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Sul Ross graduate files suit against Trump administration over student visa

By Sam Karas
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PORTLAND, Ore. — Last Thursday, Sul Ross graduate Aaron Ortega-Gonzalez filed suit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after his student visa to attend Oregon State University was abruptly pulled on April 4 “without any notice or meaningful explanation,” per his complaint.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Michael McShane ordered a 14-day temporary restraining order in Ortega-Gonzalez’s case and of another unidentified Oregon student, allowing a two-week pause on immigration proceedings while more information could be gathered.

Ortega-Gonzalez is a Ph.D. student in rangeland ecology and management at Oregon State, where his work centers around restoring rangeland after wildfires — a massive and timely problem across the West. Originally from Cuatémoc, Chihuahua, he enrolled at Sul Ross State University in a master’s program supported by the Borderlands Research Institute in 2021 and defended his thesis in May 2024.

Ortega-Gonzalez is one of more than a thousand students around the country who have had their legal right to study in the United States revoked amid a widespread crackdown against immigrants. “This termination appears to be part of [DHS’s] recent actions to chaotically upend F-1 student status for students across the country on a mass scale, without the provision of notice or due process to the affected students and schools,” the complaint continues.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, non-citizens are allowed to enroll in and attend American universities on an F-1 visa, provided that they continue to meet its educational requirements and don’t violate its terms. These visas are administered by a federal database called the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), which universities use to communicate with immigration authorities.

In a sworn statement filed on Monday, Andre Watson of Homeland Security Investigations explains that Ortega-Gonzalez’s name was run in a criminal database and was a “verified match to an encounter with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on December 11, 2014, at a Port of Entry.”

Watson’s statement does not provide any further information on this “encounter,” which took place six years before he even considered applying for a student visa, but Ortega-Gonzalez’s legal team insists that it’s not enough to go on. “Mr. Ortega-Gonzalez has never been

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Photo by Tina Rivera, Courtesy The Chinati Foundation

The Chinati Foundation hosted their 2025 Grasslands Practicum last week. Through expert-led tours of gardens, greenhouses, conservation sites and hands-on fieldwork, participants from the area gained skills to understand and conserve the Chihuahuan Desert’s grasslands. Above, participants and Dr. Lynn Loomis analyze and remove invasive species from a courtyard at Dan Flavin’s Marfa project at Chinati.

Council member alleges city manager was fired for being a ‘whistleblower’

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — City Councilmember Travis Acreman penned a letter to the editor in this week’s Big Bend Sentinel that alleges previous City Manager Andrea Walter was wrongfully terminated for discovering several instances of “willful mismanagement” by city officers, stretching back years and resulting in the loss of “millions of dollars.”

Walter served as the city manager for around a month and a half before she was fired last week. In

Acreman’s letter he outlines two main issues Walter had uncovered and was working to solve, including fixing vital street repair equipment that had been left languishing for years in a city-owned utility yard and addressing hundreds of dead water meters that result in inequitable utility collections for City of Marfa customers.

The Sentinel spoke with Acreman, as well as council members Raul Lara, Eddie Pallarez and Mark Morrison about the allegations. Mayor Manny Baeza was unable to provide a comment by press time. Walter declined to comment.

Other council members acknowledged the existence of the issues Walter brought to light, but denied that whistleblowing was the reason for her termination. Instead, they said she failed to work well with the mayor, City Council and city staff.

“She was unable to have an effective professional, pleasant work environment with the staff and the entire council,” Morrison said. “It was just not a good fit.”

Pallarez said the end of her brief time as city manager was mutual. “She wanted to leave just as much as we wanted her to go,” he said, adding

that he took issue with her “stirring the pot in certain departments,” talking to people around town about which city staffers were on the chopping block before speaking with the employees one-on-one.

“She should have handled her managerial businesses like a manager, instead of half of the town knowing what she was going to do before her employees knew it,” Pallarez said.

In a follow up with *The Sentinel*, Acreman explained that Walter, in the process of cleaning house and ensuring utility bills and notices

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Alpine man’s human smuggling conviction to be heard by appeals court

By Sam Karas
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NEW ORLEANS — Next Wednesday, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in the case of James Larremore, an Alpine man who was arrested for smuggling three undocumented people in a horse trailer for pay in July 2023. He was later convicted on one count of transporting migrants, but his legal counsel insists that this was the result of an unlawful seizure by a Brewster County Sheriff’s Office deputy.

Over the past few weeks, due

process in federal immigration proceedings has become a topic dissected below headlines around the world, making Larremore’s case a local microcosm for some of the most widely-debated legal issues of our time. Did the way that former BCSO Deputy Christopher Colona handle roving patrol one hot July afternoon violate Larremore’s Fourth Amendment right against illegal searches and seizures?

On the afternoon of July 9, 2023, Deputy Colona skipped lunch, opting instead to monitor traffic on Highway 385 north of Marathon. He would later testify that he planned to do

so to help cover a gap made by a Border Patrol shift change that savvy smugglers might take advantage of.

Colona was parked by the side of the road when he saw an F-250 pulling an empty horse trailer. He knew from previous encounters that the truck belonged to Larremore, but thought it was odd that he was driving on 385 north of Marathon, instead of closer to his father’s ranch or the Big Bend parks, where he took tourists on horseback trips.

Among BSCO employees, Larremore had a bit of a rowdy reputation. In his testimony, Colona said that a South County deputy had

had a run-in with him after a late night at the High Sierra turned into a shootout at Jo-Mama’s RV Park. Colona himself had encountered him asleep in his truck after last call at the Ole Crystal Bar. (The deputy also said a source accused Larremore of being involved in a smuggling operation, but didn’t provide any details about the informant.)

In dashcam footage provided by the government, Colona pulls out behind Larremore four seconds after his trailer leaves the frame, pushing up to 93 miles an hour to catch up with him. After following close for

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Wife’s passing inspires Alpine man to rescue unwanted horses

Funding, volunteers needed for foundation

By James McCommons
For The Big Bend Sentinel

MARATHON — After Mike Balog’s wife, Anita, died in November 2022, he was understandably distraught. They had been married 28 years, and it was like his whole world stopped, and he didn’t know what to do next. “I would pray, ‘Lord, just take me home. I’m ready.’ But after a time, it was clear that wasn’t happening,” recalled Balog.

He began walking, setting off on long treks around Alpine and scaling the Hancock Hill trails next to Sul

Ross State University. One Saturday at the farmer’s market, he ran into Jamie Boyd, an associate professor of animal science, who told him of a study she was overseeing at Sul Ross on rehabilitating malnourished horses.

Balog was intrigued. Years earlier when living on a ranch near Pecos, Mike and Anita had adopted Lakota, a skinny and malnourished horse. Anita had just been hospitalized and diagnosed with a heart condition and COPD.

“There was a lot of love between her and the horse,” Balog said. “Lakota would meet Anita at the

gate after work and chase her up to the house. They were good for one another, and together they both got well. After that, rescue horses became dear to our hearts.”

Balog volunteered to help with the Sul Ross study, working with the students to exercise and feed the animals and clean the stalls. It was good therapy, Boyd said. “He had experience with horses and the work gave him a mental break. And he was formulating what he wanted to do when the study came to an end.”

In May 2023, Balog started the “Anita Balog Memorial Angel Horse Foundation,” a nonprofit sanctuary

to “rescue horses to rescue people.” Boyd became secretary of the foundation’s board. He purchased a 14-acre farm on State Highway 118 south of Alpine that currently houses five horses, three from the Sul Ross study.

Balog, who had a career in law enforcement as a community service officer, hopes the organization will not only save and “rehome” unwanted horses, but employ those animals in therapy to give solace to people experiencing grief, disability, anxiety, trauma and other conditions. Equine therapy, a

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The smallest library in Texas gets a makeover

By Clayton Wickham
For The Big Bend Sentinel

MARATHON — For years, Marathon has been home to the smallest accredited library in Texas. When a new expansion opens in May, more than quadrupling the library’s square footage, the town will have to give up that distinction.

“Our little library has served us and the community well,” said Marathon Public Library Director Dara Cavness. “But it was never designed to see all the action it’s seen in the last few years. We just don’t fit anymore!”

The 3,000-square-foot expansion of the existing 810-square-foot library is part of a \$2 million project that also includes renovation of the existing library, creation of a town museum in a historic schoolhouse nearby, landscaping, and new furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The expansion has a large, high-ceilinged space with cork flooring and acoustic tiling, a conference room, two shaded outdoor areas, a second bathroom, an office, and much-needed storage space — at the moment, librarian Peyton Smith has an overflow stack of donated books accumulating in her house.

With the added elbow room, the library plans to expand program offerings across age groups, increase the size of the library’s collection, and create an adults-only zone with comfortable chairs and computers in the original library building, which is set to undergo its first renovation since the structure was built in 1954. MPL will also now be able to schedule multiple programs at once and run children’s programming without driving away adult clientele. “Right now, at 3:30, the kids get here and that’s it,” Cavness said. “Adults avoid this place at all costs.”

The public library is already a hub of activity in town, with 16,338 patron visits and 363 class sessions or events hosted in 2024. It offers over a dozen programs for youth and adults, including after-school programs and summer art, STEM, and literacy programs that double as free childcare for the community. When the new space opens, Cavness and Smith plan to expand age ranges for existing programming, revive the library’s adult book club, and launch a new yarn arts class, a middle-school graphic novel group, and a weekly social group for older residents called “Mornings with MPL.”

Twelve-year-old Daisy Gallo-Trehus has been attending MPL programs since before she can remember and estimates she’s read at least 100 books from the library over the years. When asked about the expansion, she said she’s excited about new computers, the expanded collection, and the additional space. “Now kids and grown-ups can have separate areas,” Gallo-Trehus said. “So if there’s a grown-up in the library, we don’t have to stop talking to each other.”

Until a little over a decade ago, Marathon’s library was a branch of the Alpine Public Library. When Alpine announced its plans to close its Marathon branch in 2013, community members came together to lease the building from the county and start a 501(c)3, but APL took much of its collection, and the library was left in sorry shape. “On the very bottom shelf there were cake pans,” Cavness said, recalling the library when she began as a part-time librarian in 2015. “That next shelf was nothing, and then the other shelves were books, old books and not great books. It was a sad, sad little building.”

In 2019, when Dallas-based architect Dan Shipley sent the Marathon Public Library Board plans for an ambitious reimaging of the library, Cavness doubted they would manage to raise enough money. But all that changed in 2023 with a \$1

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Horse rescue

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form of psychotherapy, encourages patients to interact with horses under the supervision of a mental health professional and/or a horse trainer. It often complements other forms of mental health therapy.

Over the last several months, Balog has been clearing rocks and grading the pasture with plans to build up to 30 stalls as funding and horses become available. He also wants to erect a riding arena where the animals can exercise and therapy can take place.

“My main mission is to show people that these horses still have value and can contribute as someone’s pet or as a therapy animal,” he said.

According to the Center for Equine Health at the University of California-Davis, there has been a surge in the number of nonprofits created to rescue horses. The need is great. An estimated 100,000 horses annually are categorized as unwanted and some 68,000 are sent off to slaughter in Mexico and Canada where their meat is exported for human consumption, pet food, or feed for zoo animals. There are no equine slaughterhouses in the U.S.

Owning a horse is expensive, and half of the 2 million horse owners in the U.S. earn less than \$50,000 annually. Many have to sell their animals, some cut back on care and others abandon the horses entirely — the problem grows worse during tough economic times, according to the UC-Davis center.

Neglect of a horse also may stem from the troubled lives of their owners experiencing domestic abuse, drug abuse and alcoholism. Malnourished horses, indicated by protruding hip bones and ribs, matted hair, and untreated injuries, typically are investigated by animal control departments, humane societies or

other legal authorities. The horses may not be fed regularly or there’s not enough forage in the pasture. Sometimes the horse is bullied by more dominant herd mates and kept from food. Dental issues, infection, infestation, disease, and simply the infirmities of old age may contribute to their poor condition.

“My main mission is to show people that these horses still have value and can contribute as someone’s pet or as a therapy animal”

The increasing number of neglected and malnourished horses is a challenge for the equine industry, particularly because of the increasing cost of veterinary care and feed, Boyd explained. UC-Davis undertook the last significant study 20 years ago of refeeding malnourished horses using alfalfa, a legume. But in West Texas, alfalfa is expensive, about \$300 to \$400 a bale. The Sul Ross study investigated whether Bermuda hay, a less-expensive warm-season grass costing about \$170 a round bale, could be substituted along with grain in a refeeding program. The school purchased 10 emaciated horses at auction. Where the horses came from, how they ended up in poor condition, or how often they had been sold was impossible to

determine. All were destined for Mexico and slaughter. Horse trading is a business with a slim profit margin and some traders do not treat their animals well, Boyd said.

For research purposes, the horses were weighed, exercised, blood monitored and their muscle mass measured. The results of the study were published in the Journal of Animal Science and presented at conferences, where it was well received, Boyd said. Feeding and rehabilitating a starving, neglected horse is a complicated and expensive endeavor. Horses in poor shape usually require veterinary services, vaccinations, hoof care, dental work, and blood tests.

“It costs a small fortune to do this. We spent thousands on these horses,” she said.

The school put the rehabilitated horses up for auction. Balog purchased Layla, perhaps the most damaged of all, and later got two more of the study horses from a donor. He has since obtained two others, including a horse found on a ranch near Marathon with wounds on its chest and legs caused by barbed wire. The animal was severely malnourished. Another horse had been in an accident but never treated by a veterinarian. All exhibited some type of abuse or neglect by humans, such as being beaten.

“I don’t know why people take their frustrations out on a horse,” Balog said. “Sometimes it’s behavioral issues because the horse isn’t doing what they want. They beat the animal, but then end up with more behavior problems. It’s sad, just sad.”

Rescue operations typically require support from local communities in terms of supplies, volunteer time, and monetary donations for equipment: halters, lead ropes,



Photo by James McCommons

Mike Balog provides abandoned and abused horses with a new chance at life at his ranch near Marathon.

brushes, buckets and, of course, feed. Balog, 73, admits that it’s been a struggle to raise funds and do the day-to-day chores of caring for five horses. He has gotten some aid from Sul Ross students and other volunteers who come out to the farm, but says he can always use more help. And more money. He has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram where he has more than 5,000 followers and seeks donations through PayPal and Venmo. Some businesses have

supplied support, including feed companies that offer discounts.

His big hope is to have someone take over the daily care of the horses and allow him to concentrate on grant writing, publicity and fund raising. He’s also looking to partner with a mental health professional trained in equine therapy.

“This is a big undertaking. It’s a lot bigger than me,” said Balog, who was ill over the past winter with respiratory issues, exacerbated by the dust storms. There were days

when he said it was hard to get out of bed.

For inspiration, he thinks about Anita and their years together when they both won awards for community service.

“My wife lived to give,” he said. “She had a gift of knowing when somebody was in trouble, and she would do whatever it took to help.”

Anyone wishing to volunteer or make a donation should go to www.abmangelhorse.org or call 432-448-3313.

Whistleblower

(Continued from page 1)

were being sent out, discovered hundreds of “zero-read” meters, or water meters that do not record consumption, across the city.

Zero-read meters may occur if a property is vacant or due to operator error. Acreman said some buried beneath the ground are hard to access.

He said that city utilities customers whose water meters are functional are subsidizing the cost of water for those with dead or non-functioning meters. “The water is going out the door, and the water has to be paid for, so anyone who is not receiving that free water is subsidizing the utility for the entire community,” Acreman said.

He said the issue dates back at least five years ago, and several city staff members are aware of the problem, including people involved with city finances, utility collections, the water department and the mayor.

Acreman declined to go into detail regarding who is on the zero-read list, but said it contains several “prominent, longtime residents and businesses.” (*The Sentinel* put in a public records request for documents listing zero-read meters and billing that could show problems with meters.)

“Whether it’s oversight, embarrassment, or whether there is intentional manipulation occurring, I can’t speak to that,” Acreman said.

Morrison, whose name appeared on the some 300 accounts-long zero-read list due to a dead meter at one of the properties he owns, said city council members were “all surprised” to learn about the problem, but to his knowledge the issue is not willful and more likely the result of negligence.

The city has been pursuing the purchase and installation

of automatic “smart meters,” which will result in more accurate water readings, for some time. In a recent council meeting Public Utilities Supervisor Chuck Salgado mentioned that around 45 had been received and installed so far with more on the way.

Acreman said council members opted to take a gradual approach to the installation of new smart meters — a complete overhaul was estimated to cost \$800,000 — without being aware of how urgent the issue was. “We’ve been told as council and as the public time and again that our finances are in great shape, that there’s no cause for concern, that we’re operating within our means, that utilities are being collected, that there’s no urgent need for smart meters,” Acreman said. “Council has made decisions accordingly without being presented with a full range of the necessary facts.”

He also expressed frustration that equipment purchased by City of Marfa taxpayers that would allow for more street repairs to take place “in house” versus relying on outside contractors — who have delayed projects in the past — was never utilized and fell into disrepair. Acreman said he was not yet aware of a reason for the oversight.

Morrison said council members were pleased that Walter was “finding the things that have fallen through the cracks over the years,” and work to address the now-known issues will continue even in her absence.

“Now that she’s gone we’re not going to stop addressing these things, and whenever a new city manager is hired, that will be one of the directives — to keep on this kind of thing, to uncover inefficiencies and lapses in diligent recordkeeping and systems upkeep,” Morrison said.

Boquillas crossing heading to summer hours

From the National Park Service

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — The Boquillas Port of Entry within Big Bend National Park, providing access to the town of Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico, as well as the Mexican Protected Areas of Maderas del Carmen and Ocampo, will change to the summer schedule beginning Monday, May 5. The crossing will be open four days a week, Fridays through Mondays

Summer hours of operation:

Pedestrians will be able to access the port between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
OPEN: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday

CLOSED: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
During the transition week from winter to summer schedule, the crossing will be:
OPEN: Wednesday, April 30 through Monday, May 5
CLOSED: May 6 through May 8 (Tuesday through Thursday).

At the Boquillas Port of Entry, visitors will be able to cross into Mexico by foot (during low water) or by rowboat ferry (for a fee) during business hours only. This port of entry does not accommodate vehicle crossings or commercial importation of products. There is NO other legal access to Mexico within or through Big Bend National Park.

Proper documentation is required to cross. U.S. and Canadian citizens can cross with a valid passport. For complete information on other accepted travel documents, contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Presidio at 432-229-3349.

The Boquillas Port of Entry is operated cooperatively by the National Park Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The facility is staffed by National Park Rangers who can assist travelers with information about visiting the area. For more information about experiencing the village of Boquillas, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/visiting-boquillas.htm>







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Human smuggling

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a short period of time, Larremore pulls over — even though Colona hasn’t activated his emergency lights.

Colona gets out of his cruiser and peeks in the back of the trailer. He walks up to the passenger side window of Larremore’s truck and presses against the truck while they continue to talk. A curly haired dog watches over the proceedings from the pickup bed.

Colona eventually breaks contact with the truck and turns back around toward his vehicle. Larremore appears in the frame shortly after, carefully maneuvering his way around the gooseneck to stand face to face with Colona in the ditch.

The bodycam footage, complete with audio, paints a clearer picture of how the interaction starts to go south. The clip provided to the court begins with Colona approaching the passenger window. The two men shake hands, and Larremore tells Colona he’s headed up to Odessa to sell the trailer.

Before Colona breaks to go take a look at the back of the truck, he tells Larremore to “hang on a sec” — a phrase that would tangle court proceedings down the line.

While the two are face-to-face in the ditch, Colona asks Larremore if he has the key to the trailer, which is apparently locked. “Is there anything in there that’s not supposed to be?”

Larremore explains that his girlfriend — he hesitates in remembering her name — has the key, and also volunteers that his name isn’t on the trailer; he just bought it and hadn’t yet switched over the paperwork. There’s a good saddle and some camping supplies in there, but nothing else. “I’m not doing anything funky,” he insists.

At this point, Colona starts to pressure Larremore into figuring out a way to get the key. “Shoot me straight right now,” he says. “I know more than I’m probably leading onto.”

“You think there’s dope in there?” Larremore asks.

“I’d rather we do this like gentlemen — I know you’re not a bad guy,” the deputy insists.

“I guess get your bolt cutters,” Larremore says — but quickly backpedals. “What if I don’t allow you to look in there?”

Colona says that if Larremore won’t consent to a search, he’ll have to call for a K9 backup. If the K9 alerts on the trailer, then a search will be compelled.

Larremore continues to hesitate. “I have my rights,” he says. “I’ve been jacked with before by some different police officers — not you.”

The deputy says he doesn’t understand why the situation has to escalate — why not figure out a way to get the door open so everyone can be on their way? “Maybe I got a big sack of dildos back there I don’t want you to see,” Larremore says.

The two men talk in circles a while longer, with Larremore explaining the circuitous route he took from Alpine to Terlingua Ranch “through the country” and back up to Marathon. It’s clear Colona’s not buying it. “If I was running dope, that’s exactly the route I would take,” he says.



James Larremore (left) is questioned by Deputy Christopher Colona during a patrol on Highway 385. Larremore's arrest twenty minutes later resulted in a human smuggling conviction that will be heard in appeals court this Wednesday.

Nearly 17 and a half minutes into the stop, Colona reveals that he saw an open container of alcohol in the cab, which would give him probable cause to search the truck without permission.

This appears to be Larremore’s breaking point. “I’ve got three cousins in there,” he admits.

“The uniform changed everything”

The 20-minute bodycam clip ends with Larremore in handcuffs, leaning up against the side of Colona’s cruiser. The discovery of the migrants concealed inside the trailer wasn’t caught on camera, but a report filed later that afternoon by Border Patrol Agent Joseph Beasley logs three men who “freely admitted to being present in the United States without any documents” who were detained and inspected as a result of Larremore’s confession.

Larremore’s legal counsel, Shane O’Neal of Alpine, has argued throughout the case that the discovery of the three people in the trailer was the result of an illegal stop. O’Neal insists that his client’s detention began much earlier in the stop — about 40 seconds in, when the deputy asks his client to “hang on a sec.”

Both O’Neal’s and the government’s filings refer to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1968 *Terry v. Ohio* ruling. In the original *Terry* case, a Cleveland police officer conducted a stop and frisk on three men he believed were behaving suspiciously and discovered a gun. Two of the men were convicted of carrying a concealed weapon, but their case was later appealed on the

grounds that the way that the officer had found the concealed weapon was via an illegal stop.

Terry cemented the concept of “reasonable suspicion” into the complex calculus that determines whether interactions between civilians and peace officers are admissible in court. “Reasonable suspicion” under *Terry* is a step below “probable cause,” or the criteria required for an arrest — if the officer has an educated hunch that something is wrong, courts have typically ruled that it’s okay for them to briefly detain a suspect to gather more information.

The border adds another layer of complexity. In 1975, the Supreme Court added more detail to what constitutes “reasonable suspicion” in *United States v. Brignoni-Ponce*, a case in which racial profiling led an officer to search a truck full of undocumented people. Some of the factors law enforcement can use to justify reasonable suspicion include proximity to the border, the area’s typical traffic patterns and reports about recent smuggling or other unlawful activities.

In Larremore’s case, the government argues that the hitches in his story led naturally to a *Terry* stop. “By the time the consensual encounter had converted into a *Terry* detention, multiple facts supported finding that reasonable suspicion existed for the detention,” they write.

O’Neal argues that Colona’s behavior from the moment he pulled out to follow Larremore taints the investigation to the degree that any of the self-incriminating things the suspect reveals throughout the exchange ought to be tossed. He characterizes Colona’s pursuit of Larremore as “unsafe,” pushing 20 miles over the speed limit to hover within a few feet of the back of the trailer.

When Larremore pulled over — presumably to let Colona pass — the deputy never lit up his emergency lights. If Colona hadn’t been wearing a uniform and driving a marked cruiser, the situation would have turned out differently — if anyone else tailgated Larremore until he pulled over, then got out of their vehicle to approach his truck, that would be a “clear prelude to a fight.”

Instead, O’Neal wrote, “The uniform changed everything.” O’Neal also took issue with Colona’s body language, leaning on and even into the truck while he’s speaking with Larremore. “Neither the government nor the district court seriously attempts to explain why a reasonable person would think they could drive off while an officer holds onto their truck, sticks his head in the window, and questions them,” he wrote. “Every action that Deputy Colona took after approaching Larremore’s vehicle confirmed, to a reasonable person in Larremore’s position, that he was not free to leave.”

This is the question that will be considered next Wednesday morning before Chief Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt and Judge Greg Gerard Guidry. If the appeals court rules in Larremore’s favor, it’s unlikely to make much of a dent in his 37-month sentence — he is scheduled to be released in October — but it could have a big impact on the courts’ evolving understanding of how civilians and cops interact on the border.

Smallest library

(Continued from page 1)

million capital gift from the Dallas-based Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Brown Foundation. After the vote of confidence from the donors, the funding started pouring in. “All it takes is that one foundation to believe in you, and then everybody else is like, ‘Hey, maybe this is worthwhile,’” Cavness said.

Before becoming the architect on the project, Shipley had been visiting Marathon for years. For the library expansion, he envisioned a neutral,

unassuming structure inspired by the many corrugated metal sheds in the area. With entrances on its north, west, and south sides, the new library building is designed to have “no front or back,” with shaded outdoor spaces that will draw people in and movable shelves to accommodate speaker series and other events. Shipley hopes the new expansion will work in tandem with the nearby community center, lawn, tennis courts, and Marathon Museum — still in the works — to create a “town square” feel in the center of town.

The library expansion will be open for public use sometime next month, and the renovation of the old library should be completed early this summer, with a grand opening scheduled for October once the property has been landscaped with native plants. When the new library is fully operational, Cavness, Shipley and the board will shift their focus to the 1880s adobe schoolhouse next door. They plan to convert the structure into a museum with a town history exhibit and oral histories from old-timers in the area.



Photos by Clayton Wickham

Marathon Public Library Director Dara Cavness, right, and Librarian Peyton Smith greet visitors for a look at the new library renovations.

Daisy Gallo-Trehus estimates she’s read about 100 books from the library over the years.

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Student visa lawsuit

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charged with, let alone convicted of a crime,” they wrote in his complaint. “He is in compliance with the terms and conditions of his student visa and course of study.”

Making matters more complicated, Ortega-Gonzalez was terminated from his position as a research assistant when he was pulled from the

SEVIS database. He is not legally allowed to work outside his program — meaning that he was essentially fired from the only job he can get in the United States.

By all accounts, he was a student in good standing who contributed positively to Sul Ross. In February of last year, he was chosen for a

“Student Spotlight” highlighting exciting and exemplary research. “I feel so fortunate to have landed here, because BRI has such an incredible reputation, and I know firsthand what a helpful and supportive environment this is,” he told the interviewer.

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Construction of a new splash pad for Coffield Park is underway and slated to be done just in time for the summer. The improvement, which has been in the works since 2023, comes during a time when the Parks and Recreation Board is also pursuing community input and a master plan to help envision the future of Marfa’s public parks.

The splash pad — an approximately 1,950-square foot, \$245,000 endeavor — will be activated by a button and will not have any standing water, meaning it will be open during park hours, from sunrise to sunset, and will not require lifeguard supervision.

Recently, construction crews poured the concrete base and installed the underground reservoir that will collect water from the splash pad for reuse. Parks Board President Michael Camacho said the project is “coming along swimmingly” and will host kids and other users in time for the fast-approaching summer months. “We’ll be functional and operational definitely within the next month,” he said.

An exact open date, and ribbon-cutting ceremony, is to be announced. The splash pad will remain open for the summer months, likely closing for the season in the fall, Camacho said.

The Parks Board will be able to track how many times the splash pad is used, and how much water it consumes. The underground reservoir will store the used water, which will eventually go towards irrigating the park’s landscaping, Camacho said.

“We want to improve the landscaping around the whole park, to have more shade trees, have more grasses, have more native plants,” he said. “That’s kind of phase two, certainly not going to be done this year.”

Construction on the long-awaited Coffield Park gazebo upgrades, which involve adding on bathrooms and a kitchen, are also ongoing. Camacho said the area is still a work in progress, but concrete block walls have been erected and steel roofing is slated to go up next.

The Parks Board, after completing the required request for qualifications (RFQ) process, recently hired Circle V, an Austin-based landscape architect and community design firm to help develop a master plan for the City of Marfa’s parks. The budget for the initial first phase of a potential three-phase plan is \$40,000. Camacho said the Parks Board had several companies to choose from, whose employees were familiar with Marfa and eager to put their stamp on the town’s public spaces.

One of the focuses is the beautification of Coffield and Sunset parks, Camacho said, as well as the accessibility of public spaces for “kids to the elderly and everyone in between.” A master plan for Marfa’s parks will help guide the parks



Photo courtesy of Yoseff Ben-Yehuda

The Coffield Park splash pad will be open in time for the 2025 summer season.

board’s future decisions, Camacho said, and hopefully create more cohesive environments.

“Instead of piecemealing it as a parks board, like, ‘Hey, we’re gonna do this, and then we’re gonna do this,’ we’re taking a pause on installing anything new and trying to have a design, a master plan that we can work from,” Camacho said.

Public input will be a fundamental part of the master plan’s initial phase. The Parks Board will host a meeting in late May where locals will be invited to voice their opinions about what they would like to see in the parks, and online surveys in English and Spanish will be available.

Sunset Park — which is centrally located near the Post Office and library, and technically includes the Marfa Dog Park — is a greenspace the Parks Board

really wants to see developed, Camacho said. But community feedback will be paramount in determining how it will grow, he said.

“Do we want Sunset to look like it used to when it had a fountain in it? Or do we want Sunset to have a little amphitheater where live music can be?” Camacho said. “Do we need simple things like more benches?”

The possibility of a “skate path,” a dual function skating and general enjoyment space, may also be considered for Coffield, he said. The pursuit of grants will likely be needed to usher Marfa’s parks into the future, Camacho said, but if the Parks Board is successful they would like to tackle larger initiatives like the transformation of idle city land into more parks, and the city takeover of county-owned Vizcaino Park.

Early voting runs through April 29

TRI-COUNTY — Early voting for the May 3 General Election runs from now until Tuesday, April 29.

The Marfa election was canceled due to only incumbents filing to keep their seats on the Marfa City Council and Marfa ISD School Board. In Alpine, the only eligible voters will be Ward 1 residents who will elect a new city council representative — the only contested race in the city election. The Alpine ISD School Board election was canceled due to no contested races. Both city council and school board elections, as well as a \$9 million school bond proposal, will take place in Presidio.

To view current voter ID requirements and check your voter eligibility, visit the Texas Secretary of State’s website. The last day to register to vote was April 3.

City of Alpine

Early voting will take place on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 22 through April 29 in the city council chambers, 803 W. Holland Avenue, Alpine, Texas, 79830. To view a sample ballot, visit the city’s website.

City council seats for Wards 1 and 3 were up for election, but only the Ward

Presidio joint election

Early voting for the joint city council and school board election will take place on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 22 through April 29 at the City of Presidio Activities Center, 1200 E. O’Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas. Extended voting hours will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29. To view sample ballots, visit the city’s website and the school board’s website.

City of Presidio

Current Mayor John Ferguson is running unopposed but will appear on the ballot. Voters will be instructed to vote for no more than two candidates

Presidio ISD School Board + bond election

Three seats are up for election for the Presidio ISD School Board. The top three vote getters for the at-large board will be elected. The candidates include incumbents Iris S. Galindo and Tino Martinez as well as four new candidates: Josefina Burrola, Maria Loyola Montoya, Jose A. Padilla and Jeremy Velasquez. Voters will be instructed to choose up to three candidates.

Voters will also choose whether they are for or against a \$9,900,000 bond proposal for “school facilities, and the purchase of new school buses, and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds.” The bond will result in a property tax increase.

By Kimberly Reeves
For The Big Bend Sentinel

AUSTIN — The Texas House has passed its version of new money for Texas schools last week — an additional \$7.7 billion — but it still remains unclear just how much money Texas schools will see.

Texas has a bicameral government that typically doesn’t act in tandem until the final days of a legislative session. The current session will end June 2. The Texas House has stand-alone bills for both school finance and private school vouchers — which they term as “school choice” — which both passed last week. The Texas Senate passed separate bills for teacher pay and vouchers early in the session. The final version of vouchers and public school spending this session could be reconciled and substituted within those bills, or it could be agreed upon during final budget negotiations.

Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, spearheaded both the school finance and voucher bills as chair of the House Public Education Committee. Both bills passed on April 16. Buckley called the school finance bill, House Bill 2, “the largest investment of funding for our public schools in the history of the state” and responsive to the concerns raised by House members.

“Members, we heard hours and hours of testimony, and we had several great discussions on the provisions of this bill,” Buckley said, opening the debate of HB 2. “I want

to thank members on the floor right now that have come to me with issues involving very specific things that are happening in your school districts.”

Almost half of the new money in HB 2 must be set aside for salary increases, according to the bill. The House bill also provides a bump in funding for special education and an increase in the allotment that helps rural and mid-sized school districts that lack budget economies of scale. The increase in that rural allotment is especially important to Big Bend school districts.

“Even though it can help, I feel like we’re just so far behind after so many years of not getting new funding,” said Marfa ISD Superintendent Arturo Alferez. “One year is not going to be enough.”

Alpine Independent School District Superintendent Michelle Rinehart, who has looked at specific increases to her district’s funding proposed in the House bill, said HB 2 does provide some short-term relief, even if it doesn’t provide long-term fixes to continuing inequities in the school finance system.

“We are grateful for any and every infusion of funding into Texas public education, even if the total increase doesn’t yet make Texas public schools fully funded,” Rinehart said this week. “Every funding increase helps counteract the years of decreased buying power we have weathered over the last decade.”

The Texas Legislature tied school finance and school choice in a single bill during the legislative session two

years ago. Those bills failed, so that funding rolled into the state’s general revenue. This session’s bills are roughly the same amount as last session’s proposals.

Democrats in the House did vote in favor of the school finance bill, but many noted during the debate that the proposed increase in funding has not kept up with inflation. Buckley declined to directly answer whether total spending in HB 2 would match 2019 funding levels, if adjusted for inflation. Instead, Buckley insisted the House had made a significant commitment to return schools to the resources they need.

“I’m going to take that as a no until I get a yes,” countered Rep. James Talarico, D-Austin, at the back microphone, drawing cheers from the gallery of public education supporters.

Alferez said the Marfa ISD School Board will hear a presentation from Raise Your Hand Texas — a public education advocacy organization — for an update on the legislation and possible impacts to the district at its Monday board meeting. Until final numbers are decided it will be hard for Marfa to see exactly how the district will benefit in terms of salaries and any effect it has on recapture payments to the state, he said.

Alpine’s budget shortfalls go beyond inflation. The school district, which serves just under 1,000 students within an 1,800-square mile area, receives only 85 cents of every dollar promised by the school finance system, Rinehart said. That’s because of a combination of factors:

discrepancies in appraised local property values, a slow decline in district enrollment and the district’s ongoing responsibility to cover a long-time local homestead exemption. The House school finance bill provides some short-term relief on those issues but no permanent fix.

Looking at the early numbers, Rinehart said the new funding in HB 2 is roughly equivalent to funding shortfalls in the budget, allowing the district to draw even with what it should be getting from the state. Alpine is one of about 100 school districts that currently uses the state’s minimum salary schedule. She calculates the pool for salary increases in the new funding formula, which would have to cover all professional staff, would be about \$90,000.

Sometimes it’s hard to reconcile the vast resources the state puts into public education with local school district complaints that the funding is not enough, Rinehart conceded. A tax bill may be higher, but it doesn’t mean all that money is going into local school district coffers.

“As property taxes go up — and particularly school property taxes — it doesn’t mean school funding is actually increasing for our schools,” Rinehart said. “Instead, the state is divesting itself of its responsibility to fund schools and allowing more of the responsibility of education to fall on the backs of local property owners. That’s why they’re hearing that schools have less and less.”

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MARFA MOMENTS

MISD HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY ART SHOW
MAY 2 @ MARFA LIBRARY 5-6:30PM

Azul Alvidrez Contreras
Landyn Baeza
Matthieu Bejaran
Devante Bordunda-Hamilton
Aubrey Cenicerros
Ranger Dugan
Dania Fernandez
Fatima Floresvillar
Nyla Gonzalez
Eduardo Lara
Liam Lopez
Lyla Luppino
Matthew Marquez
Allan Martinez
Jade Martinez
Aubrianna Medrano
Mia Rosas
Landin Salcido
Aiden Salgado
Jonathan Torres
Adiel Zubia
Josaul Baeza
Miguel Gonzalez
Alyssa Harden
Lynna Hinojos
Natasha Labrado

Adonise Lujan
Abelardo Marquez III
Austin McGary
Alberto Salgado Martinez
Diego Sanchez Bravo
Alexis Villela
Darren Campos
Madison Cash
Ismael Davila
Piper Donaldson
Kassandra Garcia
Gillermo Guardiola
Messiah Licon
Katana Melendez
Jose Munoz-Bueno
Ayven Pippen
Ricardo Ramos
Giselle Torres
Itzel Urrutia Jaimes
Asael Zubia
Mia Dominguez
Raven Martinez
Maverick Milligan
Dariela Munoz Martinez
Zoey Salgado
Josue Soto Ruacho

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Pride Marfa 2025 seeks sponsors

MARFA — The organizers of Pride Marfa are seeking sponsors for the 2025 festival, set to take place at various venues across town from Thursday, June 12, to Sunday, June 15.

The annual celebration of the LGBTQ+ community has taken place locally since 2022, coinciding with similar Pride events across the country. Organizing this year are volunteers Prepney, in addition to Fatima Anaza, Logan Smith, Haley Levin and Julio Baeza.

Plans for the weekend are still coming together, but include queer-focused film screenings, dance parties and DJ sets, a family-friendly daytime event and a queer tea party. Several galleries plan to host concurrent open viewing and special programming with an emphasis on queer artists' representation. Confirmed venues are Planet Marfa, The Pool at Hotel Saint George and Bitter Sugar.

Prepney said organizers are seeking sponsors for this year's Pride Marfa to help support festival operations, housing, food for performers and more.



Photo by Prepney

Pride Marfa 2023 at The Sentinel featured DJ Chorizo Funk.

This year organizers are looking to expand event offerings beyond just nightlife, Prepney said, and offer more options for sober individuals.

"Pride 2024 lacked a robust representation of what it means to be queer, and I would like for this

year's pride to take that into account," Prepney said. "Queerness is robust and perhaps even infinite. I want to romanticize this queer life I'm living, and Pride Marfa 2025 is my bid to make it as romantic as possible."

Lawrence Johnson, owner of Pure For Men and sponsor of Pride Marfa since its start, said the observance of Pride month in a small town like Marfa is significant, especially in the current divided political climate.

"Pride Marfa is easily one of the most significant and fulfilling events I've ever had the pleasure of taking part in," Johnson said. "At a time where people's differences and divisions take center stage, Pride Marfa brings the community together in celebration of universal themes like love. It's precisely the medicine we all need, and it's an honor to have had a front row seat to its delivery. Pride is for everyone."

For more information, email prepney@gmail.com and follow @pridemarfa on Instagram.

Theatre of the Big Bend celebrates 60, fundraises for 'Cinderella' production

ALPINE — Theatre of the Big Bend is celebrating 60 years of Theatre under the Stars, a program that has taken place every summer since 1965 at Kokernot Outdoor Theatre.

For six decades, Theatre of the Big Bend in the heart of Alpine has been a treasured local tradition and annual destination for generations of families throughout Texas, and beyond. This July, they're presenting "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella," a musical of the classic fairytale about a young woman improving her station in life through hard work, kindness and perseverance — with help, of course, from her fairy godmother.

Theatre of the Big Bend is seeking to raise \$25,000 by June 15 to help support the production and affordable ticket prices. For many families in the region, Theatre of the Big Bend is the only option for live, family-friendly theatre for hundreds of miles in any direction.

For business sponsorships, please contact Marjorie Scott at 432-837-8039 or mjscott3@sulross.edu. To donate, visit sulross.edu/giving/ and select "Theater Summer Production Fund" from the drop-down menu.



Photo courtesy of Sul Ross State University

The cast of last year's Robin Hood production at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre.

Open call for acting studio workshop in Marfa

MARFA — Marfa Live Arts announces its second acting studio workshop taught by Marfa Live Arts actor and Director Jennie Lyn Hamilton at the Crowley Theater on April 29 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for aspiring actors and theater enthusiasts to enhance their skills, explore the world of performance, and form a new acting troupe to perform later this summer.

The workshop (which comes after an initial workshop on April 22) is open to all interested participants, regardless of experience level, and are free to attend. Attendees will have the chance to learn theater techniques,

including improvisation, scene work, character development, and more, all in a supportive and welcoming environment. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting your creative journey, you'll find a place within this community.

Join Marfa Live Arts to unleash your creativity, connect with fellow artists, and be a part of something fun and unique. To reserve your spot or for more information, please email info@marfalivearts.org. For more information about Marfa Live Arts see www.marfalivearts.org.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
April
24

Hike with Homeless Dogs

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

Faith Kelly & Caswyn Moon

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Faith Kelly & Caswyn Moon play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Leave No Trace

9am - 10am at Big Bend Ranch State Park
Camp Oh No! is a great way to learn the leave no trace ethics. Join us as we review our camp oh no and take a walk on the nature trail at the Fort Leaton to learn the trash time line as well.

Fri
April
25

Constellation Journaling

2pm - 3:30pm at Davis Mountain State Park
Make a journal full of springtime constellations that you can use for nighttime star gazing.

Comedy Hunter Lane

9pm - 11pm at Granda Theatre
Free Comedy Show featuring Reyes Mamas, Mikey Mic, What the Hector.

Beth Lee

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Beth Lee play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Spirits of the West Festival

4pm - 10pm at Brewster County Courthouse Lawn
Come find your SPIRIT at the 4th Annual Spirits of the West Festival, April 25th and 26th! This festival celebrates Texans favorite things. WINE, SPIRITS AND BREWS! Spirits, food & art booths and LIVE music all day! Get tickets and see the full music lineup here <https://www.spiritsfestwtx.com>

Sat
April
26

Spirits of the West Festival

11am - 10pm at Brewster County Courthouse Lawn
Get tickets and see the full music lineup here <https://www.spiritsfestwtx.com>

Star Party in the Borderlands

9pm - 10pm at Big Bend Ranch State Park
The Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve is the largest in the world and the Star Party in the Borderlands is a great way to view the darkest skies in Texas.

Sun
April
27

Space Sightings: Path of Totality

6pm at Crowley Theater
Midstream in Space Sightings the appropriately pivotal artist JEANNE LIOTTA revisits Marfa after two residencies at McDonald Observatory. The evening concludes with PATH OF TOTALITY, a live projector performance restaging the August 2017 solar eclipse and bringing the cosmic into the confines of a projection Space

Tue
April
29

MSHR + ERRATICS

7:30pm at MAINTENANT Marfa
Music performances by MSHR and ERRATICS at MAINTENANT
Suggested donations for the bands: \$10
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Saturday at 12:00pm at <https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2> & sometimes in-person at Marfa Public Library

AA (in-person)

Monday & Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Alpine Farmers Market

Saturday at 9:00am - 12:00pm at Alpine Visitor Center

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

March 4, 2004

Apaches pitch economic development for Valentine

By Sterry Butcher

VALENTINE — A group of Apaches who want to revitalize Valentine pitched economic development ideas to a curious crowd of local residents at a meeting in town last month.

"The town is dying fast," Silverwolf Rios, an El Paso man who is an organizer and leader within the Texas Apache Nation, said recently. "There are hardly any people there." The nation is in the process of trying to attain formal recognition as a tribe from the state of Texas. Rios, whose grandparents were Apache, said that as many as one million Texans could claim Apache heritage. He also maintained that the tribe is "self sufficient. We don't ask the government for donations or money."

The tribe's interest in Valentine is a mix of historical and community-mindedness, he said. "We have a lot of history there in Valentine and the surrounding area," according to Rios. "Our ancestors used to pass through there all the time. We wanted to see if we could develop it and help people." Valentine has a terrific small school and a fun tradition of special postal cancellations at Valentine's Day, but there's no store here, no place to buy gas, no hardware business or cafe.

The prospect of some outsiders offering to revive their hometown was of enough interest to local folks that about 50 of Valentine's 187 residents showed up to listen to what they had to say. "These are just ideas," explained Chuy Calderon, a Valentine school teacher and Fed Ex driver who has served as Valentine's mayor for 30 years. "This is simply a proposal, and we haven't signed anything. I'm not opposed to it, and I'm not for it." Folks in Valentine are open to change. "Our population is dwindling, and we're running out of kids," Calderon observed. "People are leaving and not coming back. Every time someone leaves from Valentine, their water meter doesn't get turned back on."

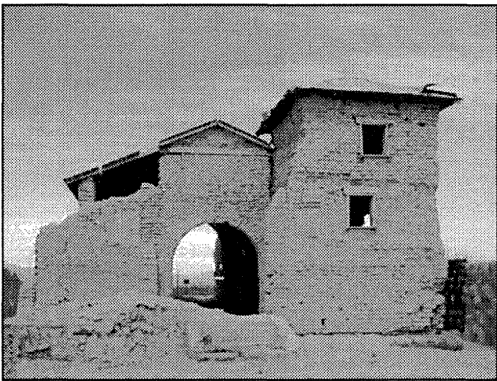
The Apache leader talked about the economic development ideas in very general terms, saying that the purpose of last month's meeting was to brainstorm development ideas and present the notion to local folks. A boot manufacturing company was one idea that came up in the February meeting, so was a wicker furniture manufacturing plant or adobe making. Home restoration or construction is another possibility. Rios dismissed another idea, for a water bottling plant, as being "too political."

The Apaches aren't the only ones with interest in Valentine. The Tigua tribe from El Paso owns the Chilicote Ranch just outside of town. They say they want to use the land for recreation and religious purposes, and they've applied for federal status for the property. Tom Diamond has worked with the Tigua since 1965. He didn't know about the Apache's economic development proposal in Valentine. "I'd heard a rumor that the Apache had met there, but I haven't had any contact with them," he said. "I have no knowledge of anything about them." Rios counters that the Apache have reason to settle in the Valentine area. "Apaches have never been recognized in the state of Texas," he said. "We've been here a lot longer than other tribes, like the Kickapoo or the Tigua. We're native."

The Apaches have a vigorous membership, according to Rios, and he cited ambitious projections for the number of Apaches who could or would relocate to Valentine. "We could move in some of our people, like 30, 40, 100 families," he said. "We've got a family that wants to make a store there. We have people from California, retirees, who are willing to do something there."

Rios said that a wide range of businesses could emerge in Valentine, due in part to the town's access to the railroad and Hwy. 90. The tribe, he maintained, has "a lot of contacts with corporate funders." One of those contacts was present at the Valentine meeting. Michael Calloway is a businessman from La Jolla, California. "He deals a lot with Native Americans in California and Wyoming," Rios said. "He has ways of getting money from other corporations." Calloway didn't want to talk in any detail about potential Valentine development when he was contacted two weeks ago. "It's really not a project yet," he said. "We're in the talking stages to see if the people of Valentine want economic development. We have a development company and its focus is on economic development with tribal communities. We've met with the company a couple times, but it's way too soon to call it a project." Calloway also didn't want to divulge the names of his six companies, nor did he want to talk about the projects he's done with other tribes. He did say that one of his businesses was a holding company "that could provide financing for a development bond or something similar. Now it's up to the people of Valentine to decide what they want to do." Though he's eager to consider new development in town, Mayor Calderon is wary of taking on any more debt. "The city has a debt," he said. "In 1974, in the administration before me, we borrowed \$289,000 from the Farmers Home Administration and 30 years later we're still paying on it."

He's adamant that any decision made about the Apache development proposal be done cautiously and with the input of Valentine residents. "We have an attorney and business man looking into it," Calderon said. "Whatever decision we make will be a Valentine decision, not a Chuy Calderon, mayor, decision. We're on a fact finding mission right now, getting our questions answered." The mayor said that he'd asked local residents to give him their opinions, concerns and questions about the potential deal. "I've been getting a lot (of comments) through the mail, the phone and personal contact," he said. "I'm not 100 percent convinced we need to do it. I want to get consensus."



(photo courtesy of JIM BLUM-
The Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Catholic Church in Ruidosa has been named one of the state's endangered historical places.

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OBITUARIES



Schwartz

Dr. John Paul “JP” Schwartz

died unexpectedly at his home in Cornwall, England, on April 14, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Emma Hughes, his daughter Sarah Schwartz, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and his brother David Schwartz and his wife Julie Hemstreet of Lynchburg, Virginia.

JP was born August 7, 1952, in Freeport, Texas, the oldest son of Lee and Martha Schwartz. He grew up in Lufkin, Texas, and lived much of his adult life near Marfa, Texas, where he met his wife Emma. They moved to Cornwall in 2021. JP attended Stephen F. Austin

State University, where he studied biology and music. He later received his medical degree from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth. His medical specialty was family practice, which he enjoyed throughout a 40-year career, including 18 months spent in New Zealand practicing in an Indigenous community.

Besides helping people through medicine, JP enjoyed camping and hiking with family and friends, sharing good food, drawing and painting, being politically active, tinkering with his vintage Airstream

trailer, and talking on his ham radio. But most of all, JP loved music. He loved listening to music, playing music, discussing music, and writing music. His musical career started in high school when he and some classmates founded a rock and roll band named “JP and the Hallucinations.” Later, he was part of another high school band called Reflections of Soul. From this humble beginning, JP went on to become a mainstay in the Texas folk music scene for many years, and he made many close friends with whom he shared a love of

music. His musical friends were like a second family to JP, and he drew much love and support from these friends throughout his life, including childhood friends Michael Hawthorne and Dave Lee. JP also had a weekly music program on Marfa Public Radio, where he was affectionately known as “Doc Cactus.” Every Monday night for over a decade, JP’s show entertained and educated people about the wonders of blues music.

Throughout his too-brief life, JP loved meeting and helping people wherever he went. Many of these

people became his friends for life, and he will be greatly missed by all those he leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to either: The Radford Charitable Trust Cornwall (helping children and young people by providing small financial grants, loaning instruments, and running workshops) or The Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation (link below — scroll to locate the JP Schwartz button)

www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/donate/



Blackman

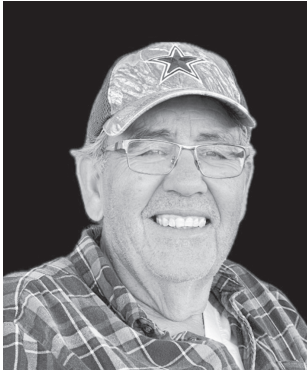
Margaret Helen Blackman (née Travland), beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister, passed away peacefully on March 11, 2025, at the age of 88 years old.

Born on April 14, 1936, to Oscar Travland and Melba Harvey Travland, she was the oldest of five children. Margaret grew up in

Beeville, Texas, where her father taught her how to fly an airplane, and she subsequently soloed on her 16th birthday. She attended Sul Ross State University, where she met John Nixon Blackman III. They married on December 22, 1956, and enjoyed a 66-year marriage, sharing many adventures traveling the world and almost 40 years of teaching in Odessa, Valentine, Alpine and the north slope of Alaska.

Margaret and John retired to their Fort Davis home in 1994, hosting many family gatherings, including their annual family reunion every July 4th holiday. Margaret loved her backyard and spent many hours creating a beautiful green space behind her home. She also loved to sew and craft creative items to gift them to others. She frequently shared fond memories of her time with students, both in class and at the piano.

She leaves behind many friends, including those who were part of the local Pokeno group and some who enjoyed making personalized cards. She was a longtime member of the Fort Davis United Methodist Church. Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, Melba Harvey Travland and Oscar Travland; her husband, John Nixon Blackman III; her son John Nixon Blackman IV; brother Lawrence Travland (Mary); and brother Oscar Nance Travland (Patty). She is survived by her brother Lewis Travland (Charlotte); sister, Patricia Hodgins; sons Mark Blackman and Matthew Blackman (Melanie); eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; and more students than we can count. A memorial service will be held in Fort Davis in early July to allow her family and friends to attend.



Carrasco

Pablo G. Carrasco Jr., born on June 26, 1951, in Redford, Texas, entered eternal rest on Sunday, April 20, 2025, in El Paso, Texas. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend — loved deeply and missed dearly.

Pablo graduated from Marfa High School before earning his bachelor’s degree in education from

Sul Ross State University. He began his career as a teacher at Presidio High School, where he served as a mentor and role model to many. To this day, former students speak of his lasting influence on their lives.

Following his years in education, Pablo dedicated 31 years of loyal service to the Southern and Union Pacific Railroad Companies.

He will always be remembered for his unwavering faith, love for family, strong work ethic, and warm, friendly spirit. He also generously volunteered his time and talents at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, especially through his love for gardening.

Pablo is preceded in death by his parents, Pablo Olivas Carrasco and Anita Gomez, and his sister, Graciela Carrasco. He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Nancy Lou Porras Carrasco; his children, Pablo Carrasco III

(Elsa), Lorean Salais (Luis), and Aaron Giovanni Carrasco (Lori); his siblings, Armando Carrasco, Hector Carrasco, Jose Luis Carrasco, Sally Mendias, Thelma Miller, and Rosaleen Tarango; and his cherished grandchildren, Xander Salais, Zane Salais, and Emiliano Carrasco. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends who will continue to honor and celebrate his memory.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Valentine, Texas. A Rosary will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Valentine.

Services are entrusted to Sunset Funeral Homes–West, 480 N. Resler Dr.

Sage Lilly’s ‘Small Engine Express’ opens April 26 at Do Right Hall

MARFA — Multidisciplinary artist Sage Lilly will debut a solo exhibition, Small Engine Express, on Saturday, April 26, at 5 p.m. at Do Right Hall, 110 West Dallas St.

Rooted in rust belt grit and the vast skies of West Texas, Small Engine Express is a visual exploration of labor, memory and identity. Lilly draws from a hybrid background in illustration, design, and construction work — as well as a side hustle fixing small engines — to create work that hums with texture, tension, and narrative.

The exhibition weaves together the aesthetics of tool sheds, shop manuals and Americana with the artist’s own personal history, creating a world where grease-stained hands and quiet moments of reflection coexist.

Guests can expect tasty surprises and a uniquely Marfa experience at the opening.

Event Details:

“Small Engine Express” — A solo exhibition by Sage Lilly

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 26, 2025

Time: 5 p.m.

Closing Revelry: Friday, May 2, 2025

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Do Right Hall, Marfa, TX

Admission: Free and open to the public

Contact: @thesageofthis on instagram for details or private viewings



Photo courtesy of Buck Johnson

Sage Lilly’s Small Engine Express opens this weekend at Do Right Hall.

‘Snapshots in Time: Life in Brewster County’ opens at the Museum of the Big Bend

From Historic Alpine

ALPINE — Archival area photographs are the subject of a new exhibition, Snapshots in Time: Life in Brewster County, opening from 5 to 7 p.m. April 30 at the Museum of the Big Bend.

The evening will feature light hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, live music and presentations. The historical photo exhibit was created in partnership with Crossroads: Change in Rural America, part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition series.

Curated by local historian Matt Walter, the exhibit showcases photographs from the Brewster County Collections and Archives of the Big Bend. It captures everyday moments, landscapes, and community events that reflect the rich cultural and historical heritage of Far West Texas.

Brought to you by The Museum of the Big Bend, Historic Alpine, Texas Mountain Trail, Brewster County, Visit Alpine Texas, and the Texas Historical Commission, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition series.



John Paul Schwartz has been an essential part of Marfa Country Clinic from the moment we opened our doors in May 2010, together with Irma Leos and Natasha Rogall. He built a culture of care with deep medical knowledge and expertise, pragmatic advice, and deadpan wit. He has marked the lives of innumerable patients in our region, always taking the time to listen and address their individual needs. A real country doctor he was, in the best possible way.

Our staff learned so much from JP throughout the years. He regarded all of us as equals, nourishing the thirst for learning of the staff, playing a major role in pushing some of them to medical school.

Much has changed recently with him moving out of our area and now our lives. We will and already do miss JP’s presence, leadership, guidance, and mostly just JP being JP.

Dr. Schwartz was a part of the community committing acts of medical and musical magic for all of us to behold. RIP JP.

Don Culbertson, Valerie Breuvart & staff present and past, Marfa Country Clinic

WRONG presents new work by Opal Rugs’ Alyse Ronayne



Photo courtesy of Buck Johnson

New work by Opal Rugs is now on view at WRONG Marfa.

MARFA — Wrong is thrilled to present new work by Marfa resident Alyse Ronayne (Opal Rugs) with an opening Friday, April 25, 5 to 7 p.m. at 110 Highland Street.

The exhibition will feature three ambitiously sized wool rugs (5’ x 5’) in the main gallery space and a collection of smaller rugs in a range of styles — graphic cherries to a dripping neon camo pattern, plus several samplers showcasing the artist’s personal lexicon of shapes and icons. Also in the main gallery space are six stools adorned with custom-sized ass rugs.

The front gallery will feature three small-sized rugs (24” x 36”) paired with three framed collaged drawings (22” x 30”) of similar iconography.

“I consider drawing to be the backbone of my artistic practice, whether it’s charcoal on paper or wool yarn into a rug,” Ronayne says. “I work out my ideas on paper and then into wool. I like the challenge of translating what I see into a flattened, two-dimensional, drawn image. My drawings are a combination of observation and recall; many things drawn twice, the conflation of script text symbol code punctuation initials emblem diary.”

The exhibition will run through May 26. The event coincides with the opening of the Wrong Bar. Everyone is welcome.

Catholic missionary group brings gospel, celebration to Holy Week

From Juventud y Familia Misionera, El Paso chapter

FORT DAVIS — During Easter week, families of a dynamic Catholic missionary group from El Paso came to Fort Davis and other towns for four nights and five days of Holy Week to evangelize and spread the love of God. The group of 35, hosted in Fort Davis at the parish hall of St. Joseph Catholic Church, was made up of 12 families — children, teenagers and adults. Accompanying them was Father Salvador Fernández, L.C., a charismatic member of the Legionnaires of Christ, a religious congregation of priests.

Who are they?

Juventud y Familia Misionera / Youth & Family Missionaries is a Roman Catholic international evangelization organization that began in Mexico in the late 1980s and has spread to the U.S. According to musician Ricardo Perez, who with his wife Armida are two of the Fort Davis group’s leaders: “For 15 years, the El Paso chapter has come to most parishes of rural west Texas for Holy Week. Our missionaries are young people and Catholic families who want to share the Gospel message with others and also to grow in their own faith. We always have the support of local parish priests and of Bishop Mark Seitz, who leads the Diocese of El Paso.”

Throughout the week, the missionaries visited homes, sharing the Word of God. They also assisted in the celebration of the Easter Triduum (the three-day celebration of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday) —



Photo courtesy of El Paso chapter, Juventud y Familia Misionera

On Easter Sunday in Fort Davis at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 325 members of Juventud y Familia Misionera / Youth and Family Missionary group met for a closing celebratory Easter Mass with three priests.

bringing to life the liturgical richness of Holy Week.

In addition to the mission in Ft. Davis, other groups of Juventud y Familia Misionera served in the communities of Saragosa-Balmorhea, Kermit, Monahans, Pecos, Marathon, and across the region. On the last day, Easter Sunday, all the groups met at St. Joseph church in Fort Davis for a final joyful celebration of Holy Mass by three priests and 325 people — youth and positive energy abounded! See a short, happy video clip on Instagram taken that day — <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Dir5UEOMVmK/>

Opinion

Dear Editor,

Last week the Marfa City Council took extraordinary action and fired City Manager Andrea Walter only six weeks into the job. While they gave no justification, I know why tensions were high at City Hall: whistleblowing. I am sorry for my neighbors who never got a chance to meet Ms. Walter and see her at work. She hit the ground running and worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of this city, improving government procedures and transparency. She quickly uncovered examples of willful mismanagement, stretching back years and demonstrating active, knowing participation by officers of this city, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars. And so she set to work. She discovered that street repair equipment, purchased by the taxpayers, had been sitting idle in a field, having fallen into disrepair. So she rolled out a plan to rescue that equipment and bring street maintenance operations fully in-house, with a goal to fix a new road every week — no more waiting and hoping that outside contractors might fit us into their schedules. She also uncovered that the city has failed to equally enforce utility collections. Hundreds of so-called “preferred customers” receive unlimited and unmeasured free utilities from the City of Marfa, paid for by the rest of us, while the hammer is brought down on less prominent residents who fall behind. And so she implemented immediate reforms. Now that she is gone, this work remains incomplete and its future uncertain. Former City Manager Andrea Walter was working to make our government better. Her efforts to correct past and present mistakes clearly ruffled the feathers of those responsible, and she was sent packing. To be clear — firing someone who uncovers your wrongdoing not only shows a lack of good judgment, it is a failure of leadership. Anyone unwilling to put the peoples’ interests above his own should step aside for the good of the community. Failing that, it is time for the community to pick up where Ms. Walter left off and hold our elected officials to account.

Sincerely,
Travis Acreman
City Council Member, City of Marfa

...

Due to actions by the current administration, the future of the Marfa Food Pantry is at risk. The looming tax cuts favoring the wealthy and increased import tariffs (taxes on the low-income) will raise the cost of living in a way that will most affect the very people that the Marfa Food Pantry serves. An increase in the number of people served, along with an increase in food costs and a decrease in donations is anticipated. It is likely that the cost of food will rise even at the Odessa Food Bank where the Marfa Food Pantry purchases most of its food. The freeze of the USDA grant will affect farmers across the nation. Owner-donated use of the Marfa Food Pantry building may also change due to the higher cost of living.

Elbert Bassham
Marfa

...

Zoning lines aren’t just ink on a map. They’re promises. When you settle or buy in a residential neighborhood, you do so with the security that large-scale infrastructure won’t replace your neighbor’s house. To break that trust for the sake of convenience, or to accommodate corporate interests, is reckless. What AEP proposes with a new substation on Oak Street isn’t a small tweak. It’s a major rezoning — from residential to industrial — of a lot the size of an entire city block, tucked inside a neighborhood. Not commercial. Not mixed-use. Industrial. In researching this issue, I found only three examples nationwide where residential land was rezoned to industrial use — each one in a mid- to large-sized city: Des Moines, Fresno, and Dallas. Even there, these decisions triggered significant backlash, and in some cases, years of effort to undo the damage. For a town the size of Marfa, the implications are even more serious. If this zoning change is allowed to go through, it will mark a shift in how Marfa governs its growth. It won’t just affect one corner of town — it sets a precedent that residential zoning is up for grabs any and everywhere. We can support necessary infrastructure and uphold the character of our town — those values aren’t mutually exclusive. But once the line between residential and industrial is crossed, the slope gets slippery. Each exception builds on the last. And as the saying goes: you can’t put the toothpaste back in the tube. This isn’t about one lot or one neighborhood. It’s about whether we grow with intention — guided by planning, community input, and care for the neighborhoods that make Marfa what it is. This rezoning decision will shape what’s possible here for decades to come — in all of our backyards.

Jennifer Elsner
Marfa, Texas



OUR WATER MATTERS

Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District

By Trey Gerfers

Culberson County is located on the New Mexico state line in Far West Texas. It is bordered on the east by Reeves and Jeff Davis counties and on the west by Hudspeth County. The Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District (CCGCD) was formed as a taxing entity in 1998. It has jurisdiction over “the entire portion of the Igneous and West Texas Bolsons aquifer that is within the county” and “the large majority of the portion of the Capitan Reef Complex that is within the county,” according to the district’s most recent groundwater management plan. This includes “100% of the commercial irrigated agriculture and municipal use (City of Van Horn) within the county.” Culberson County was the focus of intense reporting several years ago, when the district sought to expand its boundaries. As the Van Horn Advocate reported back in 2018, the CCGCD “boundary is comprised of approximately 1,740 square miles of the 3,813 square miles within the county (about 46%). There is no groundwater district covering the 2,073 square miles within the county ... (proposed Expansion Area) ... [leaving] an island of land [where] water use [is] not monitored.” The aquifers underlying this “proposed Expansion Area” contain mostly brackish water, which is defined by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as “water containing total dissolved solid (TDS) concentrations of between 1,000 and 10,000 milligrams per liter” which is unsuitable for human consumption unless it is treated. In explaining why the district had originally been created to encompass less than half of the county, the district’s then general manager Summer Webb told the Texas Standard that the district “was formed mostly for the protection of the aquifers that were being used ... Nobody really thought about brackish water being important back in the day.” But, according to the Advocate, “extensive oil and gas development within the Expansion Area” had increased groundwater use there “by a factor of 10 to 1000 times.” The uptick in brackish groundwater withdrawals gave rise to concerns about potential impacts on the aquifers within the original district boundaries because brackish groundwater’s connections to subterranean freshwater are poorly understood. In some aquifers, the brackish layer can be well separated from nearby freshwater by hundreds of feet of less permeable rocks. In other aquifers, the two types of water can be so closely connected that they form a continuum, such that withdrawing brackish groundwater can eventually have impacts on freshwater levels in a given aquifer. Expanding the boundaries to cover all of Culberson County would have enabled the district to gather the data necessary to better understand these

potential impacts. This work is considered especially important because the unmonitored area of Culberson County forms a missing jigsaw piece in the region’s groundwater puzzle precisely where scientists believe the primary source of the beloved spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park is located. Despite the CCGCD’s best efforts to expand its boundaries, the necessary legislation ultimately failed to pass the Texas Legislature. Even without jurisdiction over all the aquifers in the county, the CCGCD currently has plenty on its plate with “the drawdown rate of the Lobo Flat Aquifer,” according to current General Manager Haley Davis. “The district has been working diligently with our hydrogeologist and stakeholders to put in recharge wells to hopefully help with this issue,” she said. Straddling the Culberson-Jeff Davis County line, the Lobo Flat Aquifer is a section of the West Texas Bolsons Aquifer and supplies groundwater to one of the most intensively farmed areas in the county. The heavy dependence of agricultural operations on the aquifer, along with diminishing rainfall in the area, has caused groundwater levels in the Lobo to drop. Local users have been very cooperative in voluntarily reducing pumping, according to Davis. But the district is exploring ways, such as managed aquifer recharge (MAR), to actually get more water into the aquifer. District hydrogeologist Steve Finch and his team evaluated the aquifer “for locations in which MAR would be the most effective ... [using] well logs obtained from the ... TWDB database ... to identify low-permeability layers that occur above the water table.” By constructing a computer model of these layers, the team was able to use a “soil coverage map” from the Natural Resource Conservation Service to “rank areas ... where low-permeability layers were relatively thin and the soil type promoted a high rate of infiltration,” explained Finch. “We then overlaid the MAR suitability areas with estimated stormflow ... and found that in most places shallow caliche layers and shallow subsurface clay prevented recharge to the more permeable underlying sediments and water table.” The solution they recommended was to install “shallow holes filled with gravel that drilled past the caliche horizon so captured stormwater runoff could more readily infiltrate.” But, as with nearly all innovative solutions to Texas’ many water challenges, the state’s outmoded regulatory structure is proving to be the largest obstacle to progress. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality “permitting for shallow holes filled with gravel is overly burdensome,” said Finch, because “shallow holes or depressions are considered Class V injection wells” and these involve ongoing sampling and testing procedures to prove that the water is safe. Finch argues that this classification is out-of-touch with reality and stems mainly from the state’s lack of options for classifying nature-based aquifer recharge features. Since the water table is more than 300 feet down from the surface, Finch argues, “there is ample natural sediment that would filter the recharge” before it reached the aquifer. In order to get around this insurmountable hurdle, Finch is going to “recommend better use of spreader dams in the few identified recharge ... areas where shallow caliche and clay appear to be absent.” Despite these setbacks, Davis remains hopeful. “The district is doing everything possible to keep water available for many years to come in Culberson County,” she said. Trey Gerfers serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. A San Antonio native, he has lived in Marfa since 2013 and can be reached at tgerfers@pcuwc.org.

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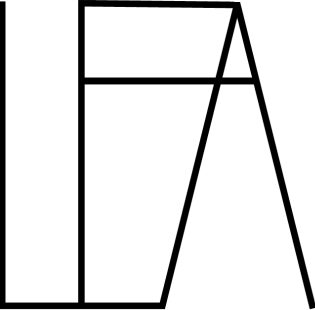
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Opinion: For the rich, free speech — for others, a SLAPP in the face

By Carolyn Iodice

Fourteen years ago, the Legislature passed vital protections for freedom of speech in the Texas Citizens Participation Act. This week, they’re looking to gut it.

The TCPA addresses the common problem of “strategic lawsuits against public participation,” or SLAPPs. These are frivolous lawsuits brought by the wealthy or powerful against private citizens to stop them from exercising their free speech rights.

For example, say your loved one is in an assisted living facility, and you think the facility is neglecting their care. You file a complaint with state regulators and then post honest, negative reviews of the facility online so that other people can make an informed choice about sending their family members there.

Then the facility sues you, claiming that you defamed them. Even though the case is frivolous and your criticism is protected by the First Amendment, you have a tough choice: stop talking about the facility or hire an attorney to defend you. You don’t want to be silenced, but you don’t want to go through a lengthy, expensive, and exhausting legal battle.

This was the choice facing Carol Hemphill when she was sued for criticizing the facility housing her brother, who needed daily care after a traumatic brain injury.

Thankfully, the TCPA helps people like Carol. It allows SLAPP victims to get cases dismissed quickly, without racking up huge legal bills. It also helps the victims get lawyers to stand up to the bullies trying to silence them through the courts.

First, the TCPA lets a victim immediately move to dismiss the case if they can show the claim is meritless and targets their speech on issues important to the community. Then, if the court denies the motion to dismiss, there’s another layer of protection. The law automatically pauses any further court proceedings while the victim appeals the ruling, so that the case doesn’t turn into a sprawling legal battle before the court of appeals gets the chance to toss it out.

When a victim successfully gets the case dismissed, the TCPA also requires the other side to pay their legal bills. This helps ensure SLAPP victims can afford legal representation to fight the case, and it deters people from filing SLAPPs in the first place. Plus, it’s just basic fairness: if someone deliberately brings a frivolous SLAPP against you, they should reimburse you for the costs of getting it dismissed.

These protections ensure that everyone, not just those with money, can afford to fight for their rights. They helped Carol get her case dismissed and her legal bills paid. They helped Ken Martin, an independent local journalist, who was sued by a politician for reporting factual information about him. And they helped Dante Flores-Demarchi, who was sued by a wealthy school board member for publicly raising concerns about corruption.

In addition to protecting individual victims, the TCPA protects a culture of open political discourse. In 2023, John Seago, the president of Texas Right to Life, testified against amending the TCPA because of its importance to individuals and organizations that work on important political issues. He testified that he, his organization, and other Texans had been

hit with 19 different lawsuits simply for speaking about abortion after passage of the Texas Heartbeat Act, which banned most abortions in the state. “We turned to the TCPA since we were being targeted simply for our activism,” he said last year.

Despite this enormous success, the Legislature is currently considering bills to tear chunks out of the TCPA.

This week, a House committee is going to vote on HB 2988, from Rep. Mano DeAyala (R-Houston), which would end the requirement for people who file SLAPPs to pay the other side’s legal bills when the case is dismissed. This would make it harder for SLAPP victims to get lawyers to defend their free speech rights, and invite more suits aimed at silencing people — a fundamental encroachment of constitutional rights.

In the coming weeks, we expect other committees to take up SB 336/HB 2459. The bills authored by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), and Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano), would remove the TCPA’s automatic pause while a victim appeals their motion to dismiss the SLAPP.

The only people who benefit from weakening these parts of the TCPA are those with deep pockets who want to abuse the courts to silence their opponents. For those people, these bills are a gift.

For Texans like Carol, who just want to speak their mind without being hauled into court, they’re a slap in the face.

Carolyn Iodice is legislative and policy director at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, a national free speech group.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 20, 2025

ACROSS

- 1 Rock legend
Turner
5 Faulty
firecracker
8 Unc, big bro,
etc.
11 Trade show
presentations
12 Do some
cardio
15 Most widely
spoken
native
language
in the world
(with 900+
million
speakers)
17 Self-image
18 Hurl
snowballs
at, say
19 "Despite that
..."
20 What can be
visualized or
wrangled
22 Boundary
24 Slimy stuff
25 From ____
to riches
"Hatsune
Miku:
Colorful
Stagel" game
company
29 ____ the
word!"
32 '50s Ford
flops
34 Cry accom-
panying a big
reveal
36 Tree juice
37 Greeting that
might include
a couple of
high fives
40 Singer
DiFranco
41 ____ with faint
praise

DOWN

- 42 Said
43 Like
secondhand
clothes
45 "To All the
____ I've
Loved
Before"
(Netflix film)
47 Colored eye
part
48 Catch
red-handed
50 Location
52 (Check this
out!)
54 Eerie storage
rooms
57 ENTs or
PDFs
59 Convenience
charge
60 Regimen that
often involves
exfoliation
63 Petered out
64 Attire
65 Pigeon
66 Greek god-
dess of dawn
67 ____ hustle
1 Outdoor
spots for
a spot
2 Lead-in to a
potentially un-
sub-
stantiated
observation
3 Affirming
gesture
4 "Statt"
5 "I know
what you're
thinking ...
stop!"
6 Mixed
martial arts
org.
7 Qatari capital
8 Group of
enthusiasts

ACROSS

- 9 "Happy?"
10 Calliope, e.g.
11 Contacted
on Insta
12 Covers in
shiny leaves
13 Dial up
14 Badminton
barrier
16 Food Network
chef
21 Golden-____
(senior)
23 Pulitzer-
winning
novelist
Jennifer
26 Winter ride
28 Does sum
arithmetic
"Sounds
right"
31 Did 80 in a
55 zone, say
32 Biblical name
hidden in
"chocolate
sauce"
33 Wild guess
35 Italian wine
province

DOWN

- 38 Some med.
insurance
plans
39 Laser ____
(instrument
played by
"plucking" on
light beams)
44 Small and
delicate
46 It may be
brewing on
the horizon
49 Privately
includes on
an email
51 Prefix for
"friendly"
53 Common
merch items
54 Visual lang.
55 Some bout
results, for
short
56 Quench
58 Soap bubbles
61 ____ Speed-
wagon
62 Penta- minus
two

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REMO TEAREALAIT
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LIED ETHICS
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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Asael Zubia
10th grade - Reduction Print

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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, April 24	Fri, April 25	Mon, April 28	Tue, April 29	Wed, May 1
BREAKFAST	STRUDEL, CHEESE CUBES, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	CINNAMON ROLL, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	PANCAKES, BACON, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	MUFFIN, YOGURT, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	ASIAN BOWL, EGG ROLL, BROCCOLI, CORN, MANDARIN ORANGES	PIZZA, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT, DESSERT	NO SCHOOL	PIZZA, SALAD, GREEN BEANS, PEACHES, DESSERT	TEXAS BASKET, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT

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26th: Softball Tournament in Presidio

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Lisa Hastings, DC
Dr. of Chiropractic, Multisensory Functional Integration
In Marfa by appt. 432.214.2031 www.clearpointwellness.com



BIG BEND HEALTH

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Big Bend Regional Hospital District is requesting submissions to select a firm with demonstrated experience in providing professional architectural services for constructing a new facility in Presidio, TX to provide a multi-purpose office space for BBRHD employees, non-medical client services, classroom for educational and fitness purposes, telehealth rooms, and public use space. The facility will be located on approximately one-acre of land owned by the District. The selected firm must be licensed, have experience in buildings of a similar nature, must be able to complete work on time and within budget. **Submissions are due by April 17, 2025 at 3:00 PM CST.** For full details visit BigBendHealth.org.

Classifieds & public notices



LIVINGSTON
INSURANCE AGENCY

IRAM MARQUEZ

903 W SAN ANTONIO-PO BOX 965-MARFA, TX 79843
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www.marfainsurance.com

EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM
FOR ADVERTISING RATES

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 Sunday 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



Looking for a career, Village Farms is Hiring!
Site Compliance Coordinator

This position is responsible for reviewing, evaluating and analyzing work environments to control and prevent employee injury/illness at our Fort Davis facility.

- Conduct regular inspections of workplace environment to ensure compliance
- Conduct/coordinate various safety trainings
- Provide first aid as needed
- Investigate workplace incidents
- Manage injured worker's cases and return to work program
- Maintain various documents, SDS's and reports

Requirements:
Strong verbal/written communication skills
Attention to detail
Proficiency in Microsoft Office
Bilingual in English/Spanish required
Reliable transportation

Please send resumes to: ebaeza@villagefarms.com
Or call 432-729-3071 Ext. 607 to inquire

PRESIDIO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF ESTRAY

Case Number: 25-035

Pursuant to the Texas Agriculture Code 142.009, notice is hereby given that the following estray livestock were found and taken up by the Presidio County Sheriff's Office:

Description of Animal(s): 2 longhorn cows (female)

- Black longhorn cow, brand 09 on left hip, left ear crop, white patches on udder
- Black longhorn cow, brand M on left hip, left ear crop, white patch on dewlap, white patch on throat, white patches on udder

Location Found: Boerschig Ranch, (29.96573, -104.08937)

Date: 04/14/2025

A diligent search has been conducted to identify the owner of said estray(s). As of the date of this notice, the owner has not been located.

The estray(s) are currently impounded and located at the Fowlkes Cattle Company in Marfa, TX. If you believe this animal belongs to you, please contact us immediately. Proof of ownership will be required before release, along with payment of any applicable fees.

If the animal(s) are not claimed within the time prescribed by law (on or before May 2, 2025), the county may take further action, including transfer of ownership and public sale as permitted by Texas Agriculture Code 142.013.

For more information or to claim this animal, contact:
Sheriff Danny C. Dominguez
Presidio County Sheriff's Office
432-729-4308
pesosecretary@co.presidio.tx.us



Danny C. Dominguez, Sheriff
Presidio County, Texas

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432-426-2024 www.KingLandWater.com
info@KingLandWater.com

Request for Proposals

Green Infrastructure Engineering Request for Proposals Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA), in partnership with the City of Presidio, invites proposals from qualified landscape engineering firms or interdisciplinary teams to lead a green infrastructure initiative funded through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. Learn more here: www.bigbendconservationalliance.org Deadline to submit proposals is May 9, 2025 at 11:59p CT

Looking for a full time medical receptionist

Benefits included
At our location: Preventative Care Health Services
406 S Summer St.
Marfa TX. 79843.
Pick up applications at 1605 N. Ft Davis Hwy, Ste. B, Alpine TX
or www.pchsmclinic.org
Call 4328374812 ask for Cindy or Sarah

Garage Sale

Saturday April 26th
8am - 1pm
901 E Oak St.
Marfa TX

E-Bike, MIG Welder, dog house, small freezer, books, clothes, and more.

House For Sale \$89,000

3 bedroom 2 bath
405 Diaz street
Presidio TX
432-238-8552

Legal Notice

"Application is being made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off-Premise Permit by Dolgencorp of Texas, Inc. d/b/a Dollar General Store #31161 located at 23330 FM 170, Terlingua, Brewster County, Texas 79852. Officers of said Corporation are Steven R. Deckard, CEO, Kelly M. Dilts, CFO, Neal E. Miller, VP Tax, and Emily C. Taylor, EVP/Secretary."

Adobe House For Sale
217 E Texas St, Marfa TX
\$288,000
Call 432-283-6114

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.

Alpine North Double Diamond Estate Sale
April 26-27, Sat-Sun, 9-3

Follow signs at Pallanez

Huge Vintage Native American Collection-Boxed Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts, Stone Axes, Pounders, Metates/Monos and more, Native baskets-Hopi, Navajo, Eskimo, Pomo, Paiute and more, Navajo and Mexico weavings, dozens of vintage Hopi, Zuni and Navajo kachinas, pottery and huge native reference book collection. Mid Century glass, Asian Art and ceramics, China, silver, furniture to include 2 sleeper sofa, dining table and chairs, hutch, buffet, small tables, desks, adjustable bed, dressers and more, washer and dryer, refrigerator, bookcases, art, lots of clothes, dishes, kitchen ware and small appliances. Outdoor furniture, 2 metal storage shed on skids, garden decor, pots, TVs, office equipment, hundreds of books, jewelry, linens and tons and tons more!

Not a sale to be missed!



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Specializing in Texas Ranch and Rural Properties

Cleat L. Stephens, Broker

FindARanchOutWest.com

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

FOR SALE - 900 & 902 West El Paso

Price reduced on two (2) adobe homes on two lots in west central Marfa. Nicely updated main home with new paint, flooring, fixtures, lighting and windows. The other home is an older adobe and is structurally sound but has not been occupied in many years. This property offers many options. Motivated seller. Buyer's agents welcome.
Asking \$225,000

FMI contact: Cleat Stephens
FAR Out West Properties LLC
(432)249-0401

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY Judge Jose Portillo: (432) 729-4452	Presidio Mayor John Ferguson: City Hall: (432) 229-3517 Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us
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 councilmemberecash@cityofmarfa.com Eddie Pallarez councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com Mark Morrison councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com Travis Acreman councilmembeacreman@cityofmarfa.com	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)	

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.



THE BIG BEND
Sentinel

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