

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

City renews utility shutoffs, announces MAC pool closed for summer

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — In mixed City of Marfa news, past due utility accounts are once again subject to shutoffs, and the Marfa Activities Center (MAC) pool is unable to open for the summer due to a lack of lifeguard applicants.

Utilities shutoffs

While the city announced it would renew water, sewer and natural gas shutoffs for nonpaying customers back in the fall of 2023 for the first time since they were paused during the coronavirus pandemic, Interim City Manager Kelly Perez said this week that enforcement has not been consistent and the city is now once again renewing stricter protocol.

Utility cut-offs took place last week for the first time since September of 2024, she said. Previous City Manager Andrea Walter brought the issue to the forefront during her brief tenure, and city staff were directed by her and council to take all measures necessary to collect past due utility bills.

Last week the city placed locks on both residential and commercial water meters so that those with past due accounts could not turn their water on. Perez said she wasn't sure exactly how many people had locks placed on their water meters, but it was well over 100 accounts.

Utility bills are considered past due if they are not received by the 15th of the month. Late fees begin to apply on the 16th of the month. Postcards, or "second notices," are then sent out stating that if bills are not paid by a certain date, typically between the 1st and 5th of the forthcoming month, utilities will be shut off by the city. Perez said shutoffs took place on June 4th this month, and post cards were mailed out on May 17.

Perez and Mayor Manny Baeza have been busy meeting with many past due customers, she said, helping them set up contracts and payment plans so they can become current on their accounts. She said payment plans typically last six months no matter the past due amount, but can be paid off sooner if possible. She said utilities are being turned back on for those that enter into payment plans.

Marfa Activities Center (MAC) pool

At a Tuesday City Council meeting, city officials announced that the MAC pool will not be opening for the summer due to a lack of lifeguard applicants. "None of us want to have the pool closed, but we've tried and we can't get any applicants," Baeza said.

Perez and Baeza explained that the lifeguard position was posted online and on social media, and they even contacted Marfa ISD for potential

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Staff photo by Sam Karas

From left: the Rev. Deacon Genevieve Nelson of Virginia, Father Mike Wallens of Alpine and the Rev. Leeann Culbreath of Georgia took part in the "Migration with Dignity" pilgrimage across Far West Texas last week.

Episcopal leaders protest immigrant detention with prayer

By Sam Karas
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FAR WEST TEXAS — Last week, representatives from the Episcopal Migration Caucus caravanned 1,300 miles across New Mexico and West Texas, holding prayer vigils in front of five immigrant detention facilities. Along the way, they asked Americans to imagine an immigrant system in line with the values of the church. "Mass detention and deportation go against our deepest value that all are created in the image and likeness of God and against our Episcopal baptismal promise to seek Christ in all persons and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves," said Martin Dickinson, a layperson who co-organized the event.

On Tuesday, the pilgrims converged on a gas station in Sierra Blanca. Following the lead of a white church van — not unlike the hundreds of anonymous white vans that criss-cross the region each day, carrying folks between detention facilities and court appointments — they bounced down a dirt access road and came to a stop in front of the West Texas Detention Facility.

The West Texas Detention Facility is privately-owned and one of the largest immigrant detention centers in the United States. In September 2022, the facility made headlines around the world as former warden Mike Sheppard was charged with fatally shooting one migrant and wounding another, accompanied by his twin brother, Mark, who had also served as a jailer for Hudspeth

County.

Father Mike Wallens, who serves a number of Episcopal Churches in the Big Bend, brought up the Sheppard brothers during a short address to the group. Before the media blitz in Sierra Blanca, Wallens had had greater access to minister to folks within the facility — whether they were migrants themselves or correctional officers. He's since brought this approach home, helping spark a multi-denominational coalition that meets regularly in Alpine, bringing Catholics shoulder-to-shoulder with Presbyterians and immigration advocates alongside Border Patrol agents. "If you have a coalition and everyone agrees, it's not a coalition," he's fond of saying.

In contrast to other protest

movements around the country sending rocks through police cruiser windshields, this group's big tent approach includes outreach to law enforcement, whom they see as critical allies and as victims of the system in their own way. "Those who are detained deserve humane treatment, and those employed in the detention center deserve the honor of treating people humanely," Bishop Michael Hunn said at a vigil last Monday night at Torrance County Detention Center in Estancia, New Mexico. "Not asking people to sleep in cold rooms, with the lights on all night, or packed in like cattle. Treating people like animals hurts a person."

The group held up signs honoring migrant children who had passed

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Scorched Holland Avenue block officially sold

By Mary Cantrell
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ALPINE — A 1911-built historic structure in downtown Alpine destroyed in a May 2024 fire has officially been sold. The site, 109 to 115 West Holland Avenue, has been sold by Bill Ivey to the property holdings company Blue Wing LLC. "It's with much sadness that we are giving up the property, but

it's also a big relief," Ivey said. "I do believe the buyers will do something really wonderful for Alpine."

Greg Bow, owner of design build company Fabrica, is representing the buyer of the property. In a statement Bow wrote that Blue Wing LLC has contracted Fabrica for the redevelopment of the property. Bow told *The Big Bend Sentinel* plans for the site will be

announced at a later date, but for now the goal is to make the property safe and secure.

"The first phase of the project will begin soon, starting with damage remediation and securing the site in preparation for future construction," Bow wrote. "Fabrica will oversee both the design and build of a new space intended to support the long-term revitalization of Alpine's commercial core while

honoring the region's history."

He wrote that both Blue Wing LLC and Fabrica look forward to engaging the community as the project moves forward. He said both entities "extend their sincere appreciation to the Ivey family for the opportunity to reimagine this site, and to the City of Alpine for its continued patience and support throughout the early stages of this process."

First trial of immigrant accused of trespassing on Texas border military zone ends in acquittal

By Uriel Garcia
The Texas Tribune

A federal jury and judge acquitted a 21-year-old woman from Peru on Thursday of illegally entering a national defense area and military reservation after she crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico into Texas last month, in what lawyers say is the first trial of an immigrant since the Trump administration declared parts of the New Mexico and Texas border as a military zone.

Adely Vanessa De La Cruz-Alvarez was detained by soldiers and arrested by a Border Patrol agent on May 12 after they found her alone sitting next to the gate on a bollard wall near Tornillo, 40 miles east of El Paso.

"Hopefully, this sets the tone for the federal government," said Veronica

Teresa Lerma, one of her defense attorneys, adding, "so they know what the El Paso community will do with these charges."

Earlier this year, the Trump administration designated 180 miles of the New Mexico border with Mexico and 63 miles in West Texas as a national defense area, overseen by U.S. Army commands based out of Fort Huachuca in Arizona and Fort Bliss in El Paso.

At the start of the trial, De La Cruz-Alvarez, who has been in immigration agents' custody since her arrest, faced three misdemeanor charges: entering the country illegally, violating national defense property and trespassing onto a military base. She was found guilty of entering the country illegally and was already facing deportation as soon as she was arrested.

She was sentenced to time served plus

one business day by U.S. Magistrate Judge Laura Enriquez. Even though she was acquitted of trespassing onto a military zone, De La Cruz-Alvarez will most likely get deported, said Shane Michael McMahon, her public defense attorney.

"She knew exactly what she was doing," Phillip Douglas Countryman, the federal prosecutor, told the judge, asking for a 45-day jail sentence. Crossing the border illegally "should come with some sort of punishment."

The verdict is the latest blow to the Trump administration, which pursued additional misdemeanor charges in addition to the usual misdemeanor charge of entering the U.S. improperly or the felony charge of reentering the country after being denied. Tacking on the trespassing charges, is the latest tactic the administration is trying in its

attempt to deport and punish 1 million immigrants annually, including some who have entered the country legally.

Since late April, federal prosecutors in New Mexico and West Texas have filed misdemeanor criminal charges of violating national security regulations and entering restricted military property, in addition to entering the country without permission against immigrants accused of crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. But judges quickly began dismissing the charges in both states.

Federal judges have said federal prosecutors have not shown evidence that immigrants broke into a national defense area knowingly and warning signs posted along the newly created national defense areas are not visible

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Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim abruptly resigns following council scrutiny

By Mary Cantrell
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ALPINE — Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim tendered her resignation to the mayor and members of the City Council on Wednesday, June 4, after a council meeting the previous evening included discussion regarding her performance and current contract.

The agenda item was brought forth by new Councilmember Robert Rückes, a previous city building official who publicly clashed with Antrim this fall over changes to the city's zoning ordinance. Rückes resigned from his role at the city in November, then ran unopposed for the Ward 3 council seat and was appointed; the other new council member, Richard Portillo, was elected to represent Ward 1. New council members were sworn in on May 13.

Last Tuesday, Antrim requested that her performance and contract be discussed in open, rather than in closed, session. Rückes said he brought forth the item for discussion because he was unsure why Antrim did not have a regular performance review in April, as is typical, and because her current contract will need to be acted on soon. Mayor Catherine Eaves told *The Big Bend Sentinel* it is Antrim's responsibility to put her review on the council agenda.

"I also thought it was fitting that, since we need to do an evaluation, that we'd also discuss what direction we're going with the contract," Rückes said. "Are we going to allow it to automatically renew from September? Are we going to renegotiate?"

Antrim, who first moved to Alpine in 2003 and initially held roles in finance with Brewster County, started working at the city in 2013. She served as the director of finance for many years until she became interim city manager in May of 2021. The then-council appointed her as city manager in September of 2022. Eaves is the only remaining official who was sitting on council at that time.

Antrim's three-year contract was set to automatically renew in September unless acted on with 30-day notice. Some council members pointed out that the contract is actually in violation of the city charter, which states that the city manager "shall be appointed for an indefinite term."

Councilmember Lucy Escovedo stated that her two concerns regarding Antrim's employment related to overspending. She wondered if too many services were being outsourced rather than performed in house and why Antrim's salary of \$157,000 was so high — a concern echoed by citizen Oscar Cobos in the public comment portion of the meeting.

"I think that there should be things that a city manager should be doing [that] we're constantly paying somebody else to do," Escovedo said.

"I wasn't here when council decided to approve the amount that you're getting paid," she added. "I think it's a lot for the City of Alpine. I do have a lot of people asking me, 'Why is that being allowed?'"

Rückes stated that he was not in favor of Antrim's contract automatically renewing and pushed

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Immigrant detention center

(Continued from page 1)

away in migrant detention or shortly after being deported. The signs featured the artwork of Michelina Nicotera-Taxiera, a Tucson-based artist who made *ofrendas*, or altars, commemorating their lives. “We really wanted to focus on the children, and to have something other than a protest sign,” explained Reverend Leeann Culbreath.

Culbreath, on pilgrimage from Georgia, said that she’s among a growing number of religious leaders who believe the immigration detention system is so broken that it can’t be reformed. “In this political moment, the Trump administration is trying to open new detention centers, including detention centers that will incarcerate children,” she told the crowd. “We stand against that expansion, because we know that expansion means more abuse, more death, more torture, more separated families. We don’t want any of that.”

The government pushed back against the pilgrimage’s characterization of detention facilities and of working conditions for correctional officers, wardens, and others who work within their walls. “ICE takes its commitment to promoting safe, secure, humane environments for those in our custody very seriously,” a senior Department of Homeland Security official wrote to *The Sentinel*.

A complete abolitionist stance against incarceration — calling for an end to the practice of jailing people and building prisons — is not the official stance of the Episcopal Church, but it’s gaining traction, especially as the church makes headlines for its involvement in the immigration debates of Trump’s second term.



Staff photo by Sam Karas

Ana Reza (left), chaplain for the Diocese of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, prays with Rev. Leann Culbreath outside the West Texas Detention Center in Sierra Blanca.

The church has emerged as a major voice of opposition against President Trump’s immigration policies. In January, Bishop Mariann Budde made headlines around the world when she implored the president to “have mercy” on immigrants. In response, the President lashed out on Budde on X, branding her a “radical Left hard line Trump hater.”

In May, the Episcopal Church ended its partnership with the U.S. government. Since 1980, the church has helped to resettle more than 100,000 refugees, but leadership felt that they could no longer continue this mission after the Trump administration decided to fast-track refugee protections for Afrikaners — a white minority in South Africa whom the president has falsely claimed are the victims of a genocide — while ending protections for other groups, including Afghan immigrants who helped the U.S. military with its mission in the Middle East. “It seems to be that people who are white seem to be more valuable than those who are people of color,” Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe told *NPR*. “In any case, the way that this has happened, the decision making, the criteria that has gone into this just doesn’t fit with our morals and the values that we hold as a church.”

As someone whose faith has brought her to radical thought and action, Culbreath appreciated that the church’s most prominent leaders were sticking up for the advocacy work of people like her and her associates within the Migration Caucus. “It’s very affirming, and I feel encouraged,” she said. “It’s wonderful to see this being said at a higher level, and to see people in positions of authority in the church take a very clear moral stand.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marfa Lights Festival is a go

MARFA — The Marfa Chamber of Commerce, which previously warned this year’s Marfa Lights Festival might be canceled due to a lack of volunteers, announced last week that the annual event will take place as planned. The chamber, a volunteer board which puts on the event, was able to attract enough additional volunteers to help organize and run the three-day festival.

The 38th annual celebration is set to take place on Labor Day weekend, August 29-31. “Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to volunteer to help us with this monumental effort,” Chamber Secretary Lindsay Smith said.

City invites public to Coffield Park splash pad grand opening

MARFA — The Marfa Parks and Recreation board and the City of Marfa tourism department invite the community to celebrate the grand opening of the splash pad at Coffield Park and the newly-remodeled Marfa Activities Center (MAC) Building this Saturday, June 14, at 4 p.m.

The event will feature free hot dogs and sausage wraps, free snow cones, bounce houses with water slides and more. DJ Ratón will perform from 4 to 7 p.m., Primo y Beebe will perform from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and DJ KrazyLegs will close out the night with an 8:30 to 11 p.m. set. The entire tri-county area is welcome to attend.

Marfa Nutrition Center now offering senior yoga

MARFA — The Marfa Nutrition Center now offers yoga classes for seniors Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Classes are free and led by Monika Bernstein of Big Sky Yoga. TRAX shuttles are available. The class takes a gentle, accessible approach to traditional yoga tailored to support all mobility levels including those who use wheelchairs.

Brewster commissioners ask for screwworm help

ALPINE — On Tuesday, Brewster County Commissioners approved a resolution asking the federal government to assist in stopping the New World screwworm fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) whose larvae eat the flesh of livestock and wildlife.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins enacted a ban on Mexican cattle imports on May 11, and it is still in place as U.S. and Mexican officials continue to discuss how to stop the spread of the fly, which originated in Southern Mexico. The resolution notes that the flies’ arrival in Texas is expected in July.

The resolution “calls upon the President of the United States and all state and federal officials to:

- Authorize the immediate production and distribution of millions of doses of Ivermectin dry premix for use by livestock feed manufacturers.
- Mobilize and convert existing military or federal facilities to breed sterile New World screwworm flies, ensuring operational readiness within two weeks.
- That this Court further urges the FDA and USDA to expedite emergency approval for feed manufacturers to access and utilize Ivermectin dry premix in livestock and wildlife feeds across the affected regions.”

Democrats set ‘NO KINGS’ events this Saturday

TRI-COUNTY — Two events on Flag Day are being sponsored locally by county Democratic parties in Brewster, Presidio and Jeff Davis counties, in conjunction with the nationwide organization Indivisible. Participants include Democrats, independents and “anti-MAGA Republicans,” the Big Bend Democrats announced in a release.

The NO KINGS Nationwide Day of Defiance events are set to take place during Donald Trump’s military parade in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 14. “Instead of allowing this military parade to be the center of gravity, activists will make action everywhere else to tell the story of America that day. Alongside local organizers, partners, and leaders from across the pro-democracy and pro-worker movements, activists across the country will come together for marches, rallies, and demonstrations to ‘reject corrupt, authoritarian politics in the United States,’” a release from Indivisible stated.

June 14th is also the U.S. Army’s birthday — a day that marks when Americans first organized to stand up to a king. “Trump isn’t honoring that legacy. He’s hijacking it to celebrate himself. From city blocks to small towns, from courthouse steps to community parks, we’re taking action to reject authoritarianism and show the world what democracy actually looks like: people, united, following the Constitution, not a ruler ... No Thrones. No Crowns. No Kings,” the release said.

The Alpine event will take place at the front sidewalk of the Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W Ave, from noon to 2 p.m. The Fort Davis protest will take place at 103 State St, across from the Limpia Hotel, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Pride Marfa

Thursday, June 12

Mala Noche

Dir. Gus Van Sant

Film screening at **The Lumberyard.**

201 E Dallas St. **Sunset.**

bring your own chair. not rated.

Friday, June 13

Zine Workshop

in collaboration with Chinati Education

at **Bitter Sugar.**

201 E Dallas St. **11am–1pm.**

drop in. no skills required.

Queer Tea Party

at **Rule Gallery.**

204 E San Antonio St. **1–3pm.**

dress code: **tea party chic.**

enjoy finger foods & tea.

Happy Together

Dir. Wong Kar Wai

film screening at **Marfa Public Library**

115 E Oak St. **5pm.**

limited seating. not rated.

Friday the 13th Dance Party 21+

at **Planet Marfa**

200 S Abbot St. **7:30pm–12am.**

dress code: **your best costume.**

featuring DEATHBYNOIZE, jewels, Prepney, Salem Purchase, Stephania Elegonza, DJ TOUGHASSPUTA, Vesper, XOY.

Saturday, June 14

Community Art Walk

featuring *Rule Gallery, Maintenant, Club Nowhere, Galerie Ego, Ranch Candy, & the *Chinati Foundation. **11am–3pm.**

open viewing of Zoe Leonard's *Al Río/To the River* at the Chinati Foundation. **9am–11am.**

curatorial walk-through & cocktails with Jodee Sweet at Rule Gallery. **2:30pm.**

Paris is Burning

Dir. Jennie Livingston

film screening at **Ballroom Marfa.**

108 E San Antonio St. **5pm.**

limited seating. rated R.

Rave

21+

at **The Sentinel.**

209 W El Paso St. **7:30pm–1am.**

dress code: **cowboy kink.**

featuring Angel Doll, BabiDoll, Benny Q. Barker, FiSh the CLOWN, p1nkstar, Salem Purchase, Stephania Elegonza, DJ TOUGHASSPUTA, & XOY

Sunday, June 15

Drag Brunch

21+

at **El Cosmico.**

802 S Highland Ave. **11am.**

featuring Benny Q. Barker, Circe, jewels, FiSh the CLOWN, Prepney, Salem Purchase, Stephania Elegonza, DJ TOUGHASSPUTA.

**in support of Equality Texas*

Sunday Pool Vibes

21+

at **the St. George Pool.**

205 E El Paso St. **2:30pm.**

featuring Angel Doll, BabiDoll, DEATHBYNOIZE, DJ GAYBOY, & p1nkstar.

Opinion

Dear Editor,

We'd like to thank Chris McCray, owner of Sticks & Bones, for hosting a very successful fundraiser last week. Also, many thanks to Kaki and Mark Scott for serving some wonderful food. Also, the music provided by Big Stripes was a perfect compliment.

For those not in the know, the Ruidosa Church is a former Catholic Church built in 1916 in the border town of Ruidosa, but abandoned in the 1950s as the Rio Grande water started to dry up and most of the farming community moved on. After decades of neglect, our 501(c)3 nonprofit was formed to restore the church to all its glory. The adobe church has what is believed to be the largest adobe arch framing the altar area and bell towers — all planted on the remote road west from Presidio.

Thanks also to all the volunteers that have been showing up at our monthly adobe brick-making days. They are literally creating the building blocks for our restoration. Haven't got your hands in the mud yet? Don't worry, we've got thousands more needed, so see our social media to follow us and look for adobe-making dates.

Last year we got our hands dirty — or actually local adobe pro Joey Benton and team did — stabilizing the right bell tower of the church. It was a great achievement and a tangible one that gave us inspiration to push forward.

We've also been encouraged to receive two grants this past year — one from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and one from the Summerlee Foundation. The THC grant will fund a Historic Structures Report, kind of a roadmap of what renovation is needed and how to achieve it, to be conducted by our local friends at the architectural firm MUDLAB in Marfa. The Summerlee grant helped fund a local match for that THC grant.

Grants are great, but they often come with those matches, meaning we need significant donations from the community, companies, and other nonprofits to be able to keep our progress going.

Our short-term goal is restoration of the entryway, where a bell hung originally and beckoned the community to masses, weddings, funerals, and celebrations. We've got the bell, and under the rallying cry "Raise the Bell," we intend to once again hang it at the church and hear it ring. Our long-term goal is a complete restoration to make the church a foundation for telling the rich history of the Ruidosa and Candelaria communities and a gathering place to share the history with visitors and the current residents along the river.

Thanks again for all of y'all's support. Donations are appreciated at ruidosachurch.org. Follow us at fb.com/FriendsofRuidosaChurch and @ruidosachurch.

Mike Green
Friends of the Ruidosa Church, Board President
Ruidosachurch@gmail.com

...

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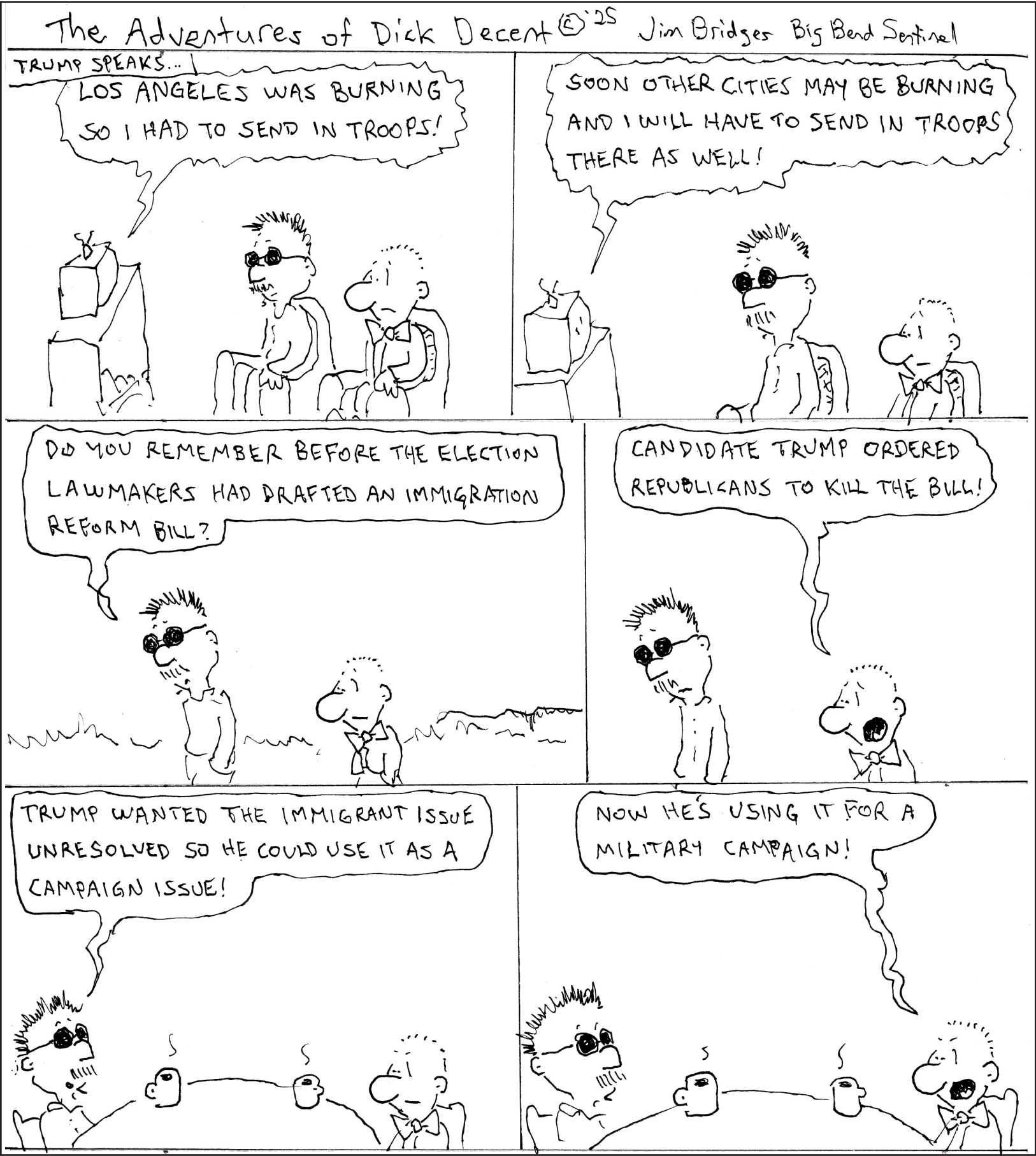
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For more information and to book reservations please visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406.



OUR WATER MATTERS

A milestone in efforts to protect Presidio County's groundwater resources

By Trey Gerfers
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

One week ago today, the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (PCUWCD) voted unanimously to issue operating permits to the cities of Marfa and Presidio. This momentous decision was made possible by the passage of Texas Senate Bill 3044 by a vote of 33-0 in the Senate and 131-0 in the House.

The bill, which the governor signed into law on May 29, removes the entire county from the provisions of section 36.121 of the Texas Water Code. This obscure rule was inserted into the water code by a politician from Midland who worried that his town could fall victim to overzealous regulation by a groundwater district.

According to 36.121, any city with a population of roughly 133,000 or less (based on Midland's population) is automatically exempt from the authority of a local groundwater district. While the exemption would seem purely beneficial because it enables cities to pump and use as much water as they want, it also poses hidden risks because the very authority that the exemption seeks to circumvent also happens to provide the strongest protection for groundwater resources available under Texas law.

The 36.121 exemption is perhaps best understood as a reflection of the state's conflicting philosophies when it comes to water. On one side, you have the Legislature's sporadic efforts to provide for local control of groundwater through the legally mandated right of communities to create conservation districts. On the other side, you have court decisions spanning over a century that uphold the right of individual landowners to pump as much water as they choose under a legal concept known as the Rule of Capture. Although our current climate reality clearly points to the need for a more comprehensive, data-based approach to ensure the greatest protection possible for all who depend on groundwater, a critical mass of Texas lawmakers remains firmly in thrall to an unassailable right to freedom from just about any form of regulation, regardless of the consequences. A community's only hedge against these contradictions is to create a groundwater conservation district, ensure that it has a dedicated source of funding, and opt out of the 36.121 exemption to protect everyone within that district.

To better appreciate the historic significance of this moment, it's helpful

to consider how we got here. As PCUWCD chairman back in 2018, I sought to educate our elected leaders in Presidio and Marfa about the complex nature of groundwater law in Texas and the need to opt out of the exemption. In a nutshell, I asked each city to give up its ability to pump limitless amounts of groundwater in exchange for permits that would act as insurance policies for each city's water supply. I warned them that permits would become vitally important if a new user, such as a water exporter, were to set up shop next to a city's wells and start pumping under their own permits from the groundwater district. Cities that operate under the 36.121 exemption are exposing themselves to unnecessary risk, I argued, which is why neighboring cities in Pecos, Reeves, Jeff Davis and Culberson counties got rid of the exemption long ago.

“But local control can only be effective if there is a commensurate level of local engagement”

Since both cities had to agree simultaneously, the ensuing negotiations were like a rollercoaster ride. In late 2018, the Marfa City Council voted to move forward with the effort, but Presidio ghosted the district thanks in large part to Rod Ponton. After the pandemic ended in 2022, the Presidio City Council expressed a desire to obtain permits, but Marfa was no longer interested. On the third attempt earlier this year, both cities agreed to opt out of the exemption and approved resolutions supporting the necessary legislation just in time for its passage by the 89th Legislature last month. We owe a huge

debt of gratitude to Sen. Cesar Blanco and Rep. Eddie Morales for their tireless efforts to get the local legislation passed.

It is often said that groundwater districts are the preferred means of groundwater management in Texas because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation. But local control can only be effective if there is a commensurate level of local engagement. Now that we have a groundwater district with a secure source of funding approved by the voters in 2023, and full jurisdiction over the county thanks to SB 3044, the next objective is to develop a deep bench of informed residents. The current directors are not going to serve forever, and the day will come when I no longer work for the district. If you care about groundwater, please contact me at the email address below to be added to the district's mailing list. Your involvement is critical to the district's continued success.

Texas law, though imperfect, gives local communities the power to manage and conserve their groundwater, a finite resource essential to life. Citizens who fail to engage in the wise and effective use of this power may ultimately find themselves wishing they had.

Trey Gerfers serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. A San Antonio native, he has lived in Marfa since 2013 and can be reached at tgerfers@pcuwcd.org.

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CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Abbott has until June 22 to sign or veto bills

Texas legislators wrapped up the 89th session last week, passing more than 1,200 bills — 800 of which were sent to Gov. Greg Abbott in the last 10 days of the session, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Abbott has until June 22 to approve those that have not been signed, including the next two-year state budget. While the governor does not have the power to veto the entire \$338-billion budget, he does have line-item veto power over individual portions of it.

The Texas Constitution allows the governor to veto legislation, sign it, or allow it to go into law without his signature. All bills that passed with at least two-thirds of both chambers’ approval cannot be vetoed. That means that all proposed constitutional amendments, which lawmakers passed by at least that margin, will go before voters in November. That includes proposed property tax relief for homeowners by raising the homestead exemption.

Abbott has not indicated which, if any, bills he will veto. He is facing considerable pressure from several groups, including veterans’ organizations, to veto Senate Bill 3, which would ban all consumable hemp products containing tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Abbott also faces pressure from Republican state leaders, especially Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who led the charge to ban THC products, and law enforcement to sign it.

Rural Texans scored big wins in session

More than 3 million Texans live in rural areas across the state, The Texas Tribune reported, and the last session increased funding for them in several areas, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and emergency management.

Texas schools will receive \$8.5 billion in additional public education funding, with teachers in smaller districts receiving an \$8,000 raise if they have five or more years of teaching experience. Those with less than five years in the profession will get a \$4,000 raise.

A sweeping water bill will provide more money for rural Texas to address water and wastewater projects. In addition, several bills address health care issues, including more money for rural hospitals. One measure creates a way to evaluate the financial health of rural hospitals and allows for updating reimbursement rates every two years.

“Because these things are now in statute, rural hospitals can count on it,” John Henderson, CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals, said, “rather than worry about uncertainty related to renewals or budget cycles.”

A grant program for rural counties to purchase ambulances was also passed. Another measure expands a grant program that previously was limited to young farmers. The age restrictions have been lifted, and the amount available has increased from \$20,000 to \$500,000 with farmers paying a 10% match.

Finally, lawmakers passed a bill to establish a disaster recovery program for counties with fewer than 100,000 residents who have not received reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In-state tuition for students without legal status ends

Texas has ended its policy of giving in-state tuition to college students who do not have legal status, the Texas Standard reported. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced last week that the state had filed a joint motion with the federal Department of Justice to end the practice. The judge granted the motion.

“Ending this discriminatory and un-American provision is a major victory for Texas,” Paxton said in a statement.

The Justice Department had filed a complaint to stop the practice, which began in 2001 with the support of then-Gov. Rick Perry, claiming it discriminated against U.S. citizens not afforded the same privileges. At the time it began, Texas was the first state to do so, with 24 states now having similar policies.

A report from the President’s Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration concluded there were about 57,000 students without legal status enrolled in Texas colleges and universities in 2022. The Austin American-Statesman reported that tuition costs would quadruple for students having to pay international student prices, citing tuition costs at the University of Texas and Austin Community College as examples.

Judges’ pay, lawmaker pensions get boost

One of the final bills passed in the recently concluded session would give a 25% raise to Texas judges, with base pay rising to \$175,000, The Tribune reported. If signed by Abbott, that also means legislative pensions, which are tied to judges’ pay, would also rise.

A last-minute disagreement resulted in this being the final time the pensions are coupled with judicial pay. After that, the Texas Ethics Commission would take over assessing lawmaker pensions, as it does for per diem pay and other lawmaker benefits.

Texas judges’ pay has been among the lowest in the nation. In the past, lawmakers have been reluctant to give a raise to judges since it was tied to their own pension, fearing voter blowback.

"Let's break this stalemate, support our judiciary and face the consequences together," state Rep. Brent Money, R-Greenville, said.

Saharan dust returns to Texas

Saharan dust made its way into Texas late last week, bringing hazy skies to the eastern half of the state, the Statesman reported. The annual event likely won’t be as intense as previous summers, but it can still affect people who have respiratory issues.

The dust is carried by winds across the Atlantic from the Saharan Desert. Besides sparking allergy symptoms, it provides colorful sunrises and sunsets, and poor air quality. It can also keep temperatures higher and the skies drier by trapping heat closer to the ground.

Texans urged to prepare for 2025 hurricane season

Texans are being urged to be prepared and stay informed during the current hurricane season by the Public Utility Commission.

“Every Texan should take time to create or review their severe weather plans and prepare their families and property for a potential storm,” PUC Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

Potential power outages and restoration times can be tracked through the PUC’s storm resources webpage: puc.texas.gov/storm.

Hurricane season began June 1 and ends on Nov. 30.

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.



Texas gas prices rise slightly

TEXAS — Average gasoline prices in Texas have risen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.70/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 13,114 stations in Texas. Prices in Texas are 2.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 20.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 1.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.448 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Texas was priced at \$2.23/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.59/g, a difference of \$1.36/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.23/g while the highest was \$3.59/g, a difference of \$1.36/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.07/g today. The national average is down 5.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Midland Odessa — \$2.76/g, up 15.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.61/g.

San Antonio — \$2.58/g, down 21.7 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.79/g.

Austin — \$2.62/g, down 18.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.80/g.

“Average gas prices declined in nearly all states over the last week as refineries ramped up output and gasoline supplies surged,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “While a few states experienced price cycling — a pattern where prices drop sharply and then spike every couple of weeks — the overall gentle downward trend is typical as summer progresses. If oil prices continue to rise gradually, it could eventually impact gas prices, but for now, we likely won’t see any major shifts at the pump in most areas this week.”

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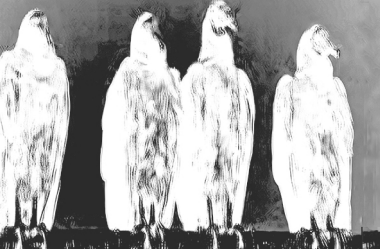
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Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson May 24, 2025

ACROSS

1 Title for Emma Thompson

5 Pet adoption org.

10 Repeated bit of jazz

14 Greek god with a bow and arrow

15 Floppy flotation device

17 Religious offshoot

18 Green salsa verde veggies

19 Acquire, as a family heirloom

21 “I mean, clearly it’s true”

22 Deck with Major and Minor Arcana

23 Magazine edition

24 Piercing tool

25 Keister

27 Kudos, slangily

31 Bell’s loud sound

33 Japanese soup base

36 “So ____” (“I accept that”)

37 Like the White Rabbit

38 ____ salts (bath additive)

39 Woodworking tool

40 Sephora competitor

41 Mattress brand

42 Great Sphinx’s home

43 Caught some Z’s

45 One of three in a yard

47 Bud

48 Slushy wine cocktail

51 Get off an email list, briefly

53 Stamp

56 Renaissance faire vendor, perhaps

58 Bunny phone, for example

60 Thus

61 Reader’s jottings alongside the text

62 Have to have

63 Fifth Avenue store

64 “Do not go gentle into that good night” poet

65 Rod that connects wheels

12 Ice sheet

13 Own (up)

16 Prepare for a massage, maybe

20 Nickname that drops -ert

23 “You can come out now!”

24 Outstanding grade

26 Record

28 Sophocles tragedy after which a Freudian concept was named

29 Hybrid food you might top with pepperoni

30 Take the wrong way?

32 Plays a childhood jumping game

34 Prefix with -gram

35 “You can count on me!”

44 ____ Kwan (yellow Power Ranger)

46 Channel that syndicates many shows

49 Upright

50 Shelter animal, maybe

52 Tuscan city associated with a reddish-brown pigment

53 Belief suffixes

54 Movie rating org., formerly

55 Protein source in some ramen

56 Home to about 60% of the world’s population

57 Leaf’s point of origin on a stem

59 Sick

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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5/24

Universal Freestyle 174 by Hannah Binney

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Donald Judd Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places

MARFA — The Donald Judd Historic District, comprising 15 buildings and one work of art, has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. This listing encompasses and expands the existing Fort D.A. Russell Historic District to include Donald Judd’s contributions to art and architecture from 1973 until the artist’s death in 1994. Following the establishment of the Central Marfa Historic District in 2022, it is the second district in Marfa associated with Judd.

The Donald Judd Historic District acknowledges the artist’s efforts in preservation and adaptive reuse in his living and working spaces, and in buildings used for the permanent installation of his art and that of other artists. Today, these buildings are maintained by the Chinati Foundation, which oversees nine buildings and one work of art included in the district, and Judd Foundation, which stewards six of the listed buildings.

The 15 buildings have been recognized for their association with the artist and for the modifications he made to them. Judd’s architectural interventions to elements such as the doors, windows and spatial divisions of the buildings were sympathetic to their existing character and histories, a core tenant of his approach to renovation. These buildings are notably joined by Judd’s 15 untitled works in concrete, permanently installed as part of the collection of the Chinati Foundation.

“This important recognition provides a context through which to understand Don’s work,” said Flavin Judd, artistic director of Judd Foundation. “Few people make their own world of art, design, and architecture. Even fewer leave that behind to be experienced by the public. Through this joint designation for Judd Foundation and the Chinati Foundation, we will continue our work for the historic preservation and future access of these sites.”

“We are honored that many of Donald Judd’s contributions to art and architecture, which we are



Courtyard, La Mansana de Chinati/The Block, Judd Foundation, Marfa, Texas.Photo:Alex Marks© Judd Foundation.Donald Judd Art © 2025 Judd Foundation / ArtistsRights Society (ARS), New York.Two-Story Building, La Mansana de Chinati/The Block, Judd Foundation, Marfa, Texas.Photo:Alex Marks© Judd Foundation.

fortunate to work among at the Chinati Foundation, have received this important distinction,” said Caitlin Murray, director of the Chinati Foundation. “Context is central to visitors’ experience of Chinati and Judd’s living and working spaces in Marfa, and this recognition heightens our shared awareness of

the conditions, histories, and environments that he considered when imagining the permanent installation of large-scale works of art.”

The Donald Judd Historic District expands the historical, architectural and cultural significance of Judd’s contributions within the City of Marfa, joining

the 11 buildings already associated with the artist in the Central Marfa Historic District. All buildings within the Donald Judd Historic District are located in structures associated with Fort D.A. Russell, an active military installment from 1911 to 1946. Fort D.A. Russell has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places since 2006, as it represents one of the most intact early 20th century military installations in Texas. At the Chinati Foundation, situated on the fort base, these include the Arena, the Artillery Sheds (which house Judd’s 100 untitled works in mill aluminum), the library, the print studio, exhibition spaces, and two unfinished concrete buildings designed by Judd. Six buildings stewarded by Judd Foundation are sited at La Mansana de Chinati/The Block, Judd’s primary residence in downtown Marfa, which was part of the original fort.

"Listing the Donald Judd Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places gives this special place the nationwide recognition it deserves," said Joseph Bell, executive director for the Texas Historical Commission. "Judd's legacy and cultural impact on Presidio County's heritage are well worth preserving for future generations to enjoy."

The Central Marfa Historic District comprises 183 contributing buildings and architectural resources concentrated near Marfa’s commercial core. The district builds on the current historic designations for Fort D.A. Russell, a military base that was active until shortly after World War II, and that of the Blackwell School, the only public institution built for the education of the Mexican American community of Marfa, which it served for more than 50 years.

The Donald Judd Historic District was recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the Texas Historical Commission in September 2024. It was added to the National Register in June 2025 by the National Park Service.

Kardashian gets authentic Donald Judd tables after lawsuit over alleged knockoffs is settled

By Travis Bubenik
Marfa Public Radio

An arts organization partly based in Marfa has settled its lawsuit against Kim Kardashian over claims the reality TV star promoted knockoff versions of the late artist Donald Judd’s minimalist tables and chairs.

The Judd Foundation reached the settlement deal with Kardashian and Los Angeles-based design firm Clements Design last month, according to court records.

Clements was accused of copying Judd’s designs when it built furniture for Kardashian’s skincare company office. In a now-deleted 2022 YouTube

video, Kardashian showed off the office and pointed out her “Donald Judd tables.” The Judd Foundation sued in early 2024, citing the video.

Full terms of the agreement were not disclosed, but the foundation and the design firm said in a joint statement that Clements had agreed to acknowledge the “rights inherent to Donald Judd’s furniture and art.”

The deal came with an apparent upside for Kardashian: she will now own the real deal.

“Clements Design’s client will now have authentic Donald Judd tables and chairs from Donald Judd Furniture LLC,” the statement said.

Both parties said they were “pleased” to have resolved the dispute. Attorneys for Kardashian did not respond to Marfa Public Radio’s request for comment.

In other Judd-related news, the two organizations that preserve the artist’s work and legacy – Judd Foundation and Chinati Foundation – announced Thursday the listing of the “Donald Judd Historic District” on the National Register of Historic Places.

The district includes 15 buildings owned by the two organizations in Marfa, all of them associated with the former Fort D.A. Russell military installation where the artist’s large-scale outdoor concrete works are housed.

The fort itself was listed on the register in 2006, and multiple other Judd-affiliated buildings in downtown Marfa were recognized in the establishment of the Central Marfa Historic District in 2022.

This story was originally published by Marfa Public Radio on June 5, 2025.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
June
12

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!

Taylor Smith
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Taylor Smith play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Pride Marfa - Mala Noche
Sunset at The Lumberyard
Film screen at The Lumberyard, bring your own chair. Not rated.

Fri
June
13

Pride Marfa - Zine Workshop
11am - 1pm at Bitter Sugar
A collaboration with Chinati Education, drop in, no skills required.

Pride Marfa - Queer Tea Party
11am - 1pm at Rule Gallery
Dress code: tea party chic, enjoy finger foods & tea.

Pride Marfa - Friday the 13th Dance Party 21+
7:30pm - 12am at Planet Marfa
Featuring DEATHBYNOIZE, jewels, Prepney, Salen Purchase and others!

Alpine Photo Weekend
5pm - 7pm at Museum of the Big Bend
Alpine Photo Weekend at The Museum of the Big Bend is June 13 & 14th. The opening reception of Finding the Light: Photography by Jim Bones is Friday June 13th from 5pm-7pm. \$15 admission for non-members.

Sat
June
14

Pride Marfa - Rave 21+
7:30pm - 1am at The Sentinel
Featuring Angel Doll, BabiDoll, Benny Q. Barker, FiSh the CLOWN, p1nkstar, Salem Purchase, Stephania Elegonza, DJ TOUGHASSPUTA, & XOY

Alpine Photo Weekend
5pm - 7pm at Museum of the Big Bend
Alpine Photo Weekend at The Museum of the Big Bend is June 13 & 14th. The opening reception of Finding the Light: Photography by Jim Bones is Friday June 13th from 5pm-7pm. \$15 admission for non-members.

Kevin Healy
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Kevin Healy play at The Ritchey!

PRIDE MARFA
JUNE 12TH - 15TH
Instagram: PrideMarfa

Sun
June
15

Pride Marfa: Drag Brunch
11am at El Cosmico
featuring Benny Q. Barker, Circe, jewels, FiSh the CLOWN, Prepney, Salem Purchase, Stephania Elegonza, DJ TOUGHASSPUTA.

Mia Valentini
6pm - 8pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Mia Valentini play at The Ritchey, no cover!

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Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Xbox Monday
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> and 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

Free Boxing at MAINTENANT
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By Sam Karas
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

After Friday's talk, part-time Marfan and attorney Dick DeGuerin offered a mea culpa to Garcia—he'd been on the legal team that had unsuccessfully attempted to remove Paxton from office. "I have to apologize to you personally that we failed to impeach Paxton," DeGuerin said.

My understanding of the Supreme Court's decision is that the Supreme Court did not address the question of the merits. In other words, the Supreme Court said they're not deciding the issue of whether or not Annunzio House is trafficking, smuggling and runs stash houses. That's an issue that goes back to the district court and then you litigate that on the merits and see what comes from that.

I understand their focus, however in another sense we're missing the point of this. When someone makes a decision to cross the Darien Gap [a dangerous

It also sidesteps the question of how we support efforts that would leave fewer people to leave their countries. Everyday, the second or third largest nationality [of people coming across the border] is Guatemalan. They're coming from Guatemala because they can't eat. What can we do to help the economy and help Guatemala so that people can earn the money they need to feed their families?

I think what is really important is for us to ask ourselves the question of value. I think most people are going to talk about the sacredness of human life. I just think we need to speak with each other more from the I and less from the you.

“The day begins with a keynote from Dr. William H. Robertson, a national leader in STEM education at the University of Texas at El Paso. His address, titled “Integrating Your Passion into STEM Education,” will focus on hands-

- STEM outreach by The Science Mill, an education partner based in

To learn more and register, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/science-of-stem-literacy/home>. For questions, email noyce@sulross.edu.

Rusk holds a Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health, a Master of Science in Global Health from Duke University, and a BA in English Literature and Language from Westmont College. She is a member of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and the Planetary Health Alliance, where she contributes to advancing global health education through experiential learning. For more information, email andria.rusk@sulross.edu.



The Marfa & Presidio County Museum is located at 110 W San Antonio and open every day from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is always free, but donations are encouraged.

The logo for FindARanchOutWest.com is displayed. It features a stylized tree on the left, the text 'FIND A RANCH' in a large, bold, serif font, and 'OUT WEST' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. To the right is the 'SUPERIOR Land Network' logo, which includes the word 'SUPERIOR' in a curved banner above a circular emblem containing silhouettes of people on horseback, with 'Land Network' written below.

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OBITUARIES



RAZO

Herminia Dominguez Razo, a beloved matriarch of the Razo family, was born on September 4, 1924, in Fort Davis, Texas. She gracefully departed this life on June 4, 2025, in Odessa, Texas, leaving behind a legacy rich with love, warmth and unforgettable memories.

Raised in the picturesque landscape of Jeff Davis County, Herminia

spent her formative years amidst the expansive ranches that framed her childhood. Her upbringing instilled in her a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature, which she carried into her adult life. As she grew older, she nurtured her passion for horticulture, cultivating a magnificent rose garden filled with blazing red roses. These blooms were not just flowers to her; they represented her love and connection to family and friends. With thoughtful generosity, she would often share rose petals, brightening the lives of those around her.

Herminia's culinary talents were equally renowned, particularly her skill in making the best asaderos in the county. An act of love in itself, she made it a point to come into Fort Davis and distribute her delectable orders, always saving a few for her family. Her kitchen was a gathering place, where the aroma of her cooking

filled the air, creating an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality.

She cherished her role as a mother and grandmother, an unwavering source of support and affection for her family. Herminia is survived by her devoted son, Secundino "Sonny" Razo, and two loving daughters, Elena Martinez and Teresa Razo Sailler. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren, Russell Christopher Sailler, Daniel William Martinez, and Yvonne Martinez, as well as her great-granddaughter, Maria Martinez. Each of them carries a piece of her spirit, treasured memories, and the lessons she imparted through her actions and love.

Herminia's departure leaves a profound void in the hearts of those who knew her, but her spirit will live on in the shared stories and the bonds she nurtured. She is now reunited in eternity with her beloved husband,

Secundino Razo Sr.; her father, Marcelo Dominguez; and her mother, Luciana Dominguez, who welcomed her with open arms.

A visitation will be held on June 11, 2025, beginning at 8 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Davis, followed by the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary at 9:30 a.m. and a Mass at 10 a.m. Herminia will be laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery after a burial service at 11:15 a.m.

As we gather to celebrate her remarkable life, may we remember Herminia's warmth, her radiant blooms, and the joy she brought into our lives. Forever will she be cherished in our hearts.

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



HERRERA

Lucy "Ity" Herrera was born and raised in Marfa, Texas, to Jose Olivas and Otilia Contreras on April 24, 1933. She married Jesus "Chuchi" M.

Herrera on November 16, 1952, and moved to Presidio, Texas, where they raised their three children, Martha Brummet, Graciela "Chely" Baeza, and Jesus "Junie" Herrera. She was a beloved grandmother and great-grandmother to 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She was the anchor of the family, filling us all with joy and cheer. She always received us with open arms or a shoulder to cry on, and of course, a home-cooked meal and a delicious dessert.

Ity passed away June 7, 2025, peacefully at home, leaving her family a void that will never be filled. We find comfort in knowing that her legacy lives on in the lessons that she

gave us and all the love she shared. The memories we have of her will be cherished forever.

Ity is preceded in death by her spouse, Jesus M. Herrera; her parents, Jose Olivas and Otilia Contreras; and her brother, Richard Olivas.

Ity is survived by her daughters, Martha H (Jerry) Brummett, Chely H (Salvador Jr.) Baeza; son Jesus Manuel Herrera aka Junie; siblings Jose (Prieto) Olivas, David C. Olivas, Imelda Santana, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Sesar H. Baeza, Jesus "Chuchi" Baeza, Sesar G. Baeza Jr., Salvador Emmanuel Baeza IV, Michael Santana, and

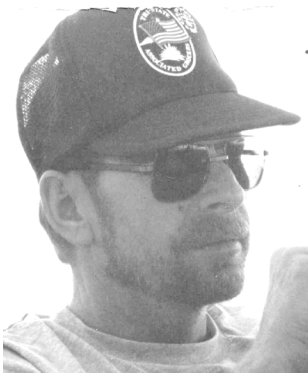
Jacob Reyes.

A Rosary will be held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Santa Teresa Church.

The Funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 9 a.m., also at Santa Teresa Church, with Father Mike Alcuino officiating. Burial will follow at Desert Hill Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Eternity Funeral Home, directed by Nancy A. Olvera.

The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the Presidio Police Department, Presidio County Sheriff's Office, EMS, J.P. Juanita Bishop, and Jose Soto, BSN, RN, FNP.



ANDERSON

Thomas Linden Anderson, a beloved husband, devoted father and cherished brother, passed away on June 5, 2025, in Alpine, Texas. He was born on June 26, 1948, and

gifted the world with his unwavering spirit for nearly 77 years.

A proud sheet metal worker by trade, Thomas exemplified the values of hard work and dedication throughout his career. He pursued his education diligently and earned his GED, laying the foundation for a life spent contributing his skills to many projects and providing for his family with pride. Thomas also served his country honorably in the Army, embodying the courageous spirit that defined his approach to life.

Beyond his professional commitments, Thomas had a zest for hobbies that enriched his life. His passion for woodworking and carpentry revealed his artistic side,

where he transformed raw materials into cherished pieces. His love for cars showcased his interests in mechanics, reflecting a curiosity that compelled him to learn and create.

Thomas is survived by his loving wife, Laurie E. Anderson, who stood by his side through thick and thin, sharing laughter and challenges alike. He is also survived by his son, Spencer Anderson, who carries forward his father's legacy with pride and a heart full of cherished memories. As a brother, Thomas leaves behind his dear sisters, Linda Lewis Anderson and Sandy Zimmerman, who will forever hold dear the times shared and the love exchanged.

Thomas is preceded in death

by his father, Lindon Anderson; his mother, Flora Anderson; his stepfather, Don Teschendorf; and his brother, Pete Anderson. The love they shared remains a guiding light, a reminder of the bonds that transcend time.

As we remember Thomas Linden Anderson, let us celebrate a life well-lived, a heart that embraced every moment, and a spirit that will continue to inspire. His legacy lives on in the stories he told, the laughter he shared, and the love he fostered in those around him. Take a moment to reflect on the beauty of his life and the remarkable impact he left on the hearts of his family and friends. He will be profoundly missed but forever remembered.

Dear friends,

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that our beloved Chef Allison Jenkins passed away suddenly on Saturday night. She had a pulmonary embolism caused by a massive blood clot. There are no words with which to describe the immensity of this loss and the hole that is left in our hearts and our community. She will be dearly missed.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and for the many beautiful memories we have created over these past years with Chef Allison. It is these memories and the food that stands at their center that will keep her spirit with us always.

Arroyo Vina Restaurant and wine shop
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Editor's note: Allison was the first chef at the Hotel St. George.



Looking to place an obituary?
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

July 6, 2000

Council won't withhold hotel/ motel tax from chamber

By Jake Silverstein

MARFA — At a boisterous meeting last Thursday the city council agreed to turn over funds issuing from the hotel/motel tax to the Marfa Chamber of Commerce. At the council's last meeting, Mayor Fritz Kahl proposed that the city withhold the funds, which are normally granted to the chamber to cover operating expenses, and launch a city-run tourism and commerce board.

The mayor's proposal did not call directly for the abolishment of the chamber, but it certainly hinted at a profoundly diminished role in community affairs, and when members of the much-maligned chamber showed up in great numbers at Thursday's meeting it wasn't to hear the council recite the newly-instated Pledge to the Texas Flag

"The chamber operates under a contract with the city to promote tourism," said chamber Vice President Dan Petrosky. "We have not been granted the tax funds, and we need them to do our job. That is the prime issue here." Almost immediately, the argument turned to the particulars. City Controller Leo Salgado explained the pay schedule to the chamber members, and told them just how much money, roughly \$2,600, was at stake.

City Administrator Miguel Sandoval argued that the city had made overtures to the chamber that were rebuffed. "We've extended ourselves for the chamber more than we would for anyone else," Sandoval said. "We get calls from the phone company and the utilities all the time about unpaid bills. We've offered to help and been turned away, so finally we turned off the utilities."

As it turned out, a last ditch payment kept the utilities on, but unpaid bills have long since become a common sight at the chamber.

Ever since former chamber Manager Dennis James allegedly absconded with an estimated \$11,000 in chamber funds, and several members and officers resigned, the organization has been down, if not yet out.

In light of these difficulties, the city's proposal to withhold funds had chamber members alarmed.

"It seems that there's some serious head-butting going on with the city," Petrosky complained.

Sandoval tried to explain that the city was only trying to make sure that important events normally placed in the care of the chamber, such as the Marfa Lights Festival, were not botched due to the unstable situation.

"This is not Miguel Sandoval saying. 'Let's just get rid of the chamber,'" Sandoval said. "We have a responsibility to look after these events."

"Our concern is with the accountability of those funds," said Councilman Bob Wright, sitting in as mayor pro-tem for Kahl, who could not attend the meeting.

Yet sheer outrage and open desperation overwhelmed Wright's concern, and the council agreed to turn the funds in question over to the chamber. There was only one catch—the council demanded full payment of outstanding city bills upon receipt of the funds.

Petrosky agreed to this clause. "We'll take Mr. Petrosky's word, because he doesn't have his checkbook," Councilmember Gloria Rivera quipped.

Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask you for this very special one (mention favor). Take it dear Jesus and place it without your own broken heart where your father sees it, then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favor will be granted. Never known to fail.



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OJINAGA — This week the Presidio County Democrats traveled to Ojinaga to drop off donations to the Ojinaga Migrant Center.

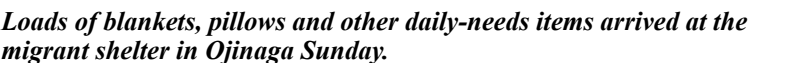
The group collected and donated bedding, clothing and children's games. The Presbyterian Church in Marfa prepared toiletry bags and personal items for men and women. The shelter is still in need of pampers, walkers and school supplies. Leaders of the Presidio Democrats, Ramon Aranda and Hilary Scruggs Beebe, extended gratitude to everyone who has donated supplies so far.

"We'd like to cordially thank all the people in the communities and volunteers who donated to this effort," Aranda wrote. "As we come together we demonstrate our unity and solidarity to our values. Without them, this would not be possible. Many people donated from around our beautiful county."

Aranda and Beebe met with shelter leaders as well as Ojinaga Mayor Lucy Marrufo Acosta when they made the donation drop off and heard more about the shelter's mission and immediate needs. They also signed a "letter of collaboration" with the city. "We are proud to extend our hand in friendship and share responsibility," the letter reads. "The challenges faced by migrants are immense — and it is in these moments that communities on both sides of the border must come together not with fear or division, but with kindness and cooperation."

The Ojinaga Migrant Center provides everything from medical care to therapy for all ages. Most of the migrants they are currently seeing are unaccompanied minors, Aranda said. Children often linger at the shelter the longest due to the immigration processes they go through.

Beebe said the shelter is hoping to finish some construction projects during this time of a decrease in migrations. The shelter needs to install eight mini-split air conditioners. The women's dorm has no air conditioning at all. If anyone is willing to donate to the cause please reach out to the Presidio Democrats at blue@presidiocountydemocraticparty.org.



Gov. Greg Abbott announced late Tuesday that he would deploy Texas National Guard troops across the state in anticipation of protests against federal deportation raids.

In a social media post, Abbott said the troop deployments were intended to “ensure peace & order.”

“Peaceful protest is legal. Harming a person or property is illegal & will lead to arrest,” the governor said. He did not specify where the National Guard would be sent.

The news comes amid demonstrations against immigration raids that started in Los Angeles last week and have spread across the country, including to Texas. On Monday evening, hundreds of protesters gathered in downtown Austin for a march that ended in the arrest of 13 people and police firing tear gas into a portion of the crowd that refused to leave.

Over the weekend, President Donald Trump deployed 2,000 California National Guard troops to Los Angeles in response to protests there, doing so without permission from Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat who appointed the state guard’s adjutant general. Newsom responded by accusing Trump of choosing “theatrics over public safety” and blaming him for escalating the “chaos and violence” that unfolded.

California officials on Monday sued the Trump administration in a bid to halt the deployment, calling it an “unprecedented usurpation of state authority and resources.”

Andrew Mahaleris, an Abbott spokesperson,



Gov. Greg Abbott speaks to law enforcement officials during a Southern Border Coalition event in Austin on April 29, 2025.

confirmed Wednesday that Texas National Guard soldiers “are on standby in areas where mass demonstrations are planned in case they are needed.”

“Peaceful protests are part of the fabric of our nation, but Texas will not tolerate the lawlessness we have seen in Los Angeles,” Mahaleris said in a statement. “Anyone engaging in acts of violence or damaging property will be swiftly held accountable to the full extent of the law.”

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus confirmed that Abbott has sent National Guard members to the city, but there are no additional details yet.

There are “No Kings” protests planned for Saturday in over two dozen Texas cities, including Houston, Austin, Lubbock and Longview. The title of the events — organized by the progressive group Indivisible — is meant to signal opposition to what the organizers see as Trump’s authoritarian actions. Immigrant Families and Students in the Fight, known as FIEL, is also planning a “Chant Down the Walls” protest in Houston on Friday.

To prepare, the Harris County Sheriff’s Office is “coordinating with area public safety partners” to ensure that the demonstrations on Saturday will play out without endangering the public, the agency said in a statement.

“Harris County has a long history of people exercising their right to protest peacefully while respecting opposing viewpoints, and I fully expect Saturday’s demonstrations to continue that legacy,” Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in the statement.

Austin Mayor Kirk Watson said he is “supportive of people exercising their right to engage in peaceful protest against politics and policies that they disagree with. However, destructive actions or efforts to hurt police is wrong.”

“Much of what we see out of Washington is to create fear and chaos — we should not play into these politics of fear,” Watson, a Democrat, said in a statement. “Adding to the chaos — through destruction of property, hurting other people, including police officers, or otherwise — adds to the problems for those people being targeted while empowering those in Washington who want more pain and chaos.”

This article first ran in The Texas Tribune on June 11.

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.



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