

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Nonprofit Alpine Community Projects gets brick and mortar location

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — Nonprofit organization Alpine Community Projects, founded in June 2021, now has a brick and mortar location following Tuesday’s City Council approval of a lease agreement for the use of a building at 205 E. Sul Ross Avenue.

The 1891-built structure is commonly referred to as the old Sunshine House Senior Center, but it was originally built as a school house and has also served the functions of a hospital, Border Patrol station, Sul Ross dormitory and offices for the Soil Conservation Service. The building is currently owned by the city and has been vacant for some time.

The city will lease the space — for \$1 a year — to Alpine Community Projects for 12 months beginning June 1, with an optional renewal. The space is to be utilized for nonprofit and community engagement activities. “The tenant does have responsibility with general cleaning, beautification, minor repairs and the payment of utilities,” City Manager Megan Antrim said. “We will make sure to continue the structural repairs, pest control, HVAC maintenance, parking lot upkeep and the removal of city property prior to turnover.”

“In my view, this is a no brainer,” Mayor Catherine Eaves said. “I mean, the building’s sitting empty. We have somebody that can use it, and it will help the nonprofits.”

Alpine Community Projects, a volunteer-run entity, initially focused its community improvement efforts in three main areas — lack of childcare, lack of a recreation center and lack of elder care — but has since broadened its mission.

Board member Kirsten Moody told *The Big Bend Sentinel* this week that the nonprofit is looking forward to having a physical location that can help serve as a social space, bringing people together to work on various initiatives. “I feel like we’ll be able to get more traction with a location where we can have our supplies and create the space for the meetings the way we want to have, whatever variety of meeting that is,” Moody said.

Many of the board members who grew up in Alpine also wanted to see the historic building brought back to life. (Councilmember Rick Stephen’s question: “Has Rocky Ragoon been evicted?” speaks to the building’s current state.) While budget constraints will not allow them to tackle interior updates, the nonprofit intends to beautify the landscaping, “tidy things up and make it welcoming,” Moody said.

It will not utilize the back structure,

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Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Adam Bork, who donned a fuzzy brown bathrobe before entering “the octagon,” bests Eddie Cuevas at Armed and Generous, a community arm wrestling competition benefiting the Marfa Education Foundation held last Sunday at Planet Marfa.

Citizens, county official continue to voice concerns on proposed substation issue

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Citizens, and now County Commissioner Precinct 1 Deirdre Hisler, are continuing to voice their concerns regarding a proposal from American Electric Power (AEP) to build a new substation on the east side of town, requiring the rezoning of property from residential to industrial.

AEP is currently under contract to purchase a four-acre residential lot within city limits, catty-corner to the existing Oak Street substation, at the intersection of Oak and Aparejo just before the Alamito Creek bridge for \$600,000. The substation slated for an upgrade supplies the City of Marfa with power.

Fred Guerrero, an external affairs manager with AEP based out of San Angelo, told citizens who gathered for a public hearing on the matter

in April that the current substation is operating over capacity and AEP has been seeking a site for a new, larger substation for two-plus years. Area residents largely spoke out in opposition of the rezoning, citing decreased property values and quality of life. Many questioned why alternative locations, perhaps outside city limits, were not also presented.

Unlike AEP’s 2022 Marfa to Fort Davis transmission line upgrade initiative — which involved several public meetings complete with maps and AEP employees from various departments available for questions — public input for this initiative was never explicitly sought out by AEP. If it were not for the rezoning request, which requires public hearings at the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission and City Council levels, the issue may have never been addressed publicly.

Guerrero told *The Big Bend Sentinel*

this week that AEP’s approach to public engagement for the two projects differs because transmission line upgrades are, by nature, more flexible, involving landowner easements and the assessment of multiple preliminary routes while the new substation is a real estate deal. Transmission line upgrades are also larger-scale infrastructure projects compared to the construction of one substation.

“It’d be hard for us to give three locations and be in a contract with three different landowners, and then we pick and choose which property we’re going to purchase,” Guerrero said. “This is just two different processes basically. One is dealing with easements, and one is dealing with purchasing property.”

But that hasn’t stopped some from doing the legwork to present AEP with other viable land options to build a new substation. And public

engagement on the issue has been high — several stakeholders have spoken during public comment about the project in at least three different P&Z meetings.

At the latest meeting on April 29, Commissioner Hisler was the first to approach the podium to address P&Z — which is in the process of putting together a report for City Council which will include a recommendation for or against the rezoning — to state that community members located two legitimate site alternatives for AEP’s review since the last public meeting.

“I’m not speaking against the current property,” Hisler said. “I’m saying that we all know that we need the substation, but I would like to know that we look at every potential that will possibly work, not only for AEP, but for the community itself. I really think it’s imperative that we

(Continued on page 2)

Power lights up the rodeo arena, but the facilities still need care — and new kids

By Alexis Wolfe
For The Big Bend Sentinel

MARFA — “From my understanding, no one really knew we were here,” Lucas Salcido says from inside the Marfa Rodeo Arena, tugging his horse, Nino, towards his trailer parked alongside the agriculture barn. “They thought that the Marfa 4-H club had already been terminated.”

It wasn’t until a couple of months ago when, unlikely enough, a group of Parisian filmmakers inquired about the use of the arena to shoot scenes for an independent film, that the Salcidos, with much help from County Commissioner Deirdre Hisler, got the electricity back on in the arena. Though he’s used to a mostly fruitless labor at the arena since 2017, Salcido smiles widely and asks if I’d like to finally see the place with the lights on.

Director Romain Jaccoud’s hopes of using a lit-up arena in his film, *Born Reckless*, which explores themes of cowboy culture and the queer experience, reengaged a conversation between Salcido, Hisler and AEP, the power company. “A lot of people at the courthouse got involved. It was a big effort,” Salcido says. Hisler, who previously worked as the state parks West Texas regional director, is committed to breathing life back into

the Marfa 4-H. Having once overseen 22 state parks, she is no stranger to organizational challenges. “When you start delving into 4-H, it’s a fascinating organization,” she says. “The skills they can teach to youth who want to stay connected with our western heritage are amazing.” Her hope is that hosting activities, such as roping events, will provoke new interest surrounding the Marfa 4-H.

After the Parisians’ filming wrapped around the new year, Hisler says she got a lot of interest and thanks for making the set happen. “It was a good thing that film happened, because it opened the doors to what the potential is. I got to meet Lucas and [his wife] Rebecca, and I got to go to some of their 4-H shows to see how they’re run and get ideas about how we can breathe that life into Presidio County.”

Salcido’s children, Annaka, 18, and Landin, 11, are the only youth in town utilizing access to the arena for things like roping, team roping, and preparing to compete in livestock shows. This year, they competed in both the San Angelo and San Antonio major shows. But they competed under Brewster County’s 4-H program, because, technically, right now, there is no Marfa 4-H. “Aside from my own kids, people aren’t really interested in getting involved,” Salcido says.

“They’re worried about the cost of feed and getting started and taking care of the animals.”

Salcido says that the real issue with growing the Marfa 4-H’s popularity and resources starts with the ever-revolving door of county extension officers, who help run the program. Having gone through three different officials since 2017, Marfa 4-H’s most recent county extension official, Micki Harris, was incredibly helpful to the Salcido’s showing career before her position was cut. She encouraged them to expand their involvement beyond just the local county shows. Today, Salcido says Hisler has also been a huge help in moving projects forward for Marfa’s 4-H club.

“Lucas and Rebecca have been the heart and soul that has kept that energy alive, and I want to support that,” Hisler says.

Before the Marfa Rodeo Arena came under the care of Salcido, it was run by Natalia and David Williams, and before that, Mem and Jeannie Hall. In 1980, the Presidio County 4-H Adult Leaders Corporation was formed to involve 4-H leaders in the development of a county 4-H program. That same year, the agriculture barn was constructed, funded entirely through donations from businesses and individuals in the community.

Presidio County still owns the land on which the building is situated, and the names of the ranchers and community members who built the barn still hang proudly from branded wooden boards that line its walls. The boards serve as a memorial to several community members who have passed on.

The Halls presided over the arena

Presidio ISD bond fails in Saturday election

Saturday’s results include new city council members, school board members

All counts are unofficial until the government entities canvass the ballots. A \$9.9 billion bond election to fund improvements in Presidio ISD failed Saturday by just 21 votes — 269 to 248. A handful of other races were held, (winners in bold) including:

Alpine City Council Ward 1
Richard Portillo: 118
Austin Smith: 43
Andres “Andy” Ramos: 5

City council seats for wards 1 and 3 were up for election, but only the Ward 1 race saw enough candidates file to appear on the ballot. The Ward 3 City Council seat saw only one candidate file — previous building official Robert Rückes. Because he ran unopposed for the position, he was officially declared elected and the election was canceled.

Presidio ISD School Board
Three seats were up for election for the Presidio ISD School Board. The top three vote-getters for the at-large board will be elected.

Jeremy Velasquez: 336
Maria Loyola Montoya: 331
Iris S. Galindo: 257
Jose A. Padilla: 207
Tino Martinez: 169
Josefina Burrola: 155

Presidio City Council
Current Mayor John Ferguson ran unopposed but was on the ballot. Voters were instructed to vote for no more than two candidates for full-term council seats.

Mayor John Ferguson: 356
Silverio Escontrias: 287
Bianca Martinez-Bailon: 181
Abel “Billy” Hernandez: 132
Arian Velazquez-Ornelas: 129
Jose “Pepe” Acosta: 128

For the unexpired term council seat, voters were instructed to vote for no more than one person.

Juan Saenz: 295
Alondra Flores: 182



Photo by Alexis Wolfe

Lucas Salcido, caretaker of Marfa’s Rodeo Arena and 4-H club, stands tall next to his horse, Nino.

Rodeo arena

(Continued from page 1)

of pure Colombian cocaine — a nearly \$400 million smuggling operation for which he pled guilty and was given a life sentence — on the property. At that time, the arena and its surrounding land was referred to as the Presidio County Fairgrounds. The infamous horse trailer, though rumored to still be on the premises, was sold at a sheriff's sale and auction on the steps of the Presidio County Courthouse in December of 1992, at which time the trailer was said to be destined for a ranch in Wyoming. Thompson's portrait still resides on the wall of the Presidio County Sheriff's Office.

Nowadays, events at the arena are infrequent. Crew members on Jaccoud's set shot off fireworks while filming a scene sometime after midnight, which disturbed and caused a ruckus among several nearby residents. Salcido said that residents were warned that fireworks would be set off, but the filming of the scene was pushed later into the evening than planned.

It has been proposed that the entrance road to El Cosmico's latest development project run through the land associated with the roping arena, but it has not yet been voted on in the commissioners court. Salcido says that initially, he was against this idea, but now he's come around to the possibility of "what money it can generate and contribute to the county." In early conversations, it was proposed that the entrance road run through adjacent Vizcaino Park, but that plan has not yet been voted on at the commissioners court either. For now, the final location for the entrance road remains undetermined.

"If they took out some of the holding pens and then built the arena to regulation, there would be plenty of room for both the arena and road," Hisler says. She believes that if the road were maintained by TxDOT rather than the county, the county would benefit by using that money for other needs.

Salcido grew up riding horses in Marfa. He looked forward to every holiday, when he would team up with his grandparents and uncles to ride, growing his love and understanding of the sport. Today, his undeterred commitment to Marfa's 4-H club and his children's involvement reflect that love.

"I'm trying to do my part to give the kids an opportunity to show," Salcido says. "It'd be nice to see more kids compete at the major livestock shows, or at least at the county shows. If we can get enough people involved, I'd like to have a Marfa livestock show."

Many surrounding towns — Fort Davis, Alpine, Balmorhea, Fort Stockton and Pecos — all host annual shows that range from August through January. Salcido proposes that Marfa host a livestock show around the same time as the Marfa Lights Festival, in early September or late August. "The shows are kind of where you get your bragging rights," Salcido says.

As far as bragging rights go, his children are currently the sole youth in Marfa practicing skills like team roping and participating in livestock shows. Salcido says that many of the ways the Marfa interacts with ranching culture have changed. *The Sentinel* was once a funeral home; the distillery across the street was a feed store. Once, it was a weekly occurrence to read headlines about Tri-County Livestock Association events, bull riding tours, feeder cattle sales and FFA members competing in the Houston and Dallas livestock shows. But today, Marfa's FFA program no longer exists, and local 4-H involvement is near null.

County Commissioner David Beebe says that when he arrived in 2007, there was still a semi-active FFA program and families raising animals. "At best,



Photo by Alexis Wolfe

Annaka Salcido prepares to show her family's lambs for the San Angelo stock show.

you're scraping seven or eight kids out of the Presidio schools and seven or eight kids out of the Marfa schools. It's tough," he says.

Salcido remembers, not too long ago, a time when the annual Old Timers Roping event was a "really big deal," and while it's still alive today, involvement feels minimal. "Marfa's main source of revenue used to be from the ranchers," Salcido says. "A lot of the ranchers around Marfa now, they're still competing in events like team roping, ranch rodeos and all that stuff to make money, [but] you just don't see them around town. A couple of people in town haul bucking bulls. But a lot of it is big city stuff, because

that's where the money is."

Beebe says that one of the present-day issues with the management of county spaces such as the rodeo arena and golf course is that there's "just not enough going on" to justify the maintenance of the spaces. "Every month there's an electric bill and water bill and fence repair and hardly anyone out there. A balance has to be struck," he says. "We run a deficit budget and the county has to cover these costs." There are four electric meters at the rodeo arena, eight at the golf course, and the county pays \$18 per meter each month, whether they're in use or not.

The ways that the bull barn and agriculture barn were once used — as traditional agricultural spaces — no longer take precedence in Marfa. Much of the agricultural trade that's happening, with regard to live animals, takes place in the Presidio stock yards. "We don't have stock yards here in Marfa, and we're not going to again. That era is over. People get really upset to hear that the past isn't coming back," Beebe says.

But Salcido encourages locals to get involved with the 4-H for the learning and bonding experience that it brings to both parents and their children. "If parents want to get involved, it gives them the chance to teach their children something new, a chance for discipline and to run around with them."

Hisler echoes much of the same, mentioning that the influx of new parents around town could provide a new future for the 4-H. "I'm starting to see some of the young couples having babies in Marfa, and I think if there were offerings to teach their children things like this, some folks would jump all over it. All those people making things happen at the agriculture barn aged out and their kids grew up. But now there's a new wave." She also proposes that a library be made in the meeting room of the agriculture barn to preserve historic documents and equipment purchased by the club over the years.

Salcido says a 4-H club could offer archery, rifle and rodeo events, but it lacks the sponsors and volunteers, as well as general interest necessary, to successfully run each event. "If we could round up a batch of kids, we could practice shooting bow and arrows at targets at the arena," he says.

Salcido plans on throwing some more roping events in the future and hopes to host "play days" — a kids' rodeo which includes barrel races and team roping — but right now, he's hopeful for a new county extension officer. "It's something we really do need," he says.

Hisler is working to formalize agreements between the Marfa 4-H and the county, and the arena and barn could use some TLC — much of it cosmetic, such as painting the fence and repairing some holding pens — to successfully run roping events.

As far as function goes, the property has much of what it needs aside from enough local interest, Salcido says. "I have a couple of barrels, but we still need a barrier, buzzer and a clock," he says. "Now that we have the power on, we can use the speakers and PA system. We need the poles and basic equipment still required to host the events. But the power was a big part of it. That changes things big time." Salcido is hopeful to gain a new county extension officer and recruit enough sponsors and volunteers to host annual 4-H events long into the future, but it will take a village.

"We have miles to go before we sleep," Hisler says of the work ahead.

FDISD consultant offers some information on future of superintendent position

By Rob D’Amico
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

FORT DAVIS — As interim Fort Davis ISD Superintendent Ralph Treynham and school board trustees remain silent about the process for who will lead the district moving forward, this week a consultant provided some basic information on future plans.

Treynham has declined to comment since the school board appointed him on April 14 and he began working on April 26. However, at *The Big Bend Sentinel* deadline, he emailed that he would be available in the future for comment. Treynham replaces Superintendent Graydon Hicks, who the board placed on paid administrative leave on March 9.

On March 28, the board approved a contract with J&P Advisory Group — its only public action that night after leaving Hicks in limbo on leave — but did not provide the public with any details on what the contract involved. *The Big Bend Sentinel* obtained the contract through a records request. The contract provides for

monthly services from the consultants, such as reviews of TEA-mandated reports, finances, board training and the district's early childhood partnership program at a rate of \$1,500 a month, with more personalized "executive consulting" at a daily rate.

The group's founder and CEO, Jim McClellan, said Monday that his firm selected four interim superintendent candidates to provide to the school board, which ultimately picked Treynham. "He's a former Fort Stockton superintendent with a lot of experience," McClellan said. McClellan — a former Sanford-Fritch ISD superintendent — said the idea is to stabilize Fort Davis ISD and make sure it is running smoothly and then work with the board on next steps for a permanent replacement.

Hicks could not be reached for comment for this article, but in previous conversations, he said he is still in the dark about the exact reason for his removal on March 9. Hicks previously said the placement on paid administrative leave was related to him refusing to follow a board directive that would break the law.

The school board and its president, James Weaver, had refused to comment on

Hicks' situation because it's a "personnel issue," but they have released statements that say Hicks was placed on leave because of "his inability to work with the board in three closed sessions." Statements also denied that Hicks or the board had done anything illegal, nor did the board request Hicks do something illegal.

Hicks continues to be paid his \$126,500 a year salary while the district moves forward. The board had extended his contract for another school year (2025-2026) in January to start on July 1. His current contract — which ends June 30 — states that his termination is governed by Texas Education Code Chapter 21, which outlines the most standard way educators are let go, by nonrenewal of their contract. The law states the district must notify the superintendent 30 days in advance of their contract's end, and the superintendent is allowed to request a hearing on the nonrenewal, which they can also request be public.

The Sentinel has filed an open records request for Treynham's contract and salary, which has not been posted on the web yet, as required by law.

Alpine Community Projects

(Continued from page 1)

which has fallen into disrepair, nor a kitchen, which was not included in a previous remodel and could be dangerous, according to Antrim. When asked by Councilmember Darin Nance whether the city might consider utilizing historic tax credits — that will soon be made available via a national historic district designation — for building improvements, Antrim said "there's a lot we could do," and the expenditure of hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds for such a project has been previously discussed.

Moody said there is also a possibility that the building, which they are referring to as the old school house, could be utilized by other local nonprofit organizations also in need of public space. "Once we get in there and really get a feel for the space, it is possible that with city approval,

that we would be able to maybe help other groups that need the same kind of things that we do," Moody said.

Alpine Community Projects is pursuing several avenues for positive community change, including ideas like a summer children's program that came out of the 13 Ways to Kill Your Community conference held in January, city economic development, and elder care. The organization has obtained financial feasibility and market studies about the establishment of an assisted living facility or nursing home, and is in the process of developing a separate nonprofit organization to hopefully carry that concept across the finish line.

They are also working with the Texas Historic Commission on its inaugural "First Street

Initiative," designed to enable communities to learn more about downtown revitalization and historic preservation. Big Bend area residents are invited to participate in an online downtown asset survey for Alpine as a part of the program.

"Patience and persistence" is key when addressing the systemic issues plaguing Alpine, Moody said, but the group is making strides in identifying problems and the right people to solve them. "We're really at the point where we're going to be able to do a lot more," Moody said. "We've been setting it up and relationship building, and I feel like we're in a good place."

To fill out the downtown asset survey, visit alpinecommunityprojects.org/first-street-survey



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Moody

A historic Alpine building with a rich past that has been vacant for some time will soon be the home of nonprofit organization Alpine Community Projects, which intends to beautify the exterior.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Marfa’s mayor and members of City Council have told us that former City Manager Walter’s “separation was a ‘joint decision between her and the city council.’” It was not. Ms. Walter was unilaterally terminated. I know this for a fact because I have eyes and ears. Beyond that, should someone want to leave a job, she could very easily resign. Ms. Walter did not. She was fired and given an hour to collect her things.

Mayor Baeza tells us that we will never know why Ms. Walter was terminated: “It is the policy of the City of Marfa not to comment on personnel matters.” But members of Council have already gone on record with their justifications. Mr. Morrison explained that while he was “pleased” with Ms. Walter’s work on important issues, unfortunately she was not sufficiently “pleasant.” Perhaps, rather than using taxpayer funds on her extraordinarily brief tenure and unilateral termination, this insurmountable unpleasantness could have been addressed at her first performance review. It was, and always had been, scheduled for May 29.

Finding a different rationale, Mr. Pallarez alleged that Ms. Walter was “stirring the pot.” If that refers to uncovering mismanagement and working quickly to correct it, then indeed she was and with good reason. After all, her contract employed her as the City’s Chief Executive Officer.

Whatever the reason, I would hope that city officials would refrain from

adding defamation to wrongful termination. Enough unjustified damage has been done to Ms. Walter’s reputation and prospects for future employment, in spite of the dedicated service she provided the City.

The Mayor assures us, “other customers are not being billed for any discrepancies between the minimum water rate and the actual water being used.” This is misleading. I recognize that Marfa’s current mayor is not a certified accountant. To make it clear, I will quote former Marfa City Manager Mandy Roane’s comments in *The Sentinel* from September 2023: “We’re asking people to pay for services that we’ve provided because the water that comes to their house has already been treated.” Free flowing water is not free.

The problems Ms. Walter uncovered were admittedly known by some in the City for years, and their potential remedies obstructed. Whether that was willful or what Councilmember Morrison describes as “negligence,” both are forms of mismanagement. Ms. Walter gave us the opportunity to recognize where we have fallen short, and showed us how to do better. As the Public Utilities Director explained, Ms. Walter came in, immediately made it a priority, and obtained impressive results in record time.

But her work was only beginning. The Council rushed into a reckless decision and left the City without management at a time when it is clearly necessary. The City should immediately seek submissions for a new, qualified City Manager. Unfortunately, we have shown any such candidate just how “pleasant” the job will be.

Travis Acreman
City Council Member, City of Marfa

See more letters on page 6.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

January 24, 1957

MARFA ASKED TO JOIN
IN OLD SPANISH TRAIL
BEAUTIFICATION

To make the most beautiful highway in the world. This is the ambitious beautification program set up at a meeting of executives of the Old Spanish Trail Highway Association in Houston last week. Marfa, on Highway 90, is definitely on the Old Spanish Trail. As there has been some controversy as to the exact route the Trail covers, Paul Keith, local Chamber of Commerce president, said "we are indeed happy to learn that Marfa is on the coast-to-coast route which the association considers to be the shortest, best, all-year, low-level route."

"The fact is well known," Mr. Keith added, "that Texas has already done more toward the beautification of highways — including roadside parks — than any other state. The program planned by the Old Spanish association will greatly benefit this area as It will be an additional inducement to travelers of Highway 90 who are expected to increase “by a large percentage when the new all weather Pecos Canyon bridge is opened in March."

Mass beautification of nearly 2,500 miles of highway extending from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Diego, California, was the prime objective of the meeting.

According to plans of the Highway Beautification Committee, headed by W. S. Newkirk, of Houston, each area and state will be invited to participate in the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers of all kinds, along the route of the Old Spanish Trail. Each area will plant the particular type of flower, shrub or tree which will grow to the best advantage in that area.

In this activity, seven groups of highway associations along the route of Highway 90 and its affiliated routes in the west, are each becoming part of the National Association which was founded by Colonel Ed Fletcher of San Diego, thirty years ago. Due to a natural rivalry between Florida and California, this original association was gradually supplanted by smaller organizations over a period of years, but with the selection of Houston as National Headquarters, and with the prime motive of making this Old Spanish Trail route the "most beautiful national highway in the world."

‘Birthday Bash’ to honor Bob Dylan on his 84th

MARFA — Dust isn’t the only thing blowin’ in the wind in Marfa. Marfa Live Arts presents Bob Dylan’s Birthday Bash to honor Dylan on his 84th birthday on Saturday, May 24, at Coyote Coffee in Marfa.

The event, which is being produced by Marfa musician Mia Valentini, will celebrate the musical icon with local and visiting musicians covering some of Dylan’s well known songs as well as lesser known deep cuts. “It’s a curated open mic night, and we are still looking for musicians to play,” Valentini said. “In previous years of this event, we’ve had musicians from all around the area and have even had musicians come all the way from Boston. It’s open to whoever wants to come and perform their favorite Dylan tunes.”

Sign-up is currently available through Marfa Live Arts’ Instagram page or by emailing info@marfalivearts.org, spots have already begun filling up as local favorites such as Vance Knowles, Zoe Kurland, Tim Johnson, Travis Bubenik, Erin Schneider and Rock-n-Roll Robert prepare to play songs from Dylan’s vast oeuvre. “We do already have a handful of people signing up, but hopefully we can get a flood of musicians wanting to come out and play some songs,” Valentini said. “We’ve got a smattering of The Grand Tourist members and some other Marfa staples signed



Bob Dylan, 1963.

up. We prefer folks sign up ahead of time, but you are also welcome to come with your instrument and sign up day-of.”

Valentini, who performed as an actor at the 14th

Annual Marfa Live Arts One-Act Plays teamed up with the organization following the plays, with goals for continual collaboration. “After the one-act plays, I talked to [MLA Director] Jennie Lyn [Hamilton] because I wanted to contribute more and maybe put on a play with Marfa Live Arts, and she asked if I could help with the Dylan Birthday Bash,” Valentini explained. “I think Jennie is bringing in more and more young folks into the fold to create more outreach for Marfa Live Arts and to showcase that they are here and open if you have an idea. She's really supportive. And I think she's trying to show the next generation kind of the ropes of how to get events done in Marfa.”

The show, Valentini added, is free and open to all. “This is going to be a fun, family friendly event,” she said. “So, come sing a song, read a poem, or reinterpret one of his works into performance art! Express your Dylan! There will be cake.”

Solo musicians, she added, will be limited to one song, while groups can play up to three. To sign up, please email info@marfalivearts.org with your name (or group name) with song titles. For more information please visit www.marfalivearts.org. Marfa Live Arts would also like to thank Bitter Sugar for providing a Bob Dylan sheet cake for the event.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
May
8

Crafts & Drafts

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

Amanda Kitchens

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Amanda Kitchens play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Boxing

9am - 11am at MAINTENANT
Free Boxing Practice at MAINTENANT (USA registered boxing club)

Fri
May
9

Pools of Life

8:30am - 9:30am at Big Bend Ranch State Park
Join us for a ranger guided hike of the Cinco Tinajas pools.

Texas Sage

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Texas Sage play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Joker & Jester Comedy Tour

8pm - 10pm at Granada Theatre
The Educated Redneck Dan Ellison and The Lone Jester Jake Daniels, the dynamic duo from the Jokers and Jester Comedy Tour, are coming The Granada on Friday, May 9th. Show time is 8pm! AND IT'S FREE!

Magic The Gathering

6pm - 9pm at Magical Warehouse
Magical Warehouse is hosting weekly Magic the Gathering games.

Sat
May
10

Gene Reeves

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

RULE 10th Annivervary Celebration

5pm - 9pm at RULE Gallery
RULE Gallery is hosting our 10th Anniversary Celebration for the community with food, beverages, art and good company.

Los Yonke Gallos VS El Paso West Texas Wind

3pm at Vizcaino Field
Come hang and enjoy some sandlot béisbol!
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Sun
May
11

Mother’s Day Brunch

11am - 2pm at Alcove Social
Alcove Social is hosting a special Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday May 11th. There will be live music and mimosas to accompany the Mother's Day menu. 11am-2pm

SPACE SIGHTINGS: We Are Aliens

6pm at Crowley Theater
A rising star of Japanese genre film for ten years, the prolific Kenichi Ugana arrives with WE ARE ALIENS (2024) which is currently burning up international festivals.

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event?

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Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

Free Zumba Classes

Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Marfa Public Library

Yin Yoga

Tuesdays at 12pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes

Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

AA (online & sometimes in-person)

Saturday at 12:00pm at https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2 & sometimes in-person at Marfa Public Library

AA (in-person)

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

The Alpine Farmers Market

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

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

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Blackwell School Alliance receives grant to spotlight Mexican Schools and segregation

From the Blackwell School Alliance

MARFA — The Blackwell School Alliance has been awarded a \$20,000 grant through the inaugural cycle of the Nuestra Herencia Grant Program, led by Latinos in Heritage Conservation. The funds will support the creation of a traveling exhibit examining the legacy of Mexican schools and the broader impacts of segregation in public education across the country.

“We’re honored to receive this grant from LHC,” said John Lujan, Blackwell School Alliance Board vice president. “Blackwell is our heritage, our legacy. We owe it to our elders to tell the stories of this powerful place, to honor their memories, and to carry on the torch of preservation.”

The alliance’s proposal was one of just 14 selected for funding from more than 100 applications. The exhibit will use a combination of historical photographs and oral histories to tell the everyday experiences of Hispanic students in these segregated school systems, commemorating Blackwell alumni and casting light on untold systemic inequalities.

“These projects fill critical gaps in our national preservation story,” said Sehila Mota Casper, executive director of LHC. “This grant cycle supports the knowledge and leadership that communities have sustained

for generations.”

Blackwell School operated from 1909 until Marfa ISD schools were integrated in 1965. Commonly referred to as the “Ward School,” the three-room stone and adobe school became the focal point for the education of Marfa’s Mexican American children. As enrollment in the Mexican School soared, the sentiment for the need to educate nuestros ninos paralleled that of the Anglo population, though funding and resource inequality for Blackwell students persisted.

The preservation of Blackwell is a constant reminder that racial segregation was real, political, and economically motivated. Today, as a national historic site, Blackwell School is living proof that heritage and culture can transcend oppression. Like other Mexican schools, Blackwell served as the impetus to overcome cultural and social obstacles and elevate Hispanics across the country.

Blackwell Alumni, through grassroots efforts, long championed and supported efforts for congressional designation and establishment of the school as a unit of the National Park Service. This designation ensures the many stories of Blackwell and the Mexican American segregated experience will continue to be uncovered and told.

About the Nuestra Herencia Grant Program

Funded by Latinos in Heritage Conservation, Nuestra Herencia is the first national grant program solely dedicated to preserving Latinx historic and cultural sites. Over 100 applications were received from 21 states and Puerto Rico. Fourteen projects were selected, spanning capital improvements, planning, consultant services, and interpretation programming.

About The Blackwell School Alliance

For nearly two decades, the Blackwell School Alliance has worked to preserve and protect the newly-established Blackwell School National Historic Site. The Alliance is committed to honoring our community and shedding light on the challenges of and triumphs over public school segregation of Hispanic students in America.

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that accepts tax-deductible donations and memberships, starting at \$25 per year. Visit www.theblackwellschool.org for more information.

Student photography experimentation culminates in ‘Marfa Moments’



Photo by Hannah Goldfarb, courtesy The Chinati Foundation

Art teacher Adele Powers at the Marfa Moments opening.

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — This semester Marfa ISD junior high and high school art students were introduced to a variety of photography techniques through a partnership with The Chinati Foundation that culminated in an exhibition titled Marfa Moments at the Marfa Public Library last Friday.

The library’s community room played host to the one-night-only display, which celebrated bold student perspectives through black and white darkroom prints, Polaroids, cyanotypes, photograms, pinhole photography and double exposures. Prints were for sale with proceeds going directly to the student artists.

Art teacher Adele Powers said she and Michael Roch, then-Director of Education at The Chinati Foundation, who has since departed the role, decided to make this year’s collaboration about photography in order to coincide with the museum’s ongoing exhibition Al rio / To the River by artist Zeo Leonard.

Chinati staffers worked to establish a working darkroom on Marfa ISD’s campus, with the help of supply donations from Harry Crofton. Some students traded their iPhones and digital cameras for 35 millimeter film cameras, gaining familiarity with manual camera adjustments and the patience required to shoot an entire roll of film before

seeing the results.

“The kids who learned 35mm, they learned how to read a light meter and all this stuff,” Powers said. “The excitement of taking a photo and not knowing what it is was really funny.”

The anticipation that built from utilizing the analog technology was exciting for students, who got to see their images suddenly appear in the darkroom through chemical processes. “I think the darkroom is super cool, and it’s really magical for the students because it appears before your very eyes when you put it in the developer,” Powers said.

Two juniors that really took to shooting film and spending time printing in the darkroom were Isaiah Ramos and Messiah Licon. The two said they plan to continue their newfound photography practices, including darkroom printing, next school year.

“Doing photography, it was definitely something new to jump into, but after taking some time [learning] how to handle the equipment and how to work the settings on the camera it was pretty fun,” Ramos said. “I got to go around town, take a lot of photos, even out of town. I took a lot of photos of a lot of eye-catching things.”

“This was a really fun thing to do in art class, and it was very different from what we’ve done in the past,” Licon added. “Just learning how to develop these was really fun and interesting.”

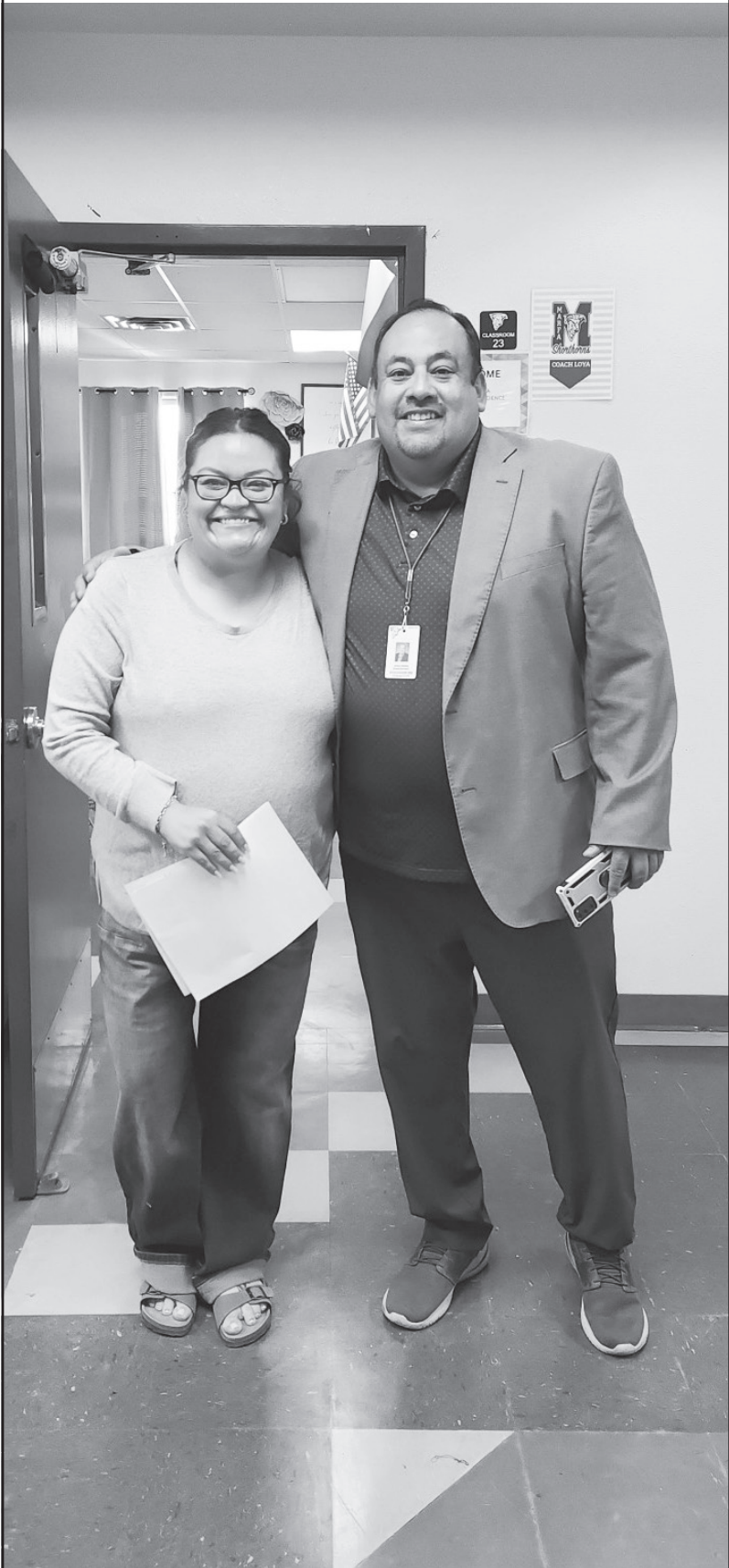
Ramos said they “went through a lot of film, a lot of trial and error” to produce prints they were happy with that appeared in the show. He said he was drawn to shooting “things you’re not able to see everyday,” while Licon said she was drawn to photographing Marfa scenes as well as the natural beauty of Texas, which students recently encountered while traveling through San Saba on their way to the state science fair in College Station.

Junior Ayven Pippen said he was surprised by how gratifying it was to shoot film and make darkroom prints. He said he was moved to snap a photo of a seemingly mundane scene of a urinal in a boys bathroom at the school — which turned out to be a fan favorite — because “it’s like an everyday item that not a lot of people see.”

“I wanted to take the photo because it’s something more women don’t get to see,” Pippen said. “It’s something private that should be seen.”

Chinati Education Coordinator Haley Levin said she enjoyed interacting with the Shorthorns through the unique collaboration between Chinati and Marfa ISD. “This is such a special partnership made possible by the creativity and willingness of the staff and students at Marfa ISD,” Levin said. “I smile every time I walk down the hall towards the art classroom — behind the door is a very special community. The students really lead the way.”

She rocks!



Marfa ISD Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez congratulates teacher Lora Loya for receiving the Most Outstanding Science Teacher Award (MOST Award) from the West Texas Geology Foundation. The award comes with \$3,000 for her and \$2,000 for her classroom.

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.

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Owner / Operator

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Opinion

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in the Arm Wrestling event on May 4 at Planet Marfa that benefited Marfa Education Foundation's scholarship program. Even compared to last year, which was an unequivocal success, this year was magical. So many showed up to cheer on friends and neighbors, and so many laid it all on the line by getting up and participating in one way or another. It takes strength to stand in front of a percentage of the town and show what you've got.

On behalf of MEF, our heartfelt gratitude goes to everyone who came to contribute, especially our arm wrestlers. A special note of thanks also goes to Kaki and Chris for keeping the show moving smoothly. Thanks to Mia for her rendition of the National Anthem, and to Kim and Mr. Salgado for speaking about the impact of scholarships in their own lives. Thanks Carrie and Cheryl for keeping track of the brackets. Our sincere gratitude is due to Christy Miller for conceiving of this amazing event and making Marfa scholars the beneficiaries, and our most humble thanks to everyone who has donated to the cause. As of the writing of this letter, we have raised about \$9,500 and are still pinning donations for scholarships through the end of the week in the hopes of reaching our \$10,000 goal.

MEF scholarships benefit Marfa ISD graduates who are enrolled in a college or trade school. Now more than ever, public schools need our support. Marfa Education Foundation is dedicated to serving the students and staff of Marfa ISD and the graduates seeking higher education. I am deeply proud to be part of that mission and the Marfa community has shown, through their enthusiastic generosity, that it is a priority for them as well.

Thank you again, and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Sincerely,
Abby Boyd
Executive Director
Marfa Education Foundation

...

Dear Marfa Community,

The Marfa Studio of Arts celebrated 25 years of community service last Saturday with a big joyous birthday party. We are so grateful to our great friends and supporters for coming out and giving us all that love.

We were proud to have the Marfa National Bank sponsoring this event as we also celebrated 25 years of a special relationship with this wonderful bank that is truly a partner to all the nonprofits in Marfa. Thank you MNB.

Other great sponsors of this event were Cactus Liquors who are always incredibly generous in donating libation to our events. Marfa Table donated a gigantic, delicious chocolate cake that could have fed an army. Fairweather Cider of Austin also contributed to our festive event. Many thanks to Homework Marfa and E&C Construction who generously donated to MSA. We were also grateful to *The Big Bend Sentinel* for the lovely article on our programs by Mary Cantrell.

Raffle prize donors were Among my Souvenirs, Bitter Sugar, Bordo, Cactus Liquors, Cibolo Creek Resort, Cochineal, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, Hotel Paisano, Hotel St. George, Margaret's, Mudlab, Ocotillo Botanica, Stop & Read, Texas Rose and The Get Go. Two artists, Alyse Ronayne and Jax Le Baron-Widmar, generously donated their artworks. Susan Butler, a board member, did a masterful job putting this successful raffle together.

Our MSA team was outstanding in planning and executing this event. Many thanks to our amazing board of directors including Britney Bass, Susan Butler, Janie DeGuerin and Carlos Morales. Special thanks to Sam Dwyer, the SITES Coordinator; and Alex Luna, our gallery manager; and Lindsey Gore for their invaluable help.

Of course the focal point of this evening was the beautiful exhibitions of paintings by Katie Inglis. We thank her for generously allowing us to share her moment with our special evening. Matthew Bollick also donated his many talents by providing an upbeat soundtrack to the event.

The rain held off until after the opening but happily did give us the finale we never expected. Thank you to all, we look forward to many more years of happy art making.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Marfa Studio of the Arts

...

Dear Editor,

April 22-27 was International Dark Sky Week. To mark the occasion, celebrate our particularly beautiful view of the cosmos and raise awareness of how to protect it, community partners throughout the region came together to hold star parties, special talks, and unique activities.

We would like to thank the following organizations for hosting, participating in or helping to raise awareness of these events: the Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve, Visit Alpine, Alpine Public Library, Ballroom Marfa, the Far Flung Outdoor Center in Terlingua, Davis Mountains State Park, Big Bend Citizens Alliance, Big Bend Ranch State Park, Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Marathon Chamber of Commerce, American Bird Conservancy, Tierra Grande Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Marfa Junior/Senior High School, Valentine School, CreatiVets, Dark for the Park Alliance, *The Big Bend Sentinel*, Jeff Davis County Mountain Dispatch, Alpine Avalanche, The Van Horn Advocate, Fort Stockton Pioneer, Marfa Public Radio, KVLV, KALP, Printco in Alpine, and Big Bend Coffee Roasters.

At McDonald Observatory, dark night skies are vital for astronomical research. But, as the week's events highlighted, they are also an essential part of what makes the Big Bend region so special. I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped share their love of the dark, and who, each night, renew their commitment to safeguarding this resource for future generations.

Sincerely,
Taft Armandroff
Director, McDonald Observatory

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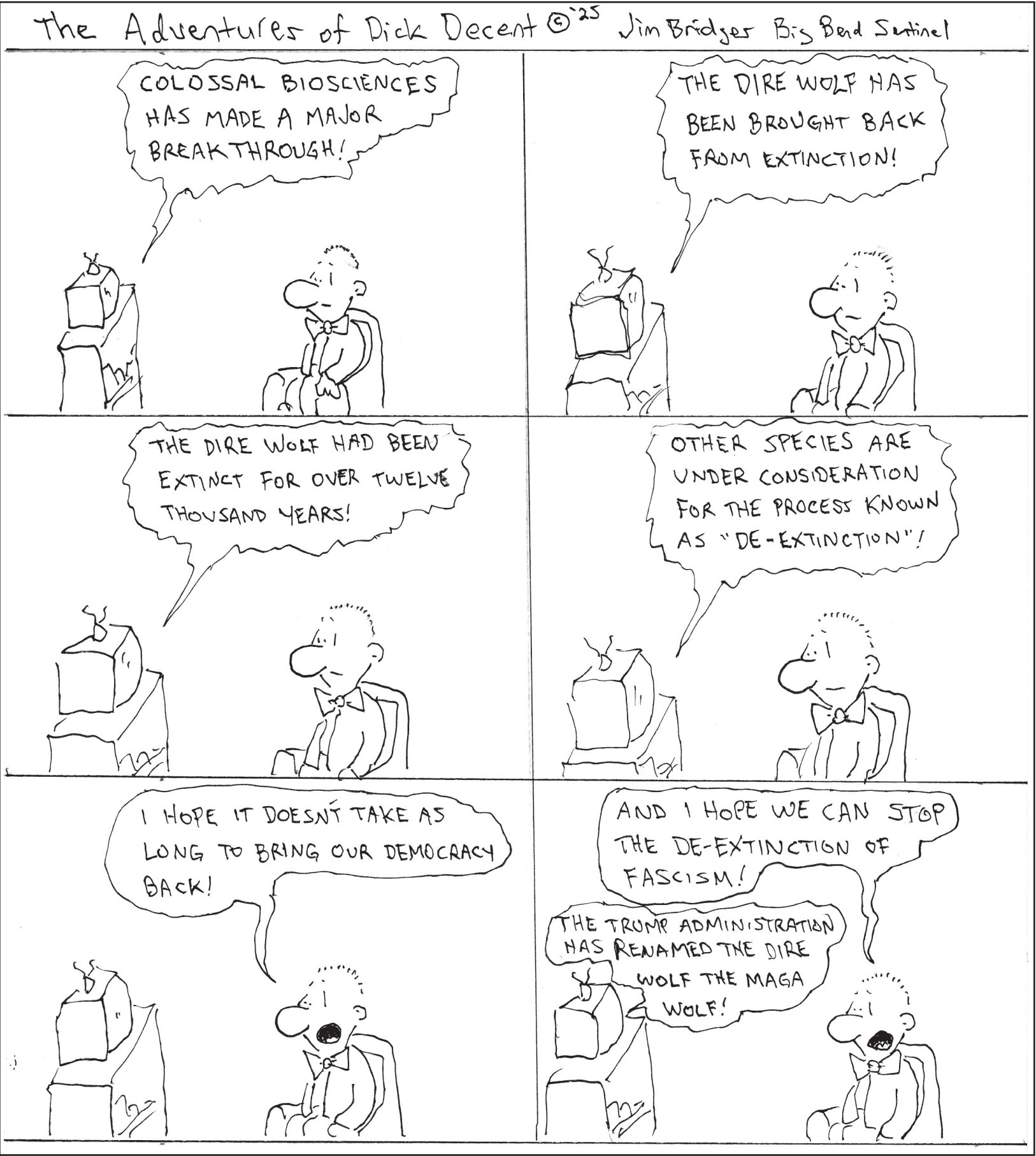
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OUR WATER MATTERS

Brackish groundwater – A ‘new’ source of water for Texas?

By Trey Gerfers

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is warning that “[a]ccess to adequate supplies of fresh water is fast becoming critical in many parts of the world. Texas is in a similar situation. With a population expected to double in the next 50 years, Texas faces a growing demand for fresh water.” In a report titled “Brackish Groundwater in Texas,” authors Sanjeev Kalaswad, Brent Christian, and Rima Petrossian of the TWDB explain that “[f]ortunately, the State has a large reserve of brackish groundwater that may be available for use after treatment.” Estimates vary, but it is believed that Texas could have anywhere from 2.7 billion to 3.2 billion acre-feet of brackish groundwater in aquifers throughout the state. To put that in perspective, Houston’s Drinking Water Operations (DWO) Branch produces and distributes a little over half a million acre-feet of water per year to its customers.

According to the United States Geological Survey, brackish water is “water that has a greater dissolved-solids content than occurs in freshwater, but not as much as seawater ... All water naturally contains dissolved solids that, if present in sufficient concentration, can make a surface-water or groundwater resource “brackish,” typically defined as distastefully salty.” However, brackish water should not be strictly understood as “distasteful” or “salty.” It really depends on the mineral content, which is quantified using a standard unit of measure called “total dissolved solids” (TDS) in milligrams per liter. For folks in the Big Bend, the crystal-clear, spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park is perhaps the most tangible example of brackish groundwater in all its glory. The Bureau of Economic Geology defines the mineral content there as > 2,000 mg/L TDS.

The state has been studying the quality and quantity of the brackish groundwater supply through a program called the Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS). Established in 2008 with funding from the Texas Legislature, BRACS is intended to characterize the brackish aquifers throughout the state. This can involve “evaluating available water well records, geophysical well logs, and geologic reports ... mapping the water-bearing portions of the aquifer and their hydraulic properties, [and] estimating salinity from water well records and geophysical well logs [to estimate] volumes of brackish groundwater,” according to the TWDB website. In 2015, the Legislature also directed TWDB to “identify and designate brackish groundwater production zones in the state ... determine the volumes of groundwater that a brackish groundwater production zone can produce over 30- and 50-year periods without causing significant impact to water availability or water quality ... [and] ... make recommendations on reasonable monitoring to observe the effects of brackish groundwater production within the zone.”

The TWDB report distinguishes between brackish water in the “1,000 to 3,000 mg/L TDS category” and the “3,000 to 10,000 mg/L TDS category.” A 2003 study conducted by LBG-Guyton Associates for the TWDB suggests that the statewide volume of groundwater in the lower TDS category “is roughly twice as much as the volume in the 3,000 to 10,000 mg/L” category. This is good news for brackish water as a “new” water source because the lower the TDS content, the easier and cheaper it is to treat the water to agricultural or potable quality using a process called desalination.

While too costly for regions where fresh surface and groundwater are readily available, brackish water desalination is looking increasingly feasible in areas where water shortages are becoming the norm. “It’s usually only when communities start to run out of freshwater that they start to look at brackish water,” Kalaswad told the Texas Water Resources Institute in its report titled “Everybody is talking about it: Is brackish groundwater the most promising ‘new’ water?” If drought conditions persist, Kalaswad predicted that Texas could use even more brackish groundwater for future water supplies than currently projected. “The technology is there,” he said. “It’s just a matter of availability of the resource and how much people are willing to pay for water.”

State Sen. Charles Perry, chairman of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs in the Texas Senate, is among the biggest proponents of brackish groundwater as a “new” source of water for the state.

He has filed several bills this session aimed at reducing the state’s reliance on freshwater aquifers, with the “broader goal of developing non-traditional water sources, including brackish groundwater, to satiate Texas’s growing thirst for water supply and alleviate much of the existing, often increasing pressure on the state’s non-saline groundwater sources,” according to Perry’s Committee Director Andrew Parks. Earlier this year, Perry told the Texas Observer that “the desal cost on the ... brackish side is significantly lower than what it was just 10 years ago. So technology keeps advancing.”

The city of El Paso currently operates America’s largest inland desalination plant, which uses raw brackish water to produce around 27.5 million gallons of potable-grade drinking water a day. This desalinated water is 2.1 times more expensive than fresh groundwater and 70% more expensive than surface water, but around half that cost is due to the energy required for treatment. The key to brackish groundwater as a “new” source of supply for Texas will be reducing the energy costs associated with its treatment.

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.

“Who is your favorite Muppet?”

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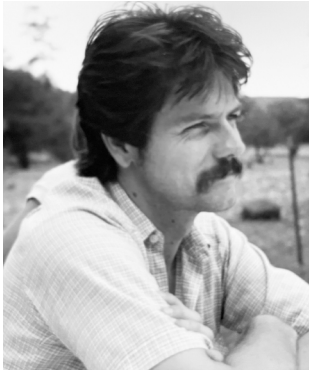
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OBITUARIES



Bell

Charles Allen Bell—visionary, eternal optimist, instigator, clown, great friend, lover, good being, all human—departed us for his next adventure on April 28, 2025; he was 69 years old.

Born on May 30, 1955 in Frankfurt, Germany to Robert H. Bell Sr. and Eveline Bell, Charlie was the product of a U.S. Army Sgt. and his Austrian war bride. He lived his early years in Germany, moving to El Paso, TX as a young boy. After an early graduation from Irvin High School, he moved to Alpine, TX in 1973 to pursue an Art Degree at Sul Ross State University. Charlie received his Masters of Education in Art from SRSU in 1982.

Throughout his career he inspired countless young artists in the Big Bend area, as well as across the state. In addition to his Alpine-based private children’s art lessons, he instructed at SRSU, Alpine Christian School, residencies at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa,

along with many other places over the course of four-plus decades. He was accepted into the Texas Commission on the Arts-Artist in Education Program in 1992 where he did residencies across the state of Texas until 2002, teaching in schools that did not offer art education to their students.

He had numerous galleries throughout the years, hosting a multitude of creative, innovative one-man and group art shows. He was a masterful sign painter, with his work evident on various billboards, businesses, and murals throughout West Texas.

One of Charlie’s other greatest passions was his music. He was a skilled bass and guitar player, as well as a gifted singer/songwriter. Cultivating and performing in a plethora of bands from 1973 on, he collaborated with a variety of musicians to provide countless hours of camaraderie, entertainment, and fun for all.

In addition to his art and music, he had a brief, but all consuming, stint as a filmmaker. Alongside dozens of willing friends and participants from the area, he created the award-winning Karl Glocke mockumentary film series during the years of 2003-2006. His unique sense of humor and quick wit fueled and spearheaded the project.

Despite all of his creative endeavors, Charlie’s proudest accomplishment was his family. He shared fifty beautiful years with

his loving wife Susie, while being an amazing father to their children Jesse and Alyssa, as well as a fun Opa to their grandchildren, Evi Grace and Graham.

Charlie leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife Susan, his son Jesse (wife Kaya), his daughter Alyssa (partner Jesse Berkowitz), grandchildren Evi Grace and Graham, brothers Bob Bell (Mellela), David Bell (Jacqueline), sister-in-laws Judy Kotzur (Tommy), Missy Mial (Bob), and Cindi Mercado, and numerous nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert H. Bell Sr. and Eveline Bell, his beloved Oma, Anna Kaufmann, his mother-in-law Antoinette Schultze and brother-in-law Bill Mercado, as well as many beloved friends.

Charlie’s creative genius inspired countless minds, and his light-heart provided endless enjoyment for all that had the honor of knowing him. This is evident in the outpouring of kind messages that his family has received since his passing, some of which have been shared below:

—So many fond memories of Charlie...his art, his puns and jokes, his laugh and love of music. The world will go on, but it will not be as funny, beautiful and bright.

—The world has lost one of its most creative souls.

—He always made the room a little brighter.

—The musician, film-making

jokester never ceased to amuse all those around him. His art, lessons, and laughter live on and echo through so many lives that he influenced...especially my own.

—A man that followed his heart, a man that made his own path in life, love and art, but ultimately a man who decided that his compass, his true north, was worth following... and he did this, embodied this so beautifully.

And from his family:

—Creating around the clock, the artesian well of your mind and spirit never ceased to flow out into the world, watering the seeds of multiple generations.

—You led with all your heart, you showed me all that I could be. You will forever remain in my music, art, sense of humor, soul, and memory. You are my hero, and the inspiration for every creative part of me.

—Fifty years of making me laugh and keeping me entertained....I will really miss my soulmate, my very best friend.

Our family deeply appreciates all of the love and support from our incredible family and friends... and we are forever grateful to Dr. Nitschmann, Dr. Simmons, Julie Morales, RN, and the entire outpatient staff at BBRMC for the compassionate care that Charlie received.

A celebration of his incredible life is being planned for the near future.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 3, 2025

ACROSS

1 Pocket filled with falafel, perhaps

5 They're placed at casinos

9 Sauce made with basil and pine nuts

14 "That's my bad"

16 Diagram with LA and ND

17 "Quite possibly"

18 Canterbury male

19 Pieces of nightmare fuel

20 Piece of fireplace fuel

22 Ref. that added "content creator" in 2024

23 Midwestern airport in "Home Alone": Abbr.

24 Castle towers

26 "Please don't show me more"

30 Mental Health Awareness Month

31 Snide commentary

32 Do a terrible job on

35 Baked goods in "Waitress"

37 Before, before?

38 Spanx founder

39 Skiing surface

41 Gold purity measure

44 Fragrant garland

45 Influencer since long before

48 Pinot noir, for example

49 NBC show with digital shorts

50 Food drive item

51 Sound of an electric car

52 Parent in a certain blended family

56 Wombs

58 "G'day mate"?

60 Floppy hat

61 Makes something up

62 Nail polish brand with a "sew gifted" shade

63 Jekyll's alter ego

64 Gold (award for a kindergartner)

DOWN

1 Layer under an orange peel

2 "not that u asked, but ..."

3 Drop from a duct

4 Houston

5 Grizzly haunt

6 Brand with a Rocky Road collection

7 Ice cream container

8 Cave people?

9 Bar bites

10 Subj. for some immigrants

11 Charming, persuasive language

12 Opinions

13 Opinion piece

15 Desserts eaten around a campfire

21 Guatemalan gold

24 Alfresco dining spot

25 Self-images

26 Little devils

27 Colorado ski resort

28 Surprise, surprise!

29 Quick calculations, say

33 Canadian

34 First Nation

36 Stuff in a bun

36 Potato cannon projectile

40 "Charlotte's Web" author

42 Set of guidelines for a journalist

43 Core principles

46 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"

47 Leaders of the pack

48 Evaluates

50 Sugar shape

52 Word on a Realtor's sign

53 It's found near a trap

54 Solo at the Met

55 ___-in-the-headlights look

57 Co-op that promotes avalanche safety

59 "Sup"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Messiah Licon
11th grade - Tree Etching

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

4/16 © 2025 Andrews McMeel Syndication

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, May 8	Fri, May 9	Mon, May 12	Tue, May 13	Wed, May 14
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST SANDWICH, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	MUFFIN, YOGURT, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	PANCAKES, BACON, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	BURRITO, HASH BROWN, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	PIZZA, TOMATO CUP, SALAD, PEARS	PHILLY CHEESESTEAK, APPLESAUCE, CUCUMBERS, DESSERT.	NO SCHOOL	BREADED DRUMSTICKS, BISCUIT, SALAD, POTATOES, FRUIT	WALKING TACO, BEANS, TOMATOES, PINEAPPLE, DESSERT

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

NO SPORTS EVENTS THIS WEEK

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Judd Foundation

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

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

Classifieds & public notices

Shorthorns wrap up JH baseball and softball seasons in Van Horn this week

By Linda Ojeda

MARFA — The Marfa Shorthorns junior high baseball and softball teams will conclude their seasons this Thursday with a doubleheader in Van Horn. The boys will take the field at 4 p.m., followed by the girls at 5 p.m.

Both teams have shown tremendous growth throughout the season. The baseball roster of 17 and the softball roster of 12 continue to gain valuable experience as Marfa works to rebuild its junior high programs in order to translate into the high school division. The baseball team is especially notable, as this is the program’s first season in over 13 years. Meanwhile, the softball

program is steadily regaining numbers after previous declines in participation.

This year’s baseball squad features a strong defensive lineup, with Francisco Muñoz, Allan Martinez, Tayvian Valenzuela, Landyn Baeza, Adiel Zubia, and Miguel Rey anchoring the infield. Outfielders Seth Nunez, Eduardo Lara, Axel Urrutia, and Ty Bejaran have also made key plays throughout the season, helping solidify the team’s overall performance.

On the softball side, eighth-graders Liliana Zubia, Adeline Marquez, and Jerika Rodriguez have led the offense, with strong contributions from seventh-grader Alayna Vasquez. The Lady Shorthorns also boast a standout sixth-grade group, with

Aubrey Cenicerros and Dania Fernandez leading the team in pitching, supported by teammates Mia Rosas and Jade Martinez as offensive and defensive contributors.

Lady Shorthorns earn All-District softball honors
Several Marfa players were recently recognized for their outstanding performance this season:
Raven Martinez – Defensive Player of the Year
Ava Flores – First Team All-District
Madison Cash – Second Team All-District
Giselle Torres, Dariela Muñoz, and Zoey Salgado – Honorable Mention

NO. 533,949

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALBERTA PERUCCA ROGERS, DECEASED, IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER 5 OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on May 1, 2025, an order was entered appointing EVAN MCCLANAHAN as INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF ALBERTA PERUCCA ROGERS, DECEASED, by the Honorable Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas, which estate is pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate being administered are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to: EVAN MCCLANAHAN, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF ALBERTA PERUCCA ROGERS, DECEASED, c/o Gus G. Tamborello, P.C., 1455 West Loop South, Suite 775, Houston, Texas 77027.



Big Bend Conservation Alliance Request for Proposals Big Bend

Conservation Alliance invites proposals from qualified landscape engineering firms or interdisciplinary teams to lead a green infrastructure initiative funded through an EPA grant. Submission Deadline: May 9, 2025, 11:59 PM CST. More info: bigbendconservationalliance.org

Children's Day celebrated at the Presidio Public Library

PRESIDIO – Last Wednesday, the Presidio Public Library celebrated Children’s Day. The community of border children came to enjoy refreshments, free books and the opportunity to have their faces painted.

The children were provided with paint brushes, watercolors and canvases to express their art through painting.

The event was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Presidio Public Library, the Mexican Consulate in Presidio and Aliviane and Kathleen Hutchison. “Thank you to my team and all the volunteers who made this celebration possible, and especially to the response of people who came with their children, because we had many guests, and that makes us very happy,” said Carmen Elguezabal, director of the Presidio Public Library.

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