

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Local schools adjust to state-mandated policy prohibiting cellphone use

By Mary Cantrell
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TRI-COUNTY — Big Bend area school districts are adopting new policies ahead of the coming school year in order to comply with HB 1481, a bill passed last legislative session prohibiting student use of cellphones and other electronic devices during school hours.

Local district leaders told *The Big Bend Sentinel* they are making their best efforts to comply with the law, with some stating that they are awaiting further guidance from the Texas Education Agency before solidifying procedures. Administrators are notifying students and parents about the tighter cellphone restrictions via social media and in community meetings ahead of the fall semester.

HB 1481 requires public school boards and open-enrollment charter school leaders to pass a written policy “prohibiting a student from using a personal communication device while on school property during the school day” and establishing disciplinary procedures for those in violation. Tablets, smart watches, pagers and headphones are also prohibited under the ban, with some exceptions, like for those using the technology to monitor medical conditions. Devices provided to students by the school are not subject to the new restrictions.

The bill’s proponents — which include Texas reps. Caroline Fairly (R-Amarillo) and James Talorico (D-Austin), who helped author the legislation — have argued restricting cellphone use will limit harmful classroom distractions. “The increasing presence of personal devices in Texas schools poses concerns about their impact on student learning, safety, mental health, and overall school environment,” the bill analysis states.

“Managing student devices has become increasingly more difficult for schools considering how ubiquitous these devices have become,” said Terlingua CSD Superintendent Reagan Reed. “Legislative statewide consistency provides clarity for teachers, parents, and students.”

Schools can comply with the new state law by either prohibiting devices on school property entirely or by “designating a method for the storage” of devices during the school day. While Terlingua CSD is prohibiting students from “possessing or using,” cellphones during the school day, other area districts that spoke to *The Sentinel*, including Marfa, Marathon and Alpine ISDs, indicated that they will be pursuing the storage method, essentially allowing phones on campus but requiring that they be silenced and stored out of sight in lockers or backpacks.

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE

NEWS P. 1 - 8
OPINION P. 5 - 6
CLASSIFIEDS P. 8

The West Texan Media Group, LLC



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 6 2 3 5 7



Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Joey Benton designs and fabricates at his studio workshop on the east side of Marfa.

SILLA designs furniture rooted in the West Texas landscape

By Itzel Franco
For *The Big Bend Sentinel*

MARFA — Marfa’s routine silence is broken by the sound of machinery inside a design studio on the east side of town. Inside, Joey Benton and his team design and build furniture with the same sense of place they bring to adobe restoration projects and site-specific installations across the region.

After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design where he studied sculpture, Benton moved to Marfa in 1994 to work for the Judd estate overseeing the appraisal of the estate’s inventory. A 2004 Texas

Monthly article credited Benton with helping shape Judd’s legacy, which became key to Marfa’s evolving art scene. The piece also pointed to the broader influx of outsiders whose creative projects were slowly reshaping and gentrifying the rural community. Benton acknowledged the tension in the same article, noting that such shifts could blur “just where [recent arrivals] were living.”

After supporting the Judd estate for three years, Benton founded SILLA in 1997 with a simple principle in mind: design should respond to its environment. In Marfa, that means working with the land, its history, and the tension between preservation

and change. “The space is the loudest voice that we have out here,” Benton noted. “That voice guides everything the studio makes.”

Benton doesn’t want SILLA’s work to feel superimposed. “I like things that feel like they came out of their space,” he said. For SILLA, design begins with restraint and continues through attention to materials and longevity.

That sensitivity to place carries over to SILLA’s approach to materials. Rather than impose new elements into its designs, SILLA often reuses what’s already present in a space. “We live in a world where you can’t help but be aware of the value of

materials, and a lot of materials that come out of a reclaimed world aren’t available anymore,” Benton explained. “These are trees that aren’t going to be grown again. These are materials that we don’t have access to anymore, and often they’re of much better quality than what we can purchase.”

When tasked to work on the floors of the Hotel Saint George, SILLA repurposed the building’s original roof planks by stripping off tar and remilling them. On a project for Marfa Spirit Co., the studio incorporated stone slabs from a previous iteration of the building

(Continued on page 3)

Cibolo Creek Ranch sues neighboring landowner over access to road

By Rob D’Amico
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Cibolo Creek Ranch, the upscale resort south of Marfa, is suing a newcomer landowner who has locked the ranch out of a historic road that leads to its other properties.

At issue is Cibolo Creek Ranch’s attempt to have its historical access to two of its properties and a cattle operation. The luxury ranch contains three main sites, all of which are restored forts from the late 1800s: El Fortin (or Cibolo Fort of the Bison), a resort located on the west side of Highway 67 south of Marfa, as well as La Cienega and La Morita, guest accommodations located on the east

side of the highway.

Cibolo Creek Ranch is owned by billionaire John Poindexter, who filed for a temporary injunction on June 2 after claiming his operation has been locked out of using La Morita Road, a private road that begins in Shafter and crosses through several properties on its way to the La Morita guesthouse and La Cienega sites. The road continues on to another Cibolo holding, the Harper Ranch, which has livestock. The plaintiff alleges that Johnny Weisman, who bought the 70,000-acre Lely Ranch in September, intentionally locked gates barring Cibolo Creek Ranch from passing through his property on La Morita Road to get to the destinations.

The lawsuit is technically being brought by Southwestern Holdings, Inc., (Cibolo Creek Ranch) against Hunter JRW Holdings, LLC. Poindexter began building his resorts in 1990 around the restoration of two forts used by Milton Faver, an original settler in the area in the late 1850s. Poindexter’s success came from a variety of businesses, notably a specialty truck manufacturing company.

Weisman made his fortunes as founder of Hunter JRW Holdings, a company specializing in state road construction projects. After his purchase of the Lely Ranch, Weisman dubbed it the “Flying W Ranch.” The sale price was not disclosed, but the property was listed for \$25.9 million.

La Morita Road crosses four separate property owners’ land, but according to the Cibolo Creek Ranch complaint seeking access to the entirety of the road, gates along the road have traditionally been open to all of those various landowners. “For more than a hundred years, the road has been open to area landowners, and that’s how it needs to remain,” Tom Davis, Cibolo Creek Ranch general manager, told *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

One of Cibolo Creek Ranch’s biggest objections is losing access to its plot east of the Cienegas Mountains called Harper Ranch, where cattle are located. (They are still able to access the La Morita and

(Continued on page 4)

Hunter wins jury award after Alpine-area resident shot his dogs

By Rob D’Amico
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

ALPINE — A world-renowned predator tracker — known for hunting and relocating mountain lions and South American jaguars — won a \$75,000 jury verdict this week in Brewster County District Court after he sued an Alpine-area man for shooting three of his hunting dogs.

On May 23, 2024, Rocky McBride, who runs a hunting outfitter business in Alpine, was working for a property owner who needed him to relocate a “problem animal,” a mountain lion spotted by residents of the Double Diamond community about 10 miles

south of Alpine off of Highway 118, according to court documents.

McBride let his dogs loose on the property where he had landowner permission, but the dogs crossed a fence onto the property of Randy Roberts at 410 Pinon Drive. Roberts then opened fire on the dogs with a shotgun from his porch, killing two and injuring another, according to the petition filed in court by McBride.

McBride’s lawsuit claimed Roberts was negligent in not responding to yells from McBride and a companion to not shoot, that he didn’t fire a warning shot and that he failed to recognize these were highly-trained, valuable hunting dogs that were

“were collared with GPS collars, transmitters, antennas, and other equipment consistent with their use as trained hounds.”

Roberts’ response to the claim tells a much different story, in which he and his wife were “peacefully asleep” until they were awoken by a series of loud noises and a spotlight shining through the bedroom window. Mr. Roberts grabbed his shotgun, went to the front porch and was greeted by six large dogs “barking and lunging at him.”

The claim argues that Mr. Roberts was acting in self-defense when he shot the dogs. Roberts also asserted that McBride was illegally trespassing

while hunting and carrying a gun.

McBride said last Thursday he never trespassed on Roberts’ property but freely admitted that his dogs had. He said the evidence of negligence presented in trial was overwhelming, particularly with a video surveillance camera that taped the scene, which caused the jury to side with him. He said dogs were also companion dogs, meaning they meant a great deal to him above and beyond the investment he put into them in training.

In interviews with McBride posted online, he notes that he is a proponent of conservation and using hunting to manage predators as resources. For

(Continued on page 4)

Far West Texans voice concerns about redistricting in virtual hearing

By Sam Karas
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

AUSTIN — On Tuesday morning, a special Senate committee held a virtual hearing on a rare mid-decade redistricting effort in the Texas Legislature. It was the last in a series of four hearings, each dedicated to a different geographic chunk of the state. Dozens of Far West Texas residents signed up to speak, representing all walks of life — from constitutional law experts to city council members to retired grandparents.

State Sen. César Blanco, who represents the Big Bend, listened to constituent concerns on the floor as a guest of honor. He was concerned that the maps would be unfairly skewed — during the last redistricting effort, the region lost a seat in the statehouse despite El Paso’s growing population. “We all have unique districts, but I always like to say that ours is truly unique,” he said. “We cannot allow history to repeat itself.”

The process for drawing congressional districts is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Since 1790, these efforts have followed a national census conducted every 10 years. The only time in recent memory that Texas has bucked that schedule was in 2003, when former Rep. Tom DeLay forced redistricting through the Legislature. Democrats fled the state to try to thwart DeLay’s efforts, but Republicans prevailed — and have held the majority of the state’s congressional delegation ever since.

This year’s special session of the Legislature was officially announced by Gov. Greg Abbott on June 23, the day after he teased calling a session in his veto proclamation on HB 3, a controversial bill that would have outlawed THC products in Texas. Gov. Abbott’s initial list of priorities includes water regulations and laws around “the operation of a cement kiln,” but does not mention redistricting.

The disastrous floods in Central Texas over the weekend of July 4 seemed to shake up the governor’s priorities, and flood prevention measures and emergency management funding was placed at the top of the official list released on July 9. Toward the very end of that list, the governor calls for “Legislation that provides a revised redistricting plan in light of constitutional concerns raised by the U.S. Department of Justice.”

That press release was the first that many Texans had heard of rumbling in D.C. over the state’s congressional districts. *The New York Times* broke the story in June, when rumors that Trump’s team was pushing political leaders in Texas to redraw the maps in order to maintain the Republican party’s slim majority in Congress. “The push from Washington has unnerved some Texas Republicans, who worry that reworking the boundaries of Texas House seats to turn Democratic districts red by adding reliably Republican voters from neighboring Republican districts could backfire in an election that is already expected to favor Democrats,” the *Times* reported.

That talk turned to action on July 7, when Harmeet K. Dhillon, assistant attorney general in the federal Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, sent a memo to Gov. Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on the subject of “Unconstitutional Race-Based Congressional Districts.” In the letter, Dhillon argues that TX-09, TX-18, TX-29 and TX-33 are “unconstitutional coalition districts” based on a reading of *Petteway v. Galveston County*, a 2024 Fifth Circuit opinion.

(Continued on page 3)

SILLA

(Continued from page 1)



Designer Joey Benton notes: “The space is the loudest voice that we have out here.”

into a bar table for the space. Longevity is a key part of that thinking. Benton considers the lifespan of the materials used in SILLA’s designs. “If mahogany takes 100 years to grow, if you’re gonna make something out of mahogany, it should be around for 100 years,” Benton said. “Real simple equation.” That emphasis on longevity shapes Benton’s restoration work in West Texas where he collaborates with engineers, historians and designers working to preserve historical landmarks. More recently, he joined a group working to restore the El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesús, a historic adobe church in Ruidosa, Texas. Benton and his crew were instrumental in shoring up a bell tower in danger of collapse.

For Benton, adobe work is meaningful and just as creative as his own design work. He describes it as a low-footprint, meditative space grounded in accumulated knowledge and collaboration. “I think adobe construction, or earthen construction in general, is a creative process,” he said. “It’s about a moment, and it’s about material and it’s about the collective knowledge of the people at that moment. And that has a creativity to it. “So there are decisions made in the original building of an earthen system that has its limitations, and those limitations are overcome with creativity.” Collective knowledge also influences SILLA’s designs. The small team includes designers and fabricators working to make the studio’s ideas a reality. Designing one chair took the team about a year from idea to final product. The

team spent around six months ideating before creating a physical prototype and another six finalizing the design and reworking it. A prototype of the chair sits next to the final design in Benton’s office. Though the differences between the prototype and the final chair are subtle, each change reflects the slow collaborative process. The most recently-designed chairs feature a conduit frame with wooden armrests, a padded seat, and a matching textile stretched across the backrest. “I would say that 90% of our materials are like real things like steel or wood. We don’t need — almost — any plastics in our world. We’re a pretty simple company in terms of that stuff. We’re kind of moving backwards where everyone else is moving forward.” “I have a very open idea about how things come together,” Benton said. “One of the things we talk about in the shop a lot when we’re making something new is to have everybody be part of the conversation.” SILLA’s designer Amalia Attias spent months designing two colorways for the conduit chairs: purple and green with corresponding textile designs. Attias graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2020 with a BFA in furniture and has been working at SILLA since. Their workspaces are next to each other. “Amalia and I basically sit side by side, and we talk about things that are basic life and chit chat all the time,” Benton said. “And then we have really wonderful, much deeper conversations about how we make things, what the philosophy of things are, how we think about things. And it’s grown into



Photos by Hannah Gentiles

SILLA produces a variety of designer chairs.

really, kind of out of conversation, into a way of doing things and a way of being, and it feels like it’s our own, and it feels really good.” During our conversation Benton and Attias discussed the names of the conduit chairs’ colors. They considered calling the purple conduit “penstemon” and the green conduit “lichen.” Though the details have been finalized in the studio, they’re eager to explore the loom’s limitations and possibilities for texture and pattern. These newer designs mark a change in how SILLA is moving forward. For decades, SILLA worked only on private commissions. But recently, Benton started offering some of the studio’s chairs, which draw from the archive of SILLA’s private work, to the public. “We have this history of objects, and I love them, and they feel like they should have a bigger life,” he said. Opening the work to the public has introduced a tension Benton continues to grapple with. “The public is a very complicated thing, and one person is not so complicated,” Benton said. When a design isn’t tied to a specific site, the idea of longevity shifts. Now, the owner has to do the work of fitting the chair into their own space. “If you make an object, someone else has to love it and take care of it — but you don’t,” Benton explained. “You don’t get to hold on to those things once you put them in the world. It has to hold its own. Someone else has to desire it in that way for it to be able to have permanence.”

You can view SILLA’s projects and creations at sillamarfa.com.

Welcome, Maritza Armendariz! ¡Bienvenida, Maritza Armendariz!

Bravo Health warmly welcomes Maritza Armendariz as our new provider at the Presidio clinic.

Bravo Health da la más cordial bienvenida a Maritza Armendariz como nuestra nueva proveedora en la clínica de Presidio.

Same Day Appointments / Citas el mismo día



602 W. O’Reilly St., Suite C,
Presidio, TX 79845



**BRAVO
HEALTH**
PRESIDIO

Primary & Urgent Care Clinic
Clínica de Atención Primaria y de Urgencias



Redistricting

(Continued from page 1)

All of the districts named by Dhillon — three of which are in Houston — are majority-minority districts where Black and Latino voters comprise the lion’s share of the votes. Dhillon concludes the letter with an entreaty to respond “by July 7, 2025” — an apparent typo that state lawmakers are choosing to interpret as “August 7.” (Lawmakers discussed the legality of serving Dhillon with a subpoena from out of state on Tuesday morning to clarify a number of questions not addressed in the letter; in a post on X, state Sen. Carol Alvarado clarified that they would indeed be seeking a subpoena if the DOJ did not respond immediately.)

Tuesday’s hearing was overseen by the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, composed of nine members led by Chair Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Vice Chair Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe). The other members are Carol Alvarado (D-Houston), Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen), Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), Borris L. Miles (D-Houston), Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound), Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) and Kevin Sparks (R-Midland). All members were present for the hearing with the exception of Sen. Paxton.

Compared to earlier hearings, the West Texas edition of the battle over redistricting could be described as a bit more subdued than in-person proceedings held in Houston, Arlington and Austin that attracted big-name speakers and standing-room-only crowds. Last Thursday, congressional hopeful Isaiah Martin, campaigning to represent a slice of Houston in D.C., was dragged to the ground by police and arrested after refusing to yield the floor after his allotted two minutes were up. (Charges against Martin have since been dropped.)

There were no arrests at Tuesday’s hearing and — at least from the Zoom footage — no chanting crowds lined up outside the chamber, but the tension was palpable. Committee Chair King began the proceedings with a short address. “Witness after witness has said what I believe are very inappropriate, incorrect and frankly offensive comments directed at Republicans in general,” he said, referring to comments made through the course of hundreds of testimonies that described the GOP as “a racist party” and “the party of pedophiles,” as well as “deriding and ugly remarks about the president.”

King said that the maps drawn in 2021 were “legal” — implying that he disagreed with the letter from the DOJ — but that the Legislature was still legally able to consider the question. “That doesn’t mean we don’t have the right to take up redistricting if we choose to do that — we can do that every



State Sen. César Blanco listens to constituent concerns at a Far West Texas redistricting hearing Tuesday.

session,” he explained. “We have a lot of good things to say here that are a direct result of having a strong Republican majority and the result of having President Trump.”

Numerous people in attendance bristled at King’s comments, including Sen. Miles, the lone Black member of the committee. “If you do racist things, Mr. Chairman, people will call it racist,” he said. “It’s your actions, not your words — majority-minority communities have been targeted, and that’s a racist act.”

The vast majority of constituents who signed up to speak hailed from El Paso, but there were notable exceptions, including Nina Perales, vice president of litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). Perales hails from San Antonio and served as counsel for Latino voters in litigation over the state’s most recent round of maps prepared in 2021, which still hasn’t reached a verdict. “The Voting Rights Act demands the creation of more majority-minority districts,” she explained, pointing out that every redistricting effort in Texas since the law was passed has been declared illegal in some way by federal authorities.

Perales was also concerned that hearings were being held before example maps could be produced. “This map is being drawn by somebody,” she said.

Cellphone use

(Continued from page 1)

“They have to be in their backpacks at all times. Nothing where it’s sticking out of the pocket, where you can see that they have a phone on them,” Marfa ISD Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez explained to board members in a meeting this week. “It’s not just phones, it’s all electronic devices — smart watches, headphones, everything, everything has to be in the backpack.”

Marfa ISD trustees sought clarification on their district’s policy this week, ultimately deciding to prohibit the use of cellphones during “instructional” time, including classes and recess, but to allow them during breakfast and lunch. Still, there are grey areas, Alferez said, like field trips, which are an extension of the classroom and therefore technically “instructional” time.

In a follow-up call with *The Sentinel*, Student Success Coordinator Linda Ojeda agreed the actual implementation of a cellphone ban may be more challenging due to how common, and sometimes necessary, they are. She cited an example of high school students being able to text their parents about their annual income when they are filling out a federal student aid application.

“It is an inconvenience to have all of them using one school phone to call their parents for all their information,” Ojeda said, adding, “We’ll abide by it as much as we possibly can.”

Ojeda said that while she understands phones can cause issues, for the most part administrators have “respectfully come to a common ground” with students about limiting their use, and she fears the state’s move may alienate the relationship between parents and the school. “When it comes out like

that from the state and it’s on us to put it on the kids, it makes parents have a little bit of a disdain toward us,” Ojeda said. “To me, I think that further taints the perception that people have of public schools, like, how dare you treat this like a prison? And that’s not the case at all.”

“This is being passed down by the state, similar to, ‘Hey, every student has to take the STAAR test,’ so we just have to abide by it,” she added.

At the Marfa ISD School Board meeting this week Board President Teresa Nuñez said the change is “going to be a big eye opener.” Elementary Principal Rosie Martinez said, “It is and it isn’t,” because the district was essentially enforcing similar cellphone rules already, confiscating and holding devices until the end of the day if needed and more.

“That’s kind of how we’ve been running it in the past,” Martinez said. “So as far as what’s different between then and now, there’s not a whole lot. It’s just state-mandated now.”

But Alferez agreed getting everyone used to the new rules will likely take some time. “Until we’ve trained our students and we’ve trained our parents, this is something that we’re going to be seeing almost every day,” he said.

In a follow up exchange, Alferez said the district is awaiting TEA guidance, set to come out before the start of the school year, and will adjust cellphone policies and procedures as necessary.

“The board will continue to discuss any new changes on cellphones as new recommendations become available from the state,” Alferez said. “We also hope any new update will guide school districts on answering questions of

implementation, consequences and exceptions to the new rule.”

Alpine ISD Superintendent Michelle Rinehart said the district’s board adopted guidance last week banning students from using phones during the school day and requiring that electronic devices be stored silently in backpacks — not to be seen or “worn on a student’s person.”

The main change at Alpine ISD will be at Alpine High School, she said, where students were previously allowed to have cellphones on their person. The only change for the elementary and middle schools is the “potential for new consequences if students violate the state law,” Rinehart said.

Parent communications, a high school lunch policy and disciplinary actions are still being worked out by administrators, she said, but announcements are coming soon.

Rinehart said due to Alpine’s remoteness — and how often and how far students travel — the district opted not to ban phones completely, and instead ban the use of them during the instructional day so that parents can still be in communication with their kids as they travel to and from school.

It is common for schools to utilize applications to send out texts to registered students’ and parents’ cellphones, a tool that would likely be utilized in the event of a school emergency. Ojeda said Marfa ISD will continue to share communications through its established channels, but in the rare event of an extreme emergency, of course kids will communicate with their parents. “I would never want to keep a parent from knowing whether or not their child is safe,” she said.



**BIG BEND
HEALTH**
PRESENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

August 8, 2025
From 4:00 PM to 7:00 pm

PRE-REGISTER TO SAVE YOUR SPOT!



JOIN US FOR

★ FREE SPORTS PHYSICALS

★ FREE SCHOOL VACCINATIONS*

★ FREE SCHOOL BACKPACKS (while supplies last)

* For students who qualify

LOCATION

Marfa Elementary School
413 W Columbia St, Marfa, TX 79843

PARTNERS



BARGAINS OF THE MONTH®



SAVE 35% OR MORE
8.99
RESCUE!
Reusable Yellowjacket
Trap L 492 884



SAVE 30% OR MORE
3.99
Spectracide®
18.5 oz. Aerosol Wasp &
Hornet Killer L 119 002



SAVE 30% OR MORE
13.99
Raid®
3-pk. 2.1 oz. Raid Max®
Concentrated Deep
Reach™ Fogger L 247 553



SAVE 20% OR MORE
4.79
Scott®
2-pk. 55 ct. Shop
Towels H 690 677



SAVE 35% OR MORE
4.99
3M®
1.88 in. x 60 yd. Multi-
Use Duct Tape P 642 094



SAVE 25% OR MORE
9.99
WD-40®
14.4 oz. EZ Reach™
Multi-Use Lubricant
Spray H 212 826



SAVE 35% OR MORE
5.99
Gardner Bender®
100-pk. 8 in. Black
Cable Ties E 810 150



SAVE 35% OR MORE
27.99
No-Spill®
View-Stripe™ 5 gal.
Gas Can H 117 843

Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last. Products, product availability, pricing and savings may vary by store. See your local store for details.

MORRISON TRUE VALUE
301 N 5TH ST
ALPINE,
TEXAS 79830
432-837-2061
<https://stores.truevalue.com/tx/alpine/9144/>



Sale ends 8/31/25

TV-AD-9195351800

©2025 TV Hardware Distribution, LLC

Find the right products for your project at your local True Value®.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Cibolo Creek Ranch

(Continued from page 1)

La Cienega properties via a different route.) “This lack of access puts Plaintiffs livestock at risk of starvation and injury,” the petition states. “Plaintiff does not have a feasible alternative to access Harper Ranch to check on the well-being of its livestock.”

The petition states that the ranch’s property rights are being attacked due to an inability to access land that it has otherwise been able to access for decades. It also claims Cibolo Creek Ranch’s long history of use should give it an easement to travel the road. “Plaintiff is entitled to use Morita Road through Flying W. Ranch as a prescriptive easement, which is acquired by the open, notorious, continuous, exclusive, and adverse use to access the Property,” the petition states.

In an answer to the petition, Weisman’s attorney — Rod Ponton — disputed the assertion that the road was used extensively by Cibolo Creek Ranch, and instead said it was “a very roughshod, abandoned-seeming road throughout the last couple decades.” “By the time Defendant [Weisman] purchased, the road was nearly impassable in places,” Ponton wrote.

“Johnny Weisman has owned Texas ranches since the 1980s, and always respects private property rights,” Ponton said later in a statement. “Although Cibolo Creek Ranch has owned an existing easement to access its ranch across the Boerschig Ranch since 1990, it has now decided to try to take part of the Flying W Ranch, without any legal right to do so. In Texas, we respect and uphold private property rights. We are confident that the Texas court will continue to respect the private property rights of the Flying W Ranch against the bullying tactics of Cibolo Creek Ranch.”

Ponton’s answer to the lawsuit argued that Cibolo Creek Ranch didn’t meet any of the requirements for a prescriptive easement and stated that it never attempted to find other means of access to its Harper Ranch with livestock, such as from Casa Piedra to the east. While Cibolo Creek Ranch provided affidavits

from employees that attested to widespread use of Morita Road over a long period of time, Ponton’s answer responded with affidavits from several Shafter residents and people associated with the Lely Ranch that acknowledged, but downplayed, the ranch’s use of the road over the years. They also stated that they always viewed the road as private and only accessible with permission.

Email exhibits in the lawsuit show a Poindexter representative seeking an agreement for access with Weisman last fall with correspondence back and forth with Weisman. Weisman made his position clear in an October email: “In closing, I will always be a good neighbor with all my neighbors in Presidio County including Cibolo Creek Ranch, Mr. Poindexter, you and staff. However, as I spoke with you last week, I have put new locks and chains at our common gate at Morita with a no trespassing sign. You do not have an easement across my ranch and never did have one. Let’s mutually respect each other’s property rights. Please only enter my ranch with my express permission.”

The two wealthy men share neighboring property on La Morita Road, but they are also neighbors of sorts within the tiny ghost town of Shafter. Poindexter has bought most of the core lots and structures there and is undertaking a massive restoration project of buildings for a heritage site with walk-in museums, antique cars and gas pumps, possible renovation of the historic Catholic Church and a cafe on the highway. Weisman bought a house down the road in Shafter, which he has renovated extensively for a getaway location for him and his wife. He has even been seen landing his helicopter on a few occasions to see how the house project is progressing.

Also involved in the initial gate battles was the Fuentes Ranch, the first ranch on La Morita Road out of Shafter. In a February letter from attorney Sam Ballard — representing Fuentes owner David Loustaunau — to Weisman, he wrote: “It is our understanding that sometime in October 2024, you cut a chain securing a

private gate on the Ranch and installed your own lock without permission. You did this with knowledge that you were trespassing on private property as there is clear signage. ... We have removed your lock from the gate and also placed a chain across the main entrance to the Ranch. You are notified that any further entry by you or anyone under your direction or the direction of John Weisman, the sole owner of Holdings LLC, without the express written permission of the Ranch owners, will be a further trespass and breach of the peace.”

The Fuentes Ranch is not a party in the lawsuit, and Loustaunau and Ballard did return requests for comment, so it’s uncertain if any disputes remain with Weisman.

When Ponton, in his capacity as then-county attorney, stood up to make comments at a spring 2024 candidates forum for his reelection, he threw out a dig at two Marfans embroiled in a lawsuit over whether the road to their property was public (county-owned) or private. Mary Baxter and Neil Chavigny contended the road — Naegele Springs Road — was private, after locking out another landowner who recently purchased adjacent property. Ponton initially represented that landowner in a lawsuit to define it as a public road and open up the gate. (He later was forced off the case due to a conflict of interest as a county official.) Ponton told the forum that Baxter and Chavigny needed to be more respectful of the Presidio County tradition of open and neighborly conduct by opening up the gate. While the issues are somewhat different, Ponton is now arguing to keep gates closed to neighbors.

Ballard, the attorney representing the Cibolo Creek and Fuentes ranches, also was the counsel for Baxter and Chavigny and is now switching from arguing to keep a gate locked to a petition to keep gates open.

A hearing has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to take place in September.

Hunter

(Continued from page 1)

example, he relates how in Paraguay with “Project Jaguar,” they use “green hunting” to dart jaguars that are killing livestock and fit them with tracking collars — as well as studying blood samples — then relocating them. He also worked to track Florida panthers, which were on the edge of extinction, to

bolster research into the reasons for their decline.

Rocky followed in the footsteps of his late father, Rory McBride, who also spanned the lines of hunting and research. He is married to Brewster County Republican Party Chair Monica McBride, who also was a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Roberts is an accomplished musician who often plays the stand-up bass. He has toured with the Doug Moreland Band for years, headlining the Fort Davis barn dances and other area events. He did not respond to a request for comment, and his attorney, Rod Ponton, declined to comment.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Kerr County death toll now at 108, two still missing

The number of people still missing in the July 4 Kerr County flood dropped to two after another body was recovered last week, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

The two still missing are a child and an adult who were at Camp Mystic, where at least 27 campers and counselors died.

The death toll in Kerr County now totals 108. Statewide, the death toll has reached at least 136. Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered disaster declarations for 30 Texas counties, making them eligible for both state and federal assistance.

“Texas remains relentless in our efforts to help impacted Texans and communities rebuild,” Abbott said.

The counties included in Abbott’s state-level declaration include Bandera, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Edwards, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Real, Reeves, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Uvalde and Williamson.

Lawmakers blast river authority for not upgrading

Lawmakers from both parties ripped into Kerr County’s river authority for choosing to cut property taxes rather than modernizing a flood warning system, the *Statesman* reported. The hearing last week before 18 Texas Senate and House members came during the first week of the special session.

Tara Bushnoe, general manager of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, testified before the panel. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, called the decision “extremely disturbing.”

A report published last week by the Houston Chronicle found the river authority was only willing to spend about \$100,000 to upgrade its flood warning system after a 2016 engineering study found a \$1 million overhaul was needed. The authority also turned down an interest-free loan from the Texas Water Development Board spanning 30 years for the upgrade.

“You had the resources to deploy this system absent any FEMA grant, absent any water development loan, and I guess that’s troubling because you had the money but not the will,” state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, said.

Bushnoe said the authority has funded other critical projects, including gauges used by the National Weather Service to predict floods.

However, she said, “I agree there’s much room for improvement, and we are working towards that.”

Move to ban hemp-derived THC gaining traction

Backers of a move to ban synthetic hemp-derived THC hope to build support for the state’s recently expanded medical marijuana program, arguing it is a safer and more effective alternative to the unregulated vapes and gummies sold across the state, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

“Cannabis is what has saved the lives of so many veterans in this country, but this unregulated version of cannabis is dangerous,” Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, said.

A proposal to outlaw most of the consumable products containing THC, the psychoactive compound found in cannabis plants, is gaining speed in the Senate despite a similar measure having been vetoed by Abbott after the regular session. The governor placed regulating hemp products on the special session agenda.

Legislation to impose age limits, along with other regulations, is expected to be filed soon in the House. Abbott has said he would support such a plan.

Medical marijuana is provided legally through the Texas Compassionate Use Program and has about 116,000 active participants. During the regular session, bills were passed increasing the number of medical marijuana licensees from three to 15 and increasing the number of dispensary and storage sites.

GOP redistricting plans draw ire of Democrats, others

The first hearing of a Republican plan to redraw congressional maps drew plenty of criticism at the House redistricting committee’s first public meeting, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

“The effort to change these districts at this time has nothing to do with representing people better,” said Rep. Jon Rosenthal, D-Houston, and vice chair of the House committee in charge of redistricting. “It’s the opposite of that. It’s a power grab at the expense of Black and brown communities.”

The attempt to redraw the congressional map at mid-decade comes at the behest of President Donald Trump in hopes of increasing the GOP’s narrow majority in the U.S. House in the 2026 midterms. The current map, drawn in 2021, has yielded 25 Republican seats and 13 for Democrats.

No proposed revisions of the current map have been released to date.

Paxton claiming three houses as primary residence

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, Angela, are claiming three separate houses as primary residences, allowing them to get lower mortgage interest rates and save on property taxes, the *Associated Press* reported.

Doing so may be a potential violation of both federal and state laws. Documents reviewed by the AP show the Paxtons hold mortgages on three homes — one in suburban Dallas and two in Austin, with each listed as their primary residence.

The couple is now estranged after Angela Paxton filed for divorce earlier this month. Ken Paxton is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the GOP primary next March. Neither responded to multiple requests to comment before the story was published.

Cornyn quickly criticized his opponent, who leads in early polls.

“It’s a violation, in all likelihood, of state and federal law,” Cornyn said last week.

After the story was published, Ken Paxton posted on X that, “John Cornyn and his establishment Swamp allies pushed this fake news to slander me, and Cornyn even called for the feds to take me down.”

5,000-person detention camp to be built in El Paso

The federal government has awarded a contract to build an immigration detention center at Fort Bliss in El Paso, *The News* reported. The tent camp would be the largest immigration detention facility in the United States.

Acquisition Logistics, a Virginia-based company, was awarded the \$232 million contract. The facility would be used to house single immigrant adults.

Immigrant advocates say using tents for detention is unlikely to meet federal standards.

“All the reasons why you and I live not in tents but in homes are going to inevitably come up in a facility that doesn’t offer people walls and floors and insulation,” Emma Winger, deputy legal director at the American Immigration Council, said.

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.



la fundación

the CHINATI foundation

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

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

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



Stop the Rezoning of Our Neighborhood!

Sign the petition to stop the rezoning of a neighborhood property to build a new AEP substation.

Tell City Council members to reject this bad idea that will ruin Marfa's character and go against our comprehensive plan.

Scan the QR Code or visit <http://tinyurl.com/no-zone-change> to sign the petition.

MINB

THE MARFA NATIONAL BANK

24 Hour ATM Loans

Personal Banking Business Banking

301 S. Highland Ave. - Marfa

432-729-4344 or 877-729-4344

Member FDIC

www.marfanb.com

MAC SEPTIC PORTA POTTIES

Rick McIvor

Owner / Operator

325-812-5541

RickMcIvor7@gmail.com

P.O. Box 640, Fort Davis, TX 79734

We are your local funeral home!

MOBILE MORTICIAN OF TEXAS

(432) 249-1333

Owned and operated in the Big Bend area by James Hall.

The funeral home that comes to you, no matter your budget

<https://www.facebook.com/MobileMorticianofTexas>
<https://www.instagram.com/mobilemorticianoftexas/>
<https://twitter.com/MofTX>

43430 Hwy 17-s

P.O. Box 2174

Fort Davis, TX 79734

Opinion

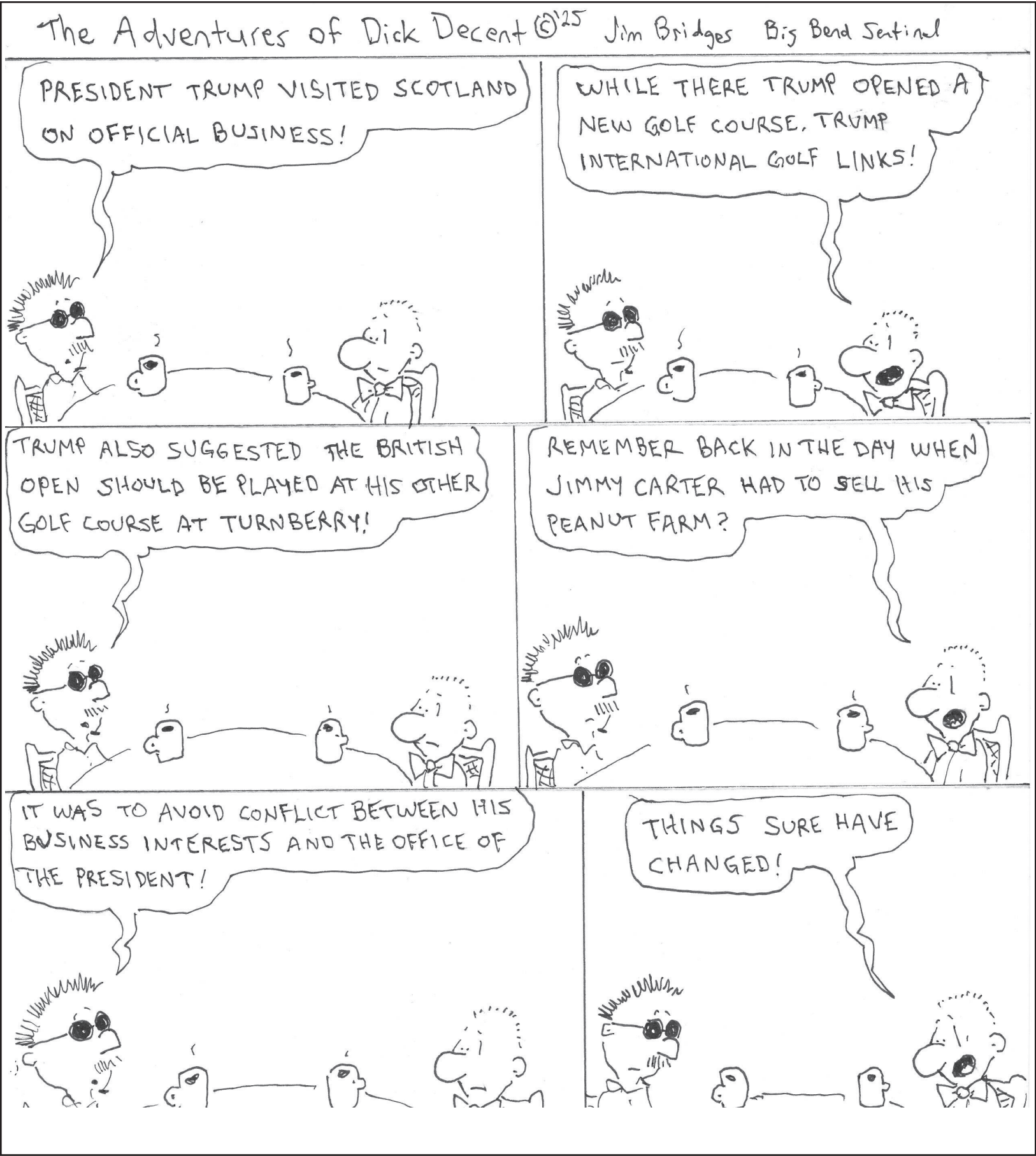
Dear Editor,

Many youth camps affected by the flooding in the Texas Hill Country lost all of their tack to water damage. We believe strongly in the importance of equine programs for children and have begun collecting used tack to assist in the process of rebuilding these programs.

Do you have any tack you are no longer using and would like to donate to help them re-establish their equine programs? Can be either new or used. The list below features items that have been requested. All pieces can be brought to Big Bend Saddlery in Alpine, and we will make sure it is taken where it's needed. Our prayers are with all the families affected by this terrible tragedy.

- Items needed:**
- Saddles (even damaged saddles that latigos, stirrups, or other parts can be scavenged off of)
 - Saddle blankets/pads
 - Headstalls
 - Latigos
 - Cinches
 - Curb straps
 - Bits
 - Reins
 - Flank billets
 - Stirrups

Thank you!
Big Bend Saddlery
Alpine



City Council should deny AEP rezone

The public hearing on August 5 will likely be the deciding factor in whether Marfa will concede 4 acres of residential land to a large unmanned electrical facility proposed by AEP.

AEP plans to relocate and expand the local distribution substation, currently located on Oak Street across from the Ice Plant, but it will require a zoning change from R-1 Residential to I-Industrial.

Such downzoning is not the norm in American cities. It is rarely, if ever, done. Over the past century, zoning has regulated development in most every city and town across the country. One of its top priorities is to separate residential properties from industrial ones to protect the safety and well-being of people in their homes. This protection has led to housing investment becoming the anchor of many Americans' financial stability, including many Marfa residents.

Zoning is the primary planning tool used in Marfa. To abandon it in this case will discredit the city's efforts to enforce zoning rules on individuals when the primary purpose is abandoned for a large corporation like AEP, which possesses far more resources and tools at its disposal. AEP needs to play by the same rules as everyone else in town.

Within the city limits, all property owners must conform to the zoning ordinance. Buildings and fences are regulated in location, form and height, and there is little any property owner can do about it. As a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, we hear from many frustrated property owners, and we recently amended the zoning ordinance to allow for more flexibility where we could.

But to go from a 30-inch corner-fence height restriction on one side of the street to a full city block of 30-foot tall electrical infrastructure with security fencing and 24-hour lighting hardly seems like a fair deal. Residential property owners and renters presume their investments are safe and their quality of life will continue as before in the places they live. This is the fundamental purpose of zoning in the United States. Undermining this reality of American life should only be done in dire circumstances of absolute necessity.

Reliable electricity is essential for modern life, and no one is disputing its importance. However, the proposed site is just that – proposed. AEP has yet to purchase the property, and for good reason. They understand that it requires an unprecedented downzoning in an area where people have lived for decades and others, including myself and several neighbors, have invested substantially in renovating the adobes there, believing that there is historic and cultural value in the older structures that were built by the original Marfa residents.

According to Fred Guerrero, AEP's external affairs manager, the company won't even invest in rudimentary planning until the rezone is approved, which keeps all of us in the dark as to what will end up being constructed there.

AEP is a regulated utility with budgets and powers well beyond those of any resident and even city governments. They agree to provide power for regions and communities and make a healthy profit doing so. In this instance they are not constrained in any way to build a new substation on that particular property. In fact, they possess the power of public domain, which they often use in running transmission lines.

Marfa, on the other hand, is constrained by its current city limits, and can

never replace or acquire new residential land.

The truth of the matter is that the new location is merely expedient for AEP. Distancing the new substation from people's houses (in the city or county) will not hurt the company or the jobs of its local employees, who we count as friends and neighbors. According to Guerrero, at a cost of \$7-10 million, the budget will not be significantly affected by an alternative location.

By denying the rezone, the city is only asking AEP to find a location that does not adversely affect Marfa residents. Will there ever be a perfect location for the substation? Maybe not – but there are those that will do less direct harm. A denial from the City Council only means that AEP will have to look for another property, many of which can be found with a cursory search and a few phone calls just outside the city limits. City residents and even county officials are already striking deals with landowners to find them. The problem is that they won't be seriously considered or pursued unless City Council denies the rezone.

Contrary to many rumors around town, an alternative site will also not affect the reliability of service. Guerrero pointed out at a public hearing that power outages experienced in Marfa are caused by generation and transmission issues that cannot be mitigated by even the newest local substation.

AEP has a very close association with the city. Its investment in the expansion in electrical capacity is banking on the growth and success of Marfa over the coming decades. The company owes it to the Marfa community to expand its search and find properties with fewer negative consequences before asking to permanently blight a section of town that will otherwise evolve into a peaceful enclave of restored adobes and additional housing for the city.

The proposed substation will permanently mar the landscape, lower quality of life, devalue properties, and discourage future development on the east side of town. And for the rest of the city, it will be visible from Highland Street and other points across town.

City Council members should listen to the many citizens who have spoken up, written letters, and signed petitions about this issue, including the recommendation to deny the request from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The city is not responsible for making things easy for AEP. But it is mandated to enforce zoning in a fair and equitable way for everyone and every entity operating within the city limits. It risks much by skirting this duty.

Stephen "Chick" Rabourn
Planning & Zoning Commission Chair
Marfa

Specializing in Texas Ranch and Rural Properties

Cleat L. Stephens, Broker

FindARanchOutWest.com

432.295.3301

MARFAVISTA.COM

Wonder School Marfa Montessori

fostering peace, purpose, and wonder out west

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

A silver dollar
was stolen
Friday July 25
at Harry Crofton's
True Crime
photography
on view through
August 30

Judd Foundation

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

Judd Foundation is open Tuesday through Sunday and offers two distinct guided visits. Please visit our office, 104 South Highland Avenue, or website for the current schedule.

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

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

JUDD

NEWS IN BRIEF

AEP rezone hearing to take place Aug. 5
MARFA — A public hearing on the potential American Electric Power (AEP) property rezone will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 5, in the Casner Room at City Hall. It is an opportunity for the public to make their opinions heard on the issue.

This will be the third public hearing to take place on AEP’s request to rezone a piece of property on the east side from residential to industrial to construct a new substation. The lot is a four-acre parcel at the corner of E. Oak and N. Aprejo streets just before the Alamito Creek bridge. Marfa’s Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission held two public hearings on the matter earlier this spring.

The new substation — which AEP has argued is needed to ensure the reliability of the town’s power supply — is expected to be much larger in size, effectively tripling the capacity of the existing Oak Street substation, and to cost \$7 to \$10 million, which the city and school district will benefit from in the form of new tax revenue.

This will be the first, and perhaps the only, public hearing that Marfa’s City Council will hold. P&Z recommended council deny the rezone in a report, arguing that it will negatively impact the neighborhood, but council has the ultimate say on whether or not it will go through.

One P&Z commissioner, Lee Mediano, was absent for the meeting in which P&Z voted on their report. Citing a letter from the city attorney included in the report, Mediano stated in a recent City Council meeting that, unlike his fellow commissioners, he wished to publicly cast his vote not for or against the rezone, but for “with conditions,” as long as it is for the good of the public.

It is not yet clear if council members will vote to approve or deny AEP’s rezone request on August 5 after the public hearing, or if they will choose to schedule another hearing and cast their votes at a later date. It is on council’s agenda to discuss the project at this coming Thursday’s regular meeting.

There are several factors at play that complicate the rezone, including potential alternative sites, the fact that the property in question has been under litigation for several years, and several decision makers involved in the rezone are tied to AEP or the neighborhood.

To view a copy of the P&R report in its entirety or read The Big Bend Sentinel’s past coverage of the issue, visit bigbendsentinel.com/aeprezone

National Defense Area quietly expands in South Texas
TEXAS — On Friday, an online outlet called the *Border Report* wrote about a sign that popped up on a boat ramp on the Rio Grande in Mission.

The signs are small and face the river, warning folks coming up the ramp that it’s a “restricted area” owned by the Department of Defense and that people and vehicles are subject to search. Any materials documenting the area are “prohibited unless specifically authorized by the commander.”

The cryptic sign is one of over two thousand erected in recent months along the southern border in what are called “National Defense Areas,” or NDAs for short. In June, *The Sentinel* toured the newly-designated NDA in El Paso, where reporters grilled officials from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Defense (DOD) about the efficacy of the new program. Agency representatives stressed that the NDAs are designed to be a deterrent to people hoping to cross the border illegally with the help of cartel-affiliated guides. “Foreign terrorist organizations are lying to you,” said Interim El Paso Sector Chief Patrol Agent Walter Slosar. “They profit by spreading lies. They cannot deliver on their promises of entry or legal status.”

Just a few weeks later, the DOD announced that 250 miles of land formerly owned by the International Water and Boundary Commission (IBWC) in Cameron and Hidalgo counties would become part of the NDA system and are legally considered part of Joint Base San Antonio.

Multiple sources reported that local officials feel left out of the process, unable to answer questions to their constituents about whether American citizens could be prosecuted for crossing into NDA territory. By law, the Rio Grande is a publicly navigable waterway open to Texans for recreation. “We have an issue that we haven’t been able to resolve with immigration, and I think that this is kind of a drastic way of addressing it,” Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez told the *Border Report*.

Petition against certificates of obligation for courthouse repairs headed to Nov. election

PRESIDIO COUNTY — In June, residents of Presidio spearheaded a petition in hopes of preventing the county from going into debt over long-overdue repairs to the courthouse in Marfa and investment in updated equipment for the county’s road and bridge department. County leaders had been at a loss since 2022 about how to properly address the needed repairs, which have left the county’s Marfa employees without heat or air conditioning and frequently without the ability to use the elevator, a potential violation of state and federal accessibility laws.

County Judge Joe Portillo and commissioners initially decided to pursue certificates of obligation, rather than a bond election, to save money on an election that would likely fail. Portillo changed his tune since the plan was first hatched last summer, joining Presidio residents in protesting the county taking on debt. By state law, certificates of obligation do not automatically trigger an election, but can be sent to a vote if 5% of registered voters opt for a petition — the initiative in Presidio has since received the required signatures and has been submitted to the county, so the issue will go to a vote in November.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Amie Walker July 23, 2025

ACROSS

1 Specialty (In this answer, note letters 2-5)

6 First gentleman?

10 Male turkey

13 “Get it?”

14 Colorful toy bricks, casually

16 Mined find

17 Dining table decoration (... letters 8-11)

19 Golf course standard

20 Supportive garments

21 Frightful

23 Sagest

26 What’s depicted on the Just Visiting space in Monopoly (... letters 3-6)

27 Checked the license of, e.g.

28 (Kerplunk)

30 “... guess-es?”

31 Small time?

32 Primary

33 Astronomer Sagan

35 Field that contains quantum mechanics (... letters 5-8)

40 Composer Satie

41 Sailor’s septet

42 “... Paulo

43 Book drive org., often

44 Ding

45 VA concern

46 Cats with tricolor coats (... letters 4-7)

49 Stands up, as a date

51 Examples used as comparisons: Var.

52 Giraffe marking

53 Shar—

54 Strike up a conversation, say ... or what five entries in this puzzle do (with a greeting formed by their extra letters!)

59 Go astray

60 Start playing tennis

61 Deli order request

62 German article

63 Fret

64 Rib eye, e.g.

DOWN

1 Manhattan’s home, for short

2 “The Studio” actor

3 Christiane Amanpour’s channel

4 Active place

5 Decorative pitchers

6 Swiss setting in “Frankenstein”

7 Opus—

8 Feature of a cross-generational relationship

9 Chewy rice cake

10 Some year-end recaps

11 By mouth

12 “Little Women” star

15 Close tightly

18 Group in the original “Ocean’s 11” film

22 Signs of surgery

23 Tendril of smoke

24 Creative spark

25 Supervillains’ hideouts, perhaps

26 Family to “keep up with”

29 Small, for short

32 Personal Nintendo avatar

33 Popular AI tool

34 Shakespear-ean cries

36 Fall behind

37 Farm enclosure

38 Covering that might be signed with a “get well soon” message

39 Rolls out a lawn

43 Bakery-cafe chain

44 Mojave, for one

45 Strong, like a medicine

46 Like some superheroes

47 Corn holders

48 Fairy-tale foes

50 Hostess snack cakes

52 Present unfairly

55 “... Maria”

56 Rage

57 Texter’s

58 “Bye!”

58 “A mouse!”

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

© 2025 Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

Get your tickets for CDRI’s ‘BBQ & Auction’

FORT DAVIS — Get ready for a fun-filled evening at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute’s annual BBQ & Auction fundraiser on Saturday, August 9.

The event aims to introduce new attendees to the CDRI site while strengthening existing friendships. It also helps generate operating funds for programs throughout the upcoming year and supports CDRI’s educational initiatives for children in the Texas Education Agency’s Region 18 service area.

Tickets are priced at \$35. Attendees can look forward to a silent auction at 4 p.m. with live music by Rick Ruiz

and a Few Too Many, followed by a live auction led by Martin Stringer at 5 p.m., and a delicious barbecue dinner catered by Sanchez BBQ at 6 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.cdri.org. They will go off-sale as soon as they are sold out.

CDRI will be closed to the public for the entire day on August 9 to set up for the event. Gates

will open at 3:45 p.m., with the silent auction starting off the fun. CDRI is located at 43869 St. Hwy. 118, Fort Davis, Texas (4 miles southeast of Fort Davis on Hwy. 118). Call 432-364-2499 for additional information.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Gordon

Dedie Taylor bids on an auction item at last year’s CDRI fundraiser.

Come worship with us

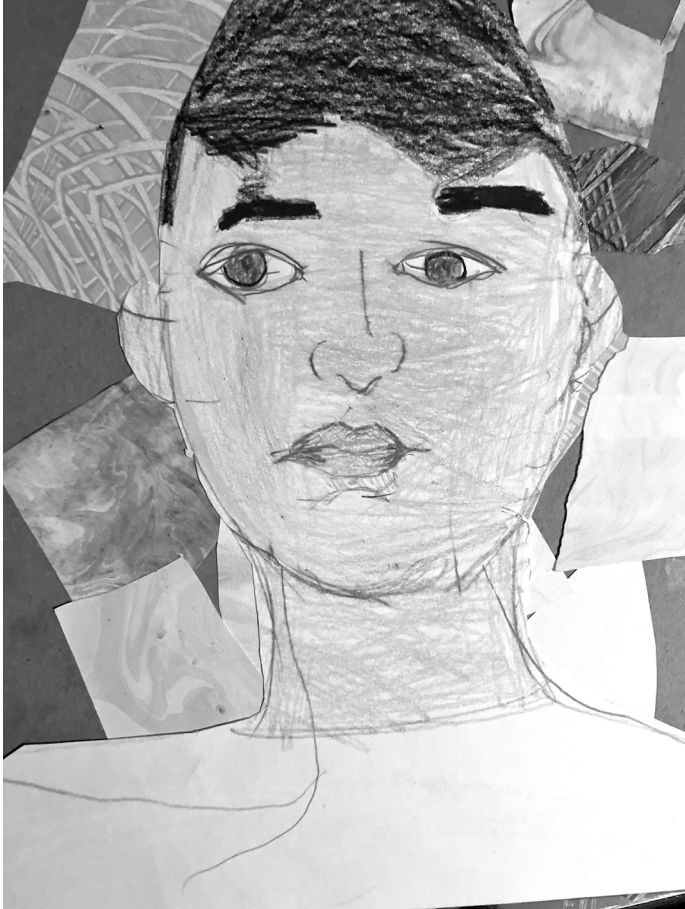


First United Methodist Church

*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
110 W Washington Steet
Marfa 432-729-4534

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Josaul Baeza
9th grade - Colored pencil & collage

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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

Attention Marfa

Please attend the city council meeting (Casner room) Tuesday August 5th, to voice your opposition regarding a zoning change. Also sign the petition online:

<http://tinyurl.com/no-zone-change>

320 W EL PASO • 432.426.0661 • THEMARFASPIRIT.COM

Come TOAST THE DESERT WITH US!

Marfa Spirit Co

GODBOLD BLDG DOWNTOWN

Visit!

DISTILLERY TOURS • DREAMY COCKTAILS • GIFTY THINGS

Good Guad

Camp at the foot of Texas' tallest peak

guad.co

YOUR AD HERE! ONLY \$10 / WEEK

Contact
ads@bigbendsentinel.com

YOUR AD HERE! ONLY \$10 / WEEK

Contact
ads@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESCRIPTION SHOP MARFA

A full-service pharmacy. Now accepting many insurance plans for service while you wait.

105 East Oak Street,
next to Marfa Country Clinic
432.729.4244
rxshopmarfa@gmail.com

ALTA MARFA WINERY

Texas Wine & Food
Friday - Sunday
5:00pm - 10:00pm
120 N Austin St.
instagram:
[@altamarfa](https://www.instagram.com/altamarfa) for updates

MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SUMMER BREAK

Motion for a gag order nixed in Brite Ranch lawsuit

Judge gives initial nod to adopted adult as Beau White’s trust successor

By Rob D’Amico
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — On July 15, attorneys for Mac White — a plaintiff in the Brite Ranch trial — filed a motion for the judge to impose a gag order prohibiting any of the parties from discussing the case with reporters or releasing any information to the media. Within two weeks they pulled the motion after the defendants claimed a right to free speech.

The battle over the historic ranch in southwest Presidio County between siblings Mac, Jim White (and formerly the late Beau White) and their children has been inching forward to an August 18 retrial with several substantive motions in the case still not being heard in court or receiving rulings.

Attorneys for Mac stated in their motion that the intent of a gag order would be to stop Jim White, Cuatro White, Raphael White Woodward and their attorneys from providing information to *The Big Bend Sentinel*. “As described herein, Defendant and Intervenors’ [Jim, Cuatro and Raphael] have engaged in continual warfare against Plaintiffs [Mac, formerly the late Beau, and Geoff] through selective use of *The Big Bend Sentinel* to assist in the publication of articles prejudicial to Plaintiffs. ... these articles threaten to poison the Presidio County Jury Pool — through no fault of Plaintiffs.”

The original lawsuit, which began in 2018, had Mac and Beau White suing Jim for breach of fiduciary responsibilities for the Jane White Trust. That trust and four individual trusts for her children — Jim, Mac, Beau and sister Hester Ann — form the ownership of the 65,000-acre ranch valued at more than \$60 million. Jim claimed that Mac and Beau were intent on selling the ranch, while he wanted to preserve it. Mac and Beau alleged Jim was concentrating too much on cattle ranching instead of more profitable pursuits to give them bigger distributions from the trust. A summer 2023 jury agreed and stripped Jim from managing the trust and ranch, but an appeals court voided that ruling in December. Since then, the parties have been involved in ongoing legal battles with dozens of motions filed and have failed at several mediation attempts, setting up the new August trial.

Jim’s son Cuatro was originally an “intervenor” in the case (along with his sister Raphael and two of their other siblings), but has since been named by the plaintiffs as a defendant — a “co-conspirator” in the breach of trust with his father Jim. For more background, you can read all 13 *Sentinel* stories on the case at bigbendsentinel.com/brite.

The Sentinel has been the target of back and forth allegations this spring that ended up in court hearings. Cuatro, in his motion to change the trial venue to another county, noted extensive newspaper coverage that his petition claimed would make an impartial trial impossible in Presidio County — since potential jurors would know a considerable amount about the lawsuit and accusations made by parties. “*The Big Bend Sentinel*, a local Marfa, Texas newspaper has published and circulated widely in that County numerous stories on this litigation ... Presidio County’s very small population with the family’s prominence and public office in the County and the numerous news stories that have been published and circulated, it is impossible that an impartial trial can be held that is fair to all Parties,” the motion stated.

Plaintiff lawyers rejected that notion by arguing *The Sentinel*’s coverage was balanced and would not prejudice a jury. (The judge ruled against a venue change.) Last week, those same attorneys changed their tune. “Defendants and their attorneys have been utilizing *The Big Bend Sentinel*

for their own purposes since immediately following the 2023 trial,” the motion for a gag order stated.

In defense of the attorneys’ flip flop, they had a new concern — as stated in their motion — one document *The Sentinel* reported on, which included Geoff Connor making his first appearance as a plaintiff party on a request for discovery to Jim Cuatro and Raphael. “Discovery requests are not public documents and Plaintiffs’ discovery request was not filed with the court so a party to the lawsuit must have provided a copy to The Big Bend Sentinel,” the motion stated. (The Sentinel does not reveal sources that ask to remain confidential, and that confidentiality is protected in most respects by state “shield” laws.)

On July 24, Cuatro’s attorneys fired back at the gag order and filed a Texas Citizens Participation Act (TCPA) motion to “stay” the trial — in other words, suspending all discovery and depositions until 394 District Court Judge Tryon Lewis ruled on the motion to fight the gag order. TCPA filings protect Texans from Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) suits, attempts to intimidate citizens when they are using their constitutionally-protected First Amendment rights to speak out on issues. In the TCPA motion, Cuatro called the attempted gag order unconstitutional, a violation of his free speech rights and rights to petition. It’s unclear why, but the plaintiffs have since pulled the motion for a gag order but pleaded that discovery should continue in the case without a stay suspending it. It’s uncertain if any steps will be taken on that request, since the next scheduled hearing on motions is August 5, and August 1 is the deadline for discovery.

A new role for Geoff Connor?

This week, Judge Lewis denied a motion from Jim and Cuatro to void the designation of Geoff Connor as the successor trustee to the Beau White Trust, after Beau died on June 23. However, the finality of that decision is unclear after the El Paso 8th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to a hearing on whether the trial should be stayed until it’s certain who all the parties are.

Mac and Beau both had adopted Connor — a then 59-year-old former Texas secretary of state who was a good friend of Beau and his wife Kathleen — in 2022. Cuatro and Raphael have called it a “sham adoption” intended to dilute the inheritance of other heirs and as a means to have leverage over them in trial negotiations. When Beau died, attorneys in Bastrop immediately made Connor temporary executor of Beau’s estate. They also got a ruling from a Bastrop County District Court judge that had been prepared before Beau’s death ultimately making Connor Beau’s successor trustee — a modification of the trust in court that wasn’t known about by Jim, Cuatro, Raphael and possibly no other members of the family. Jim and Cuatro argued in court that the trust’s original documents would make their sister Hester Ann White successor trustee, not Connor, and that the modification of the trust should also be voided because all parties in the lawsuit and trustees were not notified of the pleading.

To confuse matters more, the approved modification in Bastrop actually named Mac as Beau’s first successor trustee. But it’s unclear if Mac was even aware of that ruling. In a hearing last week, Mac’s attorney said that regardless of Mac’s knowledge or involvement in the modification, he had indicated he had no desire to serve as Beau’s successor trustee, and thus Connor had standing to serve in that role. Judge Lewis told the attorneys to submit a filing from Mac affirming he is refusing the role.

For now, at least, Connor is a new plaintiff in the lawsuit headed to trial. Hearings on additional motions still pending will be heard on August 5.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur
July
31

Paint & Sip - Couples edition

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

Open Studio - Afternoon sessions

2:30 - 5:30pm at USO Building
This performance lab is a rigorous investigation of the relationship between the self and the group in an art-making context. The workshop is intended to provide dedicated spaces for collective/ individual learning and exploration.

Hike with Homeless Dogs

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

Fri
Aug
1

Clay Work Reception

5 - 7pm at Big Bend Gallery
Big Bend Gallery hosts the artist reception for Clay Works. The show runs July 31st through September 9th.

Master Naturalist Hoke

9 - 10:30am at Davis Mountain State Park
Take an introductory deep dive into the Davis Mountains on this moderate walk ‘n’ talk.

Black Bear Weekend

5 - 7pm at 5th Street Gallery
Alpine Artist Chris Ruggia is hosting a weekend all about black bears. Come meet Chris and learn about his work and buy a few paintings. There will also be live music by Nick and Janelle.

Kathy & Mike Broussard

7 - 9pm at The Ritchey
Kathy & Mike Broussard return to Alpine with live music at The Ritchey, Friday, August 1st.

Sat
Aug
2

Marfa Doorway Park Cleanup Volunteer Day

7:30am - 2pm at Marfa Doorway Park
Join your neighbors in a guided volunteer day to clean up this beloved pocket park! We’re starting early to beat the heat, bring your gloves and bring a friend. Lunch will be provided at the end.

Nature Walk on the Wild Side

9 - 10:30am at Davis Mountain State Park
Explore the park’s primitive side on a guided nature walk.

Sun
Aug
3

Open Mic Night

4 - 7pm at Alcove Social
Open Mic Tuesdays at Alcove Social, 4pm!

Looking to
submit an
event?

Scan our QR
code here:



Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

Xbox Monday

Mondays (all day) at Marfa Public Library

Yin Yoga

Tuesdays at 12pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes

Tuesday & Thursday at 6pm at Marfa Public Library

AA (online & sometimes in-person)

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

AA (in-person)

Monday & Wednesday at 6pm at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

The Alpine Farmers Market

Saturday at 9am - 12pm 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 the event is happening.



**ALPINE SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE
AND LARGE ANIMAL SERVICES**
Mary Dodson, D.V.M.
Zachary Dodson, D.V.M.
3201 N. HWY 118, Box 7
Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-5416
**Mon. - Fri. 7:45 - 12:00 & 1:30 - 5:30
after hours - emergency 432.837.5416**





**Airbnb
Residential
Commercial
Photography**
MLSCameraGuy™
Where Real Estate Photography is Art!
915.490.3444



COCHINEAL

MARFA

CASUAL FINE DINING IN FAR WEST TEXAS

107 West San Antonio Street
Marfa, Texas 79843
432 729 3300 - cochinealmarfa.com

FOR SALE – 900 & 902 West El Paso

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

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

BBT Expanding Across West Texas

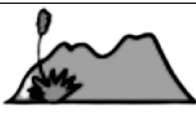
BBT is proud to have received \$4.89 million in funding through the BOOT (Broadband Opportunity Outreach and Technology) Grant Program. With this support, we are expanding our fiber network to reach over 500 homes in Fort Davis, Limpia Crossing, Iraan, Marathon, and Alpine.

This initiative is part of our ongoing mission to close the digital divide by building reliable, future-ready internet infrastructure in rural West Texas.

Please note: Some areas included in this expansion are pending final agreements related to AEP pole contracts.

We remain committed to transparency and will continue working closely with local partners to complete these projects as efficiently as possible. Stay informed at bigbend.com

**READ MORE AT
BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM**



ALPINE MONTESSORI

Small Schools, Big Opportunities!

At Alpine Montessori School, A Rising Star accredited campus, children grow through hands-on, child-centered learning with low teacher-student ratios, facilitating individualized attention.

Founded in 1989: Preschool through 6th grade/3 to 12 years old.

- Open enrollment for families seeking personalized education. Scholarships or subsidies are available to qualifying families.
- Passionate educators, we’re hiring (and training)!
- 908 N. 6th Street, Alpine TX 79830 <https://alpinemontessori.org/>

Please contact us at admin@alpinemontessori.org or call 432-837-2173

Short-Term Rental Management & Vacation Home Care



- Concierge-Style Service
- Personalized Approach
- Proven results

We ensure your home gets the attention it deserves

ylana@stillhousestays.com stillhousestays.com

Classifieds & public notices

‘Deals All Day’: New paintings, photographs and sculptures by Mo Eldridge and Matt Scobey

MARFA — The result of an ongoing conversation between friends, the exhibition and conversations — Deals All Day from Mo Eldridge and Matt Scobey — circle around the many forms of deals. All day the deals of the world frame our view: the deals we make with one another, the spirit of deals we make to stay alive. The exhibition stacks and threads layers of light, fragments and forms.

RULE Gallery will host an opening reception on Saturday, July 26, from 6-9 p.m. with the artists in attendance at 204 E. San Antonio St in Marfa.

With material play, both Eldridge and Scobey construct works through the consideration of concept, conversation, and what continues to shift alongside. Eldridge uses fabric and frames with both tension and suspension to create kinetic compositions. These works are often described as ephemeral and touching. Scobey uses plastic cups,

bowls, baskets, and acrylic to create stacked sculptures, often described as experiments in light and material energy.

Deals All Day offers an invitation to step through the portals of conversations that emerge between two friends finding truths in the deals of dialogue. Together in the gallery, these works are a window into new worlds of consideration, collaboration and frames of forms catching shifting light.

Regular RULE hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The closing of Deals All Day will take place at the gallery on Saturday, September 13, at 11:11 am, accompanied by a sound performance featuring vintage kitchen timers as a prelude to the annual Sonic Rodeo.

ABOUT:
Matt Scobey (b. 1979, Danville, IL) received a bachelor’s degree

in liberal arts from Colorado State University. After college, he worked as a studio assistant for artist Ray King in Philadelphia before spending many years in Denver, Colorado, working primarily in graphic design, illustration and publishing. He participated in and contributed to all levels of the Denver art scene, from DIY warehouse spaces to commercial galleries and institutions like the Denver Art Museum, Public Art / Denver Arts and Venues, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Scobey’s art has been exhibited nationally in Denver, Marfa, New Orleans, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Miami and Taos, and internationally in Paris, Mexico City, and Wroclaw, Poland.

Mo Eldridge (b. 1990, Louisville, KY) is an interdisciplinary artist, educator and writer currently based in Marfa. They received a BA in arts and humanities from Indiana

University, and an MFA in writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Writing and performance are foundational to Eldridge’s artistic approach. Early years of their artistic practice centered around poetic performance and installation, always in relation to publication. Their studio practice manifests as transparent sculpture paintings. These works hover off the wall highlighting light // space, kinetic composition, and elements of suspension // tension. There is equal engagement for Eldridge between their individual practice and community organizing, and a dynamic commitment where one continually fuels the other. They have curated exhibitions and events in both Chicago and Marfa, most notably as a founding member of the annual Sonic Rodeo festival in Marfa. Eldridge is a full-time instructor at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

A public hearing will be held regarding the proposed City of Marfa Ordinance described below as part of the City Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday August 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm at 113 Highland Ave. Marfa, Texas 79843.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A ZONING CHANGE WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF MARFA, TEXAS; REZONING THREE CONTIGUOUS PARCELS FROM RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO INDUSTRIAL (I); CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 4.0388 ACRES; LOCATED AT 102, 104 APEREJO ST. MARFA, TEXAS 79843, LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS PARCEL 1: S1/2 BLOCK 103, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF MARFA, PRESIDIO COUNTY TEXAS; PARCEL 2: N1/2 OF BLOCK 103, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF MARFA, PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS; PARCEL 3: A 3.57-ACRE TRACT, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF 6.71 ACRE TRACT IN SECTION 244, BLOCK 8, G.H. & S.A. RY. CO. SURVEY, CITY OF MARFA, PRESIDIO COUNTY, STATE OF TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE NOTATION OF THE CHANGE ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; AND PROPER NOTICE AND HEARING.

ironwoodINDUSTRIES

Specializing in architectural hardware for remodels and new construction

Coupland | Marfa

ironwoodindustries.com | 713.817.4041

LIVINGSTONINSURANCE AGENCY

IRAM MARQUEZ

903 W SAN ANTONIO-PO BOX 965-MARFA, TX 79843
OFFICE - (432) 729-4306 FAX - (432) 729-4305
iram@MarfaInsurance.com
www.marfainsurance.com

Bringing together buyers and sellers of ranches and unique properties throughout Texas

KINGLAND & WATER

Protecting Clients. Conserving the Land.

Offices in Fort Davis and Austin
432-426-2024 www.KingLandWater.com
info@KingLandWater.com

GARAGE SALE: CASH SALES ONLY

Friday & Saturday, August 1 & 2

TIME: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m., both days
407 North Phelps St., corner of Phelps & Ave. B

ITEMS FOR SALE: Large wooden desk, bookcases, file cabinets, bike, ladders, kitchen items, framed pictures, fabric, tools, tablecloth, and many more.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY

Judge Jose Portillo: (432) 729-4452

CITY OF MARFA

Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor
mayor@cityofmarfa.com
(432) 295-0048

Raúl Lara, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com

Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com

Mark Morrison
councilmembermorrison@cityofmarfa.com

Travis Acreman
councilmemberacremen@cityofmarfa.com

BREWSTER COUNTY

Main Number: 432-837-6200

Judge Greg Henington: (432) 837-6200 Ext. 200

Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:
City Hall: (432) 837-3301
Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Judge Curtis Evans: (432) 426-3968

FEDERAL:

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn: (202) 224-2934 (D.C. office)

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz: (202) 224-5922 (D.C. office)

THE BIG BENDSentinel

Max Kabat & Maisie Crow
Rob D'Amico
Sam Karas
Mary Cantrell
Ariele Gentiles
Tyler Sousa
Mary Etherington
Gilberto Carrillo
Rene Gonzales

Publishers
Editor-in-Chief
Reporter
Reporter
Copy Editor
Designer / Advertising
Contributor / Office Manager
Distribution
Distribution

Office: 209 1/2 W. El Paso St., Marfa, Texas
Mail: Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Telephone: 432.729.4342
Contact: editor@bigbendsentinel.com
Advertising Inquiries: ads@bigbendsentinel.com
www.bigbendsentinel.com

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

Guadalupe Rosales to host open studio this Friday

From The Chinati Foundation

MARFA — This Friday, August 1, Chinati artist in residence Guadalupe Rosales will host an open studio and reading event at the Locker Plant.

Rosales is a multidisciplinary artist working across sculpture, photography, video, sound, drawing and archival projects. She is best known for her community-generated, social media-based archives, including “Veteranas and Rucas” and “Map Pointz.”

Rosales conceived of the accounts in 2015 as a means to combat the under-/misrepresentation and historical erasure of Latin@/x communities in Southern

California. They began with an open invitation to share personal images and memories and have amassed a social media following of over 300,000.

At the open studio event, Rosales will present a selection of these archival materials and read from her upcoming book, to be published by One World Books in June 2026, which documents both her personal and communal artistic practices.

Open Studio and Reading
Friday, August 1, 6 p.m.
Locker Plant, 135 E Oak St.
Free and open to all.

Marfa ISD hosts ‘The Great Comeback 2025’ honoring golf state qualifiers

MARFA — Marfa ISD will host a ceremony to honor past golf state qualifiers at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, August 2, at the Marfa Municipal Golf Course as part of “The Great Comeback,” an annual initiative to honor the athletic achievements of Shorthorn alumni.

This year’s honorees will be celebrated during the Chavez Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. The recognition will continue throughout the Marfa Lights Festival Weekend, on August 29, 2025 at the football field, spotlighting these athletes' lasting legacy and contributions to Marfa golf history.

This year's honorees are Chris Baker, 1997 state champion; Yvonne Zubiate Lujan, 1987 state qualifier; and Ronnie Martinez, David Walker, Scott Taylor, Sammy Jimenez, Danny Armendariz and John Gush, 1981 and 1982 team state qualifiers.

Chris Baker — 1997 UIL state champion

Chris Baker made history as Marfa’s only individual UIL state champion, a title he earned in 1997. Baker clinched first place by shooting a 74 in his second round for a two-day total of 155, edging out the nearest competitor from Celeste High School by two strokes. His championship remains the only individual state title in Marfa ISD athletic history, cementing his place in the record books.

Yvonne Zubiate Lujan — 1987 state qualifier and collegiate golfer

A standout golfer and 1987 state qualifier, Yvonne Zubiate Lujan led the Marfa team with strong performances at the district and regional levels, earning her a spot at the UIL state tournament, under the guidance of head golf coach Richard Hibbits. Her talent and dedication caught the attention of collegiate scouts, leading to her recruitment by the University of Texas at El Paso, where she played for

three years with the UTEP Miners.

1981 & 1982 Marfa golf team — State qualifiers, regional champions and district champions

This remarkable team began their high school careers as underdogs, but through hard work and determination, they emerged as regional champions and state contenders in back-to-back seasons with a 1981 state runner-up finish and a 1982 4th-place team finish at the state championships. Led by a talented group of underclassmen, the team shocked the region by advancing to the state level. Winning the district championship came as a surprise, but their triumph at regionals in Odessa was an even greater accomplishment. Key contributors included: Ronnie Martinez, Scott Taylor, Danny Armendariz, David Walker, Sammy Jimenez and John Gush. The team built on consistent successes and later dominated the regional championships by winning with an impressive 20 stroke margin, under the guidance of Coach Harold Steele.

In the 2022–2023 school year, Marfa ISD launched The Great Comeback initiative — an ongoing effort to honor and celebrate the athletic achievements of past Marfa High School teams. The inaugural honorees were the 1980–1981 Lady Shorthorns volleyball team, who defied the odds to finish as UIL state runners-up, showcasing resilience and determination on their path to the championship match. Continuing the tradition, the 2023–2024 Great Comeback recognized the 2012 Marfa track team, which qualified for the UIL state championships and proudly brought home a state medal in the 800-meter run. Through The Great Comeback, Marfa ISD preserves the legacy of its student-athletes and inspires current generations by celebrating the perseverance, teamwork, and excellence that define Shorthorn sports history.

BBT

CONNECTED WITH PEACE OF MIND

BBT's reliable internet includes:

Online Security & Protection
Parental Controls
Local Support
Web Intrusion Protection
Parental Time Limits & MORE!

Get \$10 off your bill for the school year* (10 mos.)

Sign Up Today
800.592.4781

Or Sign Up Online 24/7
bigbend.com

*Terms Apply

FREE INSTALLATION NO CONTRACTS

aramark

Aramark Campus Dining is now hiring for the following positions for afternoon/evenings:

Lead Cook
Grill Cook
Dishwashers

Pay is based on experience. Please visit our website to apply!
https://careers.aramark.com/

Questions? Call 432-837-8670

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.

CACTUS LIQUORS

Booze & Native plants!

cactusliquorsmarfa.com
Instagram: @cactusliquors

SATURDAYS FARM STAND FOOD COURT & FLEA MARKET

10 AM - SOLD OUT

405 S Highland Ave
Marfa, TX 79843

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

Paul Graybeal, Owner
Ben Toro, Associate
432-729-4526
pgagates@gmail.com
moonlightgemstones.com

P.O. Box 1220
1001 W. San Antonio St.
Marfa, Texas 79843
Mon-Sat, 10-5pm
Sunday by Appt

Lapidary • Silversmith • Custom Jewelry • Rocks • Fossils • Minerals