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PRESIDIO



ROB D'AMICO

Participants in the off-road parade and trail ride often included the entire family. Los participantes en el desfile todoterreno y el recorrido por senderos a menudo incluían a toda la familia.

El evento todoterreno promete un futuro prometedor

Por Rob D’Amico

Presidio

El sábado por la mañana, Presidio parecía una invasión con más de 200 vehículos todoterreno de neumáticos grandes recorriendo las calles, algunos adornados con pintura brillante y luces intermitentes. Los vehículos, más conocidos como side-by-side (SXS), por sus asientos tipo butaca, se alinearon cerca del Centro de Actividades en un tramo de 3 kilómetros que daba la vuelta a la manzana.

La música animada inundó el ambiente mientras los vehículos se preparaban para un desfile por la ciudad, con abundantes dulces para repartir a las familias a lo largo de la ruta. El evento, la Ruta Santa Teresa, fue una oportunidad para que los conductores, y en ocasiones toda su familia, exhibieran la singularidad de sus creaciones personalizadas, a la vez que hacían donaciones a la iglesia católica Santa Teresa de Jesús en honor a su festival anual y evento de recaudación de fondos.

Después del desfile, los todoterrenos emprendieron la "ruta", una larga ruta que se adentraba en el desierto por caminos accidentados antes de regresar a la iglesia para disfrutar de más festividades, comida y compañerismo. La mayoría de los participantes provenían del área de Odessa, Texas, aunque también asistieron residentes de otros pueblos, junto con muchos que cruzaron el Río Grande desde Ojinaga, México.

La Ruta fue una idea original de Alex Armendaris, un graduado de la preparatoria Presidio que ahora vive en Odessa. "Recuerdo el festival de la iglesia del año pasado y casi no había gente", dijo. "Le comenté a mi esposa que necesitábamos hacer algo para agrandararlo y que la iglesia pudiera recaudar más fondos. Así que se nos ocurrió la idea de hacer una ruta a caballo, y pareció funcionar a la perfección". De hecho, Armendáriz y otros organizadores estimaron que el evento atrajo a 800 personas a Presidio, algunas de las cuales pudieron acampar gratis en los campos de béisbol, ya que los soldados del Ejército de EE. UU. ahora ocupan la mayoría de las habitaciones de hotel de la ciudad. "Estamos tratando de poner a Presidio en el mapa por algo",

dijo Christian Montoya, miembro del Concejo Municipal de Presidio y simpatizante de la Ruta, quien participó en el desfile y el sendero. "Se habla de que se convierta en algo anual".

Al principio, la policía local se preocupó por el evento, la seguridad y el cumplimiento de la ley por parte de los participantes. Pero los organizadores afirmaron que no hubo heridos y que los agentes avisaron con precisión sobre cualquier objeto faltante para que los vehículos pudieran circular legalmente. "Solo quiero agradecer al departamento de policía y a la Oficina del Sheriff", dijo Armendáriz. "Fueron de gran ayuda en todo esto. Se esforzaron al máximo y pudieron ayudarnos, manteniendo todo en calma y en perfectas condiciones".

Una ordenanza municipal aprobada en agosto y encabezada por el concejal Fernando Juárez, también entusiasta de los vehículos todoterreno que participó en el evento, hizo posible la Ruta.

La ordenanza enumera los requisitos para que los vehículos sean legales para circular en calles y carreteras. Juárez dijo que espera con ansias más eventos, aunque aún quedan algunos detalles por resolver, como asegurarse de que los propietarios de los terrenos correctos otorgaran el permiso para la ruta del sendero, lo cual tuvo que modificarse cuando se descubrió que no era así.

Dijo que los organizadores también podrían considerar dividir la ruta en categorías, o simplemente en general, ya que los atascos de tráfico resultaron en el desierto a lo largo de la estrecha carretera. Si bien la mayoría de los vehículos eran alguna versión de SXS, se les dan otros nombres a los vehículos todoterreno. "Fue genial formar parte de algo así con un grupo tan grande", dijo Montoya. "También había gente experimentada mezclada con gente sin experiencia. Los experimentados estaban ahí para decir: 'Oye, ¿sabes qué? Cuando empecemos a subir, haz esto, y cuando empecemos a bajar, haz esto.'"

Montoya dijo que el paseo a caballo fue "increíble" y mostró Presidio desde las altas colinas. "De hecho, se veía México, así que fue genial, bastante impresionante".

Shafter mine could sell to Australian company

By Sam Karas

Shafter

Earlier this month, James Bay Minerals—an Australian company with holdings in the United States and Canada—announced that it had “agreed to acquire” the silver mine at Shafter, pending an upcoming stakeholder meeting. The company announced in a press release that it had “firm commitments” from investors to finance the project to the tune of \$18 million.

“The Shafter Silver Project represents a rare opportunity to acquire a partially permitted, high-grade silver asset with substantial infrastructure and a rich production history in a premier North American mining jurisdiction,” Executive Chairman Matthew Hayes wrote. “With historic production grades comparable to world-class Mexican silver mines, this ‘Mexican-style silver on American soil’ acquisition compliments James Bay Minerals’ high grade Independence Gold project in Nevada.” Small Caps, an Australian news outlet covering the stock market, reported that James Bay Minerals will rebrand as Black Bear Minerals when the acquisition is complete. The company also tapped a new CEO to take over when the Shafter project is live: Dennis

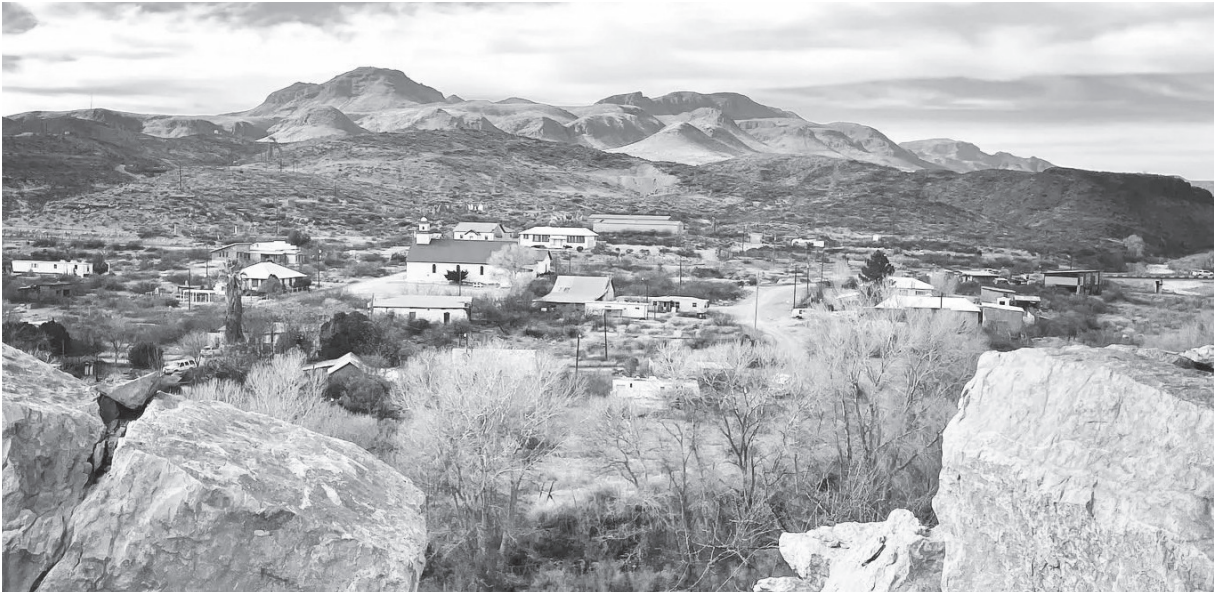
Lindgren of mineral giant Alcoa Australia.

In their announcement, the company explained that Shafter is part of a “prolific” and productive mining region known as the Sierra Madre Belt, with a “mineralized zone” spanning around 2.5 miles.

Shafter has been a hub for mineral extraction since 1883. In the mine’s heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it produced 2.3 million tons of ore containing 35.2 million ounces of silver. Aurcana Silver, the mine’s most recent owner, acquired it in 2008. Aurcana shuttered operations in 2013, thanks to deflated silver prices.

While only a handful of residents still claim Shafter as their home, they all rely on the mine for water. Residents panicked in 2022 when rumors that Aurcana had gone bankrupt started making the rounds, and they organized to try to save their water supply. The Shafter Water Supply Corporation is currently working with Presidio County to take advantage of grant funding that could provide a source of drinking water that doesn’t rely on the mine.

Big Bend Sentinel reached out to James Bay for comment on Shafter’s future water supply but did not receive a response in time.



ROB D'AMICO

About 20 people live in Shafter, which depends on water from the adjacent silver mine. Alrededor de 20 personas viven en Shafter, que depende del agua de la mina de plata adyacente.

Enck inicia su campaña para el Congreso

Marfa

Gretel Enck se postula oficialmente para la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, anunciando su campaña demócrata para representar al extenso Distrito Congressional 23 de Texas. Enck, residente de Marfa, ofrecerá una fiesta de lanzamiento de campaña el domingo 26 de octubre, de 2 p.m. a 4 p.m., en la terraza del Hotel Paisano en Marfa. El Distrito 23 es uno de los más grandes del país, y se extiende desde el extremo este de El Paso hasta el oeste de San Antonio, abarcando áreas clave como Eagle Pass, Monahans y la frontera con Nuevo México. Enck afirmó que centra su campaña en tres prioridades fundamentales: dismantelar las “políticas perjudiciales e inhumanas” de la actual administración, construir unidad a través de las divisiones políticas y reformar la economía para beneficiar a los trabajadores tejanos.

“Puntos en común y bien común”, declaró Enck, enfatizando un enfoque en las reformas económicas.

Políticas económicas que beneficien a la clase media y a la clase trabajadora tejana, empezando por asegurar los beneficios de salud de los que dependen millones de estadounidenses, incluyendo un aumento del salario mínimo y la educación preescolar universal.

Enck afirmó que la creciente fricción política se debe en gran medida a una política económica que ha favorecido sistemáticamente a los ricos y a las grandes corporaciones.

“Cuando digo clase trabajadora”, señaló Enck, “me refiero a ustedes, a mí y a todos los que conocemos. La asombrosa desigualdad de riqueza en nuestro país es una decisión”. Si bien critica la actual dirección nacional, Enck también reconoció que su propio partido debe hacer más por la clase trabajadora y rural estadounidense. “No quiero volver a un pasado idealizado”, afirmó. “Tenemos la oportunidad de hacer cambios que realmente cuiden de

Por Sam Karas

Shafter

A principios de este mes, James Bay Minerals, empresa australiana con participaciones en Estados Unidos y Canadá, anunció que había acordado adquirir la mina de plata de Shafter, a la espera de una próxima reunión de accionistas.

La empresa anunció en un comunicado de prensa que contaba con el firme compromiso de los inversores de financiar el proyecto por un monto de 18 millones de dólares.

“El Proyecto de Plata Shafter representa una oportunidad única para adquirir un activo de plata de alta ley, parcialmente autorizado, con una infraestructura sustancial y un rico historial de producción en una jurisdicción minera de primer nivel en Norteamérica”, escribió el presidente ejecutivo, Matthew Hayes.

“Con leyes de producción históricas comparables a las de las minas de plata mexicanas de clase mundial, esta adquisición de ‘plata al estilo mexicano en suelo estadounidense’ complementa el proyecto de oro de alta ley Independencia de James Bay Minerals en Nevada”.

Small Caps, un medio de comu-

nicación australiano especializado en el mercado de valores, informó que James Bay Minerals cambiará su nombre a Black Bear Minerals una vez que se complete la adquisición.

La compañía también designó a un nuevo director ejecutivo para asumir el control cuando el proyecto Shafter entre en funcionamiento:

Dennis Lindgren, del gigante minero Alcoa Australia.

En su anuncio, la compañía explicó que Shafter forma parte de una región minera prolífica y productiva conocida como el Cinturón de la Sierra Madre, con una zona mineralizada que se extiende aproximadamente 4 kilómetros.

Shafter ha sido un centro de extracción de minerales desde 1883. Durante su apogeo, a finales del siglo XIX y principios del XX, produjo 2,3 millones de toneladas de mineral con 35,2 millones de onzas de plata.

Aurcana Silver, el propietario más reciente de la mina, la adquirió en 2008.

Aurcana cerró sus operaciones en 2013 debido a la caída de los precios de la plata.

Si bien solo unos pocos residentes aún consideran Shafter su hogar, todos dependen de la mina para obtener agua.

Los residentes entraron en pánico en 2022 cuando comenzaron a circular rumores de la quiebra de Aurcana, y se organizaron para intentar salvar su suministro de agua.

La Corporación de Abastecimiento de Agua de Shafter está trabajando actualmente con el Condado de Presidio para aprovechar las subvenciones que podrían proporcionar una fuente de agua potable que no dependa de la mina.

Big Bend Sentinel contactó a James Bay para obtener comentarios sobre el futuro del suministro de agua de Shafter, pero no recibió respuesta al cierre de esta edición.



Gretel Enck throws her hat in the ring for congress.

Enck ahora aspira a poner esas habilidades y lecciones al servicio de todos los tejanos en el Congreso. Se invita al público a asistir al evento inaugural gratuito para conocer a la Sra. Enck, escuchar su visión y compartir sus inquietudes. El Hotel Paisano está ubicado en 207 North Highland, Marfa. Para más información, escriba a info@gretelforcongress.com.

El condado se dirige a votación sobre la asunción de deuda

La polémica saga del juzgado llega a un final decepcionante.

Por Sam Karas

Condado de Presidio

This story appears in English on Page 1. Consulte la página 2 para obtener información sobre la votación anticipada.

las elecciones generales de noviembre están a solo un par de semanas de distancia, y la votación anticipada comenzó el lunes 23 de octubre.

Además de las medidas electorales estatales que deben ser aprobadas por los votantes, los

residentes del condado de Presidio también tendrán la oportunidad de votar sobre si el condado debe o no emitir certificados de obligación (CO) —en términos más simples, endeudarse— para pagar las reparaciones cruciales del emblemático juzgado de Marfa.

El punto en la boleta es la “Medida A” y solicita un sí o un no sobre si el condado tiene la autoridad para emitir \$5 millones en CO. Si bien la mayor parte de los fondos se utilizaría para el juzgado, el dinero también financiaría las reparaciones del Anexo del Condado en Presidio, así como el equipamiento de carreteras y puentes.

El juzgado se convirtió en un punto álgido político durante el verano, durante una temporada de elaboración de presupuestos espe-

cialmente polémica. (El entonces comisionado, y actual aspirante a juez del condado, David Beebe, llegó incluso a calificarlo de “lo más decepcionante de su carrera” durante un evento de lanzamiento de campaña).

Tras aproximadamente un año de expresar su apoyo al proyecto del juzgado, el juez del condado Joe Portillo cambió de opinión, y sus partidarios presentaron el asunto como un saco de boxeo político de “norte contra sur”.

Un puñado de votantes de Presidio se unieron y lanzaron una campaña de petición, recogiendo firmas de cientos de residentes de todo el condado para llevar el asunto a votación general.

Desde entonces, los comisionados han llegado a un consenso: no

seguirán adelante con el proyecto por ahora, incluso en el improbable caso de que los votantes no rechacen la solicitud de certificados de obligación en las urnas.

La compra más grande

Beebe lamentó la cantidad de tiempo y dinero desperdiciados en la organización de todo.

La mayor compra individual fue la de los servicios de la firma de diseño y construcción McKinstry, por alrededor de \$250,000, pero también hubo gastos menores, como el costo de imprimir los avisos electorales en el periódico.

“No es el momento adecuado para ese proyecto”, admitió Beebe. “Intentamos hacer algo, y ahora no lo vamos a hacer”. Si bien algunas reparaciones del juzgado, como la

instalación de un nuevo sistema de calefacción y aire acondicionado central, pueden esperar, los comisionados aún tendrán que afrontar otras reparaciones cruciales, como la imposibilidad frecuente de usar el ascensor, que es viejo y funciona mal, lo que podría infringir las leyes estatales y federales de accesibilidad.

La Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades exige que el ascensor funcione. Además, los empleados han expresado considerable preocupación por el entorno laboral, que, según ellos, es insoportable en verano y frío en invierno. Este año también se registraron aumentos de impuestos a nivel municipal en Marfa y Presidio, lo que Beebe teme que genere cierta confusión en las urnas. El

Ayuntamiento de Presidio anunció durante el verano su intención de solicitar sus propios certificados de obligación.

El alcalde de Presidio, John Ferguson, declaró que las elecciones de CO de la ciudad estaban en suspenso por el momento mientras los funcionarios recopilaban más información.

(La resolución aprobada por la ciudad abre la puerta para que la ciudad asuma deuda mediante la celebración de una elección, pero no obliga a la ciudad a celebrar realmente dicha elección). “Necesitamos un poco más de información”, explicó y alentó a la gente a seguir las discusiones en el Ayuntamiento durante las próximas semanas si desean participar en la discusión.

SPORTS

Shorthorns fall to Grady in opener

By Roxye Lara

The Shorthorns battled early Friday night, but fell to Grady in their district opener. The Horns competitive first quarter saw the team going score-for-score with the hosting Wildcats, but eventually they ran out of gas as the game progressed, falling 26–71 under the mercy rule.

The Marfa faithful who made the seven-hour round trip to Leno-rah, Texas, had plenty to cheer for early on.

After Grady’s opening touch-down, Marfa answered quickly with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Alex Rodriguez to Austin McGary with 7:23 left in the first quarter, tying the game 6–6. The Wildcats struck again at the 4:49 mark to go up 14–6, but Marfa responded once more with a de-termined drive capped by Ayden Alvarez’s 5-yard touchdown run, which followed his 35-yard gain on the ground, narrowing the score to 14–12 with 3:33 left in the first quarter.

Unfortunately, Grady’s offense found its rhythm soon after, put-ting up several unanswered touch-downs to take a commanding 35–12 lead by the midpoint of the second quarter.

The Shorthorns showed more fight through the air as Rodriguez connected with McGary again for a 60-yard pass that set up another Marfa touchdown, but the Wild-cats quickly regained momentum and extended their lead.

The game concluded under the mercy rule with a final score of 71–26, moving Marfa’s district record to 0–1 and their overall record to 3–4. Head Coach Kevin Pippen praised his team’s energy and determination to start the game, noting that the Shorthorns came out with strong focus and effort.

However, he emphasized the need for that same level of pro-ductivity and intensity to carry through all four quarters and high-lighted the growth and leadership shown by seniors Gopher Garry Webb and Darren Campos, whose physical play set the tone early.

He commended the efforts of Bubba Abelardo Marquez and Jo-Saul Baeza for their relentless hustle and their key stops inside the red zone. Coach Pippen closed by saying, “We’re learning, com-peting, and getting better every week.

The effort is there, and now it’s about sustaining that focus from kickoff to the final whistle.”

Despite the loss, the Horns

showed flashes of offensive fire-power that they’ll look to build on as they host Rankin this Thursday at Martin Field. JH 4:30 p.m. and Varsity 7 p.m.

Volleyball: Lady Horns win in tough one at Fort Davis

The Marfa Lady Horns took the court Saturday afternoon for a critical district matchup against the Fort Davis Indians, a rematch of a previous meeting that didn’t go Marfa’s way.

With district play on the line, the Lady Horns stepped up and delivered a statement win, taking the match in four intense sets.

Set 1: A close battle

The match opened with strong energy from Marfa. Ava Flores notched a kill early on, tipping the ball back over the net for a point. Itzel Urrutia stepped up to serve and delivered five consecutive serves, including an ace. While in the front row, she also added a kill.

Raven Martinez was a key con-tributor in this set, tallying 4 kills, an ace from the service line and two set-saving digs. Dariela Mu-ñoz contributed a kill, and Zoey Salgado added a dig to keep the defense sharp. Despite a strong effort, Marfa found themselves trailing 17–21.

Coach Osiris Alferez called a timeout, and the team responded with renewed energy.

Zoey got another dig, and Dari-ela added two more kills. Still, Marfa narrowly dropped the first set, 23–25.

Set 2: Marfa answers back

The Lady Horns bounced back with intensity in the second set. Flores and Muñoz each added 2 kills, with Muñoz also recording a block.

Giselle Torres served seven times in a row, helping shift momentum.

Liliana contributed two key blocks, and Martinez continued her dominant night with 3 kills, a block, and a highlight-reel left-handed point. Marfa took the set convincingly, 25–17.

Set 3: Gaining momentum

Marfa carried their momentum into the third set. Martinez led the offense with 4 more kills— in-cluding another with her left hand. Muñoz and Urrutia each added 2 kills, while Liliana Zubia notched



BELEN SOTO

Zoey Salgado getting the dig.

a kill and a block point. Fort Davis gave up the final point by hitting out, giving Marfa the set 25–16.

Set 4: Closing strong

The final set featured some of the best gameplay of the match. The Lady Horns were focused and determined to close it out.

One standout rally saw Ava go up for a kill, Fort Davis dig it, attempt a kill of their own—only for Raven to shut it down with a block.

Ava followed up with another kill that rode the net and dropped in for a point. Kill counts for the set included Ava (4), Itzel (4), Ra-ven (1), Dariela (1), and Zoey (1).

Zoey also recorded a block point, and Liliana added one as well. Adeline found her rhythm at the service line, shaking off early nerves and keeping the ball in play. Madison Cash had impec-cable control throughout the set, placing her digs and passes with precision.

Marfa finished strong, winning the set 25–19 and taking the match 3–1.

Looking ahead

This win keeps Marfa’s district hopes alive. The Lady Horns will host Sierra Blanca on Monday, October 27, followed by a criti-

cal third matchup against Fort Davis for district certification on Tuesday.

Marfa girls cross-country competes at regional meet

The Marfa Lady Horns cross-country team traveled to Arlington last weekend to compete in the re-gional meet on Monday morning.

Representing Marfa were Alys-sa Hardin, Zoey Salgado, Ava Flores, Itzel Urrutia, Giselle Tor-res, Mikayla Bentley, and Heidi Montes, all of whom helped the team qualify for regionals.

While the team did not advance to the state meet, they ran hard and stayed focused throughout the race, showing determination and heart on a competitive course.

Their performance marks a strong finish to the season and sets a solid foundation for the future. With only one senior, Ava Flores, graduating this year, the rest of the team will return with valuable experience.

The Lady Horns are already looking ahead, hopeful and moti-vated to come back even stronger next season with their sights set on advancing to state.

CROSSWORD

Edited by David Steinberg October 23, 2025

ACROSS

1 Gross

5 Call offering you a free vacation, probably

9 Comic book artist Kubert

13 Branch of 1-Down

14 Smooth strides

16 Something as old as time, sometimes

17 Easter symbol

18 AI trying to blend in with society?

20 ___-nighter

21 Channel popular among '80s teens

22 Apartment documents

23 What homesick tulip farmers do?

27 Roll of cash

28 Gen ___ (typical 21-Across viewer)

29 Cable car

33 Ho Chi Minh City, before 1976

36 Like fine wines

39 A, in Spain

40 Gains muscle, perhaps ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme

43 List shortener

44 ___ mortals

45 Some dental work

46 Qatari capital

48 Audit agcy.

50 The "E" in ESL: Abbr.

51 Smaug and Sauron, say?

57 Takes care of

60 Tour grp. for troops

61 Grain in Cheerios

62 Styles in which certain outdoorsy clothes are trimmed?

65 The 12 men in "12 Angry Men"

66 Book ID

67 Bottled spirit

68 Start of a children's story

69 Gnat or rat

70 Observance before Easter

71 Dreyer's, on the East Coast

10 Dollops

11 Burn balm

12 New York team that writes a check on "Bobby Bonilla Day"

15 Robinhood option

19 Nickname that drops -orah

21 Mordor volcano

24 Droops

25 Save the day

26 Egg (on)

31 Bravo host Cohen

32 Easter service

33 Went over the limit, say

34 Corolla or Corvette

35 180 degrees from SSW

37 Lead-in to "Pen"

38 Totally finished, in slang

41 Chicago pub?

42 Bone near the funny bone

47 Not at school

49 Confine

52 "Call ___ hunch ..."

53 Word before "Beach" or "Island"

54 It may be frozen or liquid

55 Prideful guy in "Pride and Prejudice"

56 Eyelid concerns

57 "Freudian" mistake

58 "Or ___!"

59 Wanes

63 Disney frame

64 A, in France

65 Java

DOWN

1 Faith in which Mecca is the holiest city

2 Hot food with a cold-sounding name

3 Big red button, often

4 Happy cry

5 A deadly sin, or an animal

6 Curving outward

7 Like Usain Bolt's last name

8 Unenthusias-tic reply

9 "Finally!"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

RAMSHELIXBIDS
ISAWASIDEANEW
CHEERSQUADOSLO
HELENHOGTHO
SPACEMOUNTAIN
BUTSAXETAO
ERRINKTESTS
EGOPESTERSPOT
FEMMETINEARE
AERODDCROP
CHICKENNOODLE
LEGSAAOROTIS
ALLAGREENJUICE
PLOPASANADRAW
SOOTNERDYENS

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NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEIZE ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given that the Presidio County Sheriff's Office has taken the following described vehicle into custody pursuant to the authority granted under the Texas Transportation Code, Section 683.011, and/or Section 683.031:

(1) 2012 STRI CCHPT TRAILER, VIN: 1S12E9531CE525507

Said vehicle is being held for the Presidio County Sheriff's Office at 320 N. Highland, Marfa, Texas 79843, (432) 729-4308.

To the last known registered owner/lien holder of the above described vehicle: You have the right to reclaim this motor vehicle not later than the 20 th day after publication of this notice,on payment of all towing,preservation, and storagecharges resulting from placing the vehicle into custody. Failure to exercise your rights to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided constitutes a waiver of all rights, title, and interest in the vehicle and is a consent to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle at public auction, or use for the Sheriff's Office purposes as provided for by the Texas Transportation Code Section 683.014 or Section 683.016.

THE CITY OF PRESIDIO IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ONE UTILITY WORKER WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

These positions are part-time temporary and will only be employed until the project has completed. This position works under the general supervision of the public works director. A utility worker performs various work assignments in the department. Candidates must have the following minimum qualifications:

- Must be legal to work in the us
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Valid commercial driver license

with a proven good driving record

- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent

Application and complete job description available at city hall. Applications Available online www. presidiotx.us. City of Presidio employment application is required to be considered for the position. The City of Presidio is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity employer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The Presidio Independent School District Board of Trustees has declared the following items as surplus property and will offer them for sale to the public via auction.

Items for Sale: Surplus and obsolete equipment. Items include, but are not limited to, Technology Equipment: Desktop Computers, Computer Laptops, All-In-One Computer, Computer Monitors/ LCDs, Chromebooks, Tablets, Projectors, Printers, Large Format Printers, Laminator, Document Cameras, ID Printers, Fax Machine, Scanner, All-InOne Chrome Classroom Furniture: Teacher Desk, Student Desk Cafeteria Equipment: Cafeteria Table, Salad Refrigerator, Ice Machine, Commercial Oven Refrigerator Miscellaneous Equipment: Baseball Field Lights, Classroom Ceiling Lights, Classroom Metal Doors, Shop Press Drill, Shop Band Saw, Shop Circular Saw, Shop Planer, RTU 3 Phase R22 Air Conditioner, Stoves, Refrigerators

+Please submit your application to the address below:

City of Presidio
City Secretary
P.O. Box 1899
Presidio, TX 79845

Physical Address: 507 W. O'Reilly St., Presidio, Texas
The City of Presidio is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer
This position is open until October 31, 2025

Live Public Auction Details:

- Auction Start Date: Nov. 1, 2025 – 8:00 A.M.
- Auction End Date: Nov. 1, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
- Location: 1201-1301 East Millington Blvd Presidio, TX 79845 Terms and Conditions: • All property is sold “as is, where is,” with no warranty, expressed or implied.
- All bidders must register the day of the auction.
- The district reserves the right to reject any and all bids. • Cash, cashier's checks, or money orders, will be accepted. 4(NO Personal or Business Checks) • Buyers are responsible for all sales taxes and fees.
- The winning bidder is responsible for all costs associated with the removal of equipment.
- Winning bidders must remove their items by 4:00 P.M. on Nov. 7, 2025.

Contact:
For additional information, please contact Ruben Armendariz at 432-229-1152

Vehicles

2007	Ford	12 Passenger
2001	Ford	12 Passenger
1996	Ford	Bus
1996	Ford	12 Passenger
2012	Thomas	Bus
2002	Chevy	Impala
2005	Chevy	Suburban
1996	Chevy	Lumina
1994	Dodge	350 Van
1987	Chevy	Truck
1995	GMC	Van
2000	Ford	Van
1989	GMC	Truck

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2GTFK29K4K1560275

Sentinel is changing, but before moving too far, we want to hear from you. What are we doing right or wrong? What do you want to read and see in the paper? Let us know!

—Roger Black

Email: publisher@bigbendsentinel.com



10/23

Filling Out a Puzzle by Greyson Miller

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SUDUKO

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

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10/23

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

SOLUTION:

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9/16

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Winning muffins

Barbara Curry of Fort Davis celebrates her Texas State Fair First Place Creative Arts blue ribbon for her lemon poppy seed muffins. Curry also won a second-place ribbon in 2021 for her coconut pecan praline recipe.

Ponton and Jones marry in Marfa

Beneath skies streaked with clouds, sunshine—and rain over the distant Chinati Mountains

Marfa
On September 27 Wyatt Parkhurst Ponton of San Antonio married his “angel from Montgomery,” Mary Sophia Jones of Montgomery, Alabama. For the couple, it was always destined to be a West Texas wedding, where their love, as they say, was written in the stars and shines brightest and where the Ponton family’s roots run deep. The ceremony took place on Marfa’s western edge beneath the historic Stardust Motel sign, officiated by Reverend Dr. Harry Barrow of Newnan, Georgia, a lifelong friend of the bride’s father. Lightning flickered on the horizon as the pair exchanged vows beneath a 10-foot cross crafted by Wyatt and friend Greg Bow of Fabrica, Alpine, with the evening sun breaking through the clouds and washing the desert in gold. The couple walked an aisle



Wyatt Parkhurst Ponton and Mary Sophia Jones at the classic sign.

of cowhides while the Sul Ross State University Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Andrew

Alegria, performed a cappella favorites including “God Only Knows” and “Love Train.”

Sophia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alan Jones, was attended by her sister Andrea Grey Loeb of Tallahassee and Alexandra Kathryn Ponton of Alpine.

Wyatt, son of Shawn Ponton Murry of Alpine and the late James Ponton, was attended by Arvel Rodolphus Ponton of Alpine and Clayton Gates Chapman McNeil of Philadelphia.

Festivities included a welcome at Rod Ponton’s hacienda in Alpine and a rehearsal dinner at the Hotel Saint George Hall, hosted by Shawn Ponton Murry and Jimmy Murry, with Neil Trammel and his band keeping guests two-stepping.

After the ceremony, guests celebrated at The Capri, where a double rainbow appeared as Mariachi musicians from Presidio, led by Proyecto D. Molly Ferguson, played into the night. A beloved Alpine donkey named Pumpkin, from Wasserman Ranch, greeted guests.

The reception glowed with Marfa magic—disco balls, tumbleweeds, and century plants hung above florals and libations by Cactus Liquors, a gold-leaf cake by Sylvia Norman of Marfa, and a feast by Chef Michael Olivas of Midland.

Planned with Monika Bernstein of Industrihaus Marfa, Alex Ponton and Rick Johnson, the design balanced rustic charm and modern shine.

At midnight, the newlyweds departed in a cherry-red Pontiac Catalina lent by Liz Rogers, guests waving cowboy hats as they drove off beneath the desert sky where their vows began.

After a honeymoon, the couple settled in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, ready to continue their adventure, forever chasing stars.

Let us know your wedding plans. Send an email to the Sentinel editor at editor@bigbendsentinel.com. To place an advance notice, write to ads@bigbendsentinel.com for the rates.

OBITUARY

Building yurts, supporting historic buildings, or skiing, she never slowed down

Betty Ruth Gibson Gaddis Yndo, age 96, of Alpine, Texas, passed peaceably, surrounded by family, in Austin, Texas.

She is survived by seven children and stepchildren, eleven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a million admirers

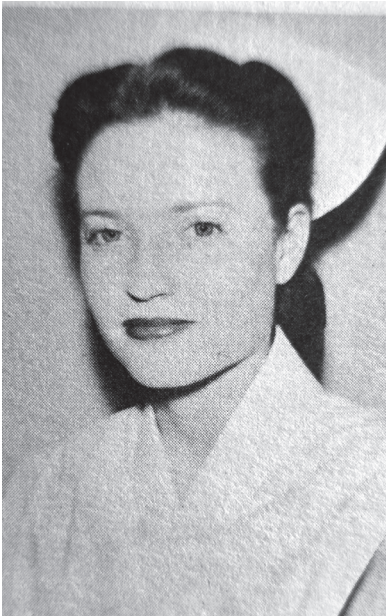
She came from Stanton, Texas, went to Baylor University, and at the state convention in Galveston became the first president of the newly formed Texas Nursing Students Association, only the fifth such program in the nation at that time. After graduation, she established the initial health programs for six rural schools in and around Martin County. She met her husband, Dr. Don Gaddis, while helping to provide aid when an awning in downtown Stanton collapsed during the viewing of a parade. This encounter led to a long marriage and a move to Fort Davis, Texas, where they built the first hospital.

Later establishing a medical clinic in Alpine, she fell in love with the community, hiked every mountain she could get permission to (and probably a few others), and became very active in local affairs.

When Dr. Gaddis died, in her own words, she decided to “never retire, just to change hats about every 10 years.”

Moving to Austin, she was instrumental in TAO Design, building highly unusual, very sculptural free-formed foam and concrete homes. A craftsman from Maine collaborated with her to self-build a collection of varied modern wood-framed and insulated interpretations of Mongolian yurts, nestled close under different trees in the woods west of Austin. Yurt City!

It was a small family and friends Texas progressive redneck version commune of carpenters, plumbers,



Betty Ruth Gibson Gaddis Yndo

mechanics, and architects.

Her heart remained in West Texas. She moved back and started a construction company called Gaddis Builders Incorporated, building beautiful cedar houses in Alpine and various locations around Texas. She also rolled the dice and bought an old, abandoned, but good bones, tire warehouse on the main street in the middle of Alpine Texas.

Securing an SBA loan, she worked night and day for over a year to create a beautiful mall of curved plastered walls, arches, and tiled shops owned by, and for, women—La Placita.

Unusual in Alpine at the time. She was proudest that the project helped three new local companies in plumbing, electrical, and construction continue to get off the ground. As the building has evolved, it is now the Sunshine House and provides a variety of vital community services to seniors and to Alpine.

When interest rates made the construction industry unreliable

in the early ‘80s, she decided to put on a different hat, move to Breckenridge, Colorado, and learn to cross-country ski, just for the halibut. Great restaurants.

Then, she fell in love with, and married the dashing Lt. Col. Michael Yndo, USAF, moving to Texas’s first Historical District, King William, in San Antonio. In between adventures and traveling together, and unable to sit still, she formed King William Realty, enjoying getting to know many of the unusual people and interesting houses there. She spent three years on the King William Historic District Board of Directors and three years as the critical money-making annual Home Tour chairman.

As she says, “I ride my bike nearly every day in the area where I work and get a slower bird’s eye view and awareness of conditions and activities and do a lot of visiting along the way.”

She could not ignore her love for Alpine though. For her, this took the form of promoting renovations and repairs along historic Murphy Street, Alpine’s first downtown. There, she found a row of modest but romantic and architecturally significant buildings and encouraged the brave, creative people who have made them quite special. It is her favorite place in all of the world.

“I am not a mover or shaker, but a grassroots person,” she said. “I hope to be aware, receptive and doing my part for homes, neighborhoods and the city.”

A memorial celebration and dance will be coming at a time yet to be determined in Alpine. Details will be announced.

As per her long request, her tombstone shall read: “Betty Ruth Gibson Gaddis Yndo: You can leave a message but I’m not here.”

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thursday October 23

Boxing at Maintenant

9 am-10:30 am
Maintenant, 1825 Rabbits Rd., Marfa, (773) 425-9858

Friday October 24

Indian Lodge Tour

4:00 pm-5:00 pm
Davis Mountains State Park
H3V6+G93, Park Rd 3
Fort Davis

Open House: Night Viewing of Nowhere Exhibition No. 0008

7:00 pm-10:00 pm
Club Nowhere
401 S. Highland Ave
Marfa

Saturday October 25

Los Yonke Gallos vs. Alpine Cattle Dogs

4:00 pm
Vizcaino Field
Ranch Rd 1112
Marfa

Day Viewing of NowHere Exhibition No. 0008

11:00 am-2:00 pm
Club Nowhere
401 S. Highland Ave.
Marfa

Flying Island 2025

10:00 am-4:00 pm
Marfa

Sunday April 26

Sunday Slow Stretch with Bailey

4:00 pm-5:00 pm
La Sala Studio, Studio, 207 E Holland Ave
Alpine (432) 294-5793

Flying Island 2025

10:00 am-4:00 pm
Marfa

Tactical Immersion Weekend

October 24 through October 28
223 Fort Griffin Drive
Alpine

Boxing at Maintenant

10:00 am-11:30 am
1825 Rabbits Rd., Marfa

Weekly events

Free Zumba Classes

Monday and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Marfa Public Library

Yin Yoga

Tuesdays at 12 pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm
Marfa Public Library

AA (online)

Saturdays at 12:00 pm
https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2
Sometimes in-person, Marfa Public Library

AA (in-person)

Monday and Wednesday at 6:00 pm
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

The Alpine Farmers Market

Saturday at 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Alpine Visitor Center. Schedules subject to change. Visit Marfa Farmstand on Facebook.

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ROMAIN FROQUET
“CONNECTIONS”

JOIN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARTIST ROMAIN FROQUET FOR A SCREENING OF HIS DOCUMENTARY “CONNECTIONS,” HIGHLIGHTING HIS CREATIVE JOURNEY THROUGH FAR WEST TEXAS. FOLLOWED BY A LIVE Q&A.

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Total storage charges cannot be computed until vehicle is claimed. The daily storage charges will accrue daily until vehicle is released. If the vehicle is not claimed within 30 days after the date this notice is published, this fact gives this vehicle storage facility the right to dispose of the vehicle. Additionally, failure to claim the vehicle is a waiver of all right, title, or interest in the vehicle and personal property and a consent to sell the vehicle at a public sale.

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OPINION



LETTERS

Posting mugshots of those arrested without context leads to snap judgements

Dear Editor (and the general populace so ready to pass judgement),

Please let me begin by saying that I would never defend animal cruelty, or its perpetrator, in any manner. It is an unconscionable act and one that absolutely should be met with legal (and karmic, in my opinion) consequences.

That said: in all matters—legal, social, and otherwise, especially ones that carry such heavy personal repercussions in such a small town—we must remember to practice patience, compassion, and due process before leaping to conclusions that have the capacity to create real harm to a family and their business. Rene Cardona, as many of you know, is a kind, calm, and responsible man who is loyal to his friends, supportive of his community, and respectful to everyone who crosses his path. I have the pleasure of knowing him and his family personally, which is part of the reason this egregious event has lodged such a thorn in my proverbial side.

Those of us who know him know with absolute certainty that he would never harm any creature, large or small. In fact: I once asked for his help in removing (from the world, if I'd had my way) a black widow from the underside of a chair outside Para Llevar, his and his family's business.

He gently ushered the spider and her egg sac into a plastic container and nestled her into a nearby prickly pear plant where she could thrive.

Such is the compassion of this man. However, my personal investment in the situation is not the point.

Firstly: the posting of a mugshot (any mugshot, this is not a qualm specific to this situation) by law officers on a social media site with little to no context is, at best, irresponsible.

At worst it invites a community to take up its keyboard torches and pitchforks and set fire to an already sensitive situation. I can only speak for myself, but when I see CRUELTY TO NON LIVESTOCK ANIMAL I think of someone starving or beating their pet, staking a dog to a short chain in the hot desert sun, hoarding animals, force breeding in irresponsible conditions—not a blind, senior dog escaping its shaded outdoor enclosure and accidentally being hit by a passing car. I also fail to see how delaying a trip to a groomer for a curmudgeonly old dog falls into this category. Perhaps that's just me.

Secondly: how many of us have had to slam on our brakes to avoid hitting a scruffy critter on San Antonio Street happily jangling its tags across the highway on its morning jaunt? How many of us avoid walking their leashed dogs in quiet residential neighborhoods for fear of an encounter with an unleashed pet allowed to roam with no owner in sight?

Again, maybe these events are specific to me, but it seems a bit of a double standard to place a local family man under arrest for "animal cruelty" while turning a blind eye not only to established leash laws but to all of the loose, unkempt pets who have been fortunate enough to avoid a traumatic vehicular death.

To be perfectly clear: I am absolutely not advocating for more undue arrests, nor am I blindly forgiving irresponsible pet ownership.

I am simply wondering why such harsh penalties have been applied to this single instance of a regularly overlooked situation and why the Presidio County Sheriff's Office continues to instigate public discord on social media.

I hope that those of us who have had the opportunity to understand the complexities of the situation, or who can choose grace over vitriol, will gather and continue to support the Cardona family through kind words, actions, and delicious pizza.

I hope that Rene and his family are afforded the peace to grieve the loss of one beloved pet and the forced rehoming of the other.

Above all, I hope Mr. Cardona hires a kick-ass lawyer.

Adeline Schowengerdt
Marfa

Editor's note: In this case, the Marfa Police Department made the arrest and filed charges. As in all cases, he was jailed in the Presidio County Jail run by the sheriff's department, which posts many of those arrested on its Facebook page. This letter inadvertently was left out of last week's Sentinel.

Prioritizing coal puts grid in danger

I am concerned about the current status of the Texas power grid.

Grid failure in February 2021 was a disaster causing statewide outages, shutdown of businesses and schools, and leaving homes without heat for a week. ERCOT's plan for 2025-26 relies heavily on output from the Sandy Creek Coal Plant in Waco.

This plant is currently shut down until sometime in 2027. Ownership of the plant is not readily available because of recent sales.

The history of Sandy Creek is riddled with unreliable research, lack of accountability and poor decision-making as well as reliance on fossil fuels as the major source of energy in Texas.

In October 2011 the plant experienced an explosion from overheating, causing a shutdown.

The current shutdown of the coal plant requires ERCOT to scramble for renewable wind and solar solutions to ensure power availability this winter.

This is made more difficult by recent cuts in renewable source funding by the federal government and by Texas state government insistence on prioritizing coal as the main source of electric power.

Contact your representatives and let them know this is an immediate priority.

Genie Mitchell
Fort Davis

Presidio JP offers thanks

With a heavy heart, I am announcing that I will not be seeking re-election as your Justice of the Peace this coming election.

Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

However, due to ongoing health challenges and the toll they have taken, I must step back from the responsibilities of public office to prioritize my recovery. For years you have placed your trust in me to serve with fairness, compassion and integrity. It has been my privilege to preside over matters great and small and to play a part in upholding justice and representing our community.

I want to thank God, local state and federal law enforcement agencies, Presidio and Marfa EMTs, the funeral homes and the Mexican Consulate of Presidio who have worked and served alongside me doing a job that is difficult for all of us.

I would also like to thank my deputy clerk Flor Franco for her dedication, professionalism and always being here for me. Most importantly, I would like to thank those that believed in me all these years. Your confidence has meant everything. Though I will not be on the ballot next term, I remain deeply committed to this community.

Juanita Urias Bishop
Presidio County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2

The power to amend

By Suzanne Bellsnyder
TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

I'VE BEEN reading historian Jill Lepore's We the People as part of my study of the U.S. Constitution. The framers never believed their creation would be perfect or unchanging. They built a document that could be amended—changed, refined, and made better by the people it would govern. They saw the power to amend as the purest form of self-government.

That same principle runs deep in Texas. Our state constitution was written by people who had seen what happens when government drifts too far from ordinary citizens. They made it long and detailed on purpose so that no major policy could take effect without a vote of the people.

Texas has more than 500 constitutional amendments already—and 17 more on the ballot this November.

Some call that messy. I call it proof that Texans have never trusted the government to act alone.

To amend something means to fix it, renew it, or make it more productive. Anyone who's worked on a farm or in a garden understands that.

When the soil wears thin, you amend it so it can produce again. The framers—many of them farmers—understood that same truth about democracy. It only stays healthy when people are willing to work it.

When we vote on constitutional amendments, we're deciding what's working, what isn't, and what needs attention. This is how Texans—not politicians—shape our state.

On November 4, you can have a say on 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. For rural Texans, several deserve special attention.

Proposition 1 would create permanent funds for the Texas State Technical College system—the schools that train welders, linemen, nurses, and mechanics. For small towns far from a university campus, this fund will allow investments in the young people in our communities. We need these trades in our small towns. They provide good-paying jobs for young people who want to build a future close to home—especially those who can't afford to attend college or leave their families behind.

Proposition 4 would dedicate a portion of state sales-tax revenue to create the new Texas Water Fund—a dedicated funding source for one of the most important investments the state can make: our water. This amendment would direct \$1 billion per year for 20 years toward long-term water infrastructure that supports every community, from our largest cities to our smallest towns.

Propositions 5, 8, and 9 also provide meaningful relief for rural Texans. Prop 5 exempts animal-feed inventory from property taxes, helping feed stores, co-ops, and farms stay viable.

Prop 8 bans inheritance and gift taxes, allowing family land to pass to the next generation without being taxed twice.

Prop 9 lets small businesses and farms deduct equipment value, easing costs on tractors and machinery.

Together, these measures strengthen rural economies and protect the people who keep Texas growing.

Every time we vote on constitutional amendments, we're taking ownership of the laws that shape our lives.

It might seem insignificant, but it's what keeps democracy local, personal, and alive. If we ignore that responsibility, the soil of self-government dries up. When we participate, we keep it fertile for the next crop of Texans who will inherit it.

That's what Dirt Democracy means—the understanding that democracy, like the land, only stays healthy when people are willing to care for it. So be sure to research the amendments, show up, and decide for yourself.

Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 20. Before you head to the polls, take time to learn about all 17 amendments. Talk them over at the football game, the coffee shop, the feed store, or after church. Ask how they'll affect your family, your land, your schools, and your town. Then go vote.

The Texas Constitution doesn't belong to Austin. It belongs to us. And it only stays strong if we take the time to amend it when it needs tending.

That's not politics. That's Dirt Democracy.

Suzanne Bellsnyder, Texas editor and publisher, has a Substack newsletter, Texas Rural Reporter.

BIG BEND

Sentinel

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ART

Art Blocks Marfa 2025



Hundreds attended Art Blocks weekend.

ANDREW SIEGFRIED

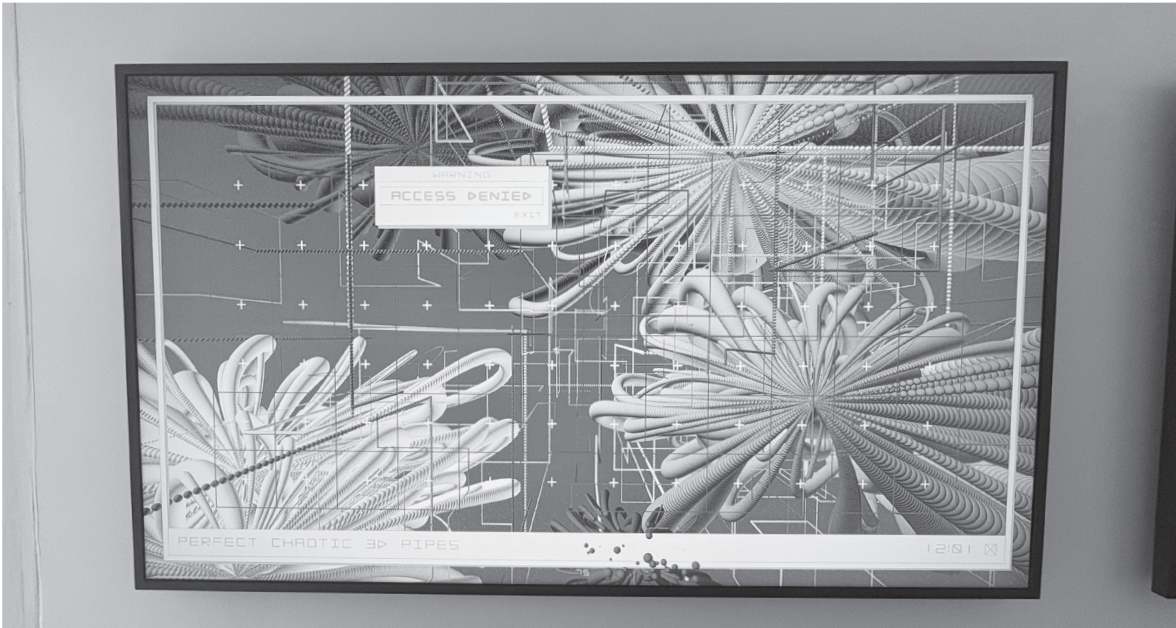
A fond farewell to Art Blocks 500

The 2025 festival held particular significance as it coincided with the finale of the platform’s inaugural, defining collection, the “Art Blocks 500.” This series of 500 flagship generative art projects established the platform’s reputation from 2020–2025.

The weekend drew artists, collectors, and enthusiasts from across the world, all converging on the remote West Texas art oasis, a town famous for its minimalist art heritage. Art Blocks and Glitch Gallery have long maintained a physical gallery in Marfa, choosing the location for its deep-rooted history of pushing artistic boundaries, notably inspired by the works of Donald Judd.

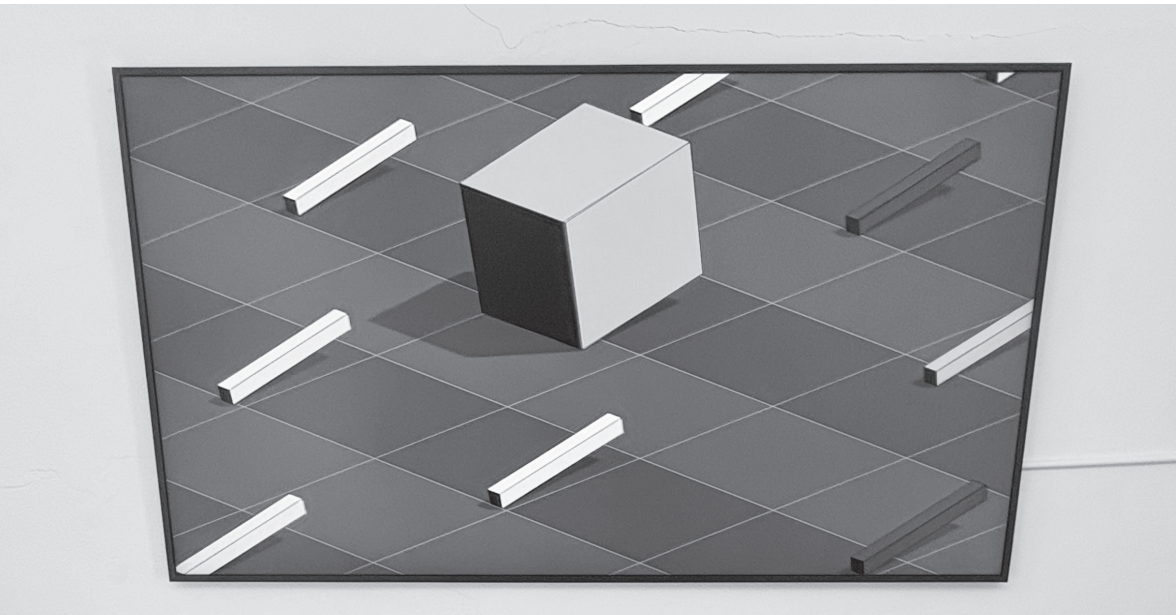
Pioneers of the space, such as generative and crypto artist Bård Ionson, whose projects were part of the “Art Blocks 500,” attended and unveiled new interactive works.

On display over Art Blocks Weekend was *Edge of the West*, a piece by Delta Sauce inspired by the lonely gas stations of Far West Texas.



Tabor Robak, color space #75, 2022

ANDREW SIEGFRIED



Rich Lord, Geometry Runners #790, 2021

ANDREW SIEGFRIED

NO NEW TAXES FOR PRESIDIO COUNTY



Presidio County residents are already carrying a heavy tax burden. Now, county officials are proposing Certificates of Obligation that would increase taxes even further.

VOTE NO to Presidio County's proposed Certificates of Obligation.

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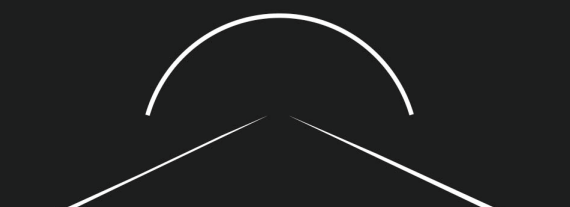
Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God:
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

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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.

ART • KENNY SCHACHTER

A dispatch from Chinati Weekend

Plus: Inigo Philbrick’s new venture, Diddy’s \$21 million, Kerry James Marshall’s new owner

THE LARGEST U.S. protest to date, with 20 million people, remains the First Earth Day in 1970, a demonstration to draw attention to environmental issues/ The second largest is Hands Across America (1986), with 7 million people, an effort to raise money and awareness of hunger and homelessness, which involved participants holding hands in a chain across the country. Sadly, we haven’t fared particularly well on either issue.

The No Kings protests on Saturday came in close behind them, with more than 5 million taking part in the marches against the authoritarian policies of President Donald J. Trump and the alleged corruption in his administration, according to some estimates. (Organizers put the number at nearly 7 million.) The voices of sane, peaceful Americans cannot be easily squelched, and the protests reminded me that I shouldn’t be too embarrassed to acknowledge where I hail from (before my family immigrated). Naturally, His Petulant-cy responded by posting an A.I. video of himself piloting a fighter jet, dropping poop on the far-bigger-than-his-inauguration crowds.

All the power to the fearless, inflatable-frog-clad activists railing against the systematic brutality of ICE and the National Guard deployed in that hotbed of international terrorism, Portland, Oregon I’m going to don my frog suit and head to the nearest art fair to object to the onslaught of negative media coverage that flies in the face of the robust, thriving community of artists, dealers, and collectors that doggedly prove them wrong year after year.

On a more pedestrian front, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon recently warned about potential peril in the \$1.7 trillion private debt market after a handful of large-scale defaults. He compared them to “cockroaches,” inferring that, where there is one, there are probably more. But Dimon’s fear-mongering misses the point. Look at the succession of relentless cycles throughout history, economics and otherwise: a rash of new initiatives invariably crop up to fill the void left by the deceased or departed. The same could be said about the doom and gloom that continues to pervade art world reportage.

Forgive me for repeating myself, but please indulge me: Yes, one gallery folds here, another there, and so damn what? The repetitive headlines are monotonous and disingenuous, as Led Zeppelin called



I begrudgingly forgave this very kind Sentinel cafe patron kneeling on my art furniture, who was on a motorcycle trip with her parents and brother.

it in 1973’s “The Song Remains the Same”:

*Any little song that you know
Everything that’s small has to grow
And it’s gonna grow now
Push, push, yeah*

To that effect, read Scott Reyburn’s encouraging *New York Times* article of enterprising enterprises last week and the captivating artists and galleries he highlights. The title says it all: “Britain’s economy has slowed, and sales at blue-chip galleries are down. But among young artists and emerging dealers, the mood is upbeat.”

About a certain, flourishing bi-coastal gallery (that will remain anonymous—I gave my word), I can report that persistent, spiteful rumors about them shedding one of their beachheads and retreating back home are not only false; they are, in actuality, looking to expand in New York by opening a second space.

Along the same lines, with two spaces and a bar on the way in New York, Amanita inaugurated its third location in Rome on October 9 with a show by Daniele Milvio. (Disclosure: My son Adrian shows with them!) The exhibit, rammed with spillover crowds at the opening, has since sold solidly at prices ranging from €12,000 to €22,000 (\$14,000 to \$25,600). The unorthodox model that has enabled Amanita to buck the bleak kismet of late involves having four 20-something stakeholders (the bastards) equally vested in the fate of their business, shouldering various aspects of the partnership. Counting employees, they are nine in total, helping them remain lissome and flexible in the face of economic uncertainty and vicissitudes.

A brief note on Frieze, which was deemed a success, and Paris Basel, which I confidently predict will best it, just in time for the premiere of the Cartier Foundation, yet another venue to showcase contemporary art in a city teaming with it. A New York dealer I just spoke to reported their most profitable results ever and has now landed in Paris to begin setting up a Basel booth. Sounds grueling from where I’m perched at present (New York City). The grande dame of the art trade, Georgina Adam, whom I revere (how is her age nowhere on the internet, I need to know?), recently wrote in the *Art Newspaper*, “Is Art Basel Paris set to consume the Swiss original?” to which she concluded, “the answer seems still to be a clear... no!”

The highlight of Frieze week was undoubtedly the blockbuster Kerry James Marshall exhibition, his largest outside the U.S., at London’s Royal Academy of Arts (RA), curated by Mark Godfrey, Tate curator from 2007 to 2021. I previously reported that the owner of the \$21 million painting *Past Times* (1997), Puff Daddy, had sold the work at the onset of his, uh, legal situation. After the fact, I discovered the \$30 million buyer reneged.

Godfrey had contacted me to determine the ultimate owner of the work, as he told me that the RA under no circumstances would borrow from disgraced Diddy. I can now confirm that it has indeed been sold, as confirmed by Godfrey. What Mark didn’t reveal, though I can now disclose, is that he’s likely next chief curator of the museum after the recent expiration of Adrian Locke’s term.

More intriguing (and juicy) is what a prominent birdie whispered into my ear about the new buyer! It was Larry G, after another offer of \$29 million was turned down. Diddy paid \$21,000,000, remember: The rich get richer, even while rotting in Brooklyn’s notorious Metropolitan Detention Center. It went to Gagosian for \$30 million, or just above, and not to Ken Griffin; flush as he is, he isn’t a fan of KJM (if that’s possible!). Larry G did not respond to my text seeking comment. So, if it wasn’t for Larry, perhaps Jeff Bezos? Bear with me, I’ll find out... I always do.

Regarding the hullabaloo about London galleries—big, medium, and XL—reporting substantial year-on-year losses, you merely have to read between the lines (or a forensic accountant does) to get a clearer picture of what is actually at hand. The apparent U.K. money misfortunes that have befallen the behemoths Hauser and Wirth, David Zwirner, and Almine Rech are more the outcome of forum shopping than anything else, with everyone searching for cheaper tax regimes. For example, tax refugees

Manuel Hauser and husband Iwan Wirth picked up sticks from London and relocated to Switzerland; along with the rest, they are essentially rerouting secondary sales through more financially advantageous jurisdictions.

To wit, observe the exoduses from states like New York and California to Florida and Texas. The same could be said for countries like Italy, the Bahamas, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Portugal, picking up the slack from countries like the U.S. and U.K. These geographic destinations have come to resemble freeports, the designated secure warehouses near major international airports where goods can be stored without paying taxes and duties until moved to collectors.

From 2020’s Brexit to the cessation of the non-domicile tax in April (a tax structure that offered significant advantages for foreign income), the social and economic problems that seem to obstinately vex the U.K. (I can concur after living there 15 years) are entirely self-wrought. They don’t seem to learn. Indulge me one more song reference, in this instance from Radiohead’s landmark 1995 album *The Bends*:



One half of legendary Marfa print publishers Valerie and Robert Arber. They were so passionate and adorable, I wanted to take them home and all of their works by Judd, Bruce Nauman, Richard Prince and genius part-time Marfa resident Charline von Heyl.

*You do it to yourself, you do
And that’s what really hurts
Is that you do it to yourself,
just you
You and no one else*

Problems on another level continue to plague Simon Lee’s gallery business and everyone associated with it. Not only did His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs service (the grandiose nomenclature for the U.K. tax authority) shutter his flagship London space (there were also venues in Hong Kong and New York), forcing

him into involuntary receivership, but the mess is compounding by the day, especially for its former artists (including Lisa Brice and Sonia Boyce), employees, and those it did business with: art fairs, collectors (who never received art they purchased), secondary consignors, galleries, banks, shippers, and logistics companies.

Adding insult to pecuniary injury are the clawback provisions of the bankruptcy code, which are legal tools intended to ensure against unfair treatment being given to preferential creditors. The insolvency practitioners managing the proceedings have cast a wide net—and continue to do so—in an effort to collect as much from as many as they can; the extent of which is not only unfair but unjust, considering they have sued artists and workers who are in no position to disgorge their earned commissions and wages. The only parties that will benefit from such futile efforts are the bankruptcy administrators and, as per usual, the lawyers! A well-known artist told me:

It’s costing us plenty to try and deal with all the unpaid storage and importation fees, etc. There is a lot of stuff going on around clawbacks. So far, we haven’t been affected since Simon neglected to pay us any more money during the clawback period, but the details are kind of crazy, as the winding-down entity’s lawyers are threatening the people who worked during that period for their wages. This seems a lot more randomly mean than when Madoff investors who’d managed to get some money out before he went down were clawed back, since in some way they were passive investors who knew that an investment had risks. Since I am not affected, I don’t think I should comment, but those who are have been deciding about how and when to go public.

If you’ve wondered what felon Inigo Philbrick has been up to since his release from prison last year, here you go. I was contacted recently by Nimrod Kamer, a ubiquitous pest who is the self-proclaimed “most ambitious social climber alive.” (He’s appropriately named “nimrod,” also meaning a foolish or inept person.) I have a soft spot for him, for some odd reason, and here is how our chat transpired:

Nimrod Kramer: BTW Inigo hired me to develop a shroom coffee powder. With his wife.

KS: The Great Mushroom Swindle.

NK: A new frontier.

KS: Of hallucinogenic fraud. You serious?!

NK: Yeah. They got few investors.

KS: What’s your involvement? Illegal, no?

NK: I’m doing reels and research. It’s a tremella shroom powder just like @dirteaworld (look up)

My curiosity was piqued, so I got in touch with the man himself, who’s the subject of an entertaining BBC documentary that you can watch here (if you’re outside the U.K., you’ll need a VPN, ask your kids).

I’m not just saying this because I’m in it, but *The Times* of London characterized the program as a “... complex financial saga both neatly explained and deftly personalized by the juicy drama of human acrimony, most especially from the charismatic U.S. art magus Kenny Schachter, a former friend of Philbrick’s.” Here is the conversation that ensued:

KS: You starting some coffee co?

Inigo Philbrick: Lattes for cons? KS: Eh?

IP: Not sure a coffee company makes much sense—Starbucks seems to be having a hard time.

KS: Ahh mushrooms!

IP: No coffee.

KS: What is it?

IP: A beauty supplement—something Victoria is into

KS: Ahh, ok.

IP: Chinese medicine made modern basically.

KS: Ahh, not the trippy variety.

IP: Hydration. Extends life in fruit flies and meant to plump skin.

Trips are a thing of the past—happily for all

Enjoying Texas?

KS: Trips are a thing of past? Texas’ fascinating, but been



I don’t know what got me more inspired—recounting my Texas adventures or talking shop with critics and lecturers. I love Jerry Saltz & Roberta Smith.

looooooooong.

IP: It’s a big place. Marfa is beautiful, but being there a long time... kinda like a prison sentence.

KS: Ha!!!! Why are trips a thing of the past?

IP: Because I don’t take drugs! And don’t do transcendental meditation either

KS: But everyone else does that would be good pay to get back to parity-wise.

IP: Good play you mean? I think that’s an awfully crowded space. Either way, nice to have some work—have been SO many people offering and so few people following through since I got out.

KS: Offering what type of opps?

IP: You name it, but I don’t want this to be the subject of the next dispatch so let’s head the conversation off. Trying to do good things in baby steps.

Some final thoughts on my two-week exhibit and writing residency sojourn in Marfa that came to an end the Sunday before last. I cannot express the scope of what I learned while entrenched in the arid desert environs of the town with a full-time population of about 1,800. I was under the misapprehension that Marfa was swarming with artists and the ilk, but boy was I wrong. That wasn’t exactly the case, even in the midst of the festivities of Chinati Weekend. The revelation for me—besides the stunning, inimitable landscape, which I expected—was the sheer breadth of Judd’s all-encompassing vision and empathetic sensitivities. He made art, design, and architecture whole cloth out of space, as formidable as the metal and adobe he famously plied.

The *Big Bend Sentinel* newspaper I wrote for, and will continue to contribute to, is situated adjacent to a bustling café that’s open seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., which is exactly where I plopped myself for the majority of that time. Publicly writing and engaging daily in such an unconventional context resembled a mix between a rodeo and a town-hall meeting. I was, for a considerable chunk, post-3 p.m. closing, more alienated than a monk in a monastery: Though they can’t generally speak, they are within breathing distance of their brethren. Being so alone so much slowed down Einstein’s space-time continuum. I wonder if that means I aged less for the duration of the trip?

My experiences, only fleetingly art related, ranged from discussions of local politics—they voted to raise the property tax rate 70 % during my stay, which is under appeal—to the prospect of computer cooling facilities to fuel the A.I. revolution (bubble).

The highlight was getting taken to the woodshed by a cowgirl who admonished me for talking too loudly on the phone while we were both outside—ha, ha! I’ll miss the wailing screech of the freight trains running adjacent to my Airbnb bedroom 24/7 (I now can’t sleep without them.), and the genial hospitality of literally everyone I met, Judd-related and otherwise. Except for the cantankerous cowgirl, that is.

In conclusion, there are plenty of obdurate collectors who would go to any length to possess art (including me), perhaps not to the extent of breaking into the Louvre to pinch it—though there are those too—and that won’t subside anytime soon. I promise you.

Kenny Schachter, artist and collector, held forth at the Sentinel this month. See more at bigbendsentile.com/postbox.

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