

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

THC ban headed to governor’s desk

By Sam Karas
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AUSTIN — Last Wednesday night, the Texas House of Representatives passed a bill that would ban all products containing THC, the psychoactive compound found in cannabis. Gov. Greg Abbot will have until June 22 to sign or veto the bill, which will go into effect on September 1 unless the courts step in.

Rep. Eddie Morales, who represents the Big Bend, was one of many lawmakers who was not impressed by the legislation. “The version that passed was a step too far,” he wrote in a press release, referring to a last-minute series of amendments that scrapped a carefully-crafted regulatory structure in favor of a complete ban. “I believe that this bill will harm Texans, fuel black market sales, and empower the cartels.”

Texas has remained staunchly anti-legalization even after neighboring states across the political spectrum have paved the way for regulated and taxed dispensaries. The THC ban was a top priority for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick this session, sharing the spotlight alongside hot-button issues like school vouchers. Patrick and other GOP leaders say they’re concerned about the products’ safety, alleging that they can trigger mental illness and accusing the industry of preying on children as potential customers.

Over the past few years, edible products with low doses of compounds like THC-A and Delta-9 have become popular in Texas, gracing the shelves in bar fridges and specialty shops. The industry — which nets an estimated \$8 billion a year in the Lone Star state — grew out of a 2018 farm bill that allowed Texans to grow hemp.

Demand for hemp products spiked during the pandemic, leading many to start their own grow operations. Like many other industries, however, the wonky markets in 2020 had unintended consequences: there was a surplus in the raw materials to make CBD, a non-psychoactive compound that is popularly marketed to ease anxiety and stress. With a few tweaks in the lab, that raw material can be transformed into the alphabet soup of cannabinoid compounds like THC-A and Delta-9 that have temporarily allowed Texans to get a legal buzz.

The hemp boom included Village Farms, a hydroponic agricultural outfit with a presence in Marfa and Fort Davis. The company applied for a license to grow medical marijuana in 2023.

Susan Hays of Alpine, a lobbyist for Village Farms, said that their local operations wouldn’t be affected but that a subsidiary would have to suspend selling some of the products they are able to market in Texas. She’s more concerned about smaller producers who have taken the time and care to curate what they sell to their neighbors. “Sleazy companies are going to keep doing mail order business to Texas and good companies are going to stop,”

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC



Photo by Tony Drewry

Wild burro racing is one of the most popular events at Jackass Flat’s annual Dutch Oven Cookoff. Six wild burros are being held there after the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office declared them estray last week.

Brewster County Sheriff’s Office sparks controversy with wild burro impoundment

County government teams up with local business to address growing public safety issue

By Sam Karas
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TERLINGUA — Last Wednesday, the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office posted a picture of six males behind bars. These inmates weren’t the result of the department’s latest drug bust — they were wild burros, held in a pen at Jackass Flats about 60 miles south of Alpine.

For decades, local officials have been at a loss for what to do with the animals, who are both a beloved symbol of the desert borderlands and a public safety hazard. They can be commonly found standing in the middle of the road after blind curves on Highway 118 — Terlingua Facebook groups often light up with burro alerts, warning fellow travelers about the long-eared lollygaggers. “We’ve gotten a lot of complaints about them,” said Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson. “They’re not mean to people — they’re just kind of a nuisance.”

Local conservation professionals consider them tourists. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife they’re an exotic, non-native species. Just like the area’s rowdy spring break crowds, they routinely cause damage to fragile resources, leaving piles of excrement in freshwater pools and kicking up dust at sensitive archaeological sites.

No one really knows how large numbers of wild burros ended up in the Big Bend. Dodson — whose Brewster County ranching roots run deep — theorizes that some of them were abandoned by local ranches or by smugglers who considered their missions accomplished. “They’re not wildlife, they’re considered a livestock animal,” he explained.

Dodson also knows that the burros are a touchy subject. In 2012, Big Bend Ranch State Park was the subject of statewide ire among animal lovers after a policy of culling herds by lethal force made the media rounds. After much

hemming and hee-hawing, they changed course — but reminded the public that the park’s goal was to put the needs of native species first. “The need to remove burros from the park remains, and TPWD retains the option to conduct lethal control if non-lethal options are not feasible,” the agency wrote in a press release.

Enter Pam Gordon of Jackass Flats, a businesswoman and expert on all things four-hooved. She’s worked with horses for more than 50 years, and has a loving relationship with the burros in her neighborhood — her 23-year-old burro Biscuit is the local welcoming committee. Even she had to acknowledge that something had to give. “It’s gotten out of control,” she said.

After a particularly busy spring break season left thousands dodging donkeys on the road, she decided to take action and penned up six bachelor burros — Brewster County’s most wanted.

Attached to the photo was a notice

of estray. By law, animals can’t roam freely in Brewster County — technically speaking, these burros are ranch animals. In the notice, the county advised the public that if the burros were not claimed by June 10, further action would have to be taken.

The post sparked a firestorm with over 150 angry comments, ranging from ardent burro lovers to some swearing revenge against the creatures for close calls on the road. Many folks expressed that they just wanted the county to leave the burros alone.

Gordon doesn’t think that’s an option. “We really don’t want to see the herds extracted from the area, but we want to somehow manage the herds’ reproduction, maintaining somewhat of a presence with them without endangering tourists or locals,” she said. (Official counts of the burro population in Brewster County don’t exist, but she’s heard

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Bravo Health takes over management of the Marfa Country Clinic

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — The Marfa Country Clinic, a healthcare provider celebrating its 15th anniversary this month, is now under the management of Bravo Health, the local brand of Hamilton Health Box, a company specializing in hybrid primary care microclinics in rural areas.

The Marfa Country Clinic was founded by Don Culbertson and Valerie Breuvar in 2010. In a letter to the editor in this week’s Big Bend Sentinel Culbertson expounds on the 15th anniversary, thanking past and present clinic staffers and detailing the new collaboration with Bravo Health.

“After a short and much-needed hiatus updating and refreshing our facilities, the Marfa Country Clinic is now collaborating with Hamilton Health Box, known in West Texas as Bravo Health, to return to a higher healthcare delivery capacity and expand our practice by implementing new programs that we believe will improve the quality of healthcare in our area,” Culbertson wrote. “Together the Marfa Country Clinic and Bravo are staffing our clinic Monday through Friday, with a mix of in-person and telemedicine doctors and mid-level providers.”

In a follow up with The Sentinel, Culbertson explained that Bravo Health will essentially act as the clinic’s parent company, taking up scheduling, billing, staffing and more. “We’re providing the car and they’re driving it,” he said.

The company, in collaboration with the Big Bend Regional Hospital District, recently opened a microclinic in Terlingua, and has plans to expand to Presidio soon. Culbertson — who struggled to attract full-time doctors to staff the clinic since he moved to Paris part time after the coronavirus pandemic — said he was introduced to Hamilton Health Box through the hospital district and approached them about taking over Marfa Country Clinic.

“I was able to speak with one of their staff members and propose the idea of our clinic as well, maybe creating something more regional,”

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New independent shipping center ‘Boxes’ strives to stamp out postal pains

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — Boxes, a new independent shipping center in Marfa, recently opened its doors with the goal of increasing postal services for locals who lack access to a UPS or FedEx store and, for the most part, rely solely on the post office.

The business allows anyone to send packages from their location and to receive packages and mail if they sign up for a private mail box.

Boxes is located at 1411 West San Antonio Street in a cinder block structure originally built as a gas station that previously housed beloved barbecue joint Convenience West. “I’ve had so many people come in still asking for barbecue,” Boxes owner Will Floyd said.

But smoked meats and pickles have since been replaced by a wide selection of shipping and office supplies, and a fresh coat of white paint now dons the building’s exterior. “We have cardboard, double-walled cardboard, every size of box and specialty art boxes and packing

material,” Floyd said.

A sign featuring a minimal logo, where a box takes the place of the “O,” in Boxes out front signals the structure’s new inhabitants. Floyd chose the name Boxes because the store offers boxes, naturally, in the form of both cardboard and private mail boxes. It’s also a slight nod to the unofficial term often used to describe Donald Judd’s concrete and aluminum sculptures. “The form of the box figures prominently in Marfa, in our local design and art culture,” Floyd jokes.

Boxes is now an official UPS Authorized Shipping Outlet, with Floyd working on obtaining the same designation to send and receive FedEx packages soon. Once he gets FedEx, customers can bring any label to Boxes. As it stands, locals have to rely on either a sole FedEx drop box — which has limited dimensions — or the Dollar General and, before Boxes came along, could only utilize an informal UPS drop off at the coffee roasters to return packages the USPS doesn’t accept.

Floyd, who also operates Field

Effect, a broadcast engineering and live audio service business, said he experienced firsthand how difficult it can be to simply send and receive packages in town, a regular occurrence for most considering the remote locale. “I just had such a time getting all the packages and parcels,” Floyd said. “Some things come freight and they call you a half an hour beforehand. Some things can go here and there, and can’t go here and there.”

He has been working with the local post office, he said, to pick up mail for his customers that rent private mail boxes at his location, a measure allowed due to his designation as a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA). “I go over there, and I pick up mail and bring it here,” Floyd explains. “People can receive U.S. mail here.”

Boxes is also the only place in town that offers guaranteed next day delivery. Floyd said in some cases he can be more available than the post office, and his system allows him to send email notifications to customers when packages arrive, or

if their mailbox is full. He also offers mail forwarding.

Floyd admits navigating the intricacies of the USPS, UPS, FedEx and Amazon is an arduous process, and there are still kinks to work out. Amazon, for example, will allow him

to receive a package for return if the customer already has a printed label, but he cannot generate a label from a QR code, at least for now.

“Every carrier has a different program,” Floyd said. “There’s a lot

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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Owner Will Floyd in front of Boxes, a new full service packing and shipping center in west Marfa.

Marfa Country Clinic

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Culbertson said.

Culbertson, a physician assistant, will remain an employee of the Marfa Country Clinic, as will current staffers Kaela Donaldson and Cassandra Hernandez. Bravo Health will build off of the success of the existing operation, Culbertson said, but will be able to provide more robust administrative, organizational and staffing services moving forward.

“We wanted to continue the legacy and our reputation and our branding of Marfa Country Clinic. The building is the same. They’ve hired our staff. They hired me. They’re using our facilities. It’s a familiar place,” Culbertson said. “We also wanted to collaborate with them in an effort to lend them our reputation and provide them with momentum to start in the area.”

Chief Development Officer for Hamilton Health Box Chris King said, so far, the Terlingua clinic has stayed busy, and, once the Presidio location comes online, the entity will have a presence across the tri-county area as well as in Pecos.

“What started with an idea down in Terlingua has now blossomed into an operation of four primary care clinics, ultimately, in the coming weeks for the region, under the Bravo Health name,” King said. The term Bravo in the company name comes from the Rio Bravo, he said.

The Houston-based company was founded by Dr. Toby Hamilton, a previous emergency room (ER) doctor originally from El Paso. Its first microclinic was a chicken processing plant in Houston, where an on-site clinician, physician assistant, and doctor helped provide primary care services to the plant’s employees at a small clinic at their work location, helping keep patients out of the ER by diagnosing and managing chronic conditions and prescribing “cheap, generic,” drugs. Physician assistants and doctors also split their time between multiple locations, allowing more companies to extend employee access to primary care — which also saved on healthcare



Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

A patient room at the Marfa Country Clinic, which is now run by Bravo Health, showcases upgraded telehealth tools.

costs for their employees.

In 2022, the company set out to see if the microclinic model it used for companies would work in rural communities in Oklahoma. “We use that same distributed labor model in those rural clinics in Oklahoma to a huge success,” King said. “We thought that rural populations would be standoffish

to the telemedicine, but once they experienced it...Our clinics always have the availability to see patients. No appointments are required. You can walk in and get care. The ease of access and the affordability of our clinics make it such that people want to come into the clinic.”

Culbertson said Marfa Country Clinic’s goal is to have that same level of availability for patients. Back when he and the late J.P. Schwartz were staffing the clinic, they “rarely said no” to people, he said, finding a way to fit those with urgent needs in with scheduled appointments. To achieve that goal, the clinic will offer in-person appointments with a doctor of medicine or P.A. up to four days a week, with telehealth options filling in as needed.

Culbertson has been practicing telemedicine since he moved to Paris part time, and the clinic has worked with Texas Tech to provide telemedicine services in the past. But upgrades to telemedicine tools, courtesy of Bravo Health, will enhance operations, he said.

“There’s a big screen TV in almost every exam room, connected to that is a piece that fits in the ear,” Culbertson said. “[Other tools] allow us to have a DERM camera to look at skin. We can look at the throat. We can look in the nose. We can listen to heart sounds and lung sounds. I can listen to that with my noise counseling headphones in Paris, France, and see patients.”

King said Bravo Health hired a regional medical director, James Tarin, M.D., who will help staff the Marfa, Presidio, Terlingua and Pecos clinics, and the company will augment the Marfa Country Clinic staff as needed.

“He was operating a clinic in Pecos as a direct primary care clinician, but we talked to Dr. Tarin and his wife — who is also a physician’s assistant — told him what we were doing and how we really wanted him to be the leader of our organization, Bravo Health, out in that area,” King said. “And he jumped on board. He knows the region as well.”

Boxes

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of little hoops to jump through, and they’re all kind of particular and have their own rules.” Luckily the business is in its early days, he said, and he’s working on remedying those issues.

Boxes also provides a slew of other services in addition to shipping, including packing, printing and faxing. They can pack and insure art shipments and print business cards and posters. There is also a dedicated retail space

in the shop featuring office supplies like pens, journals, paper and a fridge filled with cold beverages. There is a possibility that the space’s large side yard may be used for events and shows in the future, Floyd said. (He hosted an opening party with DJs recently.)

Floyd said, so far, he’s had “many, many customers” and has enjoyed meeting people he hasn’t yet run into in his nearly four years of living in

Marfa. “Everybody ships stuff, or will at some point,” he said.

Boxes is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, visit @boxesmarfa on Instagram and Facebook or call (432) 729-0434.

PMDD signs historic 110-Megawatt geothermal power purchase term sheet

Local students envision sustainable future

From the Presidio Municipal Development District

PRESIDIO, TEXAS – The Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) and Exceed Geo Energy signed a transformative 110-megawatt power purchase agreement term sheet May 22, launching what officials describe as the most significant economic development opportunity in the region’s modern history. The framework for the future geothermal power purchase agreement, formalized during the inaugural “Presidio Vision 2035” student competition, will deliver substantially greater electricity capacity than current local demand — providing reliable infrastructure necessary to attract major industrial development to this strategic border location. “This 110-megawatt commitment represents far more than meeting our current

energy needs,” said John T. Kennedy, PMDD executive director. “We’re creating the foundation for transformative economic growth: the kind of reliable, clean power that can support data centers, refrigerated logistics, expanded manufacturing, and value-added processing facilities that take advantage of our unique position in the North American trade corridor.”

The agreement builds on last year’s resource assessment funded by PMDD and conducted by the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, which provided crucial technical validation for the region’s geothermal potential. This comprehensive approach positions Presidio to become the first active geothermal project of this scale and type. Tim Tarver, CEO of Exceed Geo Energy, brings decades of experience in the energy industry. “Growing up in a town even smaller than Presidio, I understand both the challenges and

the incredible potential that exists in communities like this,” Tarver said. He went on to explain that the project represents more than energy development, focusing instead on building real economic opportunity that allows people to thrive in their home communities.

Unlike intermittent energy sources, modern engineered geothermal systems deliver constant, reliable electricity generation. This stability is particularly significant for Presidio, which currently sits at the end of the line on the ERCOT grid and has experienced prolonged outages. The geothermal facility will not only provide energy security for the region but could potentially serve as a blackstart resource capable of helping restore power to the broader Texas grid during major outages. Substantial local energy capacity opens

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THC ban

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she said. “Consumers will not have a reliable product.”

Hays takes issue with what she considers legislators’ poor understanding of the science of cannabis, which is endlessly complex. She finds the bill “incredibly over-broad and poorly written,” leaving lots of room for corruption and exploitation. Throughout the process of tweaking the bill, Hays watched legislators grapple with the question of how to test a product for THC — with a total ban, law enforcement only has to test for the presence of THC to make an arrest, rather than ordering more involved and expensive tests that can determine its dosage.

A tasty case study: Hays likes to top her morning yogurt and granola with hemp seeds, a non-intoxicating superfood commonly sold as a nutritional supplement across the state. If that product somehow tested positive for THC, even in a miniscule amount, it could leave her in big



Staff photo by Sam Karas

This Alpine shop is a local businesses that could be impacted by the Legislature’s proposed ban on THC.

trouble. “They can have detectable THC because it rubs off on them from other parts of the plant as it’s being made,” she explained. “Suddenly my breakfast becomes a crime.”

Jill Martin, a part-time Marfan who goes by the name Jam, makes hemp gummies under the brand name Jota Living. She sells the products in a back room at Ranch Candy, a small

shop on South Dean Street in Marfa she runs with a friend. “Everything’s in flux right now,” she said of her business. “My goal is just to hang in there.”

If the ban goes through, they’ll stop selling the products — but Jam can’t help but feel frustrated, especially after crafting a brand with quality and safety at its heart. Her THC products are sold in a separate 21+ space to keep them separate from the kid-friendly candy sold up front, and the team invested extra in child-proof packaging and third-party lab testing. None of these measures are mandated by the state, but Jam thinks it’s the right thing to do.

Jam’s customers come from all walks of life. “I’ve had women come up to me in Marfa and thank me for helping their veteran husband with their PTSD, and I’ve had artists who said they take a little bit to get inspired in their studio,” she said. “I want anyone who benefits to have access to safe products.”

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Burro impoundment

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estimates by local experts of up to 2,000.)

In an ideal world, Gordon would like to see a nonprofit program pop up to protect the burros by castrating some of the loner males, slowing down the herd’s reproduction. Neighbors could also step up to pen and house the animals to keep them off the streets. She appreciates recent efforts by the Burro Mitigation Project on the Davis Mountains Resort, which in March relocated a small group of burros to Granbury with the help of Texas Equine Experience and Sanctuary (T.E.X.A.S.) Rescue.

For now, she doesn’t have the time to start one herself — but she’s become something of a local burro ambassador, working to educate the public about the tenacity and intelligence of the animals. Each fall, Jackass Flats hosts a “wild burro race” that requires its participants to win the trust of their wild neighbors or get left in the dust.

Gordon is footing the bill for her six incarcerated burros herself — she says they go through about \$200 of hay a week, and she pays employees to spend time with them on top of that. If no one comes to claim the burros, they’ll become legally hers.

Though the estray notice mentions an auction, that’s just a formality and none has been officially planned. Sheriff Dodson wanted to emphasize that



Photo by Tony Drewry

Women chase a burro at the Jackass Flat’s annual Dutch Oven Cookoff

the county won’t profit in any way from their capture. “We don’t make money off of it,” he said.

In fact, the county’s efforts to diagnose the problem could come with big bills down the line. Hiring a helicopter crew to round them up, for example, starts at around \$1,500 an hour. “These six are just a drop in the ocean,” Dodson said.

Gordon isn’t exactly sure what she’ll do with the burros if they become hers — the hay bill could prove too steep — but for now, they’re welcome guests at Jackass Flats. Concerned community members are welcome to donate their time working with the animals or to bring food and supplies to benefit their care. “If people knew what was going on, they could be a huge help,” she said.

Whatever strategy the county takes, compassion should lead the way. In her view, the burros are just like any other longtime Big Bend resident feeling the squeeze as the area develops at a blistering pace — they’re not hanging out in the middle of the road out of spite. “They’re animals,” Gordon said. “They have no idea about politics and government and lines that are drawn by stupid humans.”

‘Untold Stories of the Borderland’ launches to preserve Latinx legacies

From the Latinos in Heritage Conservation

AUSTIN — Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC), the national leader in the preservation of Latinx heritage, is launching a two-week initiative this May, during National Preservation Month, to document, reclaim and celebrate the cultural landscapes of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Through community-driven research and storytelling, Untold Stories of the Borderland will spotlight sites threatened by erasure and border policy, centering Latinx voices and the enduring ties between people and places across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The LHC conservation team was in Marfa on-site Wednesday at the historic Blackwell School — a once-segregated school for Mexican American children — to uplift its story and the community-led movement to preserve it.

This visit was supported through a \$20,000 Nuestra Herencia grant to the Blackwell School Alliance, funding the creation of the Blackwell National Historic Site Preservation Exhibit.

The LHC team — including staff leading national storytelling, preservation partnerships and grassroots engagement — is documenting the site, gathering stories and working side-by-side with Blackwell School Alliance members and local educators.

From May 16 to May 29, LHC’s team of historians, documentarians, and

cultural workers also will travel to:

- Phoenix, Tucson and Nogales (Arizona)
- Albuquerque (New Mexico)
- El Paso, Socorro, Marfa and Valentine (Texas)

The road trip supports four of LHC’s key initiatives: the Abuelas Project, the Latinx Preservation Toolkit, the Endangered Latinx Landmarks Program and the Nuestra Herencia Grants Program. Each site visit will center local voices, combining research and storytelling to create accessible preservation resources like digital StoryMaps, oral history exhibits, and serve as case studies in LHC’s newest edition of the Latinx Preservation Toolkit.

“This road trip is about going where the data points us, to communities that have been excluded from preservation for too long. If only 0.65% of recognized historic sites reflect Latinx heritage, then we have work to do, and it starts on the ground, listening,” said Sehila Mota Casper, executive director of Latinos in Heritage Conservation.

Preserving memory in one of America’s oldest cultural corridors

The U.S.-Mexico borderlands are among the oldest continuously inhabited and culturally layered regions in North America, shaped by centuries of Indigenous, Mexican and Latinx life. Yet their contributions remain widely

under-recognized: of nearly 99,000 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, only 0.65% reflect

Latinx heritage — and between 2014 and 2025, just 7% of federal preservation funding supported Latinx projects, according to LHC’s Equity Study. “In every border town, there are people quietly doing the work of preservation — painting murals, telling stories, holding space,” said Asami Robledo-Allen Yamamoto, director of outreach at LHC. “We’re showing up to stand beside them, to document their work, and to help carry it into the broader preservation movement.”

In each city, LHC will connect with local preservationists, community elders and cultural organizers to document living histories and support efforts to protect Latinx landmarks. In El Paso, for example, the team will spotlight Duranguito, the city’s first barrio and a longtime site of resistance. Residents there successfully mobilized to defend their neighborhood from demolition. From mural walks to beautification projects led by matriarchs like Toñita, these stories reflect the intergenerational power of place.

The journey will be shared in real time through LHC’s social media platforms and community channels. A dedicated page at www.latinoheritage.us/thborderlands will feature stories, interviews, and visual content captured during the trip.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senator Blanco passes bill to expand geothermal energy

AUSTIN – The Texas Senate has passed House Bill 4370, authored by Rep. Will Metcalf and sponsored by Sen. César Blanco, to expand the use of geothermal energy in Texas.

As Texas explores more sustainable energy solutions, geothermal systems, using heat from underground water, are gaining momentum. HB 4370 supports this effort by allowing local districts, such as water and utility districts, to build infrastructure that uses geothermal energy. This helps reduce demand on the state’s electric grid while preserving local control and accountability.

HB 4370 is part of a broader statewide push to advance thermal energy networks as a way to tackle key challenges like housing affordability, grid reliability, energy efficiency, and local job creation.

“Texas is already a leader in energy, but as demand on the electric grid grows, we need to think about how we sustain our energy infrastructure and remain leaders in the next generation of energy solutions,” Blanco said. “Geothermal energy is clean, consistent, and right beneath our feet. By giving local districts more flexibility to invest in that technology and meet future energy needs, we unlock potential to bring new jobs, more energy security, and lower energy costs for families and communities across Texas.”

The bill passed the House with bipartisan support and now heads to the Governor’s desk.

Ian Martinez departs Marfa ISD, Marfa Police Department

MARFA — Marfa ISD School Resource Officer (SRO) and Marfa Police Department patrolman Ian Martinez left the role on May 21 to pursue a career with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS.)

“Officer Martinez is an outstanding officer and served the community with commendable work ethic,” Marfa P.D. posted on Facebook. “We wish him good luck and well wishes on his future endeavors as he enters the Texas DPS Academy.”

Martinez, a 2019 Marfa High School graduate, was sworn in as the SRO in February 2023. The position, which came about as a measure to bolster school security in the wake of the Robb Elementary School shooting in

Uvalde, is largely grant funded. In January of 2024 the City of Marfa received a \$121,500 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to subsidize the role. The grant covers 75% of the SRO’s salary for three years, with the other 25% being covered by Marfa ISD.

In addition to monitoring Marfa ISD’s campus on and off for the past couple of years — previous Marfa P.D. officers Arturo Alferez Jr. and King Meritt also served stints as the SRO — Martinez served on the city police force, helping patrol the town.

Martinez plans to pursue a career with DPS, and may potentially be stationed back in Marfa under that department after completing training at the academy in Austin, according to Chief Gilberto Carrillo. Marfa P.D. is actively seeking Martinez’s replacement. Carrillo said the SRO position will ideally be filled before the start of the next school year. But, so far, the department has only received one applicant, he said, who is currently enrolled in El Paso Community College Law Enforcement Academy and graduates in August.

To apply for the SRO position, visit the city’s website or email Chief Carrillo or Lt. Nichole Fuentes at gcarrillo@cityofmarfa.com and LTfuentes@cityofmarfa.com.

El Cosmico donates \$9k for new Vizcaino Park scoreboard

MARFA — A new scoreboard for Vizcaino Park will be made possible thanks to El Cosmico, which recently agreed to donate \$9,000 to the county for the initiative, brought forth by the local sandlot baseball team Los Yonke Gallos de Marfa. County commissioners approved the donation this week.

The county voted in March to donate an additional \$1,000 for the scoreboard, with the baseball team also raising some funds. The current scoreboard is obsolete and inoperable, according to team managers. County Judge Joe Portillo expressed gratitude to hotelier Liz Lambert for the donation. The existing El Cosmico will close on July 1 as the business shifts its focus to its new location near Antelope Hills, much closer to Vizcaino, where the Trans-Pecos music festival typically sponsors an annual baseball game.

County puts ‘Bull Barn’ up for lease

PRESIDIO COUNTY — On Wednesday, Presidio County Commissioners voted to accept requests for proposals to lease the “Bull Barn,” a structure that hasn’t been used in more than a decade occupying land south of Vizcaino Park off of Golf Course Road.

The building was formerly used for Highland Hereford Breeders Association

bull sales that ceased many years ago. Officials have proposed that someone may want to renovate the building to hold events. “If someone can use it and make it more attractive, we should give them the opportunity,” said County Judge Joe Portillo.

Commissioners will look at sealed bids in September. RFP packets can be obtained by contacting the county attorney at countyattorney@co.presidio.tx.us, with a 10 a.m., June 20, deadline for submission.

Despite a small glitch, county criminal court hears first cases in more than 2 years

MARFA — The Presidio County Criminal Court convened last Thursday at the courthouse to hear arraignments and decided on various misdemeanor criminal cases. No court had been held since February 2024, after former County Attorney Rod Ponton opted not to move cases forward and let incoming County Attorney Blair Park handle them instead.

Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo presided over the court, with Park serving as prosecutor and Paul Chambers of Far West Texas Regional Public Defender serving in defense of some of those called to court.

Since most cases are relatively old, and since a Zoom link wasn’t functioning properly for remote attendance, Portillo decided not to issue warrants of arrest for defendants who did not show up — a vast majority of individuals on the docket for the day.

About 24 cases were on the docket for arraignments and pretrial hearings. Several cases were continued after uncertainty over whether the defendants had gotten notice of court, with Park and Chambers saying they would make further attempts to locate them. Other cases were dismissed, including one from 2006 and 2011 that had never received final sign-off from the judge to close the cases.

“This is the first time the three of us have done this,” Portillo told the court. “But I like the way we worked our way through this. Everyone was agreeable, and that’s when you have success. We all have very important jobs to do and the decisions we make will affect somebody’s career, family, work opportunities.”

Portillo said he was agreeable to holding court twice a month to start working to address a backlog of cases. Portillo, Park and Chambers agreed to look into a procedure of allowing a first chance for defendants to appear remotely, then be required to attend in person if they did not show up for that appearance — possibly holding one docket day by Zoom and one in person.

Update on USDA efforts to fight screwworm in Mexico

Current restrictions on live animal imports remain in place

From the United States Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins on Tuesday provided an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) ongoing partnership with Mexico to combat the New World Screwworm (NWS). That afternoon, Rollins held a call with her counterpart in Mexico, Secretary Berdegue, to discuss the ongoing threat of NWS and actions being taken by both countries to contain the threat south of the U.S. border.

USDA is working daily with Mexico to make sure the resources, tactics, and tools are in place to effectively eradicate NWS. Additionally, Rollins announced Tuesday that the USDA is investing \$21 million to renovate an existing fruit fly production facility in Metapa, Mexico, to further the long-term goal of eradicating this insect. When operational, this facility will produce 60-100 million additional sterile NWS flies weekly to push the population further south in Mexico. Given the geographic spread of NWS,

this additional production capacity will be critical to our response.

“Our partnership with Mexico is crucial in making this effort a success,” said Rollins. “We are continuing to work closely with Mexico to push NWS away from the United States and out of Mexico. The investment I am announcing today is one of many efforts my team is making around the clock to protect our animals, our farm economy, and the security of our nation’s food supply.”

Current restrictions on live animal imports from Mexico remain in place, and as previously announced, USDA will continue to evaluate the current suspension every 30 days.

USDA and its partners have used sterile insect technique along with other strategies such as intense surveillance and import controls for decades to eradicate and effectively keep NWS at bay. Currently, U.S. supported sterile insect rearing and dispersal operations in Mexico and Central America have been operating at full production capacity, with up to 44 flights a week releasing 100 million sterile flies. All flies used today are raised in the

Panama - United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) Facility in Panama. This investment in the Metapa facility in Mexico would allow USDA to double the use of sterile insect technique.

Additionally, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its Mexican counterparts continue to hold ongoing technical calls and meetings on NWS. They are making strong progress toward enhancing surveillance in Mexico, addressing administrative or regulatory roadblocks that could impair an effective response, and ensuring appropriate animal movement controls are in place to prevent further NWS spread. The Mexican delegation joined APHIS in Washington last week to discuss these efforts, and APHIS will have a technical team visiting Mexico in the coming weeks to assess the on-the-ground situation and continue working toward key goals around surveillance and animal movement.



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MARFA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Antonio Borunda

Antonio Borunda is the son of

Byron Hamilton and the grandson of Judy Borunda. He’s participated in both One ACT and Conjunto, in which he was the main percussionist. In One ACT he was awarded an honorary All-Star cast for the first time. He was also awarded Student of the Month two times in a row. Antonio was formerly a line cook at Para Llevar and the Hotel Paisano. After school, he plans on going to Sul Ross where he’ll major in Criminal Justice. Antonio would like to take the time to thank all of his friends and family for their continued support throughout his senior year. The message he would like to leave the underclassmen with is, “Do not pray for easier lives my friends pray to be stronger men and women.”



Andres Solis

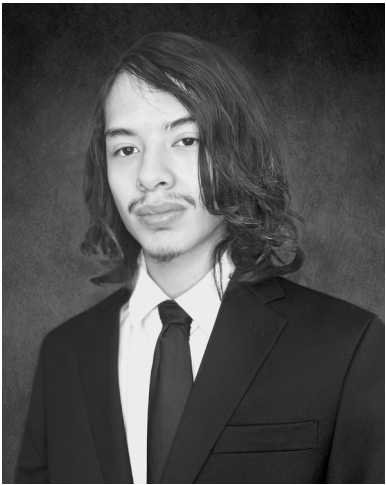
Andres Emmanuel Solis is the son of Mayra Williams and Jesse Solis, stepson to Shawn Williams. Andres has participated in One Act 4 years now and has received 2 honorable mention all star cast awards. He also participated in cross-country, track and basketball his junior year. Upon graduation he will be attending Texas Tech University.



Derick Campos

Derick Campos is the son of Janet and Johnny Campos. Derick has

participated in football, basketball, cross country, and track all 4 years of high school. Derick was awarded All region cornerback his sophomore year and first team running back and linebacker his junior year, he has also achieved many goals throughout his high school football career. During his 2023-2024 basketball season Derick and his team won district champs and made it to the area playoff game. Derick made it to regionals for track his sophomore year and has a big goal for state his senior year. Derick was part of the One Act Play group his junior year and is participating in One Act his senior year as well. After high school Derick hopes to play football in college and will attend college in the fall of 2025.



Gillermo Guardiola

Gillermo Memo Guardiola is the son of Delia Nunez. A passionate and dedicated artist, Gillermo was a 2024 state qualifier at the prestigious VASE (Visual Arts Scholastic Event)

competition, where his talent and creativity were recognized at the state level.

Art has always been a central part of his life, but Gillermo also has a deep appreciation for music—both listening to it and exploring the art of music-making. Throughout high school, he worked at several restaurants in Marfa, gaining valuable experience and cultivating an interest in culinary arts.

In addition to his artistic pursuits, Gillermo was a member of Marfa High School’s track team earlier in his high school career. He enjoys spending time with friends and values the connections and memories made throughout the years.

Gillermo hopes to continue his journey in the creative world—whether through art, music, or culinary arts—as he follows his passions into the future.



Amber Hinojos

Amber Hinojos is the daughter of Adriana Lujan and Keith Hinojos. She began her path in journalism during her freshman year, where she discovered the power of writing. For two years she devoted herself to art, a passion that has not only brought her joy but also helped support her classmates — one of her pieces sold for \$200 during a school fundraiser to help the art class go on a trip. While Amber didn’t participate in many sports, her high school experience has been defined by focus, creativity, and personal growth. One of the most meaningful roles she’s taken on is being a mother. Amber is the

proud mom of her 6-month-old son, and she embraces motherhood with strength and love. She wants others to know that just because she had a baby doesn’t mean her life stopped — it gave her a new purpose and even greater determination to succeed. She plans to take time off after graduation to focus on her son and his early years of growth, giving him the love and attention he deserves during these precious moments. Amber eventually plans to attend Midland College to pursue a career in sonography. She would like to thank her mom, Adriana, for always being there — and for helping with school projects, even when Amber conveniently “remembered” them the night before they were due. Amber proudly calls herself a mommy’s girl and is forever grateful for the support, love, and strength her mother has given her. She also thanks her dad, Keith, and her grandparents Diana and Eddie Lujan, who have stood beside her through everything. And a very special thank you goes to her boyfriend Adrian — not only for being an excellent father to their son, but for always pushing her to do better and supporting her in everything she sets her mind to. Amber is ready to prove that anything is possible with love, determination, and the right people by your side.



Diego Jurado

Diego is the son of Yolanda Jurado and David Jurado. Diego is proud to be the President of the National Honor Society and a member of the Student Council. As a member of One Act Play, Diego has received special recognition his Freshman,

sophomore, Junior and senior year. He was named to the All-Star Cast his Freshman, Junior and senior year, and received All-Star Cast Honorable Mention his Sophomore year. Diego has been a part of the football, golf, track and powerlifting teams, and was a regional qualifier in powerlifting both his Sophomore and Junior year and has made Regionals for golf his freshman, sophomore, junior and senior year. Diego has enjoyed working at Cochineal and waterstop this year and spending his summers working at the City of Marfa. Diego is most thankful for his family that has supported and encouraged him during his high school career. After Highschool Diego will attend College in the fall of 2025 and pursue a career as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

One quote Diego has for the underclassmen is

“You just gotta keep livin’ man, L-I-V-I-N” -Mathew McConaughey.



Janayah Villa

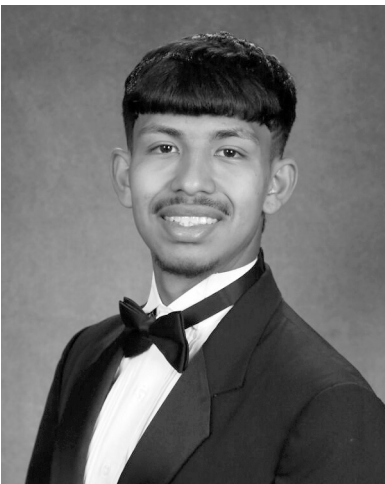
Janayah is the daughter of Angela Mediano, and Joshua Villa. Janayah has participated in cheer, basketball, softball, and also participated in one act her senior year. In one act she received All-Star honorable mention. Janayah took part in 4-H for 2 years, competing in archery. She is currently employed at Dairy queen. After High School, Janayah will attend College in the fall of 2025 at Sul Ross to major in animal science to become a veterinarian.



Annaka Salcido

Annaka Salcido, daughter of Lucas and Rebecca Salcido, has dedicated eight years to 4-H, serving as both president and vice president while excelling in livestock showing. Competing in BBLSA and major state shows in San Antonio and San Angelo, she showcased her passion

and perseverance. Beyond 4-H, she competed in science fair, advanced to state her senior year, and participated in Marfa Blooms, the Plant Mars Challenge, and the River Rangers program, deepening her knowledge of agriculture and environmental science. She also gained valuable experience working as a cashier at Lowe’s during her junior year. Annaka has learned the importance of making thoughtful choices and staying true to her goals. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in animal science at Sul Ross State University and hopes to return to Marfa as a county extension agent to serve her community and support her younger brother in his last years of high school. Annaka is deeply grateful for the love and support of her family. “I wouldn’t be the person I am today without my parents. They’ve taught me the value of hard work, perseverance, and believing in myself.”



Francisco Rosas

Francisco is the son of Francisco Rosas and Crisol Estrada. Francisco is an ongoing member of the Student Council and the vice-president of the National Honors Society. Francisco has shown his best efforts in academics and extracurricular activities, including Cross Country, Track and Field, UIL and VASE. Apart from sports and other extracurricular activities, Throughout his high school career, Francisco has participated in Cross Country and Track and Field, running in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter run, including Pole Vault and Long Jump, as well as playing Football his Sophomore year. Although Francisco

participated in football one year out of the four, he was recognized as a second team running back during the season. Starting his Freshman year, he has advanced to Regionals in Cross Country, also advancing to State both his Junior and Senior year. Because of his hard work and dedication to Cross Country, he was recognized by Nike Cross Regionals his Junior year at his district meet. He has participated in the mid and long distance races in track, advancing to Regionals his Junior year and placing 6th in the 1600 and 9th in the 3200 meter run. As well as his contribution to sports, he has also participated in the annual VASE art competition, making it to Regionals since Sophomore year and medaling in State Junior and Senior year. He was also an actor and crewmember for One Act, receiving an Outstanding Crew award his Junior year. After High School, Francisco plans to move and attend higher education at Texas State University and pursue his career as a Clinical Psychologist and Novelist, hoping to change lives in the future. Francisco also wants to give out a very special “thank you” to both of his parents for always being there for him, pushing him to his limits in becoming successful, despite the sacrifices he has made throughout his high school career, especially his last year before graduation.

Congratulations Tenessa!



Love you always, Mom, Kathryn and Levi



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To the Marfa High School Class of 2025

CONGRATULATIONS



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Jessica Reyes Diaz

Jessica is the daughter of Laura Diaz. She participated in Marfa blooms in her junior year. She is currently employed in Margaret’s and worked at Lowe’s her sophomore and junior year. After High School she plans to attend Frank Phillips college for an AAS in cosmetology. After college she plans on opening her own independent salon in San Antonio TX.



Katana Blade Melendez

Katana Blade Melendez is the proud daughter of Cesar Melendez and Debbie Chavez. She has been an active member of her school community, participating in volleyball for two years and dedicating four years to the One Act play. Katana would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to her family for their unwavering love and support throughout her journey. To the underclassmen, she leaves this message of faith and encouragement: "Isaiah 43:19 – Never lose hope. Just when you think it’s over, He will make a way for you."



Kassandra Garcia

Kassandra Garcia is the daughter of John and RoseMary Garcia. She has participated in Young Life, cross country, science fair, UIL, journalism, and the River Rangers program. She has been a part of Young Life throughout all four years of high school, and she volunteered to help at a Young Life camp her junior year. During her senior year

she participated in science fair and won second place at regionals advancing her to state together with her team. She also attended the high school UIL competition her senior year. Her junior and senior year she was involved in the River Rangers program that focuses on water quality and conservation of the Rio Grande. She did both cross country and journalism her freshman year and journalism again her junior year. She looks forward to furthering her education and will be attending Sul Ross State University for two years then transferring to a bigger school with the plan of earning her bachelor’s degree in nursing. Kassandra would like to thank Christ for getting her through difficult times, giving her hope, and guiding her throughout her life. She would also like to thank her parents and siblings for all their help, support, comfort, and encouragement. She also thanks her friends and the individuals she met attending Young life though all four years.



Kayla Vasquez

Kayla is the daughter of Sarah and Grady Vasquez. She is a proud member of the National Honor Society, having been inducted as a freshman. Throughout high school, Kayla has been a multi-talented and involved student, participating in a variety of sports and extracurricular activities. She played basketball, golf, and track—competing in both the 300-meter and 100-meter hurdles. She also danced with Ballet Folklórico during her freshman year. Kayla was a cheerleader and ran cross-country in her sophomore year, and she played volleyball during

both her freshman and sophomore years. Since her sophomore year, she has served on the student council, demonstrating her commitment to leadership and school spirit.

For the past five years, Kayla has been involved in Young Life, where she has volunteered on the Work Crew, helping kids grow in their faith and discover God’s love. In her junior and senior years, she participated in the River Rangers program, focusing on water quality and conservation efforts along the Rio Grande.

Kayla is also a talented writer. She won 1st place in the Marfa Live Arts Playwriting Competition for her piece, “Sammy and the Forces of McDonald’s.”

This fall, Kayla is fully committed to attending Angelo State University, where she plans to study Business Management and Marketing. Her goal is to earn both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees and eventually pursue a career in real estate—helping people find their dream homes.

Kayla is deeply grateful to her parents, Sarah and Grady, for their unwavering love and support through every challenge life has brought her. She dedicates this moment to them with all her heart: "I will forever love you—this is for you, Mom and Dad."



Loretta Rivera

Loretta is the daughter of Fernando Rivera, and Mayra Lujan. Loretta

has participated in cross country, volleyball, basketball, softball, track, golf, and one act. She had advanced to regionals in track and golf. Loretta has been employed at Water stop and the get go throughout her highschool career. She's been a part of the student council all four years and has been president since her junior year. She was inducted into the National Honor Society her senior year. She's received 1st team all district and utility player of the year in volleyball. She's also gotten second team all district in basketball. Loretta plans on attending college in the fall to pursue a degree in Pre-law and minor in communications. Loretta would like to thank her parents for giving her the opportunity to study and is thankful for all they do for her.



Maryfer Martinez

Maryfer Martinez is the daughter of Sandra and Eric Martinez. Maryfer has participated in volleyball, basketball, cross country, track, and golf throughout high school. She has also advanced to regionals in track and golf throughout her high school career. She has also participated in one act in high school. Maryfer was awarded with offensive MVP in volleyball and first team all district in basketball her junior year. She also was awarded district champion in golf her senior year. She is also employed at jetts grill and enjoys working there. In the coming fall of 2025, she plans to attend Northeast lakeview in San Antonio to study Business.



Marisa Hernandez

Marisa Hernandez is the daughter of Ruben Hernandez and Arlene Connors. Marisa has participated in basketball, welding, and science fair. She is currently employed at The Waterstop and Dairy Queen and has worked as a lifeguard for two summers. After high school Marisa plans on going to a trade school for welding. She has participated in conjunto band as a percussionist. Her senior year she was inducted into National Honor Society. Junior year she participated in science fair and got first place and advanced to state in College Station



Mia Dominguez

Mia Dominguez is the daughter of Rosemary Hinojos and Christopher Dominguez. She has participated in softball her freshman and sophomore year along with science fair and academic UIL her senior year. In the science fair Mia achieved 2nd in Regionals competition and Qualified for State Competition with her studies

on Martian Soils and Substrates for Agricultural use. Mia has been a dedicated member of the Marfa Blooms Class where she contributed to the cultivation and harvesting of flowers for use in floral arrangements and bouquets.

She has also participated in the River Rangers program during her Junior and Senior years focusing on water quality and conservation of the Rio Grande. Outside of her academic and extracurricular pursuits, Mia has gained professional experience working at Hotel Parker. Mia plans to attend a four year university and major in social work with the goal of building a career in child protective services. Mia would like to thank her family for making her the person she is today and for their support. She would also like to extend her appreciation to her friends for their encouragement and companionship. The message Mia would like to leave the underclassmen with is, “Don’t let the fear of failure stop you from trying.”

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FROM THE
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Opinion

Dear Editor:

The Marfa Country Clinic opened its doors on May 3, 2010; this is our 15th anniversary. Over the years our devoted staff has been a consistent presence in our lives and that of our patients.

We could not have launched and built this effort without the unflappable support of the late J.P. Schwartz, who was there at every step of the clinic’s existence. Our current staff Kaela Donaldson and Kassandra Hernandez, as well as our rock and foundation Irma Leos, have poured their energy and hearts into the clinic.

We are grateful for the many staff members that have contributed to our efforts throughout the years, including, to name only a few: Raquel Aguirre, Dr. Christie Alexander, Rocio Colomo, Amber Garcia, Leticia Garcia, Dr. Marco Garcia, Angelica Gonzalez, Lena Hill, Luis Madrid, Natalie Melendez, Jessie Molinar, founding staffer Natasha Rogall, Bianca Salas, Ashley Watts, and Dr. Francis Wright.

When the dust settled after the COVID-19 outbreak, life changes took Dr. Schwartz and us away from Marfa. Physician coverage has been a challenge ever since, and the consistent practice hours and open accessibility that had defined our mission suffered.

After a short and much-needed hiatus updating and refreshing our facilities, the Marfa Country Clinic is now collaborating with Hamilton Health Box, known in West Texas as Bravo Health, to return to a higher healthcare delivery capacity and expand our practice by implementing new programs that we believe will improve the quality of healthcare in our area. Together the Marfa Country Clinic and Bravo are staffing our clinic Monday through Friday, with a mix of in-person and telemedicine doctors and mid-level providers.

This addition of medical staff translates into the ability to meet your healthcare needs, be it health maintenance and chronic care management, same day appointments and acute care, as well as mild trauma/injuries. Our organizations are collaborating in response to a dire healthcare shortage in our area despite an increase in healthcare needs. This collaboration is planned for the long term, but like all services in rural settings, it relies on the confidence and value the community members put on that service.

Our objective is to be a dependable and consistent source of primary care, and to offer high-quality services with the versatility and adaptability our remote setting calls for.

Bravo! Bravo. Marfa Country Clinic your country, your clinic.
Don Culbertson PA-C

...

Open letter to Senator John Cornyn

On May 21, 2025, you sent a letter to AG Pam Bondi requesting a probe into former President Joe Biden’s cancer diagnosis, health and well-being, 5 months after he left office.

My question, Senator Cornyn:

Is former President Biden’s cancer diagnosis and health really the number one issue you are concerned with at this point in time?

Perhaps you should consider asking the DOJ to probe a few other issues currently facing our country, such as the current POTUS:

- Stating on national TV that he doesn’t know if he is required to uphold the Constitution of the United States. (60 Minutes interview 05/04/25)
- Accepting a gift from a foreign country in direct violation of the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution. (Article I, Section 9, Clause 8)
- Refusing to abide by federal court orders pertaining to the return of immigrants illegally deported from the U.S. without due process.
- Cutting congressionally designated departments of the U.S. government without consulting Congress.
- Setting tariffs which, according to the Constitution are the responsibility of Congress, causing an economic crisis.
- Advertising and selling his meme coins to foreign investors and others for the privilege of having dinner with him, touted by the Whitehouse press as “on his own time,” while he spoke from a dais with the presidential seal displayed on it.
- Cutting critical resources that your constituents depend on, such as Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP, while planning a \$45-100 million military parade that happens to coincide with his birthday.

Your request for a probe of the former president’s health, at this time, appears to be a pathetic attempt to pre-empt an action that your primary challenger, Ken Paxton, would do. Rather than wasting taxpayer dollars to attack the former president, perhaps your legacy would be better served by taking the political risk to do what is right -- focus on reigning in the current president who is set on destroying our democracy in order to become a dictator and a king.

Senator Cornyn, when you were first appointed to complete the remainder of the term for Texas Senator in December 2002, you took the oath that every federal employee and election official takes when they begin their job, “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” You have subsequently taken that same oath three times after being re-elected. And, although I do not always agree with your policies, until now I believe you have at least upheld that oath to the best of your ability. Unfortunately, it now appears you have lost your conviction to uphold and protect our country and our democracy.

I am sad that after so many years of service to the great state of Texas, what may be your final year as senator has come to this.

Barbara Hines
Alpine, Texas

...

Dear Members of the City Council,

We are writing to voice strong opposition to the proposed rezoning and construction of an AEP electrical substation at Oak and Aparejo streets. This project poses significant and lasting risks to the health, character, and economic stability of our neighborhood.

The proposed facility is not a modest upgrade — it is eight times larger than the current substation. My home is just 1,000 feet from the current substation, and I can attest to the noise and visual impact even at that distance. Expanding this facility within a dense, modest residential neighborhood only magnifies those disruptions.

This is a part of town where families young and old walk, ride bikes, walk their dogs, and gather in local parks. We’ve invested time and resources into making this neighborhood safer, more habitable, and pedestrian-friendly. The introduction of a large industrial facility threatens to undo that work and send a message that residential quality of life is secondary to corporate convenience.

There are also serious environmental and infrastructure concerns. The proposed site sits adjacent to a creek that manages runoff and experiences floodwaters. Placing high-voltage electrical infrastructure near a flood-prone area raises red flags for public safety and long-term maintenance.

The broader economic logic is questionable. Rezoning centrally located residential land to industrial use compromises the very fabric that makes Marfa livable and desirable. As taxpayers, we are not OK with replacing residential zoning with industrial infrastructure for this purpose. Our homes are not just financial investments — they are our communities, our families’ futures, and part of what draws people to this town in the first place.

We urge the Council to protect the long-term interests of Marfa’s residents and reject this oversimplified, under-researched plan from AEP. There are more appropriate locations for a substation — ones that do not compromise the safety, health, and future of our residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Katie Inglis & Matthew Bolick
Marfa



An American Pope raises the question:
Who speaks for Christianity?
Will the government now decide what is ‘Christian’?

By David Maurwitz and Deece Eckstein

This month, the College of Cardinals elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost of Chicago to be the 267th leader of the world’s 1.4 billion Catholics. Pope Leo XIV, as he will now be known, is the first pope ever from the United States.

As a cardinal, and now as pope, Leo has consistently advocated for the poor and the marginalized, particularly immigrants. This has put him in tension with President Trump. Both leaders claim to be restoring Christianity to its proper role in American life.

One will be continuing a lifetime of preaching, religious education, study and work among the poor and less fortunate populations around the world. The other will be working to maintain his popular support among evangelical Christians.

Evangelical Christians have been a durable and essential part of Donald Trump’s political coalition, playing important roles in both his 2016 and 2024 elections. Post-election polls in 2024 indicate that Trump won the support of 8 in 10 evangelical voters, who comprise 20% of the electorate.

Trump is very conscious of this support, and in February issued an executive order creating a task force to “eradicate anti-Christian bias” in the government and in society. This task force is charged with locating “anti-Christian” policies, practices and conduct within federal agencies.

However, in the executive order, there is no definition for un-Christian policies, practices or conduct, except the mention of arrests for praying and protesting outside of reproductive health facilities. Reports of violence committed by the same people against those centers, their staff and their clients are not mentioned.

With that framing, many Christians are likely to welcome the task force. But there are problems with this approach.

First, in a country founded on the separation of church and state, what does it mean to have a big government bureaucracy deciding what constitutes anti-Christian bias?

Second, it is probably safe to say that the versions of Christianity believed by President Trump and Pope Leo are different, even radically so. Who gets to decide what Christianity requires of us as people of faith and as a nation?

Let’s consider two examples that have been in the news recently.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration cut off funding for refugee resettlement efforts, leaving nonprofits, many of them faith-based, struggling to help thousands of people they had already taken under their wing. It also announced that many refugees would be returned to their home countries — including thousands of Iraqis and Afghans who fought alongside U.S. troops in those countries and who would likely face punishment or even death back home.

These decisions beg the question: is it “Christian” to cut off services to refugees trying to live in our country after fleeing war and famine and persecution in their homelands? Is it “Christian” to deport people who fought bravely for the U.S., when we know they will return to a country hostile to them?

Moreover, last week the deputy secretaries of state and Homeland Security effusively welcomed a planeload of white South Africans to the United States, hailing them as victims of discrimination and racially based violence in their home country.

Soon after, the Episcopal Church in the U.S. ended its longtime partnership with the government to provide such services, arguing that the decision to cut off services to hundreds of thousands of refugees already in the country while welcoming the Afrikaners, whose safety and circumstances were demonstrably better, violated their religious values and mission. Should the task force step in and decide that the administration’s choice represented “anti-religious bias?”

Meanwhile, here in Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton continues his quest to shutter Annunciation House, which has been providing shelter and other services to migrants awaiting their immigration hearings for over 50 years. Paxton argues that providing such services, even to people who are complying with the immigration process, violates state law.

This week, the Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case. Annunciation House argues that the work it does is an expression of religious values, protected under the First Amendment, the same way a coach praying on a public school football field is protected. Paxton argues that the housing and other services Annunciation House provides amounts to human trafficking.

Many religious leaders believe and advocate the Annunciation House is just doing what their faith and the Bible teaches. Would the task force decide that Paxton’s crusade represents “anti-religious bias”?

The question for all of us: should a big government bureaucracy decide what is Christian and what is not? Who should cast the first stone?

The new American Pope is a sign of the vitality of the American Catholic Church, which is still the largest single denomination in the country. He is also lifting a prophetic voice in contradiction to some of what the Trump administration, claiming to act with the blessing of American Christianity, is doing. This tension will become sharper as Pope Leo finds his voice.

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CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

Less than a week remains in legislative session

With the legislative session ending on Monday, June 2, lawmakers are scrambling to pass or kill bills, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Among the bills passed or likely to soon pass:

- All handgun licenses issued in other states will be honored in Texas if, as expected, Gov. Greg Abbott signs the measure. This would end the requirement that the governor must negotiate agreements with other states.
- The Texas Bitcoin Reserve with a market capitalization of at least \$500 billion will be created and administered by the Texas comptroller. The two chambers must work out some minor differences in the two versions of the bill.
- A bill providing more protections for migrant workers being forced to live in substandard housing has been sent to the governor’s desk. The powers of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will be strengthened to investigate and penalize “violations of provisions governing migrant labor housing facilities and by providing for increased accountability and enforcement of those provisions.”
- A bill to outlaw AI-generated child pornography has passed both chambers with a single House amendment awaiting approval by the Senate. It criminalizes possession of material appearing to depict a child, “regardless of whether the depiction is an image of an actual child, a cartoon or animation, or an image created using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software.”

House passes increase in homestead exemption

Homeowners will see further cuts in their property taxes under a House bill passed last week that increases the state’s homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 and boosts additional exemptions for older Texans and those with disabilities from \$10,000 to \$60,000. The Dallas Morning News reported the bills have already passed in the Senate and await consideration of minor changes.

Voters in November will have to approve two constitutional amendments before the raised exemptions would take effect.

The measures contain provisions guaranteeing that school districts would not lose funding because of higher exemptions, with the state making up the difference.

Bill clarifying abortion ban heads to Abbott

A bill that aims to clarify when doctors can perform emergency abortions has passed both chambers and is headed to the governor’s desk, the “Texas Standard” reported. The Life of the Mother Act was sponsored by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, who authored the state’s 2021 abortion ban.

The 2021 law said abortions are illegal except when a medical emergency threatens a woman’s life, but doctors said the language wasn’t clear enough. Previous reporting indicates that confusion led to the deaths of at least two women and rising rates of sepsis in women who have miscarriages.

“This is not a choice bill,” said Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, who carried the bill in the House. “This bill addresses the life and health of the mother — period. That’s it.”

SB 31 received bipartisan support this session and passed the House by a 134-4 margin.

‘Big Beautiful Bill’ contains border enforcement reimbursement

The Republican spending megabill passed narrowly in the U.S. House last week includes \$12 billion for border security spending reimbursement for Texas and other states, The Texas Tribune reported. Abbott and Texas congressional Republicans have been pushing for the reimbursement since President Trump took office in January.

Texas has spent \$11.1 billion on Operation Lone Star since 2021. The funding bill still must pass the U.S. Senate before it becomes law.

Taxpayer-funded abortion travel faces ban

Texas cities will no longer be able to fund out-of-state abortion travel with taxpayer money as a result of a bill sent to the governor last week. The Statesman reported the bill’s House sponsor, state Rep. Candy Noble, R-Lucas, said the legislation ensures tax money isn’t “spent on an activity that is illegal in Texas.”

The Austin City Council last September allocated \$400,000 to provide money for lodging and travel expenses to residents who travel out of state to terminate their pregnancies. That prompted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to sue the city, a case that remains unresolved.

Another active hurricane season predicted

The nation’s top weather agency is predicting 13 to 19 named storms during this year’s hurricane season, which officially begins on June 1. The Houston Chronicle reported the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts this season has a 60% likelihood of being busier than normal.

NOAA, like many federal agencies, has been hit with job reductions that it says could stretch its resources and forecasting ability.

Once again, unusually warm water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and other factors led to the prediction of increased hurricane activity.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email:gborders@texaspress.com



Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 6, 2025

ACROSS

- 1 Removed with one's chompers
7 Undergarment with an underwire
10 Red vegetable
14 Open acknowledgment
15 Crew's control?
16 Political contest
17 Clown's hairpiece (In this answer, note letters 1, 3, 4 and 10)
19 Prep school for some princes
20 "Black Jeopardy!" show, for short
21 Bird that hoots
22 They may help you make your move
24 Mincemeat dessert (... letters 1, 2, 4, 7 and 12)
27 Symbolic hand gestures in Hinduism
30 Silence in music
31 Shaq of "Shaqin' a Fool"
32 Aspirin target
34 "___ sells seashells ..."
37 1996 holiday comedy, or a theme hint
41 WNBA tiebreakers
42 Astronaut
43 Mindful
44 Fizzy drink
46 Savanna and tundra
47 Indiana Fever star (... letters 1, 5, 6, 7 and 12)
52 Gets the shampoo out of
53 That dude's
54 Hit with a ray gun
57 Apple desktop
58 Great minds may do it (... letters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 10)
62 Actress Suvani
63 Billion-year period
64 Steamy
65 Genesis paradise
66 Self-importance
67 Targets of a "juice cleanse"

DOWN

- 1 Symbols of cellphone reception
2 Pavlov who studied dogs
3 Put in long hours
4 Possess
5 "Swell!"
6 12 and 14, but usually not 13
7 Cereal servings
8 Bollywood star Aishwarya ___ Bachchan
9 Quarrel
10 Popeyes piece
11 Devour
12 Bacteria in raw meat
13 Nerve-racking
18 What the U.S. joined in Apr. 1917
23 "Elvis ___ left the building"
24 Mountaineer's challenge
25 Lecture room
26 Flutist's flutter
27 Magic charm
28 Textbook section
29 Places to hibernate
32 Song of triumph
33 Boxer Muhammad
34 Used a pool
35 Runner-up in a fable
36 Colon, in an emoticon
38 Soldier-to-be
39 Salon sweepings
40 Furry critter in "Return of the Jedi"
44 Procedure using X-ray tech
45 Futbol cheer or layup
47 Arson, for one
48 Readied a bow
49 Nonsensical
50 Trouser material
51 ___-Manuel Miranda
54 Pasta that's totally tubular!
55 Similar
56 Muscles above abs
59 Refuse to share
60 Not prone to crushes, briefly
61 Bagel topper

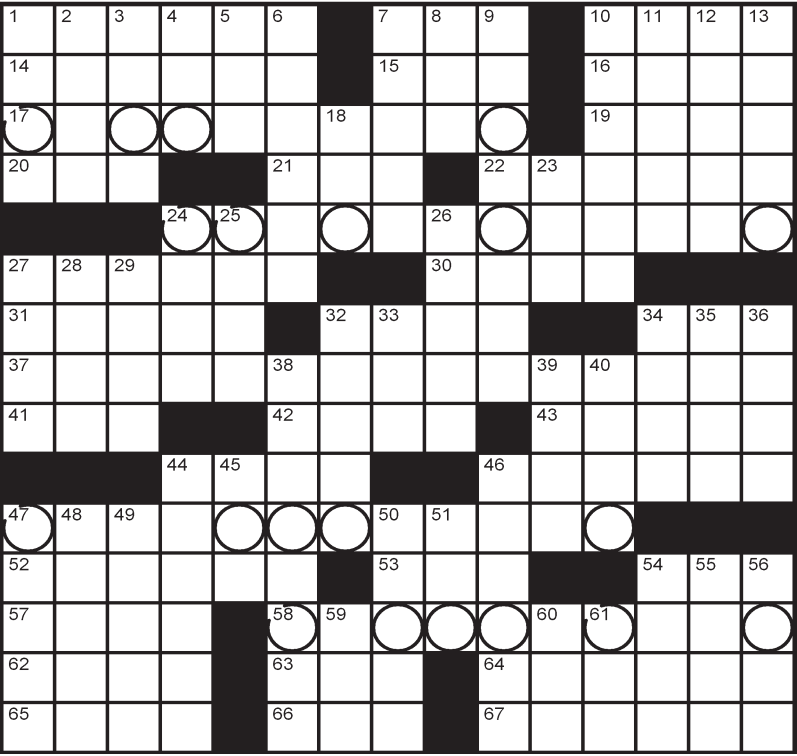
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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5/6

Spread Holiday Cheer by Tarun Krishnamurthy



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.

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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

DRAWING OF THE WEEK

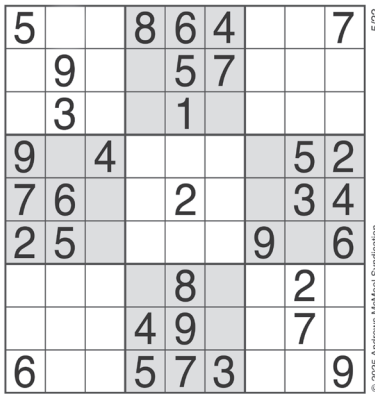


Isaiah
11th grade - Charcoal

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

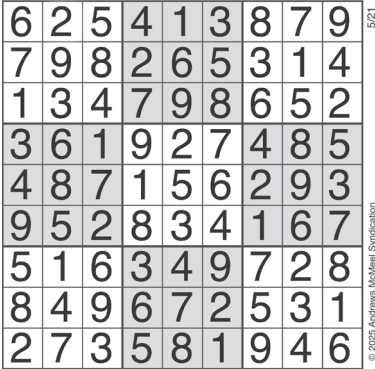
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:



☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, May 22	Fri, May 23	Mon, May 26	Tue, May 27	Wed, May 28
BREAKFAST	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK
LUNCH	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK

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OBITUARY



GRANADO

Ricardo “Ricky” Granado, 56, of El Paso, was called to his heavenly

home on Thursday, May 15, 2025, and was reunited with his mother, Enedina Salgado Granado, who passed away on August 4, 2024; his maternal grandparents, Abigail and Tomas Salgado; and his paternal grandmother, Martha Granado.

Ricky was born on March 8, 1969, to Raymundo and Enedina Granado. That same year, he and his family moved from Presidio to El Paso. Ricky attended Le Barron Park Elementary and Valley View Jr. High School. His hobbies were fishing, putting together models of World War II military tanks, ships and airplanes. He enjoyed listening

to hard rock metal music and driving his 1987 Chevy Silverado truck. One of his other hobbies was gardening and landscaping his parents’ home, which was admired by all visitors and passersby. Ricky was a member of the Catholic Church. He had a warm heart, was soft spoken and witty.

Left to cherish his memory are his father, Raymundo Granado Sr.; his sister, Angie Granado Ruiz; his brother, Ray “Tito” Granado Jr.; his niece, Alexia Samaniego; four great nieces and nephews, all from El Paso; and several aunts, uncles and cousins from Marfa, Ojinaga, Chihuahua, San Angelo, Kyle, Meadowlakes,

Buchanan Dam, Edinburgh, and El Paso.

Ricky will be missed dearly and will remain in our hearts forever — Vaya con Dios.

Visitation was Tuesday, May 27, 4-8 p.m. with Rosary at 6 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Funeral Home, 1755 N. Zaragoza Rd. Funeral Mass was Wednesday, May 28, at 10 a.m. at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Catholic Church, 12200 Vista Del Sol Dr., with burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery, 401 S. Zaragoza Rd.

Mt. Carmel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Blowin’ in the Marfa wind



Marfa Live Arts hosted the sometimes annual Bob Dylan Birthday Jam last Saturday with musicians throughout the region participating. Alpine’s The Arrow Knots with members (from left) Chris Rugia, Pruitt Urbanczyk, Amelie Urbanczyk and Tony Curry played "Odds and Ends" and "Bucket of Rain."



Photos by Sarah M. Vasquez

Bitter Sugar provided Bob’s birthday cake complete with his favorite fruits.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
May
29

Paint & Sip

6pm - 9pm at Alcove Social
No experience necessary – just relax, create, and enjoy some drinks while we guide you through a featured painting!

Calamity Creek

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Calamity Creek play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Hike with Homeless Dogs

9am - 10am at Davis Mountains State Park
Help a homeless dog have a great time on the trail!

Fri
May
30

Magic The Gathering

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

Alpine Cowboys vs. Pecos Bills

6:30pm - 9:30pm at Kokernot Field
It’s the Alpine Cowboys Baseball Team home opener Wednesday, May 28th! The series against the Pecos Bills runs each night through the 31st!

Travel Talk

7pm - 9pm at Alpine Public Library
Travel Talk this month is from Matt Walter! Great story teller and photographer. Don’t miss it!! The free presentation starts at 7pm, May 30th at Alpine Public Library.

Sat
May
31

Mini Astrology Readings W/ Amanda Holstien

11am - 2pm at Bitter Sugar
This Saturday (5/31/25), mini-astrology readings with Amanda Holstien at Bitter Sugar starting at 11am. Readings are \$20 for 15 minutes.

Kent Ming

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Kent Ming play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Alpine Cowboys vs. Pecos Bills

6:30pm - 9:30pm at Kokernot Field
It’s the Alpine Cowboys Baseball Team home opener Wednesday, May 28th! The series against the Pecos Bills runs each night through the 31st!

Master Naturalist Fiesta

4pm - 10pm at The Ritchey
Join the Master Naturalist and party for a good cause on Saturday the 31st at The Ritchey!

Sun
June
1

Open Mic On The Patio

4pm - 6pm at Alcove Social
Alcove Social hosts Open Mic every Sunday afternoon at 4pm on the patio! Come play or just sit back and enjoy the music.

Blue Cactus

6pm - 8pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Blue Cactus play at The Ritchey, no cover!

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Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
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Mondays starting June 2nd 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)

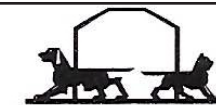
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

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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BIG BEND HEALTH

Big Bend Regional Hospital District
Medical Enhancement Grants

BBRHD is now accepting grant proposals for the Summer FY2025 Medical Enhancement Grant program. The deadline to apply for funding will be on June 13, 2025 for the summer grant cycle. Brewster and Presidio County entities providing healthcare or other related services, consistent with the mission and objectives of the Hospital District may be eligible to apply. The grant application package and additional information are available at www.bigbendhealth.org or call 432-837-7051.

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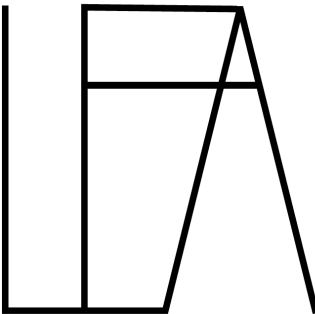
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The Big Night



Photo by Carolyn Nored Miller

Janayah Villa and Diego Jurado were named Marfa High School prom queen and king at the annual dance held recently at the Capri.

Geothermal power

(Continued from page 1)

doors for several high-value industrial sectors that could transform Presidio’s economy, including refrigerated storage facilities supporting a variety of products, data centers requiring ultra-reliable electricity, and expanded manufacturing operations leveraging cross-border trade agreements. Agricultural processing facilities could add substantial value to products moving through the trade corridor, transforming raw materials into finished goods before they reach major markets.

Students envision the community’s future

The agreement signing took place during the “Presidio Vision 2035” student competition held Thursday, May 22, where local middle and high school students presented innovative urban development concepts at the Presidio High School Library. A team of seventh-graders won the \$1,000 first prize for their comprehensive model combining sustainable energy, water infrastructure, agricultural production, and enhanced tourism facilities. The competition’s distinguished judging panel included Presidio High School Principal Darrell Ericson; Science Teacher Jessica Rodriguez; City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez; local entrepreneur Sergio Armendariz; Louisiana State University engineering professor Dr. Mayank Tyagi; and University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology Associate Director Dr. Ken Wisian, a retired Major General of the U.S. Air Force.

Ericson emphasized the importance of guiding students in the ethical application of emerging technologies, observing how the competition fostered meaningful discussions about responsible innovation. Event organizer Alexis Amancio, Presidio High School career advisor, thanked all the judges and participants while highlighting the value of connecting classroom learning with real-world applications through expert engagement and student trips. Several student teams presented projects that highlighted needs for local medical facilities, improved shopping opportunities, and innovative clean energy integration throughout the community.

Dr. Tyagi’s expertise in thermal engineering and sustainable technology applications complemented



Photo courtesy of the Presidio Municipal Development District

Expert judges participate in Presidio High School’s “Presidio Vision 2035” to envision a more sustainable future for the area.

Dr. Wisian’s background in geothermal energy systems and subsurface characterization, providing students with expert feedback from leaders in their fields. Nasikul Islam, drilling and completions manager with Exceed Geo Energy, who has previously presented at local schools, expressed enthusiasm for expanding math and science education opportunities for students in the region, recognizing the important role technical education will play in supporting future energy development projects.

Timeline and impact

The power purchase agreement will establish comprehensive terms for energy delivery, with commercial operations expected to begin by late 2026. The initial phase will bring 9.9 megawatts online, followed by expansion to the full 110-megawatt capacity.

PMDD Board President Alonso Hernandez noted that the timing of the agreement framework during the student competition perfectly captured the community’s commitment to both honoring its future generations and building the infrastructure necessary for long-term prosperity. The geothermal

development represents strategic planning that recognizes Presidio’s unique advantages: a critical position in international trade flows, proximity to major metropolitan markets, and access to world-class geothermal resources. The 110-megawatt capacity provides the kind of industrial-scale power generation that can transform regional economics by supporting data centers, manufacturing plants, and agricultural processing facilities simultaneously.

About the partnership

The Presidio Municipal Development District is a special district established under Chapter 377 of the Texas Local Government Code to promote economic development and infrastructure improvements in Presidio County. Exceed Geo Energy LLC is a Texas-based company specializing in geothermal energy resource development, focusing on clean, reliable energy solutions. The “Presidio Vision” competition is expected to become an annual event, with winning concepts potentially influencing actual development plans as the community implements its long-term growth strategy.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

May 10, 2001

Onion festival is just around the corner

By Dan Keane

PRESIDIO — It’s May again, and the days are getting longer and the temperatures are getting hotter. For Presidio residents, these are signs that the 2001 Onion Festival is just around the corner.

This year’s festival will be held Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20. The Presidio Chamber of Commerce wishes to dedicate this year’s festival to Herb Myers. Twenty years ago, Presidio first became an incorporated city, and Herb Meyers was elected as her first mayor. Headlining this year’s festivities will be the country and Tejano sounds of Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band, who. take the stage at 9 p.m. Saturday night at Lions Club Park. Admission is \$3, and children under the age of 12 are free.

Saturday night will also be a chance to win one of different door prizes during the dance. Admission to the dance enters your name in the drawing. Prizes include gift certificates at many local businesses. “They’re really a good deal,” said Terry Upchurch, Chamber of Commerce president. Raffle tickets for this year’s big prize, a Panasonic 25-inch TV/ VCR, cost \$1 and are available at City Hall and will also be sold at both Friday and Saturday’s dances. The drawing for the TV will also be held at the Saturday night dance.

The festival kicks off Friday night, with a dance at Lions Club Park featuring music played by DJ Richard Portillo. The dance begins at 8 p.m. and runs until midnight. For those that still have fresh legs after Friday’s dance, a basketball tournament is scheduled for 8 a.m. Saturday at Presidio High School. A girls’ basketball tournament will follow on Sunday, also at the high school and beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Martin Cosio at the Huateque Sports Bar for more information or to sign your team up

At 11 a.m. Saturday, judging will begin in this year’s Onion Bake Off. There are six categories this year: appetizer, soup, entree, bread, dessert, and chile macho. Winners in all categories will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a local grocery store. For the first time in the history of the festival, contestants will not be required to include onions in their dishes. The Chamber of Commerce feels that suspending the requirement will make the dessert category simpler than in the past, and spare the judges from tasting any bizarre concoctions such as onion cookies or onion pie.

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tour times are seasonal. For details
and reservations, please come to
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or go to chinati.org/visit.

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



Classifieds & public notices

Marfa ISD hosts 1st annual donor appreciation breakfast

From Marfa ISD

MARFA — Marfa ISD held its first annual Donor Appreciation Breakfast last week to honor the volunteers and donors who helped make the 2024–25 school year a success for students, teachers and staff.

The event was born from a realization by district administrators of the tremendous outpouring of support throughout the year. From classroom supplies to educational field trips, and even student recognition at this year’s sports banquet, the generosity of community members made a lasting impact.

Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez and Athletic Director Linda Ojeda spearheaded the effort to recognize local individuals, organizations and businesses, offering them a small token of appreciation for their contributions.

“Without the support of these people, our students would not have had the opportunities they were provided,” said Alferez. “Whether it was classroom supplies or something as simple as an ice cream cone for perfect attendance, our students had a great year because of these local supporters. We are proud of that.”

More than 55 volunteers and 20 donors and organizations were recognized on Monday, May 19, 2025. Many were in attendance to receive certificates and gifts in appreciation of their time and support.

The idea for a Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Day originated with Coach Ojeda, who was inspired by the tireless dedication of booster club members and other volunteers.

“The number of hours some of these parents put in for their own kids — and for children they don’t even know — is emotionally moving and incredibly motivating,” Ojeda said. “They work 8- to 12-hour shifts, skip lunch breaks, then show up to clean, decorate, fundraise, and even coach travel baseball teams. That’s amazing.”

Ojeda also expressed deep gratitude to local businesses and organizations that continue to support students financially, including Cibolo Creek, E & C Construction, Dairy Queen, Bitter Sugar, Marfa Education Foundation, Big Bend Regional Medical Center, Cactus Liquors, The Chinati Foundation, Livingston Insurance, Uncles, Big Bend Banks, and many more.

“The mantra seems to be: ‘Marfa — A Small but Mighty Town.’ We’re proud to be part of a community that puts youth at the forefront of its mission,” she added.

Marfa ISD plans to make this an annual tradition, with hopes of expanding the celebration in future years to further honor those who go above and beyond for the district’s students.

The district extends its heartfelt thanks to Rosela Rivera, Griselda Hinojos and Principal Rosie Martinez for preparing and serving breakfast, and for their unwavering commitment to making the event special.

Marfa ISD is deeply grateful for the time, generosity and steadfast support of its community. Together, they continue to help students grow, thrive and succeed every day.



Linda Ojeda and Yadira Torres of Big Bend Banks and the Marfa Athletic Booster Club.



Photos courtesy of Linda Ojeda
Minerva Leos, Linda Ojeda and Iram Marquez of Livingston Insurance.

Shot put stand out



R.J. Myers — son of Bernice Vasquez of Marfa, grandson to Emma and Johnny Vasquez also of Marfa, and brother of Kedrian Myers — will be heading to University of Texas at Tyler with a full scholarship for his accomplishments in track and field. Myers, a student at Rice Consolidated High School in Altair, Texas, recently won a bronze medal at the state track meet for shot put.

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.

Studio Manager needed for 3D metal artist

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Email qualifications to: metalmarfa@gmail.com
(Please put, “Manager,” in subject line).

The City of Marfa is hiring for a City Administrator. Marfa is a General Law Type-A City under the Mayor-Council form of government. The City Administrator will serve as the chief advisor to the Mayor and City Council in the overall strategic direction of the city and delivery of services. for a complete job description and list of qualifications, please visit: cityofmarfa.com/jobs
applications will be accepted until June 27, 2025 at 3p.m. CST. the City of Marfa is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)

NOTICE OF REQUESTS FOR SEALED BIDS TO LEASE COUNTY PROPERTY – RFP2025-01

The Presidio County Commissioners Court is accepting sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 20, 2025, for the lease of the Bull Barn facility and associated acreage, being 10.6 acres, more or less. A detailed property legal description is available in the RFP2025-01 Information Packet, which can be obtained at the Presidio County Attorney’s office 300 N. Highland Avenue – 2 nd Floor, Marfa, TX 79843, or by email at countyattorney@co.presidio.tx.us.

Sealed bids are to be addressed to the Presidio County Attorney, with “RFP2025-01” clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or package, and must be received at the Office of the Presidio County Attorney, either in person, by email to countyattorney@co.presidio.tx.us, or by mail to P.O BOX M, Marfa, TX 79843, before 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 20, 2025. Bids received after that time will not be considered. Properly submitted bids will be presented to Commissioners Court at a special meeting on June 25, 2025. Presidio County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Blair Park, County Attorney
Presidio County, Texas

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