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Immigration raids, arrests disrupt businesses and immigrant families

“I’m scared to death to leave my house.”

By Cindy Carcamo, Dianne Solis, and Alfredo Corchado

SANTA ANA, Calif. — At Hector’s Mariscos restaurant in this heavily Latino and immigrant city, sales of Mexican seafood have slid. Seven tables would normally be full, but diners sit at only two this Tuesday afternoon.

“I haven’t seen it like this since COVID,” manager Lorena Marin said in Spanish as cumbia music played on loudspeakers. A U.S. citizen, Marin even texted customers she was friendly with, encouraging them to come in.

“No, I’m staying home,” a customer texted back. “It’s really screwed up out there with all of those immigration agents.”

Increasing immigrant arrests in California have begun to gut-punch the economy and wallets of immigrant families and beyond. In some cases, immigrants with legal status and even U.S. citizens have been swept into President Donald Trump’s dragnet.

The 2004 fantasy film *A Day Without a Mexican* — chronicling what would happen to California if Mexican immigrants disappeared — is fast becoming real-life weeks without Mexicans and many other immigrants. The implications are stark for many, both economically and personally.

“We are now seeing a very significant shift toward enforcement at labor sites where people are working,” said Andrew Selee, president of the non-partisan Migration Policy Institute. “Not a focus on people with criminal records, but a focus on people who are deeply integrated in the American economy.”

In California, immigrant workers comprise bigger shares of certain industries than they do for the nation overall. Here, the foreign-born make up 62% of agriculture labor and 42% of construction workers, according to the American Immigration Council. Some 85% of sewing machine operators in garment factories are foreign-born. Fully 40% of entrepreneurs are foreign-born.

Nationally, about a fourth of workers are foreign-born in agriculture and construction, according to the American Immigration Council. More than half of drywall hangers, plasterers and stucco masons are foreign-born. And in science-technology-engineering-and-math, so-called STEM fields, nearly a quarter of workers are foreign-born, said the American Immigration Council.

The current enforcement trend, Selee said, will “lead to a strategy that will have big economic implications

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Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Protesters gathered in Alpine on Saturday for the small Brewster County town’s edition of the nationwide “No Kings” protest against the Trump administration. One man was arrested in the final minutes of the protest, prompting many to question law enforcement’s response to the incident.

‘No Kings’ protest in Alpine ends in 1 arrest

By Sam Karas
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ALPINE — A protest in Alpine over the weekend against the Trump administration came and went mostly without incident. Around 150 people gathered on the Brewster County Courthouse lawn, holding signs and waving to oncoming traffic.

In the last 10 minutes, a vintage Dodge with a camper shell circled the block a handful of times, bearing a “Trump Train” flag and yelling homophobic slurs at the crowd, according to numerous witnesses. A video posted on social media appears to show their last pass down the road, when a protester stuck their flag into the right lane, striking the windshield of the truck and injuring

a man concealed in the gap between the bed and the camper shell.

The Brewster County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) arrested the man with the flagpole, a part-time tri-county resident, on assault and criminal mischief charges just a few minutes later. The crowd dispersed peacefully, but it left many on the scene with mixed emotions: how could the situation have been handled differently? Was talking about it at all detracting from the message of the event?

Saturday’s demonstration in Alpine was a part of the nationwide “No Kings” protest, which intentionally coincided with President Trump’s birthday and a taxpayer-funded \$45 million military parade in D.C. to celebrate the 250th anniversary of

the United States Army. Some counts estimate between four and six million people attended protests around the world, and the event could prove to be the largest single-day protest in American history.

The planned protest followed a week of spontaneous uprising in Los Angeles against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which had been conducting raids around the city. The protests reflect a growing anti-ICE sentiment around the country, ranging on a spectrum from discomfort with immigration raids taking place in courthouses and schools to a call for total abolition of the 22-year-old government agency. (A Reuters poll taken this Monday suggests that more Americans disapprove rather than approve of the

Trump administration’s handling of immigration policy, marking a major shift.)

Folks showing up to No Kings protests around the country also woke up Saturday morning to news that a Democrat in the Minnesota legislature had been assassinated and another wounded. The gunman, Vance Boelter, was later discovered to have a “hit list” of 45 elected Democrats.

The result was palpable unease. *The Big Bend Sentinel* attended Saturday’s event and spoke to people in the crowd, many of whom didn’t want their images taken or their names recorded, citing numerous cases of people being deported or otherwise disappeared in recent

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P&Z denies application for AEP rezone

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — The City of Marfa Planning and Zoning (P&Z) commission voted last week to deny an application from American Electric Power (AEP) to rezone a property from residential to industrial. The proposal now heads to City Council members, who have the ultimate say on whether or not the rezone can occur.

The proposal — which involves erecting a new much larger substation on a current residential lot on Oak and Aparejo streets catty-corner to the existing station — was the subject of two public hearings

earlier this spring, where input from an AEP public affairs manager and Marfa residents was heard. The existing station, which supplies the City of Marfa with power, is routinely operating over capacity and is in sore need of an upgrade, according to AEP. Opponents of the project argued the addition of a massive substation would permanently damage an otherwise peaceful residential neighborhood.

On Thursday, P&Z voted unanimously — with four out of five members present — to deny the application for a rezone and approve their report on the matter, which will next be heard by members of the City Council. “We’ve just found,

from the P&Z perspective, that we couldn’t support it, but all our official statements will be in the report,” said P&Z Chairman Chick Rabourn.

The P&Z report includes board members recommendations and public input received on the proposal. City Council will now vote whether or not to accept the report, likely at its June 26 meeting, then will schedule a public hearing and ultimately vote on whether or not to approve or deny the request.

The Big Bend Sentinel asked for a copy of the P&Z report, but Rabourn deferred to other city officials on whether or not it can be made public before it is heard by the

City Council. (*The Sentinel* has also submitted an open records request for the document but did not receive a copy by press time.)

Don Richards, an attorney who works with the Freedom of Information Foundation Texas, said the report is clearly public record because it was voted on in a public meeting and used for a policy decision. “That doesn’t even sound like a close call unless there’s something I don’t know about,” he said. “If it’s something that the governmental body relied upon, then yes, it’s gotta be made public. And it’s not an internal memo — that ‘internal’ went out the door once it’s voted on by the governmental body.”

‘Foreign terrorist organizations are lying to you’: The Sentinel visits the National Defense Area

By Sam Karas
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EL PASO — Last Wednesday, Customs and Border Protection hosted a press conference on the border between El Paso and Juárez, offering reporters a closer look at what the federal government has dubbed the “National Defense Area,” an experimental new way of deterring people from crossing the border illegally. All the way from the beaches of San Diego to the fields around Fort Hancock, Texas, property transfers have allowed the Department of Defense to claim a small strip of land — in places

just 60 feet wide — underneath the border between the United States and Mexico.

As a result, migrants can now be charged with criminal trespass on military property in addition to other state and federal charges they may be facing. Advocates also worry that it’s a loophole for the government to skirt the Posse Comitatus Act, using soldiers who can legally proclaim that they’re just securing military property to illegally enforce domestic law.

In a statement, Rebecca Sheff, senior staff attorney at the ACLU of New Mexico, referred to the program as “Operation Lone Star

on steroids,” referring to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s controversial and expensive border security funding blitz. “We don’t want militarized zones where border residents — including U.S. citizens — face potential prosecution simply for being in the wrong place,” she wrote. “This dangerous expansion of military authorities threatens both our civil liberties and the cultural fabric that makes our borderlands unique.”

Earlier this year, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt teased “over 90 miles” of NDAs in Texas. Because of the way that Texas was annexed into the Union,

thousands of individual landowners own pieces of the border, making a contiguous NDA across the whole state difficult to impossible. (A representative from the Department of Defense told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that gaps in the NDAs or plans to expand existing NDAs in Texas are not yet set in stone.)

As the first indictments for National Defense Area (NDA) violations make their way through federal courts along the border, lawyers and judges alike have expressed confusion about how to interpret the new regulations. (As previously reprinted in *The Sentinel*,

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Alpine City Council talks city manager next steps

By Mary Cantrell
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ALPINE — Alpine City Council members met this week to discuss how to move forward with filling the now-vacant city manager position following the resignation of Megan Antrim on June 4. Antrim quit the day after her employment and performance was discussed in open session — at her request — in a council meeting, citing a lack of council objectivity regarding her evaluation.

On Tuesday, Mayor Catherine Eaves stated in her mayor’s report that there was nothing “underhanded” or “sneaky” about council’s actions that night and they had every right to discuss Antrim’s contract, which was set to expire soon, and introduce an employee survey as an evaluation tool. Eaves said she wanted to make it clear that Antrim was not fired, but resigned, and told council she was “suffering from burnout” and decided to take a step back.

In light of recent events, Eaves said she also wanted to ensure city employees were aware that there are open lines of communication between them and city council members. (It was previously stated in the June 3 council meeting that city employee morale was extremely low.)

According to the city charter, she said, council members can talk to city employees but cannot give direct orders like “fix that pothole or inspect that house” — that role lies with the city manager. “Council can talk to employees,” Eaves said. “They can ask you, ‘How are things going? What can I do to make your job easier?’”

Council voted last week to appoint City Secretary Geo Calderon as the interim city manager while the search for Antrim’s replacement gets underway. Calderon and council members discussed edits to the job description on Tuesday, analyzing the one used to hire Antrim in 2021 as well as a newer one that was generated as a part of the city’s recent compensation study.

While the newer job description included the minimum qualification of a Master’s degree in public administration and seven years of experience, Eaves and other council members indicated that they would like to loosen requirements and cast a wider net.

“You have quite capable individuals who have possibly run other city governments or school districts or nonprofit organizations that handle a multimillion dollar budget that will not have a Master’s degree in public administration,” Eaves said. “I feel like we’re shooting ourselves in the foot, if we require [that].”

Councilmember Robert Rückes agreed, stating that people with that level of experience are more likely to be attracted to a bigger-city role. Councilmember Rick Stephens recommended a minimum requirement of a college degree, in any subject, in addition to three to five years of public administration or municipal government experience. Many agreed being bilingual was also greatly preferred.

Eaves advocated for similar municipal government experience like leadership roles at nonprofit organizations and school districts to count towards minimum qualifications, with Stephens ultimately agreeing.

“I just don’t think this is a training ground for someone to go run a \$17 million, 100 employee business,” Stephens said. “I’ve just seen too many try and fail with all the right heart and attention. I think we need a barrier that says they’ve actually run something. So if you want to say, not-for-profit, school district, fine

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‘No Kings’ protest

(Continued from page 1)

weeks for expressing dissident viewpoints. True to Alpine’s borderland roots, many of the signs called for immigration reform — one protester wanted to “Melt ICE” and another called for compassion for migrants in Spanish.

Clifton Ladd was happy to talk about his sign, which read: “THANK YOU US ARMY, NO KINGS SINCE 1775.” “I didn’t want the demonstration to take away from the fact that this is the 250th anniversary of the formation of the U.S. Army,” he explained. “That’s a pretty major thing — I don’t like that Trump wanted to somehow hijack this and make it about him and his birthday.”

Ladd stayed at the protest through the end of the event and witnessed the arrest. He felt that the incident was not unprovoked — he and the rest of the crowd saw the red Dodge drive by several times, hurling insults and driving dangerously close to the parking lane, where many of the protesters were standing.

He wasn’t sure why law enforcement waited to respond until after someone got hurt. “I don’t want to think that the sheriff was somehow politically motivated to sit back and let things happen — I have felt for a long time that the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office is very professional,” he said. “They do a really good job, but it’s been hard for me to reconcile Saturday’s inaction from what I had previously perceived as their professionalism.”

Katie Cruger-Keenan, a local artist and businesswoman, said that the young men in the red truck weren’t the first to try to get a rise out of the crowd — there was a woman in a “Make America Great Again” hat weaving through the throngs, filming people. At one point, the woman got uncomfortably close to Cruger-Keenan’s husband, and she had to make a split-second decision about how to de-escalate the situation. “With everything that’s been going on, we were a little bit scared to be honest,” she said. “We were all tense, but we were trying to focus on our goal for the day, which was getting the message out.”

Cruger-Keenan took a video of Sheriff Ronny Dodson leading the three men inside the truck into the courthouse while the crowd cheered in the background. She thought the situation had been handled — until she saw the department’s Facebook post later that evening, which



Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Protesters outside the Brewster County Courthouse wave to oncoming traffic along Avenue E at Saturday’s “No Kings” protest in Alpine.

quickly garnered over 300 comments, mostly from angry pro-Trump locals wishing harm upon the protesters. “It antagonized an entire town to be violent,” she said. “That’s the opposite of what you’re supposed to be doing as a police officer.”

“It was obvious what they were trying to do — they’re trying to be like, ‘Oh, these crazy liberals, they don’t love their country,’” Cruger-Keenan continued. “That’s the opposite of the truth.”

Sheriff Dodson said that stoking an online flame war wasn’t his intent, only that he’d gotten numerous media

inquiries about the protest and wanted to put basic information online as soon as possible. He said that his department hadn’t had any communication with the organizers of the event, so they weren’t sure what to expect — all they had to go on was the media coverage of protests in other parts of the country, which had prompted some Republican governors — like Texas’s own Greg Abbott — to pre-emptively call in the military.

In Brewster County, a permit to gather on the courthouse lawn is only needed if the event is expected to attract over 500 people, so no commissioners or other

county staff were advised that the protest was going to take place. “We just accidentally saw it on Facebook the week before,” Dodson said.

At past protests, Dodson’s department — alongside the Alpine Police Department — has offered cruiser escorts and officers on the ground, but without an official invitation, they weren’t sure how to proceed. (In some protest movements, tipping off or involving the police in any way is controversial.) “I didn’t want to go down there and make it look like I thought it was something bad,” he said. “So we were all in the courthouse, watching the cameras.”

Dodson said he was more conservative in his approach compared to some of his colleagues — one agency wanted to bring in personnel with riot gear, but that proposal got shot down. Some locals had asked if they could organize a counter-protest across the street, but he told them he didn’t think it was the best idea.

While the Alpine protest was branded as a “No Kings” protest in solidarity with over 2,000 similar events around the country and attended by people with local party affiliations, no one organization claimed the role of official host. Holly Blankenship, an Alpine mom involved with the Brewster County Democrats, said that she’d like to see more communication with local officials moving forward. “I’m sure there’s going to be another protest,” she said. “My personal goal is to have more involvement with the community and to have more of a conversation with county and city officials and have them help as well, so we don’t have incidents like what happened on Saturday.”

Shane O’Neal, representing 53-year-old Craig Andrew Campbell — the man facing charges — said that his client didn’t mean to hurt anyone. “Mr. Campbell was peacefully participating in a protest,” O’Neal said. “What he regrets more than anything is that this story is detracting from the message that he and others were advocating for, which is that the Trump administration is disregarding the law and is using power in a way that is going unchecked.”

The Sentinel also spoke with the family of the alleged victim, who did not want to be named or quoted but confirmed the account reported in public records by the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office.

Adobe-making workshop Saturday in Marfa

MARFA — The Friends of the Ruidosa Church hosts an adobe-making day in Marfa on Saturday, June 21, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 800 E Galveston, Marfa. (Take the dirt road back to Joey Benton’s yard at the intersection of Galveston and S. Aparejo.)

Learn traditional adobe techniques and help preserve the historic Ruidosa Church. No experience needed — just bring water, sun protection, and wear work clothes. The

event is free and open to all, including children.

All bricks made will be used in the next phase of restoration of the adobe church, which was a foundation of community life on the Rio Grande in Ruidoso, about 37 miles west of Presidio. For more information on the project, see www.ruidosachurch.org or email ruidosachurch@gmail.com

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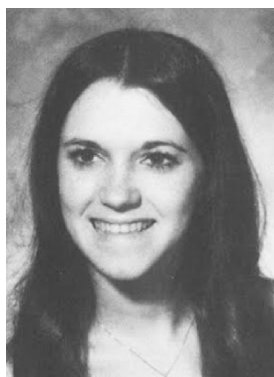
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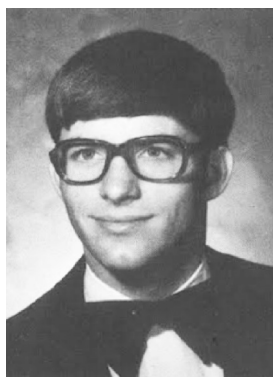
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Valedictorian



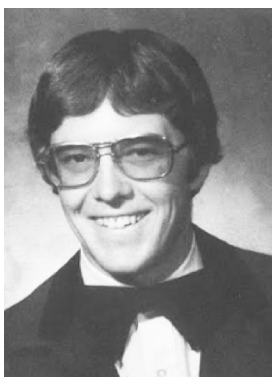
Alicia Baeza
Salutatorian

Graduation: May 22, 1975
Carl Robinson, Superintendent
Gene Odell, Principal

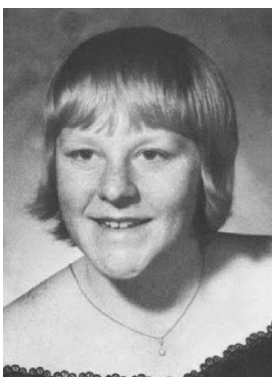
Patti Self: 92.83 GPA
Alicia Baeza: 92.08 GPA



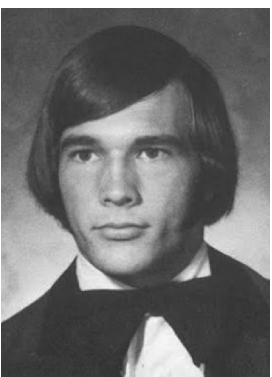
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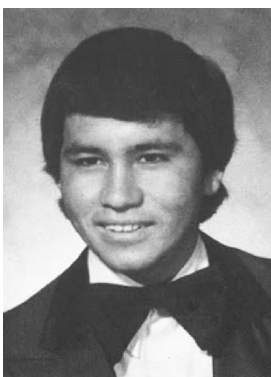
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**Wayne
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Frank Canava



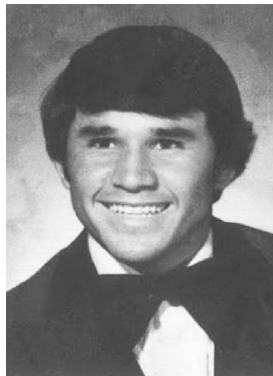
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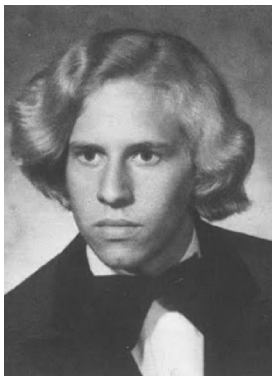
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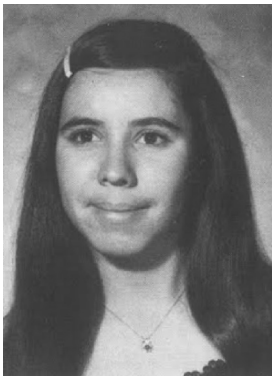
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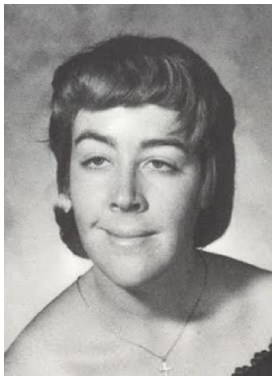
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Bill Fellows



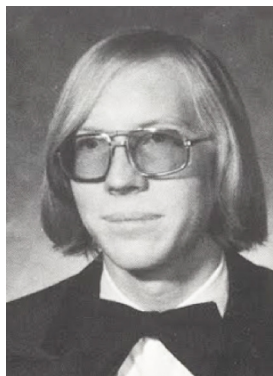
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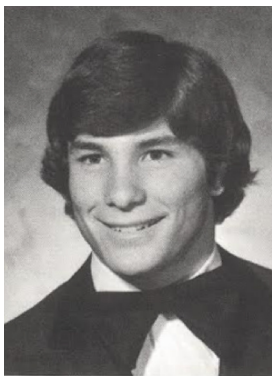
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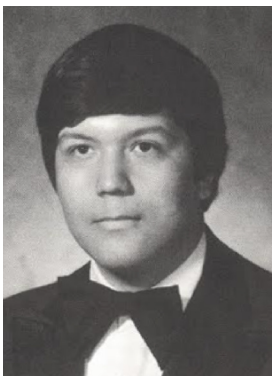
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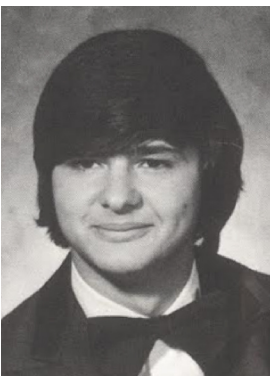
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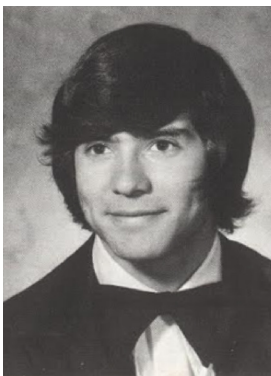
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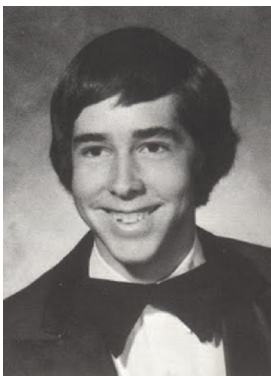
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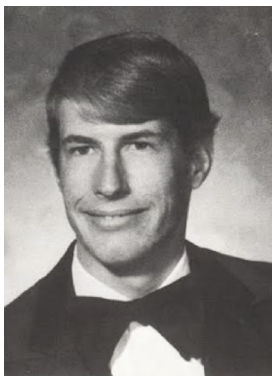
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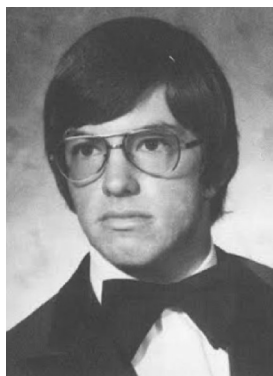
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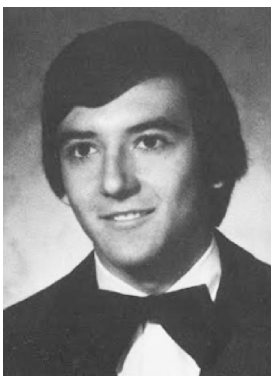
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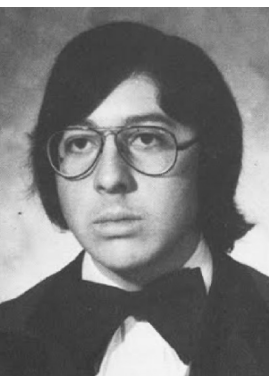
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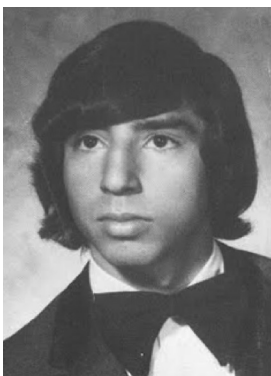
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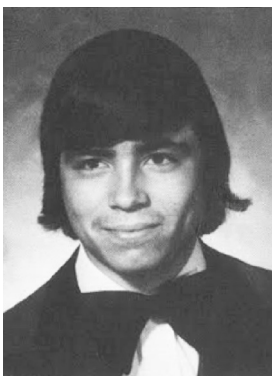
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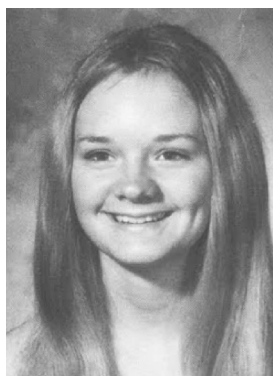
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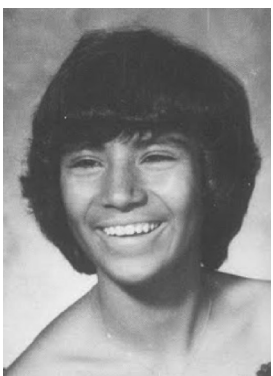
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Allison Ryan



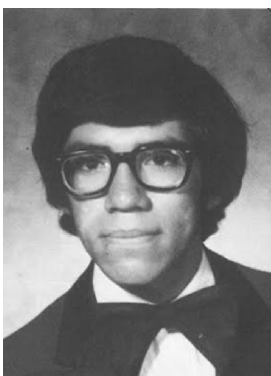
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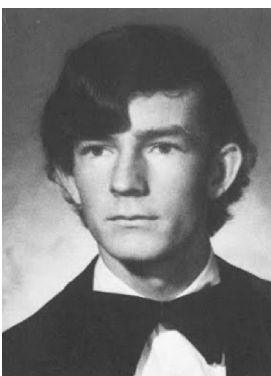
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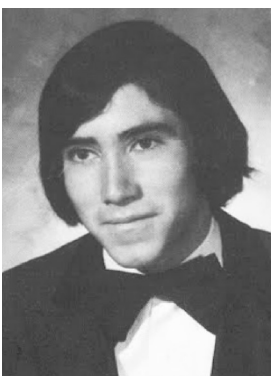
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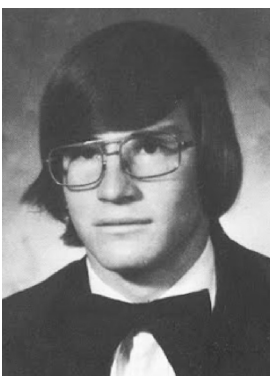
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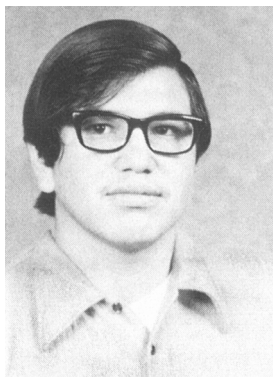
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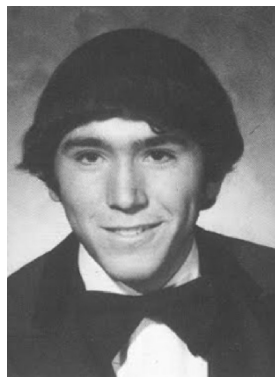
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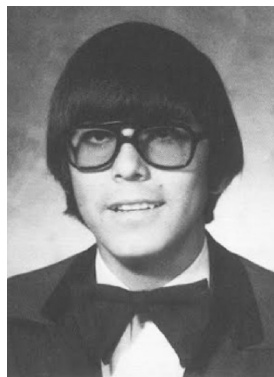
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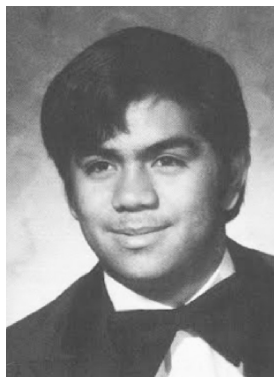
**Mario
Valenzuela**



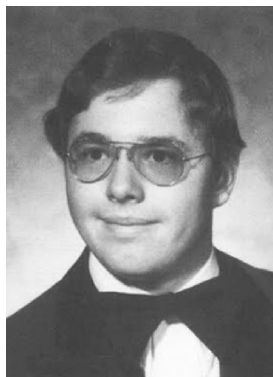
**Benny
Villarreal**



**Eddie
Villarreal**



**Oscar
Villanueva**



**McMinn
White**

Opinion

No Kings?! The line of kings who rule Arabia has been continuous since Ibn Saud beheaded 40,000 of the opposition party as he slaughtered his way to power in the early 1930s, and most recently his country sliced and diced a journalist who entered the Saudi embassy in Istanbul to pick up a marriage license.

During the same 1930s time frame, the American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt tried to illegally expand and stack the Supreme Court. The American system of government held him in check.

Nothing but regime change, usually violent, holds kings in check. In 1953 the democratically elected leader of Iran was overthrown by a CIA operation led by Kermit Roosevelt, the grandson of Teddy, who installed a king, the shah of Iran. This came back to bite us in 1979 when the first ayatollah overthrew not just the shah but a secular nation-state and installed an Islamic Republic in its place.

That “republic” selects its ayatollahs in secrecy. A four-man “Assembly of Experts” selects each successive ayatollah, the acknowledged “supreme leader,” for life. The Assembly of Experts is in turn selected by an 88-man Guardian Council which is appointed by the sitting ayatollah. It is a closed system that “elects” the next ayatollah.

The ayatollah’s supreme function is to promulgate the destruction of Israel, the United States and with it, all of Western Civilization. To do so fulfills one school’s interpretation of the Quran. My own interpretation is that Muhammad’s original preaching was about Islam displacing all other religions on the Arabian Peninsula, which has already been accomplished, hence there is no need for more violence.

So, I agree with everyone who wishes for a time when there are no kings. Israel is currently destroying the trappings of kingly power in Iran — the nuclear facilities in which the ayatollah has been gathering his kingly might.

What’s that, you say? There was a no-kings protest against the American president. I didn’t know that. That’s what elections are for, and we just had one. I voted for this. How did I come up with the “No Kings” title if I didn’t know about the protest? Why, I was walking along the seashore when I innocently happened upon an artistic arrangement of seashells, spelling “No” with brown shells and “Kings” with black shells.

Can I verify this, you ask? Of course I can!
You say there’s no ocean in West Texas? Of course there is!
Ask the FBI. It has lots of experience at painstakingly ferreting out truths and not rushin’ to collusions like yours.

Rex Redden
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Friday, July 4th

8:00 am

Jeff Davis County Park

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- We have limited staff capacity to fact check unsubstantiated claims, so letters that include those may be held or remain unpublished if information is not easily verifiable.
- We may reach out to ask questions and verify the identity of the sender. We do not run letters anonymously unless the sender is privately identified and has a reasonable claim to anonymity.
- We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff

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

JUDD



An artist’s notes on the Marfa Invitational Open

By John Davis

This article was originally published by Glasstire, the nonprofit online publication for art in Texas, on June 16, 2025. You can read and subscribe to Glasstire at glasstire.com.

MARFA — The 2025 Marfa Invitational brought together a wide array of Texas artists in a panoramic and luminous desert setting. This year’s show differed from past iterations, where select, established galleries had been invited to participate. For 2025, the name changed to the Marfa Invitational Open, the last word in the title suggesting it was opening up to artists, not galleries, who are directly connected to Texas. The show had its moments — both impressive and underwhelming — and raised some questions about organization, transparency, and artist support. This article aims to provide insight for future participants, especially as the Invitational prepares to produce a new fair in Santa Fe this fall.

Here are some things to be aware of:
During the application process in the winter of 2025, the Marfa Invitational website did not provide basic information about the MI Open. There were some beautiful pictures of work in the rural desert of Marfa and text about its vision and what had been accomplished in the past, however if you were looking for necessary info, such as dates, directions for the application process, or even what it was about (a 10-day art fair), the website did not provide it. The essential information provided to artists was largely done through email, which one received after applying and paying the fee. Since the winter, the website has undergone some updates. However, as of June 2025, information about the upcoming Invitational in Santa Fe (this October) has yet to be shared on the MI website.

Should you apply (through an online platform), be aware that for the spring 2025 event the application fee was \$75, which is not insubstantial but not a deal breaker. For the inaugural MI Open, those who got in (about 170 people) were initially asked to pay an additional \$150 for preparators to hang their work. This created quite a stir, and an online witch hunt ensued of many angry emails that quickly culminated, in a day or two, in the organization removing the second fee to keep the peace and the fair moving forward. Regarding transparency, the second fee should have been posted as part of the initial application as a courtesy to applying artists, but the website didn’t provide information about fees.

For the artists that did choose to move forward (some bowed out), here is what they got: there was a single hall rented out with tan walls that went up about eight feet high. The walls were not white, a problem for some artworks executed in bright and/or dark colors that would have benefited from the contrast. The hall was divided into a large central area that took up over half of the space, a front area with less space, and a back area that was the narrowest. The interior walls of the building displayed a few large pieces.

The fair used a salon-style presentation to accommodate the vast number of artworks selected. If your art was in the center or on the side walls, you may have been pleased with the appearance of the work. The larger 2D works and

sculptures maintained visual acuity because of their scale. In the front and back rooms, the spacing was more compressed, with smaller paintings hung far too tightly together, stacked one on top of another. More room would’ve helped, and a more intentional curator’s eye could’ve made a big difference.

I don’t think it is unreasonable to state that there were too many artists to pull together a cohesive vision or point to a regional aesthetic. Perhaps the show was done with the idea of an egalitarian, democratic attitude toward Texan art. Except, how does anyone stand out among 150 other artists? They don’t. Which leads into the next issue.

The organizers did not provide individual wall labels with the requisite information of an artist’s name, title, medium, date, etc. To find out who made what, a QR code was provided that delivered a sprawling list; however, connecting an artist with their work was nearly impossible, as this could only be done by scrolling through a spreadsheet, on a phone, of about 135 names.

Artists cannot sell work if collectors don’t know who they are, and let’s face it, that’s a big part of what art fairs are about. Without a name next to your work, people can’t find you online or follow you on social media to see what else you are doing. This greatly inhibits the ability to network. The only way people knew who made what was by artists being there and pointing to their work, saying, “that’s mine.” This oversight is unprofessional and puts artists at a disadvantage.

A quick note on shipping: if your work is relatively small and lightweight using UPS or FedEx is okay. However, anything easel-sized or bigger will leave your bank account significantly lighter; two medium-sized paintings can easily cost over \$500, one way. Your best bet is to participate in a community crating service (someone takes the lead in transporting art from a given city) if you wish to be efficient with money and time. If you have the time to drive the work down and think that’s a fun idea (which is not a bad way to go if the work is large), enjoy the ride and the scenery.

In full disclosure, which by now may be obvious: I did participate in the MI Open. I had a great time seeing the fair, meeting people, and learning what Marfa has to offer. One of the best things about the MI Open was the outdoor sculpture park, which boasts a handful of interesting works plunked onto the desert floor, looking like a modern-day site for ritualistic activity or a place to throw the next Burning Man festival. In addition, the town had several events that coincided with the MI Open, such as gallery openings (including the colossal Max Hetzler gallery) and open studios by local artists. There was work on display by Christopher Wool and, of course, the Chinati Foundation, which has pioneering installations by Donald Judd and company. Plus, and this cannot be overstated, the magnificent skylines that are the town’s trademark.

Here’s hoping for greater things that Texas artists can feel good about at future Marfa Invitational Opens. Artists probably won’t get white walls, but if the website can be updated more promptly, the roster reduced to something more curatorially manageable, labels for the artworks provided, and if the show can be more in service of the artists, it would make all the difference for an art fair that is worthy but needs better organizing and greater transparency.

The Marfa Invitational Open was on view from May 15 through May 26 in the city’s Saint George Hall building.

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Attendees enjoy last week’s potluck hosted by the Jeff Davis County Food Pantry.

Jeff Davis County food pantry hosts monthly potluck

FORT DAVIS — Last Wednesday, the Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County hosted the county’s monthly potluck for staff, fire department, and elected officials. The potluck provided an opportunity for local leaders and pantry staff to connect, share ideas, and strengthen community partnerships.

“This potluck embodies our motto, ‘Neighbors Feeding Neighbors,’ by bringing people together around a common table,” said Vicki Gibson, food pantry executive director.

The Food Pantry has plans and projects lined up through the summer to offer consistent nourishment to the children

of Jeff Davis County, including:

- Daily nutritious snacks for Fort Davis ISD’s STEM Summer Camp
- The Pack-a-Lunch program for school-age food pantry clients provides a nutritious brown-bag lunch and a snack every single day of the year, including weekends, holidays, and summer
- The Kids Pantry at the Jeff Davis County Library with healthy, kid-friendly foods that any child can eat on site or take home for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks

Alpine celebrates International Make Music Day on June 21

From Visit Alpine

ALPINE — Alpine will join thousands of cities worldwide in celebrating International Make Music Day on Saturday, June 21, with a full day of musical activities throughout downtown.

Visit Alpine has partnered with Cow Dog food truck and café, Amigo Sports Bar and Restaurant, and The Ritchey to bring this series of events to Far West Texas. The holiday, which began in France in 1982, encourages people to make and share music together rather than simply watch performances.

“This event is more about participation than performance,” said Chris Ruggia, Alpine’s director of tourism and Music Friendly Community liaison. “We’re inviting everyone to join in the music making, regardless of experience level.”

The celebration runs from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. across four downtown locations:

Morning (9 a.m. — Alpine Visitor Center): Free harmonica workshop for beginners led by Donnie “Wind” Bason and Cyndi Perdue, founder of the Big

Bend Bluegrass Festival. Harmonicas provided at no cost. The Off the Rails Band performs on the Visitor Center porch until noon.

Afternoon (12-4 p.m. — Cow Dog): Open mic event with short sets by local musicians, sign-ups for community performers, and an entry-level percussion workshop.

Evening (4-7 p.m. — Amigo Sports Bar): Indoor showcase featuring Tom Griffith and Wind (4 p.m.), The Swifts (5 p.m.), and Far West Texas Jammers (6 p.m.).

Night (7-10 p.m. — The Ritchey): Community music circle in the historic Hotel Ritchey courtyard, hosted by songwriter Ross Fleming. All skill levels welcome.

Alpine earned designation as the 21st Texas Music Friendly Community in 2020 during the Viva Big Bend music festival. The program, administered by the Texas Music Office, now includes over 80 communities statewide.

For more information, go to visitalpinetx.com/make-music-day.

Tan Cologne to play Do Right Hall

MARFA — The enigmatic New Mexico-based duo Tan Cologne (Lauren Green and Marissa Macias) will be playing in Marfa at the Do Right Hall at Wrong on June 20 in celebration of their upcoming album Unknown Beyond, out June 20 via Labrador Records. They additionally have a secret show planned in Marfa for the following day, which will be announced the day of.

Where Tan Cologne’s previous work was rooted in terrestrial and earthen landscapes, Unknown Beyond reaches instead for the skies and the intangible greater existence, the infinite and the unexplainable. It’s an album that embraces the beauty of timeless uncertainty.



Tan Cologne

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
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recycle
this
paper

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Isaiah Ramos
11th grade - Watercolor

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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 3, 2025

ACROSS

1 Pastry that was one of 2013’s best inventions, per Time

7 Fitness center regular, informally Tightrope walker

13 Bacterium needing oxygen

15 Type of band that might play ranchera

18 Green tea powder

19 Like a turkey trot, to a runner

21 Muhammad Ali had 37 in his boxing career: Abbr.

22 IT bigwig

25 Atty.’s title

26 “___ bleul!”

28 Tuning knob

29 Humiliates, in gamer slang

30 Link letters

31 Frilly

32 “Winnie-the-Pooh” young’un

33 Soft drink whose name once contained a title

36 Chef Garten

37 “Tell the truth!”

39 With 34-Down, Spanish for “Very good!”

40 Sharp, like some humor and wire

42 Friend of Frodo

43 Aid’s partner

44 “___ Como Va” (Santana hit)

45 Drink brand with lizards in its logo

46 Philosopher Descartes

47 Ed of “Up”

49 “Dune: Prophecy” channel

50 Croatian coins as of 2023

51 Nintendo avatar

52 Open area in a forest

55 Tomorrow

57 Ate ravenously

61 Ancient document

62 Lean back

63 Reach an agreement

64 Peter Pan’s loss

DOWN

1 Vid recorder

2 Pioneer in color TV

3 Bruins great Bobby

4 How many pets eat

5 Subway system in Berlin

6 ___ Bell

7 Groups of whales

8 “Uh-huh, I bet” (In this answer, see letters 7-4)

9 “The A-Team” actor with a mohawk

10 Type of mountaineer ... or a theme hint

11 Loathe

12 Make big, as hair

14 Donned in a rush

17 “Could be worse” (... letters 9-4)

20 Scores that measure smarts: Abbr.

22 Off-the-cuff remark

23 Princess who inspired a special-edition Bearie

24 Baby in 1997

25 Montessori mosaic medium (... letters 11-7)

27 Dadaist whose name is hidden in “war paint”

29 Elbow

33 Gesturing performer

34 See 39-Across

35 Gig parts?

37 Certain hunting lure (... letters 5-1)

38 Wage earner

41 Perk for many a seeded team

43 Peppery salad green

45 That woman

47 Slightly off

48 Because

50 Cain’s eldest son

53 Lovett of country music

54 Currier’s partner

56 Seurat spot

58 Get ___ of (discard)

59 Brian of ambient music

60 Morning droplets

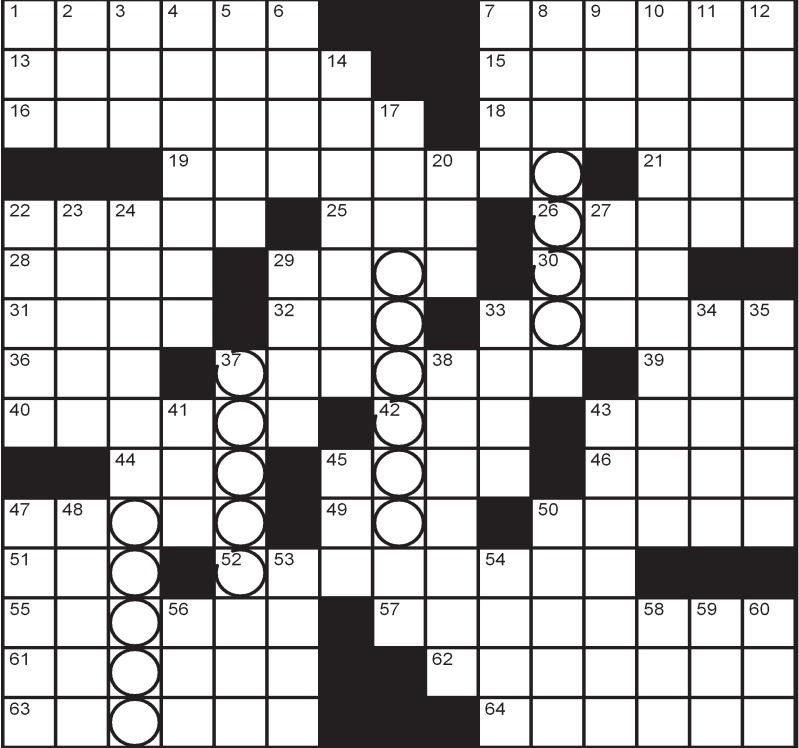
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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www.upuzzles.com

6/3

Amped Up by Jonathan Raksin and Jeff Chen



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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SUMMER BREAK

Immigration raids

(Continued from page 1)

if they continue to go after people who are active in the labor force rather than those who have criminal records.”

In both California and across an aging nation, about half of the foreign-born are naturalized U.S. citizens – a crucial defense in immigration raids and arrests.

Selee said the current strategy was launched when “the Trump administration realized they weren't getting large numbers by following traditional approaches to pursuing people who are priority targets for deportation.”

Now, the threat and chilling effect from immigration raids can be felt in disparate communities from Dallas to El Paso to rural Wisconsin — among migrants and in some cases, the employers who hire them.

In the tiny town of Waumandee in Wisconsin, dairy farmer John Rosenow said he can't find U.S. citizens who can withstand the rigors of dairy work.

“Fact of the matter is, if you want to eat or drink milk you are going to need immigrant workers,” he said.

“Yes, we want to get rid of the people who are bad actors,” Rosenow said. “But the people I know, people who are working in the dairy farms, are just hard-working people, getting things done, doing jobs Americans don't want to do.”

In California's San Joaquin Valley, rancher and melon-grower Joe Del Bosque, has heard reports of U.S. agents chasing workers in the strawberry fields south of his operation.

The San Joaquin Valley, known as the food basket of the world, is heavily dependent upon foreign born workers, especially at harvest time, Del Bosque said. He currently has 100 people work for him and those numbers will double as the harvest picks up in the coming weeks.

“They're going to disrupt the harvest and food chain. This will hurt the American consumer,” Del Bosque said. “These people are hard workers. They come to work, especially if they have families here or in Mexico.”

Raids or the threat of them, are also taking an emotional toll on families and generating protests in Chicago, Seattle, Spokane, New York, San Antonio, Dallas and elsewhere. Bigger protests are expected in days to come.

In El Paso, protesters flipped the White House script that undocumented immigrants were “criminals.” They waved mostly U.S. flags and shouted “No justice, no peace. Shame on ICE.”

Among the protesters was Alejandra, a U.S. citizen and a junior at the University of Texas at El Paso. She asked for partial anonymity for fear of reprisal against her mixed-status family.



Photo by Cindy Carcamo and Aaron Montes

Alexa Vargas, owner of Vibes Boutique in Santa Ana, says her sales have dipped by 30% after immigration agents launched sweeps across Southern California.

She said she took to this border city's streets to honor the sacrifice of grandparents who migrated from Ciudad Juarez. “All it takes is for you to look at who took that first step to bring you the life you have currently,” Alejandra said.

In the Dallas area, a Guatemalan said he'd been absent from construction sites for days.

“There's too much fear, too much to risk,” said Gustavo, 34, requesting his surname be withheld because he is undocumented. “I fear tomorrow, tonight. I may be deported and who loses? My family back in Guatemala.”

Tough immigration enforcement has been the top-polling issue for Trump.

But favor may be slipping. A poll released this week by Quinnipiac University showed Trump had a 43% approval rating on immigration and a 54% disapproval rating. That poll was conducted between June 5-9 – after several days of protests.

Meantime, back in Santa Ana, a city of about 316,000 in Southern California, shop owner Alexa Vargas said foot traffic has slowed around her store, Vibes Boutique, with sales plummeting about 30% in recent days.

On a recent day, the shop's jeans and glitzy tee-shirts remain un-browsed. Metered parking spots on the usually busy street sat empty. A fruit and snow cone vendor whom Vargas usually frequents had been missing for days.

“It shouldn't be this dead right now,” Vargas, 26, said. “People are too scared to go out. Even if you're a citizen but you look a certain way. Some people don't want to risk it.”

Reyna, a restaurant cook, told her boss she didn't feel safe going to work after she heard about the immigration detentions at Home Depot stores in the city.

The 40-year-old, who is in the U.S. without legal status, said she fears becoming an ICE target. Current immigration laws and policies don't provide a way to obtain legal status even though she's been living in the U.S. for more than 20 years.

“I need to work but, honestly, I'm scared to death to leave my house,”

For now her life is on hold, Reyna said.

She canceled a party for her son's high school graduation. She no longer drives her younger children to summer school. She even stopped attending behavioral therapy sessions for her 7-year-old autistic son.

Reyna said she can't sleep. She suffers headaches every day.

Early Tuesday, she said, immigration agents in an unmarked vehicle swept up her husband's 20-year-old nephew, who is a Mexican national without legal status. The scene unreel across from her home.

Her autistic son, a U.S.-born citizen, has begged her to allow him to play on the front yard swing set.

“No, honey. We can't go outside,” Reyna told him.

“Why?” he asked.

“The police are taking people away,” she explained. “They are taking away people who were not born here.”

This story was co-published with Puente News Collaborative, a bilingual nonprofit newsroom, convener, and funder dedicated to high-quality, fact-based news and information from the U.S.-Mexico border. Aaron Montes, KTEP News reporter, contributed to this report from El Paso.

Rep. Gonzales, USDA announce plan to stop screwworms

From U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales

EDINBURG, Texas — Today, Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins launched an \$8.5 million sterile New World screwworm (NWS) fly dispersal facility in South Texas and announced a sweeping five-pronged plan to enhance USDA's already robust ability to detect, control, and eliminate this pest. Per the USDA, the facility in South Texas is expected to be ready within six months.

“Today's policy changes represent a huge step forward to eradicating the screwworm and protecting American livestock, especially the opening of a U.S.-based eradication facility in South Texas,” Gonzales said. “This facility has been one of my top priorities in Congress. From introducing the STOP Screwworms Act to leading funding efforts through my seat on the House Appropriations Committee, I am determined to do everything possible to eliminate this deadly parasite. Thank you, Secretary Rollins, for your partnership and commitment to deliver for our farmers and ranchers in

Texas and across the nation.”

“The United States has defeated NWS before and we will do it again,” Rollins said. “We do not take lightly the threat NWS poses to our livestock industry, our economy, and our food supply chain. The United States government will use all resources at its disposal to push back NWS, and today's announcement of a domestic strategy to bolster our border defenses is just the beginning. We have the proven tools, strong domestic and international partnerships, and the grit needed to win this battle.”

U.S. Representatives Monica De La Cruz (TX-15), Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34), and Ronny Jackson (TX-13) also attended today's announcement.

Background

NWS is a devastating pest that causes serious and often deadly damage to livestock, wildlife, pets, and in rare cases, humans. While NWS has been eradicated from the United States for decades, recent detections in Mexico as far north as Oaxaca and Veracruz, about 700 miles away from the U.S.

border led to the immediate suspension of live cattle, horse, and bison imports through U.S. ports of entry along the southern border on May 11, 2025.

In May, Congressman Gonzales introduced the bipartisan Strengthening Tactics to Obstruct the Population of Screwworms (STOP Screwworms) Act alongside Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to support funding for a sterile fly production facility in the United States. The bill was endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Livestock Marketing Association, American Livestock Markets and Dealers Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and Livestock Marketing Association of Texas.

Additionally, through his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Gonzales is working to secure additional funds to protect farmers and ranchers from a screwworm outbreak.

(Continued on page 11)

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
June
19

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!

Tom Griffith

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

Miles of Stars

9pm - 10pm at Davis Mountains State Park
Join us as we appreciate some of the darkest skies in the U.S. through storytelling and telescope viewing.

Fri
June
20

Next To Normal

7:30pm at Sul Ross Fine Arts Building
The Sul Ross Theatre Department presents a special summer show to celebrate their 60th Anniversary, NEXT TO NORMAL. For tickets visit: www.theatrebigbend.org.

Jake Esparza

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Jake Esparza play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Solstice Sun Watch

1:30pm - 2:30pm at Davis Mountains State Park
Join us for a safe, close-up look at our star through a telescope.

Indian Lodge Tour

4pm - 5pm at Davis Mountains State Park
Discover the history behind the ONLY hotel in the Texas State Park system.

Sat
June
21

Cinderella Meet & Greet

2pm - 3:30pm at Front Street Books
Meet Cinderella! This Saturday, June 21, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm, Cinderella will be at Front Street Books in Alpine to meet you and take a photo! She may even sing a song.

Ross Fleming

7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Ross Fleming play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Next To Normal

7:30pm at Sul Ross Fine Arts Building

Sun
June
22

Mia Valentini

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

Next To Normal

7:30pm at Sul Ross Fine Arts Building

Looking to
submit an
event?

Scan our QR
code here:



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

Thursdays at 9am
Sundays at 10am

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

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For inquiries or to schedule a school visit:
info@wonderschoolmarfa.org

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
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2024 Consumer Confidence Report for Public Water System CITY OF MARFA

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2024

For more information regarding this report contact:

CITY OF MARFA provides ground water from the Igneous Aquifer located in Presidio County, Marfa Texas.

Name Charles Salgado, Public Utilities Director

Phone 432-295-0179

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (432) 729-4316.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Definitions and Abbreviations	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Action Level:	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Level 1 Assessment:	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment:	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violat has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatme technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MFL	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
na:	not applicable.
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Definitions and Abbreviations

ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
Treatment Technique or TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Information about your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system City of Marfa has a fluoride concentration of 2.7 mg/L.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

For more information, please call Charles Salgado of City of Marfa Utilities at 432-295-0179. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

Information about Source Water

TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact Charles Salgado, 432-295-0179

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2024	1.3	1.3	0.00694	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2024	0	15	1.25	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead Service Line Inventory

The City of Marfa has developed an inventory of both city-owned and customer-owned service lines. This inventory serves as a crucial foundation for water systems to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. To access the inventory, please contact/visit City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave, Marfa TX. (432)729-4315

2024 Water Quality Test Results

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	2	1.7 - 1.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	4	3.7 - 3.7	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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*The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	09/19/2022	5.7	5.7 - 5.7	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Barium	09/19/2022	0.02	0.02 - 0.02	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	09/19/2022	1.1	1.1 - 1.1	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	07/25/2023	2.7	2.7 - 2.7	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	4	3.54 - 3.54	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant Residual

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
Free Chlorine	2024	0.78	0.52-1.10	4	4	mg/l	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.

Marfa seniors stretch it out in inaugural yoga class



Staff photos by Mary Cantrell

Monika Bernstein leads Marfa seniors in the first-ever yoga class at the nutrition center.

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Marfa Nutrition Center was temporarily transformed into a yoga studio on Tuesday morning as the inaugural class led by instructor Monika Bernstein got underway. Eight Marfa seniors, ranging from their 60s to 80s, remained seated in chairs as Bernstein and helper Marielle La Rue led them through a series of breathing and stretching exercises. Bernstein runs Big Sky Yoga, a fitness studio located in the alley behind the Wrong store. Nutrition Center Director Mark Rodriguez said Bernstein approached him with the idea of hosting a free weekly yoga class and they started thinking about how to collaborate. “She came in, and it was like, wow, I’ve been looking for this,” Rodriguez said. “It’s great that she’s making the time, because obviously there is interest in it.” He said he was already looking to expand the nutrition center’s roster of events, which primarily consists of thrice-weekly bingo. “I’d like for

them to be a little more active, instead of just come eat, visit and then gotta go,” Rodriguez said. “We want something besides bingo to pass their time.” Bernstein said she was motivated to organize yoga for Marfa’s seniors, in part, after seeing some struggling with their mobility while out and about at the grocery store, for example. “I was like, we need to reach out to these people and make them feel better, because they don’t feel good and they are still living independent lives,” Bernstein said. “I just want to make this community feel good and strong and healthy.” Modifications to stretches were made for those with osteoporosis, and Bernstein explained to class participants how audible exhalations stimulate the vagus nerve, helping promote relaxation. Rodriguez said he appreciated her initial approach to use chairs for support and to get to know the seniors better. “You get to know the people and everybody’s individual needs, you address them as they go,” Rodriguez said. “She’s able to find out what

their strengths are, their weaknesses, or what they want to work on.” As yoga class commenced, kitchen staff prepared and packaged lunches for the nutrition center’s Meals on Wheels and in-person clients. Red, white and blue banners and American flags, in honor of the upcoming holiday, decorated walls and tables. The nutrition center abuts the city pool in the Marfa Activities Center, and while Bernstein and Rodriguez had the idea to also offer water aerobics classes for seniors, that initiative is being put on the back burner since the pool is unable to open this summer due to a lack of lifeguards. The newly-converted yogis remarked that they had fun and felt good at the conclusion of the class. For some, it was their first time trying out yoga. “I felt safe, like I can do this,” Peggy Thornsburg said. Others remarked that they would like to work on improving their balance. Bernstein joked that pretty soon they’d be brushing their teeth while standing on one foot. *Yoga for Seniors* takes place at the nutrition center on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Cashiola’s ‘Wave 1: Discovery’ coming to MAINTENANT

MARFA — Joe Cashiola’s Wave 1: Discovery will open on June 21, 8 p.m. at MAINTENANT as a celebration of Litha, midsummer and the summer solstice. Parking for the event will be on the roads — 1908 Antelope Hills Rd. or on 1825 Rabbits Rd. A film will follow at 10 p.m.

“I’ve been doing steel work in Marfa for nearly 15 years; this is an idea I’ve been carrying for about five,” Cashiola said. “It’s inspired by the ranch gates and similar signs at the thresholds of the region, simple and elegant in their own way. I fabricated a set of seven large objects — at

first gateways or portals, later arranging themselves like a tarot card deck. Two years ago I started the Gateway tapes from the Monroe Institute, and the tapes offered some clarity about these objects, which are more magical than artistic for me.”

The 22-minute film that will also be shown is “an 11-year project in the making inspired by the 1937 book *Starmaker* by Olaf Stapledon,” Cashiola said. “The film is something of an opera about experiences in layered worlds.” For more details see Instagram @MaintenantMarfa.

‘Look up’ at the trees for signs of distress Now is the time to soak your trees

By Mary Etherington
The Big Bend Sentinel

My celebration was years in coming. Walking my dog out on Pinto Canyon Road, as I do most mornings, it happened, a dung beetle took advantage of my dog’s poop and took off with the slightly misshapen ball struggling across the rough road surface while I stood in amazement and contemplated giving it a lift. Dr. Bonnie Warnock of Sul Ross, another fan of dung beetles, told me the beetles can and do use dog poop as well as cattle dung for their supply, however the pesticide in flea and tick treatments actually kills the dung beetles, (as does some common medicines for cattle). However, since I don’t use those chemicals on my dog this dung beetle was in luck. Why am I celebrating so heartily? I haven’t seen but a handful of beetles over the past few years. When I look up from the pavement the sad fact that this really isn’t a cause for celebration is right in front of me. There are no cattle in sight. The drought has curtailed the size of herds and even the ability to provide for cattle out here. They are missing from the landscape and my dog serves as a consolation prize for the dung beetles.

The drought affects each and every species. No red velvet bugs this year, only two tarantulas, two horny toads, one tiny one that was run over this morning, no badgers, three rattlesnakes, no tiny frogs after the rain, no turtles. The recent rains have brought the sweet scent of wildflowers back, however no butterflies, only tarantula hawks in noticeable numbers. Amidst my tally of what’s missing I get a heads up from Jim Martinez, local landscape, plant and soil expert that the trees in Marfa are in serious peril. Our trees need water too. A long, sustained water soak, not a brief shower. We take a drive. The urgency in his voice is not unfounded. Look up; you’ll get a new perspective on how the trees of Marfa are suffering. Many factors contribute to the present need for attention and care for the trees. We are not watering enough to offset the lack of rain due to the drought. Instead of normal yearly rainfall of 12-16 inches we only got 3 inches last year. Also, with around 200 short-term rentals in Marfa, those trees often aren’t getting the additional water they need. Driving around Marfa it’s obvious the stress our trees are experiencing, and also how many are already dead or dying. Some that appear

What Trees Dream About

By Leo Romero, from Dream of Water

Trees dream of water
They dream of oceans full of water
They wake up children
in the middle of the night
and make them thirsty

In their dreams
trees uproot themselves
They flee from people
and become fish

Fishermen come after them
with enormous nets
Just as the trees wake up

to be dead may come back with serious water triage, however time is of the essence and for some reason people seem oblivious or uninterested. The community needs to come together to educate and encourage our friends, neighbors and the city to up the water for trees on a consistent schedule. Watering in the middle of the day means 60% evaporates. Dawn and dusk, or overnight for trees in need is a more effective use of water. Another factor contributing to stress that’s causing species extinction is the increased heat we are experiencing. Higher temperatures and less rain are a terrible combination. Some understandably balk at an increased water bill, however Martinez points out it costs \$8,000 to \$10,000 to take down a large, dead tree. If a person trades a monthly slightly higher water bill versus the cost of tree removal they still come out way ahead. Plus they have the benefit of a tree, its respiration to cool us and its shade in the desert. Some towns are countering the devastation of trees and reluctance of homeowners and renters to pony up for increased water charges by allowing two water meters for each home. The homeowner pays for the installation of the second meter. However, one is for household water and sewer use, and the second meter

has a lower water rate for watering the trees and plants. Even many of the very old and very large pine trees are suffering. The Deodar cedars that allegedly were planted a few generations ago by a fellow from Fort Davis that brought the seeds from Tibet, which may be true, as we are at the same elevation, are still in trouble, even with their extensive roots. As you travel around Marfa, look up. When leaves are coming straight out of the trunk instead of smaller branches the tree is sending out an SOS. One really good thing Marfa has going for it is our very rich soil. Some 35 million years ago when the Chinati Mountains were active volcanoes — one claimed to be the third highest mountain in the world — the lava flow came up all the way up here and volcanic ash enriched our soil, so if we can get water deep into the soil, it will support our trees. The recent installation of the splash pad in Coffield Park had to have the “soft and fluffy” soil dug out “way down” and new soil brought in, according to Yoseff Ben Yehuda, who worked on the project. That right there, says Martinez, was volcanic ash. So, as you begin to look up at our trees as you travel around Marfa, make sure to alert your friends and neighbors to the situation in their yards too. I now have a list of people I know well enough to inform them their trees are struggling, and feel certain they probably just haven’t noticed the leaf drop or aren’t aware how much water is needed at this moment to save them. Martinez did a similar thing with a friend who had a tree in the front yard that needed water. He pointed out the corner of the house where the rain came down from the pitched roof was a short distance from the tree. He encouraged the owners to dig a small trench from the corner of the house to the tree, so when it does rain, it goes where it’s needed. They complied and the tree is looking good. Solutions are everywhere. Best practice for your trees at this time is to set a soaker hose or low flow to each tree at least once a week for 20 hours. It’s important to move the water source around under the canopy of the tree while soaking, twice a week for clearly dying trees. It’s also important to leave the natural mulch formed by the build up of pine needles and other tree debris that fall under the tree and help maintain moisture. Sometimes what may look messy to gardeners is the best defense a tree can muster. Bringing in other mulch is



Staff photo by Mary Etherington

Trees need a good soak to avoid the drought.

helpful as well as it helps hold water when we get a short, aggressive rain that otherwise would wash away. Martinez has been an important one-man town beautification project (with his crew of course) and has educated the town about native grasses that don’t need to be eradicated. He’s also designed, installed and maintained that wonder of a garden behind the USO building for the past three years (which

incidentally needs someone new to step up and continue the maintenance) and helped endless folks in town landscape with species of trees and plants that benefit the desert and all its inhabitants. Thankfully Jim is an expert in his field and shares his knowledge to our benefit. I’ll go back to counting bugs on 2810 while the trees in my backyard get their long, slow, sustained watering.

OBITUARIES



LUJAN

Roberto Lujan was born on April 24, 1956, and passed away on June 13, 2025, from prostate cancer. Roberto was preceded in death by his parents, Eugenio A. Lujan and Sabina A. Sandate; and his youngest brother, Ruben Lujan. Roberto's siblings are Eugenio Lujan, Ernesto Lujan, Rebecca Valenzuela, Lupe Mancinez, and Juanita Carrillo. Roberto was preceded in death by their youngest family member, Ruben Lujan. Roberto attended the segregated public school, Centennial School, which was later desegregated by the Civil Rights Movement. After graduating from Alpine High School, Roberto volunteered to join the United States Army. He was awarded

the Honor Graduate Certificate for scoring the highest academic grade in his class. His sergeant couldn't believe that a Hispanic could be that smart and accused him of cheating. He was asked to take another form of the test and scored 100%! Roberto served in the 2nd of the 25th Field Artillery group in Wertheim, Germany.

After receiving an honorable discharge, Roberto returned to Alpine and attended Sul Ross State University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. His peers would later remark that Roberto was the only real talented artist in their class.

Roberto spent the following 10 years as a social worker, assisting hundreds of people to apply for basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

In 1992 Roberto moved to the border town of Presidio, Texas, where he began his teaching career. His goal was to enrich and enlighten the students who shared his rich cultural identity. As a child he had experienced poverty, racism, and family trauma. He passionately strove to be an example to his students that education is one way to overcome their challenges.

In 1994, Roberto met his wife, Julia West, and they remained best friends for 30 years. They shared their passion for the Chihuahuan Desert by hiking/camping in remote, secretive places where no one had walked before. Roberto was grounded to the earth, and he was most proud of the organic pomegranate orchard that he and Julia nurtured together. Together they harvested and hand pressed hundreds of quarts of pure organic juice to sell at the local farmers' markets. Roberto was most joyful when he shared this rare and exotic gift of bounty with his community.

His appreciation of the land extended to serving as a board member with the Big Bend Conservation Alliance. His vision to connect the community to the Rio Grande was embraced and implemented through the reinstatement of the PISD River Ranger Program and the creation of a trail system that will wind its way through the City of Presidio to the river.

Roberto's curiosity about his ancestry led him to the discovery that he is a descendant of the Lipan Apache of the La Junta. This discovery connected him to the great-granddaughters of Geronimo who were writing a book about the

intergenerational trauma that their family was facing as Indigenous people. Roberto was instrumental in facilitating a trilogy of forgiveness/healing ceremonies: one in Arizona, Sierra Madre Mexico, and Presidio/Ojinaga. He would eventually extend the ceremony to his family or origin. He also played a major role in the rescue and restoration of the ancestral Lipan Cemetery in Presidio called the Cementerio del Barrio de Los Lipanes.

Roberto, husband, brother, uncle, friend, educator, farmer, activist; may you rest in peace.

Donations may be made in his honor to the Big Bend Conservation Alliance.

Services for Roberto at Santa Teresa Catholic Church in Presidio, Texas are as follows: Visitation will begin at 9 a.m., recitation of the Rosary at 9:30 a.m. and the funeral Mass to begin at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Desert Hills Cemetery with graveside military honors.

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

The family of Lucia (Ity) Herrera wishes to thank all our relatives and friends for your support, food and flowers during our mother's passing.

Thank you to all who contributed to our mother's funeral. It was beautiful. She is greatly missed.

God Bless you all.

Sincerely ,
Jesus Junie Herrera
Marta H. Brummett
Graciela (Chelly) Baeza

FROM THE ARCHIVES

June 2, 1994

Brewster County Jail closed after investigation reveals drug use

By Sterry Butcher and Robert Halper

ALPINE — In a specially called emergency meeting of the Brewster County Commissioners' Court Wednesday, elected county officials moved to temporarily close the county jail in light of recent allegations of slack security as well as alleged drug and alcohol use within the jail population.

District Attorney Albert Valadez — at the request of Brewster County Sheriff Jack McDaniel — initiated an investigation of the facility after an April incident where an inmate walked out an unlocked gate, assaulted his girlfriend, then had her drive him back to jail. The inmate allegedly brought money back with him, with the intent of purchasing alcohol within the jail, Valadez said.

After the escape, the sheriff asked the assistance of the Texas Rangers to find out whether the jail personnel aided the inmate's escape. McDaniel, who is in poor health, is at a Houston hospital this week awaiting a heart transplant operation.

In the investigation, two confidential informants who did not know one another were placed in the jail on two separate occasions. Though it appears that the escape was due to inattentive personnel, rather than a conspired effort to help the inmate escape, the informants individually reported the same information that narcotics and alcohol were being smuggled into the facility, the DA said. One of the informants later took, and passed, a polygraph test on the information which he had provided authorities, Valadez said. Based on the allegations of the informants, law enforcement officials instigated a Tuesday shutdown of the jail. Water was shut off to prevent inmates from flushing any drugs down the toilet, and each of the 24 inmates was strip searched and put into new uniforms, so the used uniforms could be examined. Likewise, all 24 prisoners as well as six jailers underwent urinalysis tests.

Commissioners moved Wednesday to formally close the Brewster County jail on a temporary basis, and have made arrangements with the Presidio County Jail to take the inmates. The inmates spent Tuesday night at the state detention facility in Fort Stockton pending this action by the commissioners, and should arrive in Marfa in the next few days.

Though the maximum occupancy for the jail is 13 inmates, at the time of the shutdown, the jail population stood at 24. "You have outgrown that facility," Scarborough told the court. Scarborough stated that besides looking into personnel changes including the hiring of a new chief jailer, some physical aspects of the jail need to be addressed, such as tears in window screens and replacements or repairs to existing locks.

FOR SALE - 900 & 902 West El Paso

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

FMI contact: Cleat Stephens
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(432)249-0401

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Owner / Operator

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Marfa, TX 79843

Chinati is an art foundation
created by Donald Judd and
opened to the public in 1986.

Chinati is open Wednesday through Sunday. Office hours and guided tour times are seasonal. For details and reservations, please come to the Visitor Center (1 Cavalry Row) or go to chinati.org/visit.

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



la
fundación
the CHINATI
foundation

