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School Board may have violated nepotism law in hiring of board president's daughter

Monday meeting could result ousting board president from her lead position

By Rob D'Amico
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MARFA — Marfa ISD School Board members may have violated state nepotism laws with the August 18 hiring of Rebecca Ontiveros who was charged on August 21 with an improper relationship with a student and then resigned last Wednesday. Ontiveros is the daughter of School Board President Teresa Nuñez. Under Texas law, a school official — such as a board member — in most cases cannot hire anyone who is a school official's child — also with prohibitions for spouses, siblings and other relatives. That prohibition extends to fellow board members.

However, some unusual twists in what happened during the hiring may invalidate any improper actions by the board, which believed it was following the law.

An affidavit from the Texas Ranger investigating the case states that Ontiveros — who was set to be a pre-K teacher for the school year — admitted to a sexual relationship with a male high school student in June and July. See story on page 1 for more details on the case.

This article is based on numerous conversations with sources who did not want to be named for a variety of reasons ranging from fear of retaliation to privacy concerns because they have kids in Marfa schools. Those sources suggest School Board members did not understand that any hiring of Ontiveros would be improper.

Members thought it was allowable as long as Nuñez recused herself from voting. She reportedly abstained on the vote to hire her daughter, though official minutes from the August 18 meeting in question are not available yet because they have not been approved by the board.

Texas law states that small counties — with populations under 35,000 — have certain exceptions to nepotism prohibitions. One key exception is if the superintendent has ultimate hiring authority for contract employees like teachers. Under local district policy, Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez does not have that authority; he can hire at-will employees, and he recommends contract positions, but the board ultimately votes on contract hires like Ontiveros. Therefore, the exception does not apply to Marfa ISD.

The entire School Board may be on the hook for the illegal hiring, even though Nuñez didn't directly offer a vote confirming the hiring. Nevertheless, she is still a public official, leading the board that hired her daughter. The penalty for violating the nepotism laws is a misdemeanor with a penalty of $100-$1,000 and possible removal from the board.

Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez issued a statement Tuesday expressing confidence that the board is in the clear. "Through my research

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Photo by Hannah Gentiles

Ernesto Zubia addresses the School Board and its president, Teresa Nuñez (center), at its September 4 meeting.

Court docs show district was tipped off on an improper relationship with a student in April

By Rob D'Amico
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MARFA — Court records in the case alleging Marfa ISD teacher Rebecca Ontiveros had an improper relationship with a male high school student show that the district first heard word of the allegations in April this year, well before the School Board granted her a new contract on August 18 to teach pre-K. However, "all parties" denied the allegations at the time, according to a probable cause affidavit in a search warrant filed in district court last Friday. *The Big Bend Sentinel* has found new details on exactly what the district did in April to investigate the tip.

The School Board met last Thursday on personnel matters — including whether Board President Teresa Nuñez, Ontiveros' mother, should resign. The closed session resulted in screaming matches emanating from the closed door, including obscenities.

While members of the public attending the meeting said they thought that the employment of Ontiveros also would be discussed — she had been on paid administrative leave since her August 21 arrest — Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez told *The Big Bend Sentinel* that she was no longer with the district as of 5 p.m. last Wednesday. Ontiveros had been charged with an improper relationship with a student, was jailed, then released the following day on a $75,000 bond. At the time of Alferez's brief statement, it was unclear whether she was terminated or resigned; Alferez had no further comment. The board took no action after the closed session.

The court records revealed Friday — search warrants sought by the Texas Ranger investigating the case — offer a more detailed scope of the alleged relationship between Ontiveros and a male high school student. The Ranger, Malcolm White, accompanied by other law enforcement officers, went to Marfa ISD on August 21 to interview Ontiveros and the unnamed student — SVI, a label for student victim one. The grandmother of the student had made a formal complaint to the Marfa Police Department, which then contacted the Rangers. The grandmother told police that Ontiveros and the student told her on separate occasions that they were involved in an "ongoing sexual relationship."

The student and Ontiveros initially denied a relationship when confronted by police, but Ontiveros eventually "confessed" to having sex with the student on two occasions in June and July of 2025 — both in her car — according to affidavits. "Ontiveros later confessed that she and SVI frequently communicated over Snapchat and that SVI had made numerous sexual advances towards her while they communicated over Snapchat as well as in person," the affidavit stated. "Ontiveros stated that she and SVI began communicating over Snapchat in the fall of 2024," it said.

The records showed authorities also interviewed a juvenile witness one, (JWI) who said the student and Ontiveros "had been hanging out at Ontiveros' residence in Marfa." The affidavit did not give a time period for this account. On these occasions, JWl reported that "SVl and Ontiveros would often go alone into Ontiveros' room for long periods of time. JWl had also witnessed SVl and Ontiveros flirting with one another while in public."

Ontiveros told Ranger White that she blocked the student on Snapchat on August 16 after "interpersonal issues." The warrants seek searches of Snapchat accounts, Ontiveros' iPhone, and her car, which was sealed and impounded. All of the warrants were issued by 394th District Judge Monty Kimball on August 25, except for the car, which was issued on September 2. Not filed yet with the district clerk is an arrest warrant probable cause affidavit. However, *The Sentinel* obtained it from a third party who received it in an open records request to the Department of Public Safety.

Affidavits and warrant information "executed" — meaning signed — by a judge are supposed to be filed immediately with the judge's clerk for public inspection unless the subject of a warrant hasn't been arrested or released on bond yet. The Presidio district clerk had not received these records — as they were supposed to — until Friday morning, several days after they were executed. Without the Texas Rangers commenting on who issued their warrants, it became a guessing

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Ballroom Marfa welcomes world-renowned pianists to unusual venues

The 'Bullroom' makes its introduction

MARFA — An old roadside motel on the edge of town. The Stone Circle art, light and sound installation, giant boulders on the border of the grasslands. And a decades-old but recently unused auction barn where snorting and stomping bulls were sold to ambitious cattle operators. If these sound like the perfect venue for two world-class pianists to wow you with their fast fingers and mastery of complex compositions, then Ballroom Marfa has an invitation for you to experience their brilliance in these unique settings — something only available in Marfa.

Celebrated pianists Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy will travel from London to bring their groundbreaking, site-specific musical vision to Ballroom Marfa for a weekend of performances that promise to be unlike anything seen or heard before — as least for piano maestros — in Far West Texas.

Fresh from sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall and immersive, place-inspired performances at the Guggenheim museums in Bilbao and Venice, Kolesnikov and Tsoy arrive not to perform in Marfa, but with it. Their invitation? To listen deeply to the land, the wind, and the light echoing across this high desert terrain.

Over the course of three days and five performances, their residency will unfold across a series of public and secret spaces almost forgotten. Each performance is conceived in dialogue with its setting, creating a kind of living score shaped by silence, architecture, texture, and time.

The music of Beethoven, Ustvolskaya and Messiaen is chosen not as repertoire, but as resonance. Each work becomes a portal, a sonic aperture through which landscape and listener meet. This is not a concert series. It is a sonic pilgrimage: a constellation of fleeting encounters that blur the boundaries between classical form and radical place-making.

With roots in the world's most revered concert halls and a commitment to reimagining how and where we listen, Kolesnikov and Tsoy are ready for a weekend of exploration under the dark skies — and well, the bull barn ceiling — of Marfa.

Regarding some of the venues, the bull barn, tentatively titled "Bullroom," is the latest innovation in the Ballroom Marfa music series. The nonprofit recently saved the barn from obscurity by leasing it from Presidio County after the Hereford Cattle Association's lease ended last year. The Stardust is the motel on Highway 90 west toward Valentine with the iconic sign. And the Stone Circle is a massive solar-powered sculpture at the north end of Gold Course Road, a creation of Haroon Mirza in 2018 that comes to life on full moons with lights and sound.

Kolesnikov and Tsoy took time from their busy travels to pen their thoughts on Marfa. "Last winter we came to Marfa for the first time," they wrote. "We came without a plan. For a few days we were driving around incessantly. We would get out of the car almost at random, looking, listening, and sensing. We looked at the 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' things with the same eyes. I think, a bit as if

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Photo by Joss McKinley

Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy

City proposes significant tax raises to help pay for street repairs, smart meters

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — The City of Marfa is proposing to significantly raise property taxes in order to pay for a $5 million tax note for more street repairs and the installation of new smart meters — automatic water meters — across town. The percent tax rate increase from last year is 69.52%. Last year's tax levy was just over $1 million. This year the city is proposing to bill taxes at $2 million, a 77.5% increase in tax dollars.

The city took out a $3 million tax note in 2023, which it used to pay for a total overhaul of five streets targeted for repair by city staff. But council members acknowledged recently there are still several streets that need to be addressed, requiring an additional tax note. The need for new smart meters was underscored earlier this year, when it became publicly known that there are hundreds of inoperable water meters across the city — resulting in some customers paying for all of the water that they use while others with inoperable meters pay a minimum fee.

Mayor Manny Baeza presented a draft version of the 2025-26 budget last week, and council members are set to meet for several subsequent budget workshops and public hearings on the proposed tax rate later this month. The city is currently working with a balanced budget.

The city is proposing to adopt the voter-approval tax rate, .556440 per $100 of value, the highest they can go without ordering an election. Last year's tax rate was .328250. The average homestead taxable value was $151,810 last year, resulting in an approximately $498 annual payment with the adopted tax rate. This year's average homestead taxable value is $134,408 — likely lower due to recently-passed legislation — and will result in an approximately $748 annual payment if the voter approval rate passes, a 50% increase from last year. For more information, see the public notice on page 4.

This year's budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by $864,443, roughly the cost of the city's annual debt payment if the $5 million tax note is secured.

The city is waiting on its 2023-24 audit, which is performed by an outside firm and has been significantly delayed, to be completed before it can go out for the new tax note. Texas cities are required to adopt their budgets by September 29, and the city still needs to go out for bids on the tax note. City Accountant Dan Dunlap told *The Big Bend Sentinel* this week that the tight timeline is less than ideal. "We're getting really close. We're running out of weeks," he said.

If the audit is not completed in time the city cannot take on more debt, meaning staff will recalculate the city's Interest in Sinking (I&S) rate to match its current debt load and adopt a tax rate lower than the proposed voter-approval rate. The tax notes — the previous $3 million one and the potential $5 million one — are seven-year agreements.

In addition to new automatic water meters and more street repairs, the city is budgeting a minimum of $400,000 from the $5 million tax note in order to connect an already drilled water well to the city system, a lingering project that has been in the works for years.

The city budget currently includes a 3.5% cost of living raise for all city employees.

On the residential side, of note, in addition to higher property taxes, are increases in every utility category. City customers will see a 4.5% increase in their trash bill, per an agreement the city signed with Republic Services in

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Ballroom

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we were explorers on an alien planet. The sites we ended up choosing are the ones that revealed to us the anomalous energy of Marfa. Or better say, energies, because they are all distinctly different. They are extraordinary sites, and each of them is somehow hidden, dormant. What we aim to do is to wake them up with the sounds of music, to bring the energy to the surface and reveal to everyone for a moment. For us it is something between incantation and divining. Summoning something that is brimming underneath, and hovering above!"

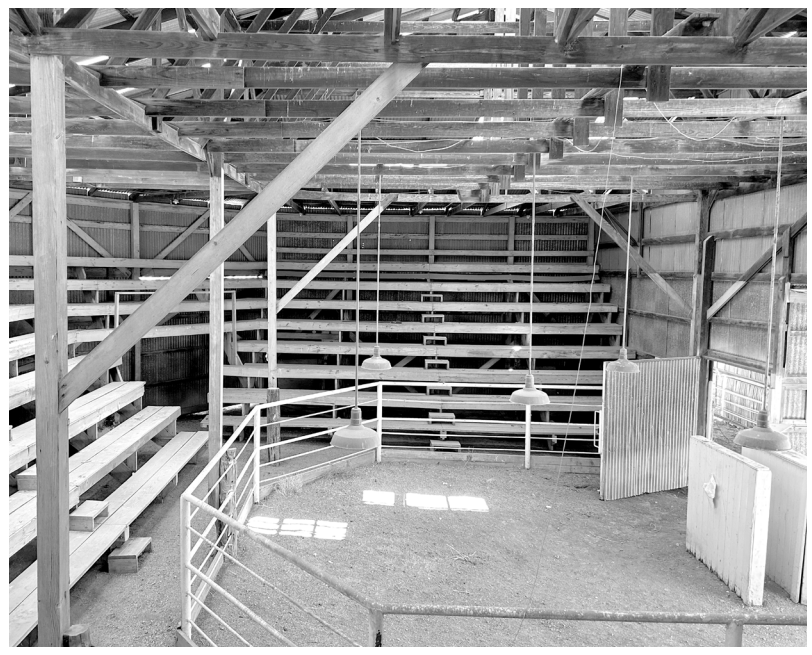
Kolesnikov and Tsoy are celebrated for their visionary approach to bridging tradition and modernity. As soloists and as a duo, they present thought-provoking programmes in the world's most prestigious concert hall — while also creating powerful musical dialogues in unconventional spaces such as the Gagosian galleries, the Guggenheim museums in Bilbao and Venice, Antwerp's Fashion Museum and London's Bold Tendencies.

Their duo debut at Carnegie Hall was named one of the *New York Times*' "Best of 2024." That same year, their debut recording of works by Schubert and Desyatnikov on Harmonia Mundi was featured in *Le Monde's* "Nos albums préférés de 2024" and won the *Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik* and the Diapason d'Or, while also being named *BBC Music Magazine's* Instrumental Choice.

As soloists, both artists have earned international recognition. Kolesnikov, known for his poetic and deeply immersive artistry, has recorded extensively for Hyperion and received the *Diapason d'Or de l'année for his Chopin Mazurkas*. In recent seasons, he has been artist-in-residence at The Armory in New York and Wigmore Hall, as well as a featured artist at the Aldeburgh Festival. He has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, and Philharmonia Orchestra — collaborating with conductors Susanna Mälkki, Manfred Honeck, Sir Mark Elder, Gianandrea Noseda, Alexandre Bloch, and Vasily Petrenko.

Tsoy, praised for his inexhaustible imagination and exceptional sensitivity, released his debut solo recording, *Inmost Heart*, on Linn Records in February 2025. The album received a five-star review and was selected as BBC Music Magazine's Instrumental Choice. He recently made his debuts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Münchener Kammerorchester, and performed both of Brahms' piano concertos in a single evening with the Philharmonia Orchestra. He has worked with conductors Maxim Emelyanychev, Gergely Madaras, Enrico Onofri, Valery Gergiev, and Diego Masson. In 2023, he became the first classical musician to perform at the opening of the Munich Security Conference.

Kolesnikov and Tsoy frequently extend their performance work beyond conventional concert settings. As musical curators, they are known for their site-specific projects, realised both in iconic venues and unique, off-the-beaten-track locations. In Spring 2025, they will create a musical homage to David



Ballroom Marfa leased the former Presidio County bull barn to transform it into "Bullroom" for the concert events.

Hockney during the opening weekend of his largest retrospective to date at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris. Avid multidisciplinary collaborators, they have worked closely in recent years with choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, sculptor Richard Serra, and fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto. In 2019, Kolesnikov and Tsoy co-founded the Ragged Music Festival in London — an initiative that reimagines the relationship between music, architecture, and the visual arts. The festival was nominated for a South Bank Sky Arts Award in 2021. In 2023, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam granted Pavel and Samson carte blanche to curate an international edition, subsequently re-inviting the festival in March 2026.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Stardust Opening | 7:15–9:35 p.m.

STARDUST MOTEL | 30.30491° N, 104.04616° W

A concert at the edge of the desert: glamorous, light, and just slightly surreal. As the sun sets and the music deepens, the evening opens the door to everything that follows.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10,000 Horses Sonic Experience | 11:30–12 p.m.

STONE CIRCLE | 30.33219° N, 103.99252° W

The sound of two pianos floats across an open landscape carried by wind-like voices from far away. You'll find yourself between them, listening for something you didn't know was there. A catered lunch will follow the performance. Sonic Pass holders only.

Ustvolskaya, Beethoven & The Goldberg Variations | 8–10:30 p.m.

BULLROOM | 30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

The evening begins with Ustvolskaya and Beethoven, followed by a champagne intermission, and concludes with the Goldberg Variations.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Conversation with Lawrence Weschler | 11–11:45 a.m.

BULLROOM | 30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

Messiaen's Visions de l'Amen | 12–1 PM

BULLROOM | 30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

A cosmic explosion of sound and color, Messiaen's music feels like staring into light. This is a prayer built from joy, rhythm, and fire.

The Rite of Spring | 9:30–10:10 PM

STONE CIRCLE | 30.33219° N, 103.99252° W

Under the stars, on sacred ground, Stravinsky's music returns to its primal source. You're invited to witness something wild and elemental. Free and open to all.

PASSES

CLASSICAL PASS ($100)

- Access to the weekend's core events:
- Stardust Opening at Stardust Motel
- Conversation with Lawrence Weschler at Bullroom
- Ustolskaya, Beethoven & The Goldberg Variations at Bullroom
- Messian's Visions De L'Amen at Bullroom

SONIC PASS ($500)

- All Classical Pass benefits plus:
- Exclusive 10,000 HORSES SONIC EXPERIENCE At Judd Foundation 30 Acres
- Priority seating at all events

The Rite of Spring at Stone Circle is free and open to all.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

Proposition Number 1
(SJR 59)

SJR 59 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish two special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. The proposed amendment requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to manage the funds, including managing any investment activities related to the funds and making the funds available for use by the TSTC System. The proposed amendment authorizes the TSTC System Board of Regents to use amounts distributed by the Comptroller to the available fund to acquire land, construct and equip buildings and other permanent improvements, make major repairs and rehabilitations of buildings or other permanent improvements, acquire capital equipment, acquire library books and materials, make payment of the principal and interest due on any bonds or notes used to finance permanent improvements, or for any other purpose authorized by law. Under the proposed amendment, the TSTC System could not use the appropriated funds to construct, equip, repair, or rehabilitate buildings or other permanent improvements that are to be used for intercollegiate athletics or auxiliary enterprises.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."**

Proposition Number 2
(SJR 18)

SJR 18 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust. This prohibition would include a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by an individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate of an ad valorem tax on property; a sales tax on the sale of goods or services; or a use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of goods or services.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."**

Proposition Number 3
(SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the denial of bail pending trial for persons accused of certain criminal offenses. The proposed amendment would apply only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses: murder; capital murder; aggravated assault if the person caused serious bodily injury to another, as defined by law, or the person used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by law, during the commission of the assault; aggravated kidnapping; aggravated robbery; aggravated sexual assault; indecency with a child; trafficking of persons; or continuous trafficking of persons. Under the proposed amendment, a person accused of one or more of these offenses must be denied bail pending trial if the attorney representing the state demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who grants bail to a person accused of one or more of these offenses under the proposed amendment must set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court and ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. The judge or magistrate must also prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant of bail. The proposed amendment specifies that it may not be construed to limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate or to require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom the amendment applies. A judge or magistrate who determines whether a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence exists under the proposed amendment shall consider the likelihood of the person's willful nonappearance in court; the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense; the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense; and the criminal history of the person. A person is entitled to be represented by counsel at a hearing described by the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."**

Proposition Number 4
(HJR 7)

HJR 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to allocate and transfer funds to accounts administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The proposed amendment also allows the legislature to suspend allocations of funds to these accounts during a state of disaster declared under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."**

Proposition Number 5
(HJR 99)

HJR 99 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt animal feed held by the owner for retail sale from ad valorem taxation. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."**

Proposition Number 6
(HJR 4)

HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered securities market operator. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition of a general business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on insurance premiums, a sales and use tax on tangible personal property or services, or a fee based on the cost of processing or creating documents. The proposed amendment would also not prohibit a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2026.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."**

Proposition Number 7
(HJR 133)

HJR 133 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to give surviving spouses of United States armed services veterans a property tax exemption on their residence homestead. The proposed amendment would exempt all or part of the property tax on the spouse's residence homestead if the veteran died from a condition or disease presumed under federal law to be service-related. The exemption would apply only to a surviving spouse who has not remarried since the veteran's death.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected."**

Proposition Number 8
(HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual's estate because of the individual's death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if

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Student relationship

(Continued from page 1)

game for *The Sentinel* for more than a week for which of the 11 or so tri-county judges issued them. Contact with all of them resulted in several reporting they had no records.

On Thursday night, Judge Kimballl — who initially did not respond to an email on Tuesday — said in a brief phone call that he had executed the warrants. Thus, he is responsible under Texas law for having them filed with the Presidio County district clerk to be made public — something he never did, at least for several days. When asked why the documents weren't filed sooner with the clerk, he replied, "I don't know."

Earlier this week, *The Sentinel* got further clarification — from sources close to board members who wished to rename unnamed for privacy reasons — on what the district did when it received the April complaint. The complaint came through the district's online system for filing anonymous complaints and mentioned the improper relationship, but only listed the initials for the teacher and student. Those initials matched those of the Ontiveros and the student.

The district alerted the Marfa Police Department, which brought in the teacher and student and others who may have been witnesses to the crime. All denied the allegations. Without any immediate power to confiscate mobile phones or use any further investigative techniques without concrete evidence of the improper relationship, the complaint was dismissed.

Authorities and board members felt at the time that an anonymous complaint could have been filed to harass or put in question the teacher and student. Improper relationships between educators are normally reported to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) However, Texas law notes that the notice is not required if there is no evidence of the crime. It's unknown whether the district has since notified the TEA after Ontiveros' arrest. Also in question is whether the district is required to notify federal agencies, since Title IX law requires it for the charges.

The board is expected to meet again on September 15 with another closed session to discuss board roles and responsibilities. Under Texas law, there is no mechanism — other than court action — for board members to remove Nuñez from the board, although members could decide to restructure and remove her as president. Those actions would be voted on in public session See "School Board may have violated nepotism law in hiring of board president's daughter" on page 1 for more on the Monday meeting.

Sources all questioned why the board didn't come back into public session after the scream fest last Thursday to note that Ontiveros had resigned the day prior, since a key community concern was that she was on paid administrative leave for about a week.

The Sentinel could not reach Ontiveros for comment. Alferez did not respond to requests for comment after responding last week to note that Ontiveros had left the district. Nuñez and other board members declined to comment for this story. Board Member Jay Foster could not be reached for comment. Under board policy, board members are supposed to have all communications with the media go through the board president or interim superintendent.

Nepotism

(Continued from page 1)

and after consulting legal counsel, I can confidently assure you that no nepotism laws have been violated," he wrote in an email. "Historically, the Board has delegated the authority to hire contractual personnel during the summer months to the superintendent. However, during my tenure as interim superintendent, I was never granted such authority for summer hiring."

Alferez also stressed that he follows a set process for hiring decisions. "In order to ensure fairness and transparency, I implemented a structured hiring process that relies on committee recommendations," he wrote. "These hiring committees consist of teachers, staff and administrators. Every personnel decision made during my time as interim superintendent has followed this process and has been based on the committee's recommendations."

The twist

According to sources, Ontiveros did not sign the contract offered to her and instead resigned the next week. Attorneys for the School Board reportedly were looking into whether that means she was hired or not, meaning whether the actual vote by the board doesn't represent misconduct by board members. *The Big Bend Sentinel* reached out to school board experts — the Texas Association of School Boards — for clarification. A spokesperson for the association said it could offer no guidance on the question of an unsigned contract. Calls and emails to two law firms specializing in school board law and the Region 18 Educational Service Center also were not returned by *The Sentinel* press time.

Also at question is whether the violation of nepotism laws really matters. For example, should School Board members be responsible for an action that has no consequence, since Ontiveros resigned?

A Monday showdown

When the School Board met last Thursday, sources said members anticipated that there would be an option for them to reorganize the board — removing Nuñez as president if she wouldn't resign from the board. That option, for unknown reasons, was not put on the agenda, or it wasn't made clear that it would be voted on. (The agenda included a closed session item of "Roles and Responsibilities of School Board Members.") Members fully expected an option to come back into a public session for a vote to remove Nuñez as president. Instead, Nuñez quickly called for adjournment and members left without a vote.

Now, the members intend to fix that agenda gray area and specifically hold a public vote on her removal on Monday. The agenda posted Tuesday includes a closed session and open section item for reorganizing the board. Some board members have expressed a desire to simply resign if Nuñez does not — because they feel the relationship with her has become so toxic that they couldn't work with her in the future in any role she plays.

Sources say the board also will discuss in open session — after advice from attorneys — on whether they violated nepotism law, or whether the unsigned contract nullified anything improper.

Sources have also raised the question of whether the same violation of nepotism law occurred when the district hired Nuñez's sister, still a teacher at the district, seven years ago. Minutes from 2018 and 2019 show the board, including Nuñez, voting unanimously to approve the sister's contract.

Sources said the key concern on board members' minds is leadership — with declining enrollment, consistent financial problems related to that enrollment, and the fact that the district already went through a mini scandal with the prosecution of a substitute teacher for production of child sex abuse material in 2023. Members of the community have also brought up Ernie Villarreal, Nuñez's brother, whom the board appointed to a vacant seat in 2021. Villarreal's experience as a finance director in neighboring Valentine ISD made him seem like a good fit. However, he resigned from his professional post at Valentine ISD in February 2022 after $165,000 in unauthorized transactions were discovered and was the subject of a federal investigation into the missing funds.

Villarreal then missed a string of board meetings, and *The Sentinel* reported in February of 2024 that since June 2023, Villarreal had not attended any board meetings in person, and had only participated remotely via Zoom or by phone for three out of 13 regular and special meetings, according to meeting minutes.

No one took any action on the missed meetings while he was under suspicion by federal authorities, but Villareal finally resigned from the board in February of 2024 and was indicted for wire fraud and theft. He pleaded guilty and received a 27-month prison sentence in March.

Nuñez and other board members declined to comment for this story. Board Member Jay Foster could not be reached for comment. Ontiveros also could not be reached for comment.

PUBLIC NOTICE (CONTINUED)
Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

(CONTINUED)

the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from increasing the tax rate or expanding the applicability to new parties of a transfer tax that was in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate or applicability of a general business tax measured by business activity; a tax on the production of minerals; a tax on the issuance of title insurance; a tax in existence on January 1, 2016; a tax on the transfer of a motor vehicle by gift; or an ad valorem tax on property.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."**

Proposition Number 9
(HJR 1)

HJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the amount of tangible personal property held or used for the production of income that the legislature could exempt from property taxes to $125,000 rather than the minimum amount sufficient to recover the costs of property tax administration.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."**

Proposition Number 10
(SJR 84)

SJR 84 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to create a temporary property tax exemption for the appraised value of an improvement to a person's residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The proposed amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe the duration of the exemption and to establish additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."**

Proposition Number 11
(SJR 85)

SJR 85 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is 65 years of age or older or a person who is disabled from $10,000 to $60,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."**

Proposition Number 12
(SJR 27)

SJR 27 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the membership and procedures of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC). The proposed amendment would: (1) change the membership of the SCJC so that it is composed of six judges appointed by the Texas Supreme Court and seven citizens appointed by the Governor who are at least 35 years old, with both groups of appointees requiring the consent of the Texas Senate to be confirmed; (2) restrict the SCJC's power to issue a private reprimand (or impose a requirement that the person obtain additional training or education) to a person who has not previously been issued a private reprimand and in response to a complaint that does not allege criminal behavior; (3) require the SCJC to find that a person engaged in willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties, or determine that there is other good cause, before issuing a public admonition or punishment; (4) expand the SCJC's power to order suspension without pay as punishment; (5) give the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court the power to select the appellate-court justices to serve on a tribunal to review the SCJC's recommendation for the removal or retirement of a person from office, without any requirement that each court of appeals designate one of its members for consideration by the chief justice; and (6) direct the Texas Supreme Court and Governor to appoint SCJC members to initial terms of two, four, and six years starting on January 1, 2026, with the succeeding terms to be six years, so that upon completion of the initial terms, the SCJC will be composed of members serving staggered six-year terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."**

Proposition Number 13
(SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory homestead exemption from property taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes from $100,000 to $140,000 of the market value of the residence.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from $100,000 to $140,000."**

Proposition Number 14
(SJR 3)

SJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to establish a new state agency, the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). The proposed amendment would create the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to be administered by DPRIT. Under the proposed amendment, DPRIT would be responsible for awarding financial grants for research on and the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders. The proposed amendment would also authorize the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to transfer $3 billion from the state general revenue fund to the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund $3 billion from state general revenue."**

Proposition Number 15
(SJR 34)

SJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to affirm that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent's child and the corresponding fundamental right to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."**

Proposition Number 16
(SJR 37)

SJR 37 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that only United States citizens are allowed to vote in Texas elections.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."**

Proposition Number 17
(HJR 34)

HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation, in counties that border the United Mexican States, the portion of a real property's assessed value that arose from the installation or construction of border security infrastructure and related improvements. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to define "border security infrastructure" and prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."**

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, www.VoteTexas.gov , 1/800-252-VOTE (8683)

Judd Foundation to open Donald Judd's restored Architecture Office

From the Judd Foundation

Marfa — Following a seven-year restoration and rebuilding, Judd Foundation will reopen

Donald Judd's Architecture Office to the public on September 20. The Architecture Office is the first major building project to be completed in Judd Foundation's long-term restoration plan for its buildings in Texas and will open with a weekend of programs centered on Judd's architectural work. The Architecture Office is one of 11 Judd-associated buildings in Marfa recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

Donald Judd (1928 – 1994) was an American artist, designer and critic who moved to Marfa in the 1970s.

The Architecture Office restoration was halted in 2021 by a fire that consumed much of the building's central interior and roof structure. After a multidisciplinary team saved and shored up what remained, work began again. This final effort incorporates adaptations to the energy consumption and material configuration of the building — including passive cooling and rooftop solar — to improve overall energy performance.

The $3.3 million restoration and reconstruction, planned and designed with Troy Schaum and Rosalyne Shieh, builds upon Judd's own efforts to return the structure to its original condition following his purchase of it in 1990. The undertaking reflects the core principles of Judd Foundation's mission to maintain and preserve Judd's buildings and demonstrates Judd's approach of thoughtful preservation, carefully orchestrated craftsmanship, and local collaboration.

"This project was guided by Don's lifelong work in architecture, his thinking and interest in the history of a building," explains Rainer Judd, president of Judd Foundation. "He knew that the built environment is an embodiment of the past and a benefit to the present. Our buildings are a reflection of his architectural process, which respected labor and recognized the qualities of materials and a building's original proportions. The Architecture Office has been restored to share the space that Don created, dedicated to thinking about the role of architecture in our lives."

Built at the turn of the 20th century and originally operated as a boarding house and grocery, the Architecture Office is a key example of Judd's practice of repurposing existing buildings and restoring historic structures in New York and Texas. The two-story, 5,000-square-foot brick structure was originally known as the Glascock Building.

The Architecture Office will open as part of Judd Foundation's public guided-visit program, providing access to its working and living spaces as permanently installed by Judd. An extensive collection of furniture by Judd in plywood and metal will be reinstalled throughout the ground-floor office space and second-floor living space. The ground-floor office contains architectural models, building plans, and design prototypes used by Judd. The Architecture Apartment, on the building's second floor, houses a multiroom living space installed by Judd with paintings by John Chamberlain, furniture by Alvar Aalto, and furniture by Judd. Schaum Architects, who have worked on multiple Judd buildings in Marfa, were engaged to realize the project.

"The restoration of the Architecture Office simultaneously embraces challenges of sustainability in the desert climate, the history of Marfa, and Donald Judd's work," says Troy Schaum, principal at Schaum Architects. "Through the phases of the work, the building was meticulously restored brick by brick but also reexamined holistically to incorporate Judd's interventions for the building with practices embedded in Marfa's historic urban fabric."

Judd Foundation is grateful for the support of public and private donors to the restoration of the Architecture Office. Major support was provided by the Judd Foundation Board of Directors; The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; Dudley and Michael Del Balso; Suzanne Deal Booth; and an anonymous donor. Additional support was provided by The Summerlee Foundation, The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the City of Marfa, and E.R. Butler & Co.

The opening of the Architecture Office will include a weekend of programs and celebrations centered around Judd's architectural practice from Saturday, September 20, to Sunday, September 21. On Saturday, a panel discussion, "Architecture Office Restoration and Adaptive Reuse," with Peter Stanley (Judd Foundation), Troy Schaum (Schaum Architects, Rice University), and Beatrice Galilee (The World Around), will focus on the restoration of the building to situate Judd's own adaptations within contemporary architectural practices. On Sunday, a lecture, "Donald Judd and Architecture," by Julian Rose (Princeton), will review specific projects realized by Judd.

Architecture Office restoration

The first phase of work began in 2018 and focused on the building envelope, using traditional masonry techniques to repair and repoint the brick façade while maintaining the building's original aesthetic. Leaks and damage to the original windows, most of which had been boarded up, were also addressed. All exterior wood windows and historic wood and copper storefronts were rebuilt by hand; original brass door and window hardware was refinished and reinstalled. Energy efficient glazing was incorporated while maintaining the historic look and operation of the windows and woodwork.

The second phase of work, which began in 2020, addressed the interior spaces, preparing them for the safe reinstallation of artworks and design objects, as well as for visitors and public outreach. Spaces permanently installed by Judd were given extra attention; floors were repaired and stabilized, and window and door treatments were improved to protect the work inside.



Photo Matthew Millman © Judd Foundation

The Judd Foundation's Architecture Office in Marfa is opening on September 20 after a seven-year restoration and rebuilding.

Previously, objects had been housed in unconditioned areas with large variations in temperature

and humidity. The project team determined that the advanced mechanical systems typically used for museums and preservation were neither feasible nor desirable in this arid remote location.

Instead, the project team researched and specified passive and light mechanical systems to achieve the required interior conditions. The collection will be kept within an acceptable climate range using an innovative outside-air system that senses the desert's natural daily temperature swings and shifts accordingly. The second-floor installed spaces were also restored to match the conditions in which Donald Judd left them, but with an upgraded kitchen and bathrooms in keeping with the original architecture, and with energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems in place.

For the second restoration and rebuilding post-fire, working with Judd's architectural precept of considering existing structures as complete systems, the project team implemented a number of energy conservation and sustainability practices that assessed the building as a whole, including: integration of insulated low-emissivity glazing systems into historic wood-sash windows, installation of a new steel canopy that matches the historic configuration of the original building canopy to protect the interior installed spaces from the harsh afternoon sun and temperature increases, and implementation of climate-neutral materials, such as recycled denim insulation, increasing energy efficiency by mitigating heat gain and loss.

Architecture Office history

Donald Judd purchased the Glascock Building, located on Highland Avenue in downtown Marfa, in 1990. Built at the turn of the 20th century, the 5,000-square-foot building was originally operated as a store and later housed various commercial businesses. Sited in direct proximity to Judd's Architecture Studio, the street level of this two-story structure was renovated by Judd for use as his Architecture Office. The Architecture Office contains furniture and design objects by Judd as well as plans and models of his architectural projects in the United States and Europe, including the Basel Bahnhof and his former Swiss residence, Eichholteren. Judd intended for the second floor of the building to function as a living space for guests.

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §§26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	$ .556440	per $100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	$ .311970	per $100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	$ .556440	per $100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 (current tax year) tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) from the same properties in both the 2024 (preceding tax year) tax year and the 2025 (current tax year) tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 (current tax year) tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON Septembers 16th & 23rd (date and time) at 6:00 PM at the City of Marfa Casner Room. Marfa , Texas (meeting place).

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Council (name of governing body) of the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: T. Acreman, M. Cash, R. Lara, M. Morrison & E. Pallarez

AGAINST the proposal: _____

PRESENT and not voting: _____

ABSENT: _____

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Form developed by: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Property Tax Assistance Division — For additional copies, visit: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

50-876 • Rev. 2-25/6
Form 50-876

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

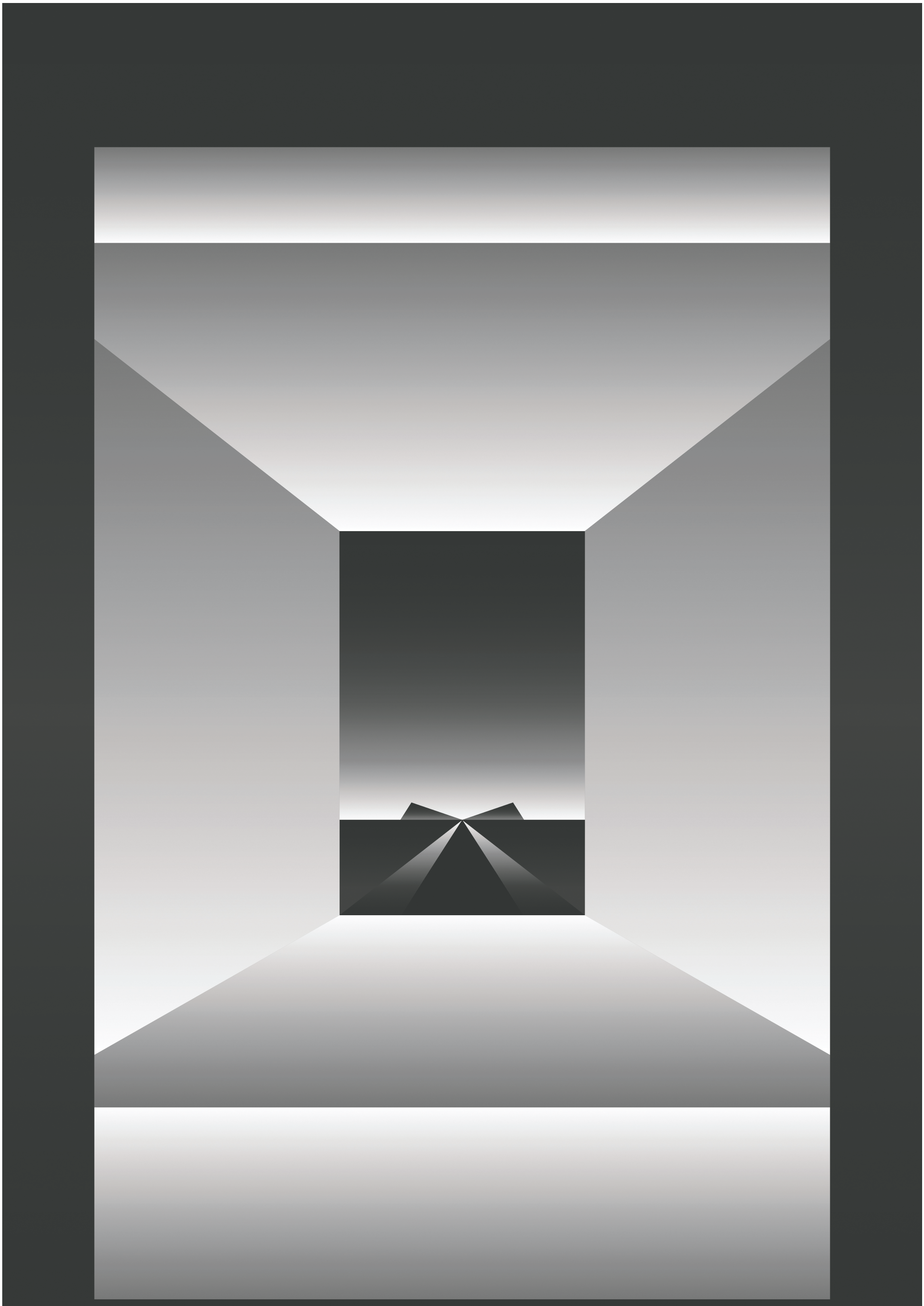
The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Marfa (name of taxing unit) this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per $100 of value)	2024 adopted tax rate .328250	2025 proposed tax rate .556440	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year) per $100, or (percentage difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year)% 69.52%
Average homestead taxable value	2024 average taxable value of residence homestead $151,810	2025 average taxable value of residence homestead $134,408	(Increase/Decrease) of (percentage difference between average taxable value of residence homestead for preceding year and current year)% -11.5% decrease
Tax on average homestead	2024 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead $498.32	2025 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead $747.90	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between amount of taxes imposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the preceding year and the amount of taxes proposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the current year), or (percentage difference between taxes imposed for preceding year and taxes proposed for current year)% 50% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	2024 levy $1,115,465	(2025 proposed rate x current total value)/100 $2,002,497	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year), or (percentage difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year)% 79.5%

For assistance calculating your property taxes you may call the County Tax Assessor Collector at 432-729-4081

The email address is ctac@co.presidio.tx.us




PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY ✦ SEPTEMBER 18——20, 2025 ✦ BALLROOM MARFA

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY

TWO GRAND PIANOS. FIVE PERFORMANCES.

SEPTEMBER 18—20, 2025 ✦ MARFA, TEXAS



EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Stardust Opening

7:15–9:35 PM ✦ STARDUST MOTEL
30.30491° N, 104.04616° W

A concert at the edge of the desert: glamorous, light, and just slightly surreal. As the sun sets and the music deepens, the evening opens the door to everything that follows.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10,000 Horses Sonic Experience

11:30 AM–12 PM ✦ STONE CIRCLE
30.33219° N, 103.99252° W

The sound of two pianos floats across an open landscape carried by wind-like voices from far away. You'll find yourself between them, listening for something you didn't know was there. A catered lunch will follow the performance. Sonic Pass holders only.

Ustvolskaya, Beethoven & the Goldberg Variations

8–10:30 PM ✦ BULLROOM
30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

The evening begins with Ustvolskaya and Beethoven, followed by a champagne intermission, and concludes with the Goldberg Variations.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Conversation with Lawrence Weschler

11–11:45 AM ✦ BULLROOM
30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

Messiaen's Visions de l'Amen

12–1 PM ✦ BULLROOM
30.32058° N, 103.99782° W

A cosmic explosion of sound and color, Messiaen's music feels like staring into light. This is a prayer built from joy, rhythm, and fire.

The Rite of Spring

9:30–10:10 PM ✦ STONE CIRCLE
30.33219° N, 103.99252° W

Under the stars, on sacred ground, Stravinsky's music returns to its primal source. You're invited to witness something wild and elemental. This performance is free and open to all.

VISIT BALLROOMMARFA.ORG TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE YOUR PASS.

BALLROOM MARFA

Marfa ISD Sports Report: September 11, 2025

By Roxye Lara

Lady Horns fall in hard-fought battle against Crane Lady Birds

The Lady Horns put up a strong fight against the Crane Lady Birds last Saturday but ultimately fell in four sets.

From the first whistle, the match was a back-and-forth battle, with both teams trading points and momentum. Despite missing their starting libero due to illness, the Lady Horns showed determination throughout.

Junior Giselle Torres stepped into the libero role once again, embracing the challenge. While there were a few hiccups, she came up defensively with multiple digs.

Offensively, seniors Ava Flores and Raven Martinez continued to lead the charge in kills, proving to be a consistent threat at the net. Junior Itzel Urrutia wasn't far behind, delivering key attacks and showing great timing throughout the match. Senior Amaya Gomez delivered from the service line with several strong serves that challenged the Lady Birds' defense.

Adding to the effort, juniors Zoey Salgado and Dariela Munoz and freshman Adeline Marquez brought the energy off the bench — each contributing a kill or two, along with assists and timely blocks to fuel a rally when needed.

Set 3 saw the Lady Horns break-through for a 25-22 win, showing what they're capable of when their plays click. However, Crane pulled away in Set 4, closing out the match 16-25. Despite the loss, the Lady Horns continue to grow and adapt, especially as younger players step into new roles. With continued effort and growing chemistry, they're poised to bounce back stronger in their future matches.

Lady Horns show fight, set sights on next challenge

The Marfa Lady Horns battled hard Tuesday night but came up short in three sets against the Buena Vista Longhorns. With lessons learned and renewed focus, the Lady Horns are ready to bounce back. They'll return to their home court this Saturday at 12:30 p.m., hosting Grandfalls at the Marfa Shorthorn Gym. Fans are encouraged to come out, fill the stands, and cheer the Lady Horns on as they look to turn their hard work into a victory.



Photo by MISD Yearbook student, Belen Soto-Torres

Senior Alex Rodriguez breaks away from defenders, leaving Ft. Hancock in his wake.

Shorthorns dominate Ft. Hancock for impressive win

The Marfa Shorthorns lit up the scoreboard on week two by defeating Fort Hancock 76–36 in a high-scoring contest that showcased explosive offense, several defensive stands, and valuable experience for underclassmen. With the Horns building a commanding lead early, it allowed for Marfa's emerging players to gain important playing time and meaningful reps in the non-district game.

Both teams struggled on their opening possessions in the first quarter and traded blows, but the Horns struck first when Manny Dominguez muscled his way into the end zone from five yards out with 6:53 left in the first quarter. Ayven Pippen added the two-point conversion to make it 8–0. The Mustangs responded quickly, punching in a six-yard touchdown at the 3:56 mark, but their missed extra point kept Marfa ahead, 8–6. From that point on, it was the Alejandro Rodriguez show. The senior back ran all over the Mustang defense with four touchdowns that included runs of 13, 25, 35, and 52 yards — energizing the Horns' sideline and helped break the game wide open. Marfa's balanced attack kept rolling in the second quarter and beyond, with big plays coming from every corner of the roster in the form of Darren Campos and his 55-yard touchdown sprint, JoSaul Baeza added a touchdown run to the tally, Garry "Gopher" Webb – powered his way in from six yards out to increase Marfa's lead. Ayven Pippen scored on the ground and scored on multiple extra-point conversions and Webb had a touchdown as well. Austin McGary capped off Marfa's scoring with a highlight-reel in the form of a 76-yard touchdown reception from Rodriguez, showing Marfa's ability to strike through the air as well.

Marfa's defense clamped down on the Mustangs while the offense piled up points, they made sure Fort Hancock couldn't keep pace. Darren Campos led the way with four solo tackles, including three for loss, and a sack that dropped the Mustang quarterback for –7 yards and Abelardo Marquez delivered a momentum-shifting play, knocking down and wrestling away what looked like a sure Mustang touchdown pass, while also adding a tackle for –7 yards. Seth Nunez contributed two solo tackles and two tackles for a loss, anchoring the Horns' defensive front. With the win, Marfa improves to 1–1 on the season and now turns its attention to another home game as they host Balmorhea this Friday in their third straight home game: Junior High 5 p.m. and Varsity 7:30 p.m.

'Welcoming the wolf': Texas Lobo Coalition launches local recruitment effort

By Sam Karas
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

FAR WEST TEXAS — This week, a nonprofit called the Texas Lobo Coalition launched a membership drive aiming to recruit 100 new members in 100 days. The group seeks nature lovers of all stripes — particularly those who live in and around wilderness areas in the Trans-Pecos — to help set the stage for the return of the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), a native species that was wiped out of the Lone Star State long ago.

The most recent iteration of the Lobo Coalition was founded in 2021, but Treasurer Rick LoBello has been advocating for Mexican wolves in Far West Texas since the mid-1970s, even though he's never seen one in the wild. LoBello was on the front lines of a big shift in environmental consciousness and politics after the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973. *Canis lupus baileyi* was added to the list not long after — the last two wolves spotted in Texas were killed in Brewster County in 1970.

In 1978, LoBello was introduced to Roy McBride, a legendary trapper who was sent to Mexico by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wolf specimens, in the hopes that captive breeding programs could one day return the species to its native range. LoBello was working as a ranger in Big Bend National Park at the time and got an invitation to see one of McBride's captive wolves in the flesh. The experience was deeply moving, almost like coming face-to-face with a mythological creature. "I didn't know that these wolves were still around," he said. "I thought, 'These animals should still be here.'"

While environmentalists have been working for the past five decades to advocate for predator species like wolves and mountain lions, they've historically faced opposition from ranchers, who stand to lose financially when wild animals feast on their livestock. LoBello eventually rose in the ranks at the park and became the head of the Big Bend Natural History Association. In that role he connected one-on-one with local landowners, spreading the word about the beauty and value of the Mexican wolf.

Some of those landowners were suspicious of the National Park Service, which they saw as the operators of a federally-subsidized buffet for apex predators, but local sensibilities didn't stop LoBello. He became friends with Hallie Stillwell, a legendarily tough Brewster County rancher and justice of the peace. "Before she died, she told me, 'I think I could love those animals,'" he remembered.

In the 1990s, the world of conservation biology saw something just short of a miracle take place in Big Bend: the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), considered eradicated from Texas, repopulated itself in the Chisos Mountains. LoBello thinks that lightning could strike twice with the Mexican wolf, which could come into Texas either from reintroduction programs in neighboring states or from south of the border. "The wolves could come back on their own as they continue to reproduce in the wild," he said. "I mean, the border wall isn't going to stop everything."

Following LoBello's lead, younger generations of conservationists have started advocating for their lupine neighbors. Hillary Pierce, a Marfa-based documentary filmmaker, explained that the Lobo Coalition's goals are distinct from programs in New Mexico and Arizona that actively breed and reintroduce wolves into the wild. Instead, their goal is to spread awareness and bust myths so that wolves can thrive if they return on their own. "There's a solid chance that it's really only a matter of time before [Mexican wolves] disperse into West Texas," she explained. "We want to welcome them, and we want them to live harmoniously with ranchers and town residents alike."

Right now, the organization is in a formative stage, but will likely need volunteers in the coming months and years to assist with research projects and data gathering. They'd like for the effort to eventually be led by locals in the areas that the wolves are likely to repopulate. "We don't want it to be an outside-in thing," Pierce said. "Landowners are some of our best conservationists."

One of the myths that Pierce has been battling is that Texans — who live in a state that's over 90% privately-owned — are folks who don't care about the natural world. "It's an important part of our Texan identity to be stewards of the land and its wildlife," she said. "I think the Lobo Coalition is in line with that."

For more information about memberships, volunteer opportunities and to join the mailing list, visit https://texaslobocoalition.wordpress.com/donate/

Tax increase

(Continued from page 1)

2023. At the time Republic went up on the city's monthly bill by 39%, still the lowest bid, requiring the city to pass the cost off to its customers. The monthly meter fee for natural gas is also going up slightly.

Water and sewer bills are set to increase by 3.5% — an annual increase being driven by a water and wastewater rate study the city had performed in 2022 which concluded stagnant rates needed to be steadily raised in order to help pay for infrastructure upkeep.

A new water surcharge — an additional $4.26 per connection per month — will also be coming online this year. Presidio County took out a loan from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on behalf of the City of Marfa for its participation in the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). Marfa projects include a new wastewater line for the Fort D.A. Russell section of Marfa — which has been subject to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) violations and fines in the past — and first-time water and waste water service to the East Heights section of Marfa.

Of $4.6 million the county was awarded from the TWDB through the EDAP program, roughly $3 million is in the form of a grant while the remaining sum, $1.4 million, is in the form of a loan. The city will be making roughly $68,000-$72,000 payments to the county to cover the loan until 2043. The city is unable to use the I&S rate to pay for the loan, and it has to raise the money to make the loan payments.

Under the terms of the TWDB loan, the county will assume ownership of the infrastructure being constructed in Fort D.A. Russell and East Heights, but once the city's portion of TWDB loan is paid back to the county, ownership of the infrastructure reverts back to the city.

Public hearings on the proposed tax rate and budget workshops are set to take place at 6 p.m. September 16 and September 23 at the Casner Room at City Hall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former city attorney Teresa Todd returns as a consultant

MARFA — Former City of Marfa attorney Teresa Todd, who resigned in October 2022 after 15 years in the role, is now acting as a consultant for the city, according to Mayor Manny Baeza, who welcomed her back at a City Council meeting on Tuesday, where she was present.

"She's going to be a consultant with the City of Marfa for the time being, just to help with the whole budget process, any legal questions that may arise — they'll have to come through me first, just to make that clear — because we're having issues with our current law firm, as you all are aware," Baeza said.

Baeza told *The Big Bend Sentinel* the city was experiencing delays with their law firm Bojorquez but they are still on retainer. Todd said she was happy to be of assistance and thanked the mayor and the council.

11 alleged gang members arrested in state police operation in Ojinaga

On Tuesday, El Heraldo de Chihuahua reported that 11 members of La Línea — a criminal organization that operates in a "triangle" between Coyame, Ojinaga and Manuel Benavides in northeastern Chihuahua — were arrested as part of a state police operation. Twenty-one firearms were also seized, as well as 4,500 rounds of ammunition, 136 tire-deflating devices, five vehicles, 2.5 kilograms of marijuana and an array of tactical gear and equipment.

This raid, carried out on Monday afternoon by the Secretaria de Seguridad Pública Estatal (SSPE), comes almost exactly a year after the city was rocked by a series of violent clashes between factions of the criminal group that developed after its former kingpin, Sergio "El Menchaca" Pizarro was arrested in Presidio in 2023. In March of this year, Pizarro was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay a roughly $20 million fine to the United States.

Mexican Consulate to host Independence Day celebration Thursday night

On Thursday, September 11, the Mexican Consulate in Presidio will host its annual "El Grito en el Mundo" party celebrating Mexican Independence Day. The office has a full day of activities planned starting at 4:30 p.m. with a game of lotería (prizes will be offered). A series of dance presentations will begin at 6:15 p.m. with Bailable COBACH from Ojinaga and Big Bend High School's Folklórico troupe at 6:45 p.m.

Consul Gamaliel Bustillos will give remarks at 7 p.m., followed by more performances from Terlingua students and Presidio's own Mariachi Santa Cruz. Presidio ISD's Folklórico group will perform at 8 p.m. The traditional "grito" will take place at 8:45 p.m., and music group Proyecto D will play out the rest of the event, which ends at 10 p.m.

Presidio VFD to host volunteer recruitment event and ruck march on 9/11

On Thursday, the Presidio Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting an all-day open house, giving tours and taking applications for folks interested in joining. The fire station is located near the pool and ballfields at 100 E FM 170.

At 7 p.m., the department will cap off the day with its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ruck March, when volunteers don heavy firefighting equipment and march down O'Reilly Street in honor of the first responders who worked to save lives during the 2001 terrorist attacks. Firefighter gear will be available for members of the public who want to participate in the march.

Ruidosa Church named to 1st national list of Endangered Latinx Landmarks

MARFA — The Friends of the Ruidosa Church nonprofit announced today that El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesús — the historic adobe church on the border — has been named to the first national list of Endangered Latinx Landmarks, released by Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC). The 2025 list recognizes 13 sites across 10 states that represent migration, resilience, cultural expression and survival — and that now face urgent threats including demolition, neglect, displacement and climate change.

The Ruidosa Church, located 36 miles west of Presidio in Ruidosa dates back to 1915 and is significant because it was the focal point of a thriving farm community on the Rio Grande. With the damming of the Rio Grande in New Mexico, the river dried and most of the population drifted away, leaving the church abandoned in the 1950s. After years of neglect and suffering in the weather, the grand church with two bell towers and a giant arched roof was in such disrepair that the Catholic Diocese planned to raze it. In the early 2000s, some renovations were made by volunteers and the Diocese donated it to Presidio County, but ultimately the Friends nonprofit was formed and was given the property by the county. Since then, intensive renovations efforts have been underway, funded by donations and grants.

"What makes the church so significant and special is that it's a foundation for the rich, lengthy history of a thriving Mexican American community on a remote section of the Rio Grande." said Friends President Mike Green. "Our renovation will bring the stories to life — of weddings, quinceañeras, funerals and community celebrations. This designation will add to that call to relive those memories and bring more people to the site to learn more about Ruidosa for a better appreciation of how it contributed to life in the Big Bend."

According to Latinos in Heritage Conservation, the 13 sites on this year's list have an average founding year of 1927, nearly a century old. While many sites of similar age already enjoy federal protection, Latinx landmarks remain underrepresented: fewer than 1% of properties on the National Register of Historic Places reflect Latinx history.

"Preservation is about equity, recognition, and survival," said Sehila Mota Casper, executive director of Latinos in Heritage Conservation. "Sites like the Ruidosa church hold the everyday stories that built this country, and naming them is the first step toward protecting them."

About Friends of the Ruidosa Church

Friends is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to the restoration of the historic landmark on the Rio Grande River. The organization holds regular adobe-making days to build its stock of bricks for renovation and teach local communities about brick making. The nonprofit also will hold its annual Community Day on Saturday, November 1, at the church in Ruidosa. Free food, drink and music will be provided. Stay tuned to the full schedule of events at facebook.com/FriendsofRuidosaChurch , ruidosachurch.org and @ruidosachurch.

About Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC)

Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing historic preservation in Latinx communities. Through advocacy, education, and grantmaking, LHC empowers communities to protect places that matter. See the full list of landmarks at latinoheritage.us.

Sonic Rodeo Returns to Marfa with experimental music, art and movement

From Sonic Rodeo

MARFA — Sonic Rodeo, a gathering dedicated to experimental sound, art and movement, will take place Saturday, September 13, and Sunday, September 14, across multiple venues in Marfa. This year's festival brings together artists from Texas and beyond for two days of performances, workshops and collective experiences at Rule Gallery, Maintenant, The Lumberyard and Do Right Hall. All Sonic Rodeo events are free and open to the public. Learn more at sonicrodeo.org and @sonic.rodeo on Instagram.

This Wednesday, Sept 10, 8-9 p.m. on Marfa Public Radio, Marfa Mystery Hour Sonic Rodeo curators Veronica Anne Salinas and Liv Mershon will share a live sonic meditation and performance, plus a preview of the weekend's events.

A special highlight of the weekend will be a workshop and performance of Kitawîrisu' (The Gambler), presented by artist-composers Warren Realrider and Nathan Young. Taking place Saturday, September 13, at 2:30 p.m at Maintenant Marfa, this new composition is a stochastic piece inspired by the chance operations of John Cage, the Fluxus artists, and John Zorn's Cobra. Kitawîrisu' incorporates extended compositional techniques — utilizing voice, phones, paper, and sticks — to generate sound through Asâru', or games of chance.

Open to all, the workshop invites participants to explore chance-based composition, interact with sound-making objects, and contribute to the evolving structure of Kitawîrisu'. Through guided improvisation and collaborative exercises, attendees will gain insight into the intersection of Pawnee traditions and contemporary experimental music, fostering a deeper understanding of stochastic composition and Indigenous approaches to sound.

Opinion

I would like to take this time to thank everyone that voted for me for this year's Marfa Lights Festival Grand Marshal. I was very surprised because I feel that there are so many other people that deserve this honor. Special thank you to Yosdy Valdivia Marrufo for the beautiful portrait that you painted for me. It is beautiful!

Thanks again. God bless you.
Minnie Dominguez

• • •



SB 19 is campaign finance reform in name only

By Suzanne Bellsnyder
The Texas Rural Reporter

The Texas Senate is patting itself on the back for passing SB 19 by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), a bill they claim "closes the loophole" on fundraising during special sessions. But if you read the bill, it's a half-measure that looks good in the headlines while protecting incumbents back home.

" If a special session is called after September 1 or in an even-numbered year, lawmakers are still free to raise money while they legislate"

Here's what the law really does:

Current law already bans lawmakers from raising money during regular session — from 30 days before until 20 days after adjournment. They can't accept contributions, and if one arrives in the mail, they must return it.

SB 19 extends that ban to cover some special sessions — but only those that happen before September 1 in an odd-numbered year, right after the regular session ends.

That means the "summer specials" — the ones where the governor often calls lawmakers back to Austin for high-stakes fights or unfinished business — are now covered by the same fundraising blackout.

Sounds good, right? But here's the catch: If a special session is called after September 1 or in an even-numbered year, lawmakers are still free to raise money while they legislate.

Why you ask? Consider this. Election season in Texas typically kicks off in September of odd-numbered years, right after the regular session dust settles. That's when incumbents start dialing for dollars, building war chests, and staking out ground for the upcoming March primaries. Neither legislators nor the governor want to hamstring their own fundraising during this critical window. That's why SB 19 stops the blackout on September 1 — not because ethics magically matter less after Labor Day, but because the political class refuses to tie its own hands during campaign season.

There's no irony lost on the fact that the loudest cheerleader for SB 19 is Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick himself — the same man who accepted a $3 million donation from a pro-Paxton group in the middle of the 2023 Paxton impeachment trial. For Patrick to suddenly champion new "fundraising restrictions" isn't about cleaning up politics; it's about deflecting from his own record and painting Democrats as the problem. That's not ethics reform — that's political theater.

SB 19 is not about full transparency. It is only about optics. Lawmakers want to claim they have "fixed" the problem without tying their own hands when it matters most for their reelection accounts.

The real problem is legislators taking money while they're in the middle of lawmaking. SB 19 doesn't fix that. Instead, it carves out a partisan rule meant to punish political opponents for raising money during a redistricting quorum



Suzanne Bellsnyder

break and other high-stakes legislative battles, while protecting their ability to keep their own fundraising on track. That's not reform — that's a political stunt. Texans know better.

About the author

Suzanne Bellsnyder is editor and publisher of the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman and Sherman County Gazette. A former Capitol staffer with decades of experience in Texas politics and policy, she now focuses on how state decisions shape rural life through her newspapers and the Texas Rural Reporter. You can subscribe to the newsletter at www.TexasRuralReporter.Substack.com.

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PINEDA

Elizabeth Granado Pineda, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away peacefully on August 22, 2025, at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Ballinger, Texas.

Elizabeth was born on June 17, 1958, in Marfa, Texas, to Faustino Pineda III and Delia Granado. Liz's early education started at St Mary's Parochial School in Marfa — kindergarten to first grade where she had her aunt Irene Pineda as her teacher in first grade. Liz graduated from Odessa High School, and obtained her medical assistant's certification in El Paso and worked for a period of time in El Paso.

Liz moved back to her roots in Alpine, Texas, and graduated from Sul Ross State University on August 18, 1990, with her LVN certification. Liz worked all around the Big Bend from the Big Bend regional hospital in Alpine, to the rural clinics in Marfa and Presidio, Texas. Liz's career expanded to working at the Odessa/Midland hospitals and nursing homes before moving and working in San Angelo her last years of her life. Liz loved working with the elderly. She found great joy in caring for the elderly and was known for her compassion and dedication. During her time as a resident at the nursing home in Ballinger, she often shared fond memories of her days working alongside those she cherished so deeply.

Elizabeth was known for her infectious laugh, playful sense of humor, and love for life's little celebrations. Halloween was one of her favorite holidays, and she delighted in creating costumes for her beloved son Daniel, as well as her nieces and nephew. She always joined in the fun, never missing the chance to dress up right alongside them. A kid at heart, she carried a joy that touched all who knew her.

She also loved spending time in the kitchen. Whether baking Christmas cookies or preparing her famous country-style meals — fried chicken or chicken-fried steak with all the fixings — she poured love into every dish she made for her family. Liz also was an artist and enjoyed water-coloring. Her work she left behind will be cherished and a keepsake to nieces. Elizabeth's kind and gentle heart, along with her laughter, will be deeply missed.

She is preceded in death by her son, Daniel Pineda.

Elizabeth is survived by her mother, Delia Granado Gallego from Midland, Texas; sisters, Nadine Mata from Sierra Vista, Arizona, Margarita Aktas from Odessa, Texas; and brother Johnny Pineda from Fort Stockton, Texas; along with 11 nieces, 6 nephews and extended family and friends who loved her dearly.

Elizabeth's warm and loving spirit will be celebrated on October 4 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Davis Texas. The Rosary will be held at 9:30 a.m. and Mass will follow at 10 a.m. Elizabeth's ashes will be laid to rest at St. Joseph's cemetery.



O'SHAUGHNESSY

October 19, 1953 to September 4, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Rev. **Beverley Anne O'Shaughnessy**, who went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, September 4, 2025. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and faithful servant of God.

Rev. Beverley dedicated more than two decades of her life to ministry as an Anglican priest, shepherding her congregation with compassion, wisdom, and unwavering faith. Her commitment to God's call was evident in every sermon preached, every hand held, and every life she touched. She was known for her gentle spirit, her words of encouragement, and her ability to bring comfort and hope to those in need.

Outside the church, she was a devoted mother and grandmother, finding her greatest joy in her family. Her love for her children and grandchildren was matched only by her faith in God, and she inspired all who knew her to live with grace, perseverance, and faithfulness.

Though she struggled with long-term illness, she remained steadfast and strong, facing each challenge with dignity and courage. Her passing was sudden, but she leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, and service that will live on through her family, friends, and the many lives she touched in her ministry.

She is survived by her son, Ryan; her grandchildren, Hayden, Madison, and Riley; her sister, Jennifer; and her nephews, Keven and Jason, who will forever cherish her memory.

A service of thanksgiving for her life and ministry will be held at the Alpine Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 13, at 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the church or the Alpine Animal Shelter, continuing her lifelong mission to serve others.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Following David Howard's Mass on July 5, the family would like to remind everyone that Dave's inurnment will take place on Saturday, September 13, at noon at the Wingate Cemetery in Wingate, Texas.

This is to announce that **Bobby "Lee" Donaldson Jr.** passed during the week of August 18 - 23. We are uncertain of the exact day because he lived alone at his favorite little ranch home known as 4 Corners.

Lee was born September 22, 1967, and passed at the young age of 58. Lee worked throughout his life for his father, Bobby Donaldson Sr., but decided to branch out on his own and worked many years as an art fabricator for Donald Judd. Lee was accepted into the Border Patrol but decided to spend his life in Marfa. During the latter years of his life, he helped as caregiver for his mother, Mary Ann Donaldson.

The surviving members of Lee's family are his son, Bobby Lee Donaldson III; his wife, Hillary; and four grandchildren, Kinsley, Jaycie, Maverick and Briggs. He truly loved his grandchildren. One of the last favors he asked me was to go with him to see his granddaughters in a soccer match, but unfortunately we never made it. Also survived by an older sister, Cheryl Donaldson, and younger brother, Chuck Donaldson, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

May you rest in peace my dear brother. You were always loved and will be missed forever

Looking to place an obituary?
Please email editor@bigbendsentinel.com

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 11, 2025

ACROSS
1 "'Scuse me"
5 Chatted and chatted
10 Clickable symbol
14 Early LP format
15 Diva's performance
16 Nothing, in Spanish
17 Great Plains tribe
18 Fruits for a 1994 Keanu Reeves action film?
20 Bird in Indigenous Australian art
21 Fancy scarf fabric
22 Bench-warmers
23 Cubes or slices for a 1988 Tom Hanks comedy?
26 Readied a bow
29 Sneeze sound
30 Grp. making snap decisions?
32 T'Challa's kingdom
36 Surgery sites, for short
37 Los Angeles amphitheater ... or a dish for 18-, 23-, 51- and 59-Across?
41 www.ed.___
42 Pollen-producing plant
43 Vehicle that's been around the block
46 Bishop's deputy
50 ___ firma
51 Salty snacks for a 2011 Ryan Gosling action film?
55 Stop
57 Overly fussy
58 Cause to go "Vroom!"
59 Sweet spread for a 2000 Michael Douglas drama?
62 "Stat!"
63 "___ It Fun" (Paramore hit)
64 Heavy animal in a crash
65 Summer wine choice
66 Murder mystery party "discovery"
67 Icicle sites on a roof
68 Indie ___ (hipster's rep)

DOWN
1 Single-celled organism
2 Source of an unguarded comment
3 "Quit it, you!"
4 Leader of the Three Stooges
5 Frontwoman of the fictional Pussycats
6 Fruit that symbolizes peace in China
7 Fortnight couple
8 Bard's "before"
9 Parents known for their jokes
10 "Not quite yet"
11 Bee's knees
12 "___ to Joy"
13 Beers for the sober curious: Abbr.
19 Like some citizenships
21 Sandbar
24 Monk's hood
25 Support, as a scholarship
27 Rap's ___ Sweatshirt
28 Private chats on Insta
31 Slowly disappear
33 Name hidden backward in "Mary-Kate"
34 Grammy or Oscar
35 Eggy drink
37 Watering can filler
38 Like most tennis serves
39 Cut at an angle
40 Thor's father
41 Belly
44 Not keeping out cold air
45 Baby hippo or cow
47 Desktop arrow
48 "Relax, cadet"
49 Replied to an invitation
52 Former Indian statesman Gandhi
53 Foolish
54 Spanish for "Let's go!"
56 Wear out
59 Safari navigation aid?
60 ___ Grande
61 "___-ching!"
62 Shape of a hero's journey

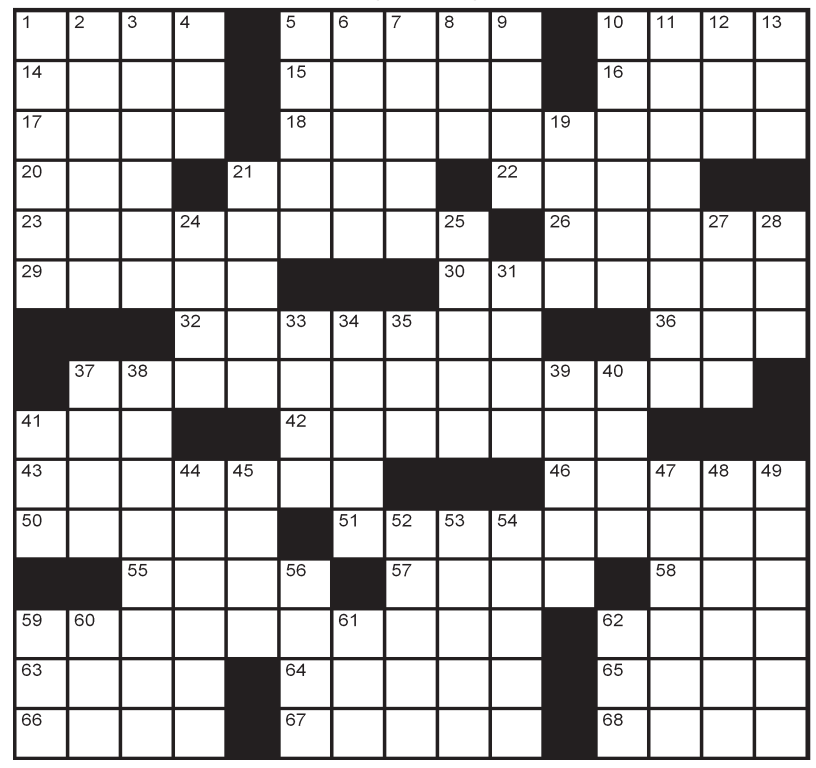
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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9/11

Bite Club *by Geoffrey Schorkopf*



Come worship with us



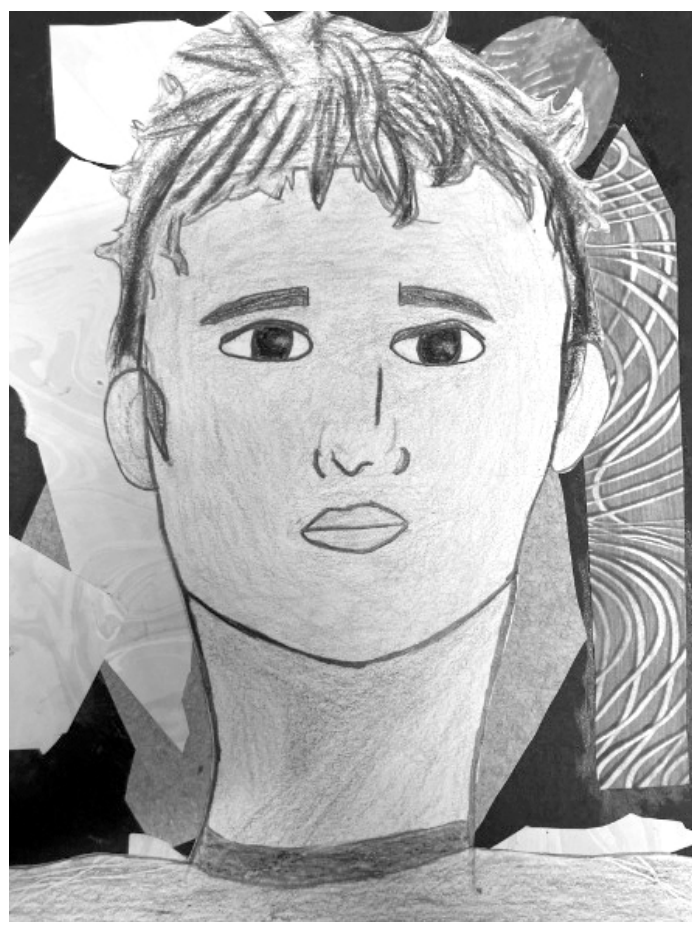
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Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Sundays 9 am
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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Alberto Salgado
9th - 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.

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

9/11

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

9/4

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR
12th: JH / HS Football vs Balmorhea in Marfa
5th: XC Meet in Alpine (Big Bend Ramble)

Classifieds & public notices

Library to highlight the life of César Chávez

FORT DAVIS — A new history exhibit is on display at the Jeff Davis County Library in Fort Davis. In His Own Words: The Life and Work of César Chávez is a traveling exhibition produced by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which established a grant to create the display.

Throughout his youth and into young adulthood, César Chávez experienced the hardships of being a migrant farm worker and of racial discrimination.

Born in Yuma, Arizona, in 1927, Chávez dedicated himself to community organizing activities and, later, to founding the first farm workers' union. César was inspired by his parents, the teachings of Catholicism, his mentors, the study of civil rights leaders and developed strategies for change. Utilizing strikes, boycotts, marches and other nonviolent tactics, Chávez worked tirelessly until his death in 1993 to secure better pay, job safety, and improved living conditions for farm workers. The images are from original vintage photos, and the exhibit is free of charge. An 11-minute video accompanies it.

Featuring 22 photographs paired with personal quotations, In His Own Words documents Chávez's career often summed up with a footnote in history books. He paved the way for better conditions of American farm workers. The exhibition will continue from Monday, September 8, through Friday, October 10. For more information, phone the library at (432) 426 3802.

Please note the library's new hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about Humanities Texas visit their website www.humanitiestexas.org or call (512) 440-1991.

Big Bend Sector Border Patrol to commemorate 9/11 at Alpine station

ALPINE — U.S. Border Patrol Big Bend Sector will remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost and the first responders that answered the call during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with a commemoration ceremony at the Alpine Border Patrol station on September 11.

The observance will take place at the station's 9/11 Memorial, which features a 1,300-pound steel artifact recovered from the ruins of the World Trade Center — one of only a few such artifacts located on federal property. The event will include U.S. Border Patrol Big Bend sector leadership, state and local law enforcement and the Alpine Fire Department and Emergency Services.

The event is free and open to the public. It will take place at the Alpine Border Patrol station (3003 West Highway 90) on Thursday, September 11, at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to last until noon.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur Sept 11

Rita Bliss
7 - 9pm at The Ritchey
Rita Bliss is playing live at The Ritchey on Thursday at 7pm.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony
10am - 12pm at Bored Patrol
Big Bend Border Patrol Sector will honor the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. The ceremony will take place at the station's 9/11 Memorial, recovered from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

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

Fri Sept 12

"Delicious" Opening Reception
5 - 7pm at Big Bend Gallery
Big Bend Gallery is hosting the mouthwatering exhibition "DELICIOUS" celebrating art inspired by food! Enjoy a veritable smorgasbord of creative works exploring the beauty, culture, and joy of food.

Rome Antenucci & The Roasted Rat
7 - 9pm at The Ritchey
Rome Antenucci & The Roasted Rat are playing live at The Ritchey on Friday at 7pm.

Library Fundraiser
11am - 3pm at Spicewood Restaurant
EAT great food to help raise money for a GREAT organization! 50% of proceeds from the lunch and dinner special benefit Alpine Public Library!

Master Naturalist Hike
9 - 10:30am at Davis Mountains State Park
Take an introductory deep dive into the Davis Mountains on this moderate walk 'n' talk.

Sat Sept 13

Multi Agency Team Competition
10am - 4pm at Alpine Fitness
Teams of 4 in a Law Enforcement type agency in the tri-county can compete against each other. Saturday September 13th! Free to compete. just email cullen@alpinetxfitness.com any questions or to sign up.

Far West Texas Jammers
8pm - 11pm at The Granada Theatre
Get a dose of rock 'n' roll at the Granada Theater on Saturday, September 13 with the Far West Texas Jammers! Bring your friends, bring your questionable dance moves, and let's make it a night worth forgetting. Just $5 at the door

Your Sponsored AD Here!
Email
ads@bigbendsentinel.com
for more information

Sun Sept 14

Thomas Andes
7 - 9pm at The Ritchey
Thomas Andes are playing live at The Ritchey on Friday at 7pm.

Looking to submit an event?
Scan our QR code here:

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Xbox Monday
Mondays (all day) 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

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

Estate Sale
September 13th - 14th 8am

1206 West Paris Street
(Elisa Galindo's residence)

Sale at 1206 West Paris Street (Elisa Galindo's residence). We have beautiful vintage queen-size beds for $250 apiece. We have a vintage California king-size bed for $300. We also offer a selection of vintage bowls and vases at various prices. Also included are two guitars for $100 apiece and an amplifier. A beautiful black armoire for $250. We have a metal desk with two huge drawers for storage, with a matching shelf unit for $100 –– great for your office. The desk has a glass top, and the shelf unit has glass shelves. We have a Broyhill queen-size bedroom set that includes the bed, 5-drawer chest of drawers, two nightstands, and a huge nine-drawer dresser with a large mirror and shelves for $2,500. This set cost $6,000 new. This set will last generations. We have Squishmallows, new LEGO sets for Xmas, collectible dolls, women's vintage clothes, coats and jackets, a deep freezer for $50, and a gorgeous living room set that includes a coffee table and two end tables for $100.

We have so much more. We accept cash, Venmo, Cash App, and Zelle.

Any questions, call Helen Galindo, 512-644-0210.
No early birds, no holds!!!

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Public Notice

The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Financial Auditor for year ending December 2025. Any and all proposals to be submitted to the Presidio CAD office at 107 E. Texas, P O Box 879, Marfa, Texas, (432)729-3431, email cramirez@presidiocad.org. All proposals must be received by October 1, 2025. The Board of Directors of the Presidio CAD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

09/11,09/18

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
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Travis Acreman
councilmemberacreman@cityofmarfa.com

Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
City Hall: (432) 229-3517
Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

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)

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*Terms Apply

An application has been made with the TABC for a new wine and malt beverage retailer's on-premise permit (BG) by Marfa Larry Co, LLC operating as Larry's to be located at 303 E El Paso Street. Marfa, Presidio County, TX. Owner of said corporation is Matthew Bolick.

THE SENTINEL
NEWSPAPER · COFFEE · COCKTAILS

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.

THE BIG BEND Sentinel

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Mary Cantrell	Reporter
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