — and for the other rescue organizations and shelters in the Big Bend working hard to serve local animals. “It didn’t happen overnight, and we couldn’t do it alone,” she said.



Staff photos by Sam Karas

Biggie accompanied his human, OTAT-WTX volunteer driver Lucinda Herrera, to help check people in at Saturday’s event.

Merle Holtsford bonds with OTAT-WTX puppy Wrong, named after the gallery in Marfa.

Texas reports new measles outbreak in West Texas

The outbreak in Gaines County, with a population of about 22,000, has grown since two cases were reported in January. All those who contracted measles were unvaccinated, health officials said.

By PAVAN ACHARYA
The Texas Tribune

At least 10 cases of measles — eight of which are among school-aged children — have been reported in Gaines County in West Texas over the past two weeks, driving worries of an escalating outbreak.

Of the cases so far, seven have been hospitalized, according to a Texas Health and Human Services alert. All were unvaccinated and residents of Gaines County, which has a population of about 22,000 and borders New Mexico.

“Due to the highly contagious nature of this disease, additional cases are likely to occur in Gaines County and the surrounding communities,” the alert said.

The new cases come more than a week after Texas health officials reported two Measles cases out of Gaines County, both involving unvaccinated school-aged children. Both children were hospitalized in Lubbock and later discharged. Earlier this week, state health officials said the number of cases had grown to six. Since then, cases have increased further.

West Texas is not alone in new cases of measles. In January, new measles cases were also reported in Harris County, prompting a health alert from the state and marking the first time Texans were confirmed to have the disease since 2023. The two Harris County cases involved unvaccinated adult residents.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease. Symptoms could include a high fever, cough, runny nose and rash that starts on the face but then extends to the rest of the body. The health consequences of getting measles can be serious and sometimes result

in death.

Last year, 40% of all the 245 nationwide who contracted measles were hospitalized, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than half of those hospitalized with measles last year were under the age of five.

The disease’s prevalence has accelerated in recent years. According to the CDC, by March 2024 there were more reported measles cases that year than in all of 2023. The rise comes more than two decades after measles was considered eliminated by health agencies in 2000, meaning that there had been no continuous spreading of the disease for 12 months.

State lawmakers have filed more than 20 bills so far this legislative session aimed at weakening vaccination mandates. One proposal would even amend the Texas Constitution to preserve a Texans’ right to refuse vaccination.

Texas health officials have consistently said that vaccination is the best way for people to steer clear of measles and other preventable diseases. The vaccination process includes two separate doses.

“Children too young to be vaccinated are more likely to have severe complications if they get infected with the measles virus,” the Texas health officials wrote in a Jan. 30 release. “However, each MMR dose lowers the risk of infection and the severity of illness if infected.”

Experts recommend that children get the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine in two doses: the first between 12 months and 15 months of age and the second between 4 and 6 years old. One dose is about 93% effective at preventing measles infection, and two doses are about 97% effective.



Photo by Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune

The Texas health department reported the number of measles cases in Gaines County in West Texas is now 10. Most are children and all were unvaccinated.

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Opinion

Many thanks to Sam Karas for her excellent reporting in the February 6 article, "Years later, death certificates for Porvenir massacre victims still in limbo." Evidently obtaining a Delayed Certificate of Death for a death occurring over 100 years ago and under the sad and brutal circumstances of the Porvenir massacre is virtually impossible under the VS-128 document requirements. Because of this, the descendants of the 15 men who were murdered in Presidio County do not have death certificates.

Rather than outright denying the death certificates or bouncing the issue back and forth between Presidio County and the Texas Department of State Health Services, why not seek assistance from our state representatives? (Looks to me that it's going to "take an act of Congress.") With this in mind I am asking that all who care about correcting this dilemma to contact our state legislators for help; surely they can get a bill passed or have an updated/revised Delayed Death Certificate created. Please contact state Representative Eddie Morales and state Senator Cesar Blanco.

The families of the 15 men who were murdered on January 28, 1918, deserve to have death certificates. This is the very least that can be done for them.

Dawn Shannon
Marfa

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Dear Editor,

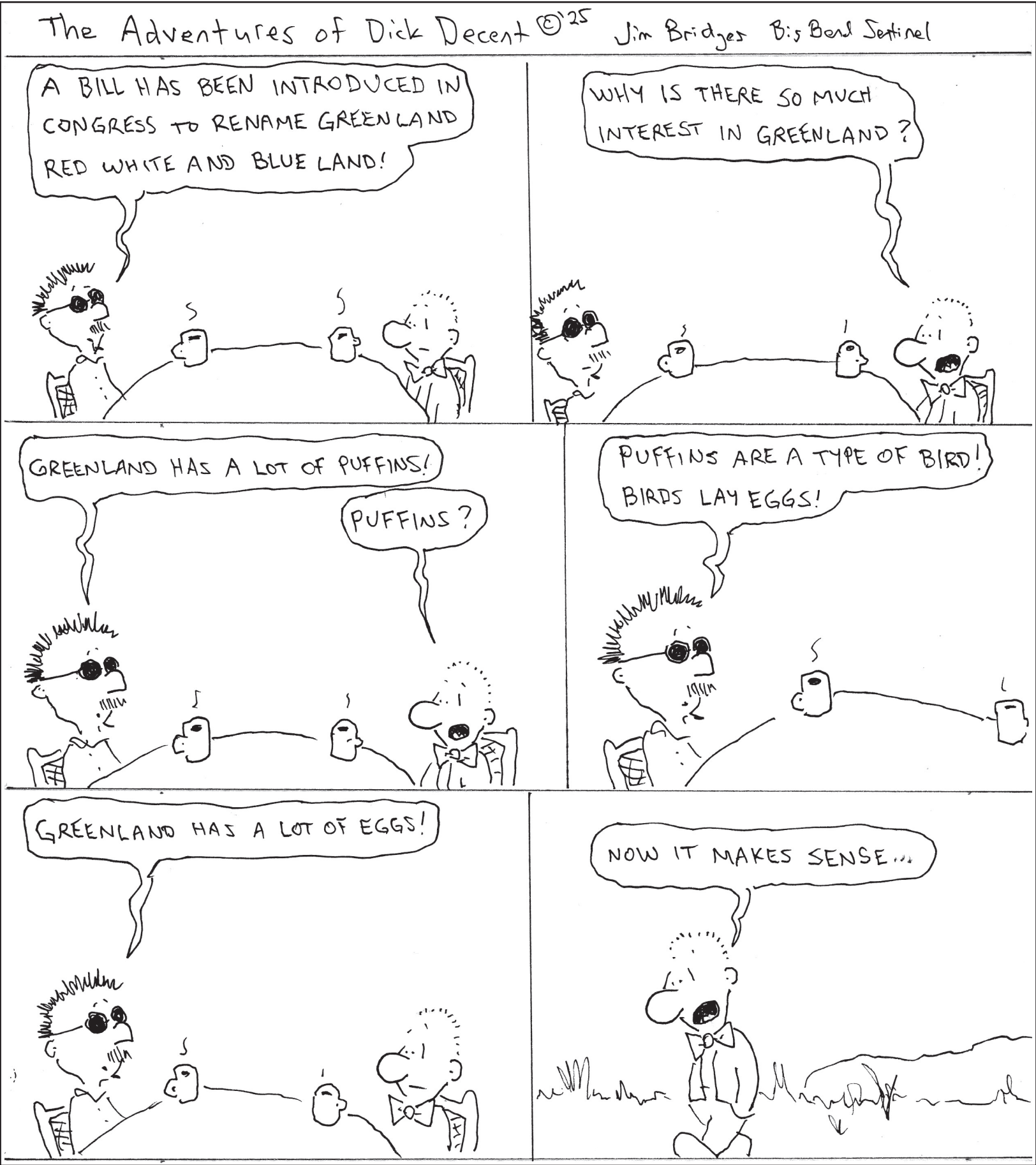
Among his many early accomplishments, not enough praise has been given for President Trump ordering the release of records relating to John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination in Dallas. Without Kennedy, there would be no NASA in Houston, and people would still be talking about someday going to the moon — let alone going to Mars.

There are many people in Alpine, Marfa and Fort Davis talking about honoring President Kennedy by renaming the Jeff Davis Mountains and Fort Davis after him. The move would be part of the trend to honor assassinated presidents (like changing the name of that mountain in Alaska to Mount McKinley). Remember, 2 inches, and President Trump would have been killed. Besides having not kept Kennedy safe while in Texas, we kind of owe it to him.

There will be objections — just as people objected to Robert Kennedy Jr., bringing change to the Department of Health and Human Services, but President Trump overcame those doubters and added him to his cabinet. As John F. Kennedy said, "Conformity is the jailer of freedom." This newspaper should show its support for freedom by supporting the name change.

Thank you
Franklin Wyse
Terlingua

...



OUR WATER MATTERS

Glaciers: Slow-moving rivers of ice

By TREY GERFERS

Glaciers are formed by the accumulation of ice and snow over thousands of years. "At higher elevations, more snow typically falls than melts," according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). When enough of this snow remains in the same area year-round it transforms into ice. "Each year, new layers of snow bury and compress the previous layers. This compression forces the snow to recrystallize, initially forming grains similar to the size and shape of sugar grains. After about a year, the snow reaches an intermediate state between snow and glacier ice, "when it is about two-thirds as dense as water."

As these grains grow larger over time, "the air pockets between the grains get smaller, causing the snow to slowly compact and increase in density." After many years, the weight of these accumulating layers compresses the ice into larger crystals, such that "any air pockets between them are very tiny." The NSIDC website explains that after hundreds of years, these ice "crystals can reach the size of an adult fist." According to NASA's EarthData website, the resulting "crystalline structure strongly scatters blue light" causing the glacier to appear almost turquoise "because the ice absorbs every color in the spectrum except blue."

As glaciers grow, they move by internal deformation of ice (a process known as "creep") and "basal sliding under their own weight," according to the NSIDC. This flow activity is accompanied by a phenomenon known as "calving" when chunks of ice "break off at the terminus, or end, of a glacier ... because the forward motion of a glacier makes the terminus unstable," according to NASA EarthData. The chunks of ice released in this manner are called "icebergs."

Icebergs "pose a significant threat to sea lanes worldwide," according to the NSIDC, with the Titanic disaster as perhaps the foremost example. Some of the most troubling events in recent years include an enormous iceberg more than 50 miles long and 25 miles wide that broke away from the Larsen Ice Shelf in Antarctica in 1995. Meanwhile, the largest well-documented iceberg in human history, designated B-15, calved from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica in 2000. It measured an incredible 183 miles in length and 23 miles in width. After drifting in the Southern Ocean for several years, it gradually split apart into smaller chunks that continued to be spotted well into 2011. Large icebergs are carefully tracked by satellite and aerial surveys to reduce the hazards they pose to international shipping. The United States Geological Survey reports that during the Last Glacial

Maximum (about 20,000 years ago), glaciers covered some 25% of the Earth's land area and 33% of Alaska. During this period, according to the NSIDC, "Ice sheets ... covered much of the Northern Hemisphere," including the Laurentide Ice Sheet, whose "weight created basins that now hold the Great Lakes." Today, glaciers cover about 11% of the Earth's land area and 5% of Alaska, and there are only two ice sheets: the Antarctic and Greenland Ice Sheets.

The Antarctic Ice Sheet covers an area approximately the size of the lower 48 states and Mexico combined, while the Greenland Ice Sheet is about three times the size of Texas. Both ice sheets average about 1 mile in thickness and together contain more than 68% of all the fresh water and 99% of all freshwater ice on the planet. The water contained in the Antarctic Ice Sheet alone would be enough to raise sea levels almost 200 feet if it were to melt.

"If a glacier as a whole has a positive mass balance, the glacier terminus advances and the glacier expands in area," according to the NSIDC. "If a glacier has a negative mass balance, the amount of ice transferred to the terminus is not enough to offset ice melt and the position of the glacier terminus retreats and the glacier shrinks in area ... With a few exceptions, glaciers in all regions of the Earth have negative mass balances. Their termini are retreating, and they are shrinking in area."

According to the State of Global Water Resources 2023 Report published last October by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), "[G]laciers lost more than 600 gigatons (Gt) of water [in 2023], the largest mass loss registered in the last five decades ... Following 2022, 2023 is the second consecutive year in which all glaciated regions in the world reported ice loss," reflecting significant reductions "in glacier mass that would be the highest on record (1950–2023)."

Celeste Saulo, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization summed up the impact of ice loss by stating: "Water is the canary in the coalmine of climate change ... Melting ice and glaciers threaten long-term water security for many millions of people. And yet we are not taking the necessary urgent action."

Visit <https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-water-resources-2023> to read the full WMO 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.

"This flow activity is accompanied by a phenomenon known as 'calving' when chunks of ice break off at the terminus"

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What the two widows taught me

By MARY ETHERINGTON
The Big Bend Sentinel

Betty MacGuire died last week. The news was not unexpected. Betty was 101. Several years ago, Betty’s best friend, Aurie West, told me that once Betty stopped flying down to Marfa every Thursday for their bridge game and returning to El Paso after church and a nap on Sunday, they spoke on the phone every week. Aurie told me with great sadness that, lately, Betty was slowly more unsure of who she was speaking with, so we knew she was slipping away. These friends were losing the grip on very long and happily entwined lives. Both of their rancher husbands were gone. However, those two carried on like well-behaved teenagers — who enjoyed good red wine. Then unexpectedly Aurie was gone. Pneumonia.

Betty told me their husbands got on as famously as the two of them did, which meant many great adventures and evenings together. This, she assured me, was very unusual. Aurie lived her entire life in Marfa, except the years in a boarding school, from which she and her husband eloped — which got her sent back to Marfa, and an annulment. She said she behaved as badly as only a teenager can, which caused her parents to relent. She was remarried to that same young man until his death. The two ranching couples shared their lives.

I didn’t know anything of Betty being the force behind an orphanage in El Paso, until a gentleman visited Marfa who had been on the board there for

30-some years filled me in. Nor did I know Betty had been an orphan. She was not one to talk about herself. She did tell me about the guy who tried to steal her plane, right here on the ranch in Marfa, and when they caught up with him he had the engine going. Her stories were lighthearted with happy endings. Betty never mentioned she trained as a pilot during World War II, until someone else mentioned it and I brought it up. By the time I met Betty she was no longer flying herself down to Marfa; she hired a pilot, much to the relief of her friends.

After learning about Betty’s involvement with the orphanage, she told me about a new project she had started in El Paso to help young people aging out of the foster system. She said many of the foster families were not good people, who turned the kids out into the street at the end of their time. She wanted to help these kids who found themselves suddenly stranded. She established a place for them to come for all sorts of support, money for housing, computers to use for college applications and jobs and every other thing she could think of to help them transition to life on their own. What a vision with the heart and will to back it up.

I loved being around them. They shone and kindness and wit spilled around them. As the years went on, I cut up Betty’s meal for her and placed a pillow behind her as she began to shrink in stature. Their friendship was a superpower to behold. Learning from these two ranchers was a gift to me that I will cherish forever, in spite of how much I miss them both and the ability to call them up when I hear a rumor and want to know the truth.

Big Bend Conservation Alliance to break ground on upgrades for Presidio

From the Big Bend Conservation Alliance

PRESIDIO — Big Bend Conservation Alliance invites the Presidio community to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for “Everything’s Connected in Presidio: Building Climate Resiliency through Green Infrastructure and Reducing Pollution through Traffic Mitigation at the International Bridge Crossing.”

This vital project focuses on protecting our most vulnerable residents — especially the elderly — by strengthening infrastructure to safeguard against power outages and flooding. Thanks to a \$12.7 million grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights in December, this project will improve the Presidio Activity Center (PAC) with solar power, ensuring it serves as a reliable cooling and refuge center during power outages and heat emergencies. Additionally, the project will complete three detention ponds designed to reduce flash flooding in residential neighborhoods, protecting homes and property from damage.

As part of the project’s efforts to improve daily life in Presidio, a new transit system technology will be developed to help ease traffic congestion

at the International Bridge Crossing, reducing pollution and streamlining border crossings for residents and businesses. The project will also include planting nearly 5,000 trees throughout the community, offering more shade and encouraging residents to use the existing bike and walking path installed by TxDOT — promoting healthier, more active lifestyles.

In a commitment to local economic development, Big Bend Conservation Alliance plans to utilize as many local contractors and businesses from the tri-county area as possible, ensuring that this investment directly benefits the Presidio community and supports job growth in the region. By investing in infrastructure, technology-based solutions, and traffic mitigation, this initiative will strengthen Presidio’s ability to withstand extreme weather, reduce pollution, and support public health and safety. The multiphase project will roll out over the next three years, with a focus on practical, community-driven solutions that enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Presidio Activity Center, located at 1200 E O'Reilly St, Presidio, TX 79845.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.bigbendconservationalliance.org.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 3, 2025

ACROSS
1 "In reality ..."
7 He has a Ratatouille Adventure ride at Epcot
11 World Cup chant
14 Decouple
15 Powerful desire
16 Seize
17 Cup full of a certain peanut butter? (Laos)
19 Commonly misspunctuated possessive
20 What's boiled to make maple syrup
21 ____ vera juice
22 One-liner, for one
23 Sheets that aren't generic? (South Africa)
27 "Do my eyes deceive me?"
30 Moves at a speedy pace
31 Theatrical award
32 Large coffee holders
33 Org. in many John le Carre novels
36 Fabric prone to bleeding in the wash? (Iran)
41 Had a bite
42 Bring in from a field
43 Suspicious of
44 Scout unit

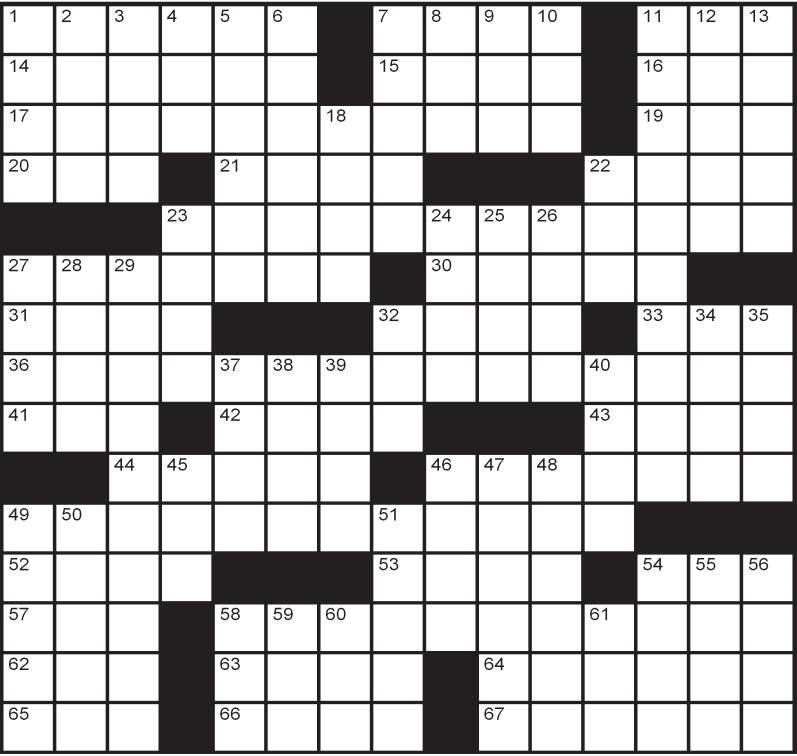
DOWN
46 Spreadsheet contents
49 Spicy sweetener? (Japan)
52 Metal in brass
53 Post-workout feeling
54 Smartphone precursor: Abbr.
57 Introspective question
58 Profit from an asset sale ... or a hint to 17-, 23-, 36- or 49-Across
62 Stimp'y's bud
63 Doing business
64 Poem such as "Ozymandias"
65 ____ the light of day
66 Sobbed
67 Depends on
1 Commotion
2 "Puppy Love" singer Paul
3 Brief video
4 Pointy end
5 Not completely
6 It descended from orbit on July 11, 1979
7 Governed
8 Noted period
9 Dosage units: Abbr.
10 Meaning of a thumbs-up
11 Cooks' papery discards
12 Fried Hanukkah treat

ACROSS
13 Buddy of "Barnaby Jones"
18 Vanished
22 Pam's beau on "The Office"
23 Well, in Montreal
24 Better Than ____ (alt-rock group)
25 Warning word
26 Get defeated
27 Name hidden in "Delphic oracle"
28 Border on
29 When Y2K frenzy was at its peak
32 Strike caller
34 Brandenburg
35 Ink splotch
37 What's "pumped" at a gym
38 Gas in a bright sign

DOWN
39 Be wide open
40 Lion's sound
45 Button associated with a flashing red light
46 Air-conditioning tube
47 Totally shocked
48 President known as "Old Rough and Ready"
49 Business barons
50 Rocker Mann
51 Perfect person
54 Demolishes in a review
55 Daily intake
56 Colonial insects
58 Calf minder
59 Parrot
60 Get-up-and-go
61 Wildebeest

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
H Y P E C A N O N A B L E
O A R S L H A S A R O A D
P L O P E A R L S T O T E
E L M L A B C O A T K E N
I B E T L A P S
M A S O N A D S L O T U S
A L E X A B O A L O O S E
S O M E F O G G Y D R E W
S E E R E M C E E L E S S
S I B I L A N C E
A L O H A N O D I S L A M
L E M O N A T V S K A T E
A V E R E T H I C I N O N
R E N T R E E C E R A N D
M E S S E D S E L T I E S
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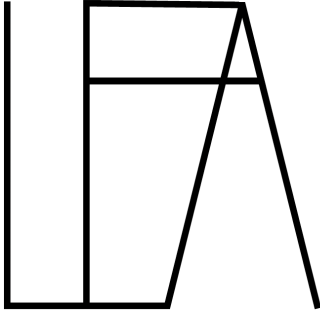
Judd Foundation

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.

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

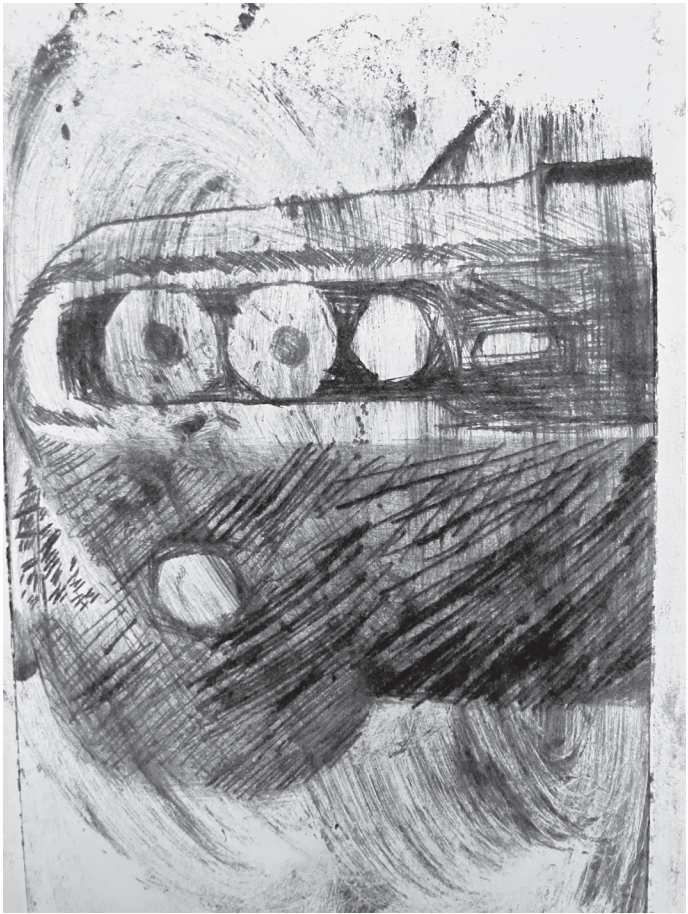
JUDD



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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Jose Muñoz-bueno
10th grade - etching

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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, Feb 13	Fri, Feb 14	Mon, Feb 17	Tue, Feb 18	Wed, Feb 19
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST PARFAIT, JUICE, FRUIT,MILK	BREAKFAST COMBO, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	BREAKFAST SANDWICH, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, CHIPS, CELERY, CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT, SHERBET	CHICKEN PARMESAN, ROLL, GREEN BEANS, CORN, PEACHES	NO SCHOOL	CORN DOG MINIS, POTATOES, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT CUP	NACHOS GRANDE, SALSA, BEANS, CUCUMBERS, APRICOTS, ICE CREAM CUP

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

11th - 12th: Playoffs - Girls BB vs Buena Vista in Ft. Stockton
14th - 16th: Girls BB Area Playoffs
16th: Softball HS Tournament - Marfa

Marfa dominates Terlingua, advances to playoffs

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — The Marfa Shorthorns wrapped up district basketball play in dominant fashion Friday night, securing a double-digit road victory over Terlingua.

On the boys’ side, Alejandro Rodriguez once again spearheaded the attack, with strong contributions from Austin McGary who had numerous offensive putbacks. For the Lady Horns, Zoey Salgado led the offensive charge with 14 points, followed by Raven Martinez with 10 and Ava Flores with 8.

Both Shorthorn teams clinched spots in the UIL State Playoffs. The Lady Horns faced Buena Vista in the bi-district round on Tuesday but fell short,

20-44, ending their postseason run. Marfa’s scoring efforts came from Raven Flores, Loretta Rivera, Zoey Salgado, and Madison Cash, each with 4 points, while Ava Flores added 3 and Janayah Villa contributed 2. Flores also tallied 5 assists for Marfa. Despite the playoff exit, the Lady Horns conclude their season with a promising 15-7 record as head coach Kevin Pippen looks to build on this year’s success moving forward. Marfa will return most of their roster next year but bid farewell to seniors Loretta Rivera and Janayah Villa, both four-year members of the program.

The Shorthorns boys now turn their focus to the bi-district round, where they will take on Rankin in Fort Stockton on Monday. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. as Marfa looks to keep its playoff hopes alive.

Photos by Felipe Fierro



Raven Martinez helps lead the Lady Horns offensive charge.



Ava Flores was honored as an outstanding player for her hard work this basketball season.



Austin McGary, an outstanding player this season, competes against Fort Davis.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

April 7, 1928

MARFA HIGH SCHOOL HAS INTERESTING HISTORY: FIRST SCHOOL INSTITUTED IN 1883

All the facts that are needed to make a complete history of the Marfa Public School have not been gathered as yet, but enough have been secured to show a remarkable growth and to prove that the people of Marfa have always been interested in the education of their children.

The first public school in Marfa was organized and taught by Miss Barnhart in 1885. Miss Barnhart was followed by Mr. B.P. Adams, who later became county judge of Presidio County. The founder of the Marfa High School was Mr. H.B. Griffin, who served as superintendent from 1900 to 1912. During Mr. Griffin's first year there were three teachers in the school, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Laura Wilcox, and Miss Hyde.

In 1885 Miss Barnhart taught in a single room adobe building which stands today near the present Mexican School building, and is owned by Sam Hensley. The adobes were made arid and placed in the wall of this building at a cost of \$30.00 per thousand. The first brick building was erected on the site of the present building in the late eighties, or early nineties. It was a two-story building having four rooms on the first floor and two rooms and the auditorium on the second floor. This building, complete with all desks and equipment, was \$6,000.00. The school continued to grow, and in 1910 the north and south wings were added. These additions contained six classrooms and were erected at a cost of \$15,000, which was paid by voting bodies for the purpose.

Another addition to the original building was made in 1917 at a cost of \$9,000.00, and was built without voting any bonds as the school fund at the time was sufficient to take care of the cost. Mr. T.C. Mitchell, Mr. Roberts, and Mrs. J.P. Tigner were the trustees when the north and south wings were added to the building.

In 1924 the people of Marfa voted to erect a new school building, and a bond issue of \$75,000.00 was voted for the purpose.

Editor’s note: This piece was edited for length.

Marfa Municipal Alliance holds Valentine’s Day benefit for Casa Hogar

MARFA — The Marfa Municipal Alliance for Dead Country and Folk Singers will perform “Songs for the Broken Hearted,” a fundraiser for Casa Hogar orphanage in Ojinaga, at 7 p.m. Friday, February 14, at The Pony.

The show will open with an abbreviated set by Primo y Beebe. There will be 11 instrumentalists and 15 vocalists rotating on and off the stage to perform 26 Valentine’s Day tearjerkers — in keeping with the alliance motto “bringin’ sadness to your happy occasion” — by Ricky Nelson, Dolly Parton, Kris Kristofferson, Luke Bell, Rosanne Cash, The Judds, Ernest Tubb and more.

Bring cash for the bar and to tip the musicians. Tips will be donated to Casa Hogar orphanage, an already two-time recipient of band profits that said the donations are “extremely welcome” and go towards helping the orphanage cover their property taxes, according to alliance member Pat Keesey.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
Feb
13

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

Lexi Weege & JJ Slater
8pm - 10pm at Marfa Spirit Co.
Lexi Weege & JJ Slater return to Marfa for an evening of blues, soul and folk. Spend the evening relaxing and enjoying songs from this traveling pair. No cover!

Crafts & Drafts
4pm - 8pm at Alcove Social
\$1 off all Craft & Draft beers from 4pm-8pm

Social Dance Class
6pm - 10pm at Granada Theatre
Dance your way into the experience of a lifetime! You are invited to the Granada Theatre for dances including salsa, merengue, cha-cha, waltz, swing and cumbia!

Fri
Feb
14

Leslie Wilkes - Two Paintings
6pm - 8pm at Marfa Country Clinic
Come join us for the Leslie Wilkes - Two Paintings opening reception.

Colt Wayne Keeney & Alex Teller
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Colt Wayne Keeney & Alex Teller play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Lexi Weege & JJ Slater
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Lexi Weege & JJ Slater return for an evening of blues, soul and folk. Spend the evening relaxing and enjoying songs from this traveling pair. No cover!

Sat
Feb
15

Valentine’s in Valentine Present: Valentine in 3D
2pm - at Valentine Mercantile
Back for the 13th year to celebrate West Texas and the legendary Old Mercantile with Valentine’s in Valentine Presents: Valentine in 3D.

Sweetheart Gala
6pm - 11:30pm at Alpine Civic Center
Get ready to celebrate love and romance at our Sweetheart Gala - a night filled with elegance, and charm.

Tom Griffith
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Tom Griffith play at The Ritchey, no cover!

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Sun
Feb
16

Rick Ruiz
6pm - 8pm at The Ritchey
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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.

Feed Two Birds With One Scone

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VALENTINE’S
BAKE SALE

@ The Marfa Museum

FRI. FEB 14, 10AM

MARFA COUNTRY CLINIC

Leslie Wilkes

Two Paintings

Opening reception on Friday 14th 6-8 PM

Beth Francell to speak at Overland Museum

FORT DAVIS — Artist, former Midland Girl Scout, and retired landscape architect Beth Francell will be at the Overland Trail Museum, 511 N Fort Street, on Tuesday, February 18, at 6 p.m. to discuss her family with the Fort Davis Historical Society — beginning with Henry Clay Espy, a name resonant with historical insights into today’s politics, his wife Rowena, and others of the famous and philanthropic Espy clan.

Francell will speak on her other entangled branch, progeny of Walter

Miller, and their role in founding the Union Trading Company, the Limpia Hotel, the Scenic Loop Highway, the Fort Davis State Bank, the Limpia Banking Company, the Fort Davis Auto Company, the Jeff Davis County Library and 400 acres of dense green irrigated fields of alfalfa and sorghum amongst their dry grasslands near Valentine. All are welcome to the presentation.

Native Plant Society of Texas hosts talk on climate project

ALPINE — The Big Bend Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold this month's program on Saturday, February 22, at 1 p.m. in the AEP room of the Alpine Public Library.

Ramon Gonzalez, a local climate activist from Presidio, will be discussing “Everything is Connected in Presidio.” This transformative project is focused on two strategies — climate resilience and pollution reduction

— and seeks to use green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and technology to make a greener and more resilient Presidio. The project will mitigate extreme heat and flooding; reduce pollution; and create a cooling center as a place of refuge during heat emergencies. All are welcome. You need not be a member to attend. To sign up or get information, contact Fonda at fondag@sbcbglobal.net as space is limited.

Big Bend Conservation Alliance to host happy hour at Planet Marfa

MARFA — The Big Bend Conservation Alliance will be hosting a happy hour at Planet Marfa on Thursday, February 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. Meet the team and learn about the organization’s work.

Food, drinks, and “The River is Home” bandanas will be available for

purchase. Live music will be provided by Primo y Beebe.

Proceeds from the happy hour will benefit Big Bend Conservation Alliance. The event is open to the public. Learn more at www.bigbendconservationalliance.org.

A reminder about Presidio Public Library services

By Diana Aguirre Armendariz
For The Big Bend Sentinel

PRESIDIO — Carmen Elguezabal, director of the Presidio Public Library, reminds the community of Presidio and its visitors about the public services offered by the library.

These include fax service, copies, unlimited use of computers, printers, and even scheduling your appointment for a driver's license or passport — and of course a wide variety of books in both English and Spanish. "If you

do not find the book you like, you can order it through the interlibrary loan program, a free service where you can order at no cost and loan it to those interested," Elguezabal said.

For any information, call 432-339-3317. "We are here to serve the community of Presidio and its surroundings, Big Bend, Ojinaga, etc.," Elguezabal said. The library’s current regular hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m, located at 1200 E. O'Reilly St. Presidio, TX. 79845.

DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Marfa basketball teams poised for playoff success

By Darren

The Marfa High School boys basketball team has been on an impressive journey this season, and excitement is building as they head into the playoffs. Members of the team and coaching staff are optimistic about their chances for success with three district games left before the playoffs begin.

Alejandro Rodríguez, a junior and starting player on the team, shared his enthusiasm for the season: “I’m excited for our district ... I’m ready for playoffs!” He believes that if the team keeps up a strong work ethic, the Shorthorns have the potential to reach the later rounds, stating, “If we keep working the way we are, we can probably make it to round 3 or 4.”

Head coach Arron Luna echoed these sentiments, expressing his pride in the team’s progress. “I feel that we’ve worked hard and are in a good position. We need to see how far we can take this and make a run of it,” he said.

Coach Luna is particularly eager to build on last year’s performance, hoping to advance further than the second round this time. “I’m excited. Last year we made it to the second round, and I would like to see us make history this year,” he added. Reflecting on his first year as head coach and winning district champs, he remarked, “It’s special, and I’m glad I got to do it with the guys I’m coaching. I’ll never forget it.”

The team’s dynamics are also enhanced by their manager, senior Diego Jurado, who enjoys his role. “It’s pretty fun managing,” he said. “It feels great [getting to district champs], and I get to go on all the trips without practicing!” When asked about potential improvements, he suggested, “I would definitely suggest getting new water bottles.” Freshman starter Austin McGary, AKA Flipper, shared his feelings about the team’s success. “I feel honored to be a district champion,” he said, noting the significance of this achievement in his first year on the varsity team. He is confident in the team’s potential, stating that the team can make it,

“As far as we wanna make it, it really depends on us.”

Fellow freshman Abelardo Marquez, AKA Bubba, also expressed optimism. “I feel pretty good, especially because it’s my first year,” he said. He highlighted the friendships within the team, saying, “It feels great making it with these boys.” Bubba is confident about their playoff chances, stating, “I honestly feel like we can win it.” As the playoffs approach, the Marfa HS boys basketball team is ready for the playoffs! Go Horns!

The Lady Horns are similarly dominating their basketball season having only fallen once to the Balmorhea team. Zoey Salgado, a sophomore, said, “I like playing basketball, I just like playing as a team. And I feel like basketball is funny to play, I just laugh the whole time, we do goofy stuff.”

“We’ve been doing pretty good, we’ve only lost one game in district,” said Junior Raven Martinez. “We’re getting better every practice, every game,” added sophomore Madison Cash.

Coach Pippen, the girls’ team coach, said, “I feel that the basketball season is going pretty good. It started off slow but they progressively got better as the season went on. We weren’t winning too many games before district, but now we’re at the top of our district, only one game behind Balmorhea. We have a good chance of getting district champs. And our first game in the playoffs looks like it’s going to be Buena Vista. And the first time that we played them we hung in the first couple of quarters, and then it got away from us, so I feel like our girls are able to compete with them and maybe, possibly, bring in a district championship, even a bi-district championship.”

On Tuesday night, the Shorthorns had their first home game in a while and celebrated Senior Night, for the students in the Class of 2025 on the basketball team. Loretta Rivera, Maryfer Martinez, Janayah Villa, Diego Jurado, and Derick Campos were introduced with their parents and given baskets full of goodies to celebrate their final season as Shorthorn athletes on the court.

The girls playoffs begin the week of February 10, and the boys’ playoffs are the week after, starting February 17.

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



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OBITUARIES



Ybarra

Manuel Gallego Ybarra, affectionately known as "Manny," "Mel" or "Popo," was a cherished husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He passed away peacefully at home on February 8, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on May 8, 1939, in Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, Mexico, Manuel later made his home in Alpine, Texas.

Throughout his life, Manuel was dedicated to hard work. He began his career with Coca-Cola in delivery and sales before transitioning into the chemical sales industry. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to co-own and operate Alpine Pest Control, where he became well-known for his commitment to excellence.

One of Manuel's most endearing qualities was his warm personality. He was generous, kind, and outgoing — able to converse easily with anyone and form deep connections with those around him. His friendly presence made him a

familiar figure in Alpine, where he touched many lives.

Outside of work, Manuel had a passion for music and was proud to be a part of a mariachi group. He enjoyed singing and working outdoors in his yard. His love for games was evident in his enjoyment of poker, board games, and bowling. Additionally, he loved fishing and was a huge fan of the Miami Dolphins, often sharing his knowledge of the team's statistics with friends and family.

Manuel is survived by his devoted wife, Maria Flora Ybarra; his sons, Miguel, Manuel Jr., and Oscar Ybarra; his daughter, Alma Ybarra Campo, his grandchildren, Angela Ybarra, Rebecca Ybarra, Kaitlin Gonzales, and Maximilian Pagels Ybarra; and his great-grandchildren, Colston and Adalee Gonzales.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jorge and Luz Ybarra; his brothers, Jorge Jr., Flavio, Hector, and Baldo Ybarra; and his sisters, Elva Natera, Virtudes Valencia, Petra Guebara, and Licha Najera.

Friends and family paid their respects during visitation on February 12, 2025, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine, Texas, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. A Rosary service followed at 9:30 a.m., and a Mass began at 10 a.m. Burial took place after the funeral Mass at Holy Angels Cemetery in Alpine.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home and gifts and condolences may be left by visiting www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.



MacGuire

Betty Lee Moor MacGuire was born on October 30, 1923, in El Paso, Texas. She passed away on February 2, 2025, of natural causes. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lee and Beulah Johnson Moor. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years, John Thomas MacGuire. Betty is survived by her daughters, Mela Macquarrie (Doug Gunton) of Santa Fe and Carol Carnes Johnson (Steve) of El Paso, as well as her grandchildren, Lee MacGuire Carnes of Austin and Jenny Leavell (Jay Smith) of Denver, and her great-grandchildren, Audrey and Walker Smith and Chloe Grace Carnes.

Betty was adopted by Beulah and Lee when she was 17 days old. She always considered that the luckiest day of her life. She eloped with the love of her life, John, within 10 months of meeting him and had a grand adventure from that point on. Betty was an accomplished pianist, equestrian, avid bridge player, licensed pilot of single and twin engine aircraft as well as the P-51 Mustang, skeet and trap shooter, golfer, tennis player, swimmer, water skier, snow skier, sailor, short wave radio operator and, because she graduated from the Texas School of Mines in El Paso with a degree in accountancy in 1948, John's bookkeeper for all of his business endeavors throughout their marriage.

Betty was very involved in her community. She was instrumental in saving the Plaza Theatre from demolition. She was on the board of

directors of the El Paso YWCA, El Paso Community Foundation, Lee and Beulah Moor Children’s Home, and War Eagles Air Museum, as well as a lifelong member and one-time director of the Pan American Round Table of El Paso and Juarez, a women’s organization that promotes friendship and understanding between women of both cities, as well as a member of the Texas Women’s Cattle Association, Tri Delta Sorority and the Ninety-Nines. She was thrilled when her daughter Mela was chosen Sun Queen in 1966 and thrived on the activities surrounding the coronation. She and her fellow women pilots founded the lending library at the War Eagles Air Museum and cataloged all the airplane literature that was donated. In 2014, she wrote an autobiography about her and John with author Susan Novick, called, Just Plain Lucky, which was her and John’s favorite saying about their life together.

Betty was a gentle, affectionate, loving friend, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a great listener and never told anyone what to do but was kind and loving with her advice if asked. She was non-confrontational yet stood up for herself when it mattered. She loved El Paso as well as Marfa, after she and John purchased a ranch there in the 1990s. She was a lifelong rancher and West Texas girl who adored the high chaparral and the hot summer winds. Betty was a devoted wife to John throughout their long, happy marriage. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be handled by Martin Funeral Home West, where a Celebration of Betty’s remarkable Life, along with light snacks, will be held at the Martin Funeral Home facility, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. as an open house format. There will be a private, immediate family-only burial service in Marfa. Please send any donations in remembrance of Betty to the Lee and Beulah Moor Children’s Home. Please, do not send flowers or food to the family. Thank you for your consideration.

To submit an obituary please email
editor@bigbendsentinel.com

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Classifieds & public notices

NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF PRESIDIO

and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court, 394th Judicial District, of Presidio County, Texas, by the District Clerk on said date, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I have on the 15th of January, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, the same being the 4th day of said month, at the Courthouse door, of said County in the City of Marfa, beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in such suit to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Presidio and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. 5198-A; PRESIDIO COUNTY TAX OFFICE v. EDUARDO HERRERA, ET UX

TRACT 1: GEO: 1 10 02700000004003
Lot 30, Block 4, Broadway Addition to the Town of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 295, Page 243 in the Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas.

TRACT 2: GEO: 1 10 027000000040029
Lot 29, Block 4, Broadway Addition to the Town of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 277, Page 67 in the Deed Records of Presidio County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 5223-A: PRESIDIO COUNTY v. MARIA MENESES, ALSO KNOWN AS MARIA M. MENESIS, INDIVIDUALLY AND DOING BUISNESS AS KARINA'S FURNITURE, ET AL

TRACT 2: GEO: 1 10 24100000031006
A Tract of land 3 acres, more or less in Abstract 3095, Survey 331, Jesus Vazquez Original Grantee, Presidio County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien recorded in Document No. 2013-065 of the Official Public Records of Presidio County, Texas.

TRACT 3: GEO: 1 10 16400000012002
Lot 20, 21 and 22, Block 12, Plaza Addition to the Town of Presidio, Presidio County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 311, Page 656 of the Official Public Records of Presidio County, Texas.

CAUSE NO. 5290-A; PRESIDIO COUNTY TAX OFFICE v. DAVID GOMEZ, ET UX

TRACT 1: GEO: 1 20 23300000006001
Lot 10, Block 6, West Heights Addition, Presidio County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Document #20150000639 in the deed records of Presidio County, Texas.
or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment, interest, penalties, and costs; subject, however to the right of redemption by the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, in the manner provided by law, and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

I have appointed the following as agent to conduct the sale, to-wit:

Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
2500 N. Big Spring St., Suite D
Midland, Texas 79705
(432) 522-2427

THIS SALE IS BEING CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO STATUTORY OR JUDICIAL REQUIREMENTS. BIDDERS BID ON THE RIGHTS, TITLE, AND INTERESTS, IF ANY, IN THE REAL PROPERTY OFFERED.

THE PROPERTY IS SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS, AND WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. NEITHER THE COUNTY NOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WARRANTS OR MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE PROPERTY'S TITLE, CONDITION, HABITABILITY, MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. BUYERS ASSUME ALL RISKS.

IN SOME SITUATIONS, A LOT OF FIVE ACRES OR LESS IS PRESUMED TO BE INTENDED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE. HOWEVER, IF THE PROPERTY LACKS WATER OR WASTEWATER SERVICE, THE PROPERTY MAY NOT QUALIFY FOR RESIDENTIAL USE. A POTENTIAL BUYER WHO WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION SHOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES OR CONSULT WITH PRIVATE COUNSEL.

ESTA VENTA SE LLEVARÁ A CABO DE CONFORMIDAD CON LOS REQUISITOS LEGALES O JUDICIALES. LOS POSTORES HARÁN UNA OFERTA POR EL TÍTULO, LOS DERECHOS E INTERESES, SI ALGUNO, EN LA PROPIEDAD OFRECIDA.

LA PROPIEDAD SE VENDE COMO ESTÁ, EN EL LUGAR DONDE SE ENCUENTRA, Y SIN NINGUNA GARANTÍA, YA SEA EXPRESA O IMPLÍCITA. NI EL CONDADO, NI LA OFICINA DEL ALGUACIL

Notice of Sale, page 2
GARANTIZAN O HACEN NINGUNA REPRESENTACIÓN SOBRE EL TÍTULO DE LA PROPIEDAD, CONDICIÓN, HABITABILIDAD, COMERCIABILIDAD, O IDONEIDAD PARA UN PROPÓSITO PARTICULAR. LOS COMPRADORES ASUMEN TODOS LOS RIESGOS.

EN ALGUNAS SITUACIONES, UN LOTE DE CINCO HECTÁREAS O MENOS SE PRESUME QUE ES APTO PARA USO RESIDENCIAL. SIN EMBARGO, SI LA PROPIEDAD NO TIENE SERVICIOS DE AGUA POTABLE O AGUAS RESIDUALES, LA PROPIEDAD NO PUEDE CALIFICAR PARA EL USO RESIDENCIAL. UN COMPRADOR POTENCIAL QUE DESEE MÁS INFORMACIÓN, DEBERÁ HACER ESTUDIOS ADICIONALES O CONSULTAR CON UN ABOGADO PRIVADO.

At the time the sale begins, all bidders at the sale must be registered with the above named agent conducting the sale and be eligible to bid according to the Property Tax Code.

Dated at Marfa, Presidio County, Texas, this the 15th day of January, 2025.

/s/Danny C. Dominguez
DANNY C. DOMINGUEZ
SHERIFF, PRESIDIO COUNTY

Public awareness information on Natural Gas

The City of Marfa operates a natural gas distribution system. The gas pipes are located underground in the City's streets and alleys.

Natural Gas Safety Tips

- Service Natural Gas appliances periodically
- Don't use a gas range to heat a room
- Keep liter and flammables away from gas hot water heaters
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by proper appliance installation,
- maintenance and use
- Teach your family to recognize the smell of natural gas

You can recognize a gas leak by:

- Dead or dying vegetation
- Unusual changes to soil
- Dry, blowing dirt
- Bubbling water
- Corrosion or physical damage
- Insect swarms or dead flies
- Smell of odorized gas
- Hissing sound

Natural Gas Hazards

- Natural Gas is flammable and can ignite when it comes into contact with an ignition source
- In confined spaces, exposure can cause dizziness, asphyxiation and may be toxic, if inhaled at high concentrations
- Natural gas may contain H2S
- May cause asphyxiation, burns, bodily injury, fatality, and property damage

Natural Gas Facts

- Natural Gas is a clean, economical, and efficient fuel
- Natural gas is very safe when used and handled properly
- Natural gas is non-toxic and non-poisonous
- Natural gas has excellent safety record

If you suspect a gas leak:

- Leave the area immediately
- Do not operate electrical appliances
- Do not operate electrical switches
- Call the gas department for help on a phone away from a leak
- Eliminate ignition sources and secure leak area
 - Do not operate motor vehicles near leak area and provide traffic control as needed

REPORT GAS LEAKS BY CALLING

(432)729-1998, (432) 295-3050 OR 911

REMEMBER: STOP BEFORE YOU DIG!!

Law requires you to call 811 48 hours before any excavation project begins so gas and other lines can be located in advance.

1. Call 811 before excavation begins

2. Wait required time (48 hours)

3. Respects the marks and city's underground gas lines marked in yellow

4. Dig with care

The leading causes of pipeline incidents is third party digging without proper notification to 811.

The City of Marfa Gas Department is committed to the safety of our community as well as the safety of the environment.

Priorities in the event of emergencies

- Protection of life
- Protection of property

This would include the following programs:
Damage Prevention and Emergency Response

For additional information call or write to:
City of Marfa Gas Department
113 S Highland Ave
Po Box 787
Marfa, Texas 79843
432-729-1998



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Please contact us at admin@alpinemontessori.org or call 432-837-2173

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the Casner Room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) by Wrong, LLC dba Wrong to be located at 110 N Highland Ave, Marfa, TX

Buck Johnston Manager

Member

Brian C Bosworth Manager

Member

Información de concienciación pública sobre el gas natural

La ciudad de Marfa opera un sistema de distribución de gas natural Las tuberías de gas se encuentran bajo tierra en las calles y callejones de la ciudad.

Consejos de seguridad para el gas natural

- Dar servicio a los aparatos de gas natural periódicamente
- No use una estufa de gas para calentar una habitación
- Mantenga los litros y los productos inflamables alejados de los calentadores de agua a gas
- Evite el envenenamiento por monóxido de carbono mediante la instalación, el mantenimiento y el uso adecuados de los electrodomésticos.
- Enseñe a su familia a reconocer el olor del gas natural

Puede reconocer una fuga de gas por:

- Vegetación muerta o moribunda
- Cambios inusuales en el suelo
- Suciedad seca y soplada
- Agua burbujeante
- Corrosión o daños físicos
- Enjambres de insectos o moscas muertas
- Olor a gas odorizado
- Sonido de silbido

Peligros del gas natural

- El gas natural es inflamable y puede encenderse cuando entra en contacto con una fuente de ignición
- En espacios confinados, la exposición puede causar mareos, asfixia y puede ser tóxica si se inhala en altas concentraciones
- El gas natural puede contener H2S
- Puede causar asfixia, quemaduras, lesiones corporales, muerte y daños a la propiedad

Datos sobre el gas natural

- El gas natural es un combustible limpio, económico y eficiente
- El gas Natura es muy seguro cuando se usa y se maneja correctamente
- El gas natural no es tóxico ni venenoso
- El gas natural tiene un excelente historial de seguridad

Si sospecha de una fuga de gas:

- Abandone el área inmediatamente
- No opere aparatos eléctricos
- No opere interruptores eléctricos
- Llame al departamento de gas para pedir ayuda a un teléfono de distancia de una fuga
- Elimine las fuentes de ignición y asegure el área de fuga
- No opere vehículos motorizados cerca del área de fugas y proporcione control de tráfico según sea necesario

REPORTE FUGAS DE GAS LLAMANDO AL

(432)729-1998, (432) 295-3050 O 911

RECUERDA: ¡DETENTE ANTES DE CAVAR!

La ley requiere que llame al 811 48 horas antes de cualquier Se inicia el proyecto de excavación para que el gas y otros Las líneas se pueden localizar con anticipación.

1. Llame al 811 antes de que comience la excavación

2. Tiempo de espera requerido (48 horas)

3. Respeta las marcas y las líneas de gas subterráneas de la ciudad marcadas en amarillo

4. Cava con cuidado

Las principales causas de incidentes en las tuberías son de terceros excavando sin la debida notificación al 811.

El Departamento de Gas de la Ciudad de Marfa está comprometido a la seguridad de nuestra comunidad, así como a la seguridad del medio ambiente.

Prioridades en caso de emergencia

- Protección de la vida
- Protección de la propiedad

Esto incluiría los siguientes programas:
Prevención de daños y respuesta a emergencias

Para información adicional llame o escriba a:
Departamento de Gas de la Ciudad de Marfa
113 S Avenida de las Tierras Altas
Apartado de correos 787
Marfa, Texas 79843
432-729-1998

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!

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY

Judge Jose Portillo: (432) 729-4452

CITY OF MARFA

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

Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com

Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Morrison
councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com

Travis Acreman
councilmembeacremam@cityofmarfa.com

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

BREWSTER COUNTY

Judge Greg Henington: (432) 837-2412

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

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Judge Curtis Evans: (432) 426-3968

FEDERAL:

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

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

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HUDSPETH COUNTY, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
AND LANDFILL OPERATIONS/
MANAGEMENT
RFP 2025-01

Hudspeth County, TX is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solid Waste Collections and Landfill Operations/Management.

Specifications:

The Request for Proposals (RFP) and the submission requirements may be found online at www.co.hudspeth.tx.us

Sealed Proposals must be submitted by 4:00PM (MST) on February 28, 2025.



THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

Maisie Crow
Max Kabat
Rob D'Amico
Sam Karas
Mary Cantrell
Ariele Gentiles
Tyler Sousa
Mary Etherington
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