

BIG BEND Sentinel

Vol. 94 No. 06 • April 30, 2026

Our 100th Year

Marfa, Texas • TWO DOLLARS

District eyes ‘once in a lifetime’ grant

Money will fund early childhood education

By ARIELE GENTILES

At the March 23 School Board meeting, the board passed a resolution to approve the planning and implementation of a 1- to 3-year-old childcare center and pre-K3 classroom for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year in anticipation of a \$600,000 education grant from the Moody Foundation.

The culmination of years of work on the part of Marfa Education Foundation Director Abby Boyd and Marfa Elementary Principal Rosie Martinez, the resolution paves the way for MEF and the School Empowerment Network, a national nonprofit supporting educators and institutions, to apply for a grant from the Moody Foundation’s M-Pact fund on behalf of Marfa ISD.

According to MEF’s presentation to the School Board, if the grant is received, the School Empowerment Network will support Marfa ISD to open a pre-K3 classroom for 3-year-olds, conduct an assessment to determine the feasibility of opening a childcare classroom to serve children ages 1-3 years as soon as Fall 2026, and receive regular onsite support, with the aim to improve kindergarten readiness and teacher knowledge of how young children learn best. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with the School Empowerment Network,” Boyd said.

Many educational and early learning studies suggest how integral the years even before kindergarten are to future student success. Martinez said of the importance of kindergarten readiness, “We looked and we talked about the data and what our [targeted school improvement] plan is, but the plan needs to start in early childhood ... I keep talking about the data because we looked at [Marfa schools] data so much, and in pre-K through kinder, you know the data kind of looks really good, but once we start moving to third and fourth grade, we start seeing those gaps, and those gaps actually come from the foundation that was set in pre-K, K, and early childhood.”

Continued on page 2

INSIDE

Sixth-graders handcraft clocks



ROB D’AMICO

Letters—Page 5

Sentinel News Project



6 04879 36235 7



JENNIFER PITTINGER

Landowners facing requests for access to their land for the border wall project meet with Army Corps of Engineer representatives in Redford on April 21.

Now you see it, now you don’t

Wall map adds park barriers then disappears

By ROB D’AMICO

Border wall opponents were dismayed to see a new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) “smart wall map” appear online on April 21 that showed new physical infrastructure for the national and state parks, then they were completely befuddled when the map disappeared from the agency’s website a couple of days later. The map—which intends to show where detection-technology-only additions will be made or where physical infrastructure like steel bollard walls will be used along the border—still hasn’t been reposted to the site.

“I mean, how about putting up a thing that says, ‘Hey, we took it down for a day or two, we’re revising it. We’ll put it back up on [whatever day],’” asked Brewster County Judge Greg Henington. “But, just to take it down just creates more havoc for everybody.”

Henington said he was making a call this week to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials to try and find out what’s going on.

On March 5 the “primary wall” designation (meaning possible walls) was pulled from the map for the national park. Then on March 22, a local CBP official assured there would be no steel walls in the state park, something that had been specifically planned for parts of the park. The last posting had shown a change in nomenclature to “technology & patrol roads” and the addition of “vehicle barrier systems,” which are wall-like metal structures to impede vehicular traffic, in Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park. As in the past, there has been no clarification from DHS as to what exactly these barriers will be and how the patrol roads will be built or managed.

The addition of physical infrastructure in the parks and the map disappearing act has reinforced the distrust anti-wall activists have in DHS. “When you just take it down based on everything else they’ve done, it just leads all of us to believe that you’re hiding something again,” Henington said.

“The map was never official or binding,” said Laiken Jordahl with the Center for Biological Diversity, a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against the wall project. “It helped cue us into what CBP was trying to share with the public, but we never trusted that map to start with, and from the very beginning we had urged people to not take whatever they had on that map as fact.”

Presidio County Judge Joe Portillo agreed that the map changes were an example of a key problem—a lack of communication from federal officials to local officials. “It’s an example of exactly why we’re frustrated because nobody knows anything,” he said.

Portillo was one of 14 county judges representing all counties on the border that wrote to DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin on April 21 asking the department to provide more information on wall projects. “As County Judges, we sit at the intersection of federal policy and the communities it affects,” the letter stated. “We know

our terrain, our landowners, and the long-standing practices that sustain life and livelihood in this region. We offer that knowledge as a resource.” It’s uncertain whether the letter impacted the disappearance of the smart wall map two days later.

Portillo added that he recently met with state Rep. Eddie Morales and other border-county judges, and Morales agreed to try and set up a meeting with Mullin.

Tensions with contractors rise

While the map changes have elevated the distrust with federal officials near the parks, the map line never changed for upriver, where officials have directly indicated steel walls would be used—roughly from Redford west to Ft. Quitman. That reality has created more than distrust, creating more and more conflicts with contractors surveying the land along the proposed wall route.

Whoever crashed into a remote ranch gate in Hudspeth County, leaving it in shambles in

Continued on page 2



YOLANDA ALVARADO

A swing gate lies in shambles on a Hudspeth County road after a vehicle smashed through it, leaving a license plate behind.

PECAN FARM DRAWS IRE OVER MAN CAMP

Farm requests to host, provide water for man camp

By ROB D’AMICO

Van Horn

A Culberson County pecan farm has emerged as a flashpoint for those opposed to border wall construction after it asked the local water conservation district to use its permitted well water for a 500-person man camp on its land—leading one wall opponent to announce on social media: “we have seen the enemy,” due to its cooperation with federal wall builders.

Nancy Sanchez, who lives on a ranch about a mile from the proposed man camp—at Pecan Grove Farms, located off of Highway 90 south near Lobo, 13 miles south of Van Horn—is concerned about the safety of her family, both from the sheer number of men to be housed and the obvious increase in construction traffic. “I have children, and that puts us in danger,” she said.

A representative from Pecan Grove Farms went to the Culberson County Underground Water Conservation District Board meeting on April 22 to ask it to “overlook” its permit requirements for how it can use its annual allotted water well draws, according to Haley Davis, the district’s general manager.

“Currenty, they have 1,817 acre feet allotted to them, and they have stayed under 900 the past three years,” Davis said. “So they’re asking to just use that other amount of acre feet, and they will still stay under [their limit].” The total amount permitted equals almost 592 million gallons of water per year, with the amount available to the man camp at about 300 million gallons, or about 918,000 gallons a day. (According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American only uses 82 gallons a day, which would be 41,000 gallons a day for 500 workers.)

Pecan Grove Farms CEO Jose “Pepe” Guevara told the board that the water would be used to host a man camp on their land to facilitate border wall construction. Since the farm’s water permit is for agricultural use, it would need the board’s approval for that purpose.

Border wall opponents packed the meeting to comment against Guevara’s request. Speaking to the crowd was Yolanda Alvarado, whose family has ranched on the Rio Grande nearby for more than 100 years. Alvarado recalled her comments in a phone call with *Big Bend Sentinel* on Saturday.

“If people like you are here to make a dime off the destruction of Earth, I will pray for you in the afterlife,” Alvarado told the farm CEO. She said Guevara’s comment to the board included, “I just want to say the wall is coming whether we like it or not, and someone needs to house them.”

Sanchez also attended the meeting and said she was astounded that Guevara would consider a man camp at his farm with all the harmful impacts she envisions. “He doesn’t care,” she said. “All he cares about is money.”

Water district board members tabled the item, but a special meeting then was scheduled for Thursday, April 30, at 4 p.m. at 1400

W. Broadway in Van Horn. (The meeting will also be broadcast remotely; see the district website at ccgwd.org for more information.) However, questions were raised on whether the meeting was posted correctly under the Open Meetings Act and interested parties should check the district website before attending the meeting.

Guevara and Lalo Medina, another principal with Pecan Grove Farms, could not be reached for comment after requests were made with calls and emails to their corporate office.

The water district’s board chair, Lane Brewster, also works for Pecan Grove Farms. He could not be reached for comment. Davis said Brewster did not go into executive session to discuss the issue and that he has committed to recusing himself on votes on the matter.

While contractors have reached out to several area landowners about providing land, water and sewer hookups for temporary housing with man camps, the pecan farm is the first known landowner that has come before local officials to initiate the process. Davis said there was no official process for their request to the water district, so no paperwork was involved.

On March 30, the city of Valentine held an informational meeting with a packed house to hear concerns about a proposal from a contractor to put in a nearby man camp and use the town’s sole source of water. The contractor that contacted local officials did not attend, and after hearing mostly opposition to the idea, nothing has progressed further.

Similarly, representatives for Landgraf, Crutcher and Associates—an engineering firm out of Odessa—had inquired about water and wastewater hookups for a pair of 250-pad RV sites within the city of Presidio’s extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) in March. City documents showed the firm was asking about a plot of land near Lucy Rede Franco Middle School.

An engineer working with Pecan Grove Farms—Luke LaLiberty with Cushing Terrell, an architectural and building firm—confirmed his involvement in the project along with another “client” and said he could not comment further. LaLiberty later texted that his client declined to comment.

City Council election features 7 candidates

Marfa

Marfa voters can head to the polls on Saturday to choose three City Council members out of a pool of seven candidates.

Incumbents up for election are Mark Cash, Mark Morrison and Eddie Pallarez. Challengers are Christopher Johnson, Emily Kolb, Katy Kowal and Sal Tornabene.

Marfa’s elections are run by plurality, meaning the all seats are at-large, and the top three vote-getters are elected to three seats. All seats carry two-year terms. Voting runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave in Marfa.

Council member calls for more budget information Map changes raise tensions

By GINA VERA

Alpine

While city staff at an April 21 City Council meeting were ready to press the gas on much-needed projects and on the city budgeting process, one council member was throwing up caution signs over debt and a lack of information regarding city funds.

The meeting included the presentation of the City Improvement Plan (CIP) by City Manager Henry Arredondo, information regarding a proposed partnership with the Alpine Independent School District to improve the softball field at Kokernot Park and discussions over the city's financial standing.

The CIP included about \$17 million in projects over the coming five years, with about \$3.5 million spent in the first year. The majority of the spending would be in the Utilities Department, with about \$215,000 spent in the first year, \$2.1 million in the second year, and about \$7.1 million in the third year.

The \$17 million in the CIP represents the total needed for the projects, before subtracting any grants or assistance the city might receive, said Arredondo, who was optimistic about the amount the city could receive. "Our goal is to get the biggest bang with grants," he said.

"The City of Alpine is actively pursuing alternative financial sources to offset the financial burden of the CIP," Arredondo said. He was also optimistic about how much the city could receive in grants and how much in loans tak-

en out through the state program would eventually be forgiven.

His optimism was questioned by Councilmember Rick Stephens, who asked when they would have information regarding how much they could count on coming from grants. It could take up to two years, Arredondo said.

The list of Utility Department projects in the CIP included a changeover to smart water meters, annexing areas to the east of Alpine and the refurbishment of wastewater treatment facilities.

The CIP also includes remodeling of the police department and updates, repairs and relocations of areas at the city airport.

While Mayor Catherine Eaves and all present council members, including Stephens, complimented Arredondo on the format of the CIP, saying it was easy to read and understand, Stephens said that it was difficult for him to move forward with projects, even those he supported, without knowing how much was in the city's fund balance, and if or how the city could support the debt.

Stephens also questioned whether the city's priorities aligned with the community's.

"One of the things I'm going to be asking," Stephens said, "is where will the funding be coming from.... I'm really worried about the level of debt."

Replying to Stephens' concerns, Arredondo explained that the goal is to pursue as many grants as possible and that the debt can be financed over the life of a project.



ARTWALK ALPINE

The corner of Avenue E and 5th Street in Alpine will be named "Artwalk Plaza."

Arredondo also cautioned the City Council about the "hidden cost of delay," saying that delaying work on some projects could lead to more damage and higher costs.

Stephens went on to ask multiple times to see a budget and/or be told where the city's budget stood. Arredondo answered that the city was "tracking at about 40%" in spending what was budgeted while at the "50% mark" of its fiscal year.

After several more questions from Stephens, Arredondo answered that there was \$3.5 million to \$3.7 million in the city's fund balance.

While members of the council expressed support for a partnership with Alpine ISD to improve the softball field at Kokernot Park, Stephens' support was qualified.

The project is important because it is for the kids of Alpine, he said, and therefore, he would find the budget information he needed to make the partnership happen.

New "Artwalk" street name

In other action, the council also unanimously approved the naming of the corner of 5th Street and Avenue E as "Artwalk Plaza."

The naming of Artwalk Plaza comes after the city approved the purchase of the area, located in downtown Alpine, "for the purpose of preserving and enhancing public art and establishing a visitor kiosk to promote tourism," said the city.

The corner is the home of two of Alpine's original murals and Artwalk Alpine, the longest-running free arts festival in West Texas.

Continued from page 1

the dirt, left behind an identifier—a license plate lying in the road that flew off the vehicle as it smashed into the side of a swinging gate arm that was open.

"I filed a report with the sheriff, Arvin West," said Yolanda Alvarado, the owner of the gate, who has taken a role as an outspoken opponent of a border wall and whose family has owned a ranch on the Rio Grande for more than 100 years. "He ran the plate. It belonged to a rental company out of Oklahoma, which is like all those guys that are driving rental trucks." For Alvarado, the implication was simple: this was a contractor out in the remote region there to build a border wall.

Since the driver of the truck is still unidentified and the destruction is under investigation by West's office, it's uncertain whether the act was intentional or just an errant driving error on a rough road. Hudspeth County Constable Abel Ramirez said Tuesday he has contacted the rental company, but has not yet heard back with any information on the identity of the driver.

Ramirez said that in another recent incident, men providing security services for contractors called the sheriff's office to report that an unidentified landowner had confronted them. "They talked some smack toward them, made a threat towards them," he said.

Redford resident and anti-wall activist Charlie Angell has continued to confront wall contractors, including a video showing him questioning a contractor on River Road in the state park. "What are you doing?" Angell asks the man, who stopped in the road. "Just doing a survey," the man responds. "In a state park where there's not supposed to be a wall?" Angell asks.

The man notes that it is not the state park, to which Angell replies, "This is the state park!" Angell adds, "Just doing your job, right?" to which the man says, "Yes sir."

At an April 21 meeting on Angell's property with two Army Corps of Engineers representatives, the scene was more subdued. About a dozen area landowners attended the meeting although uninvited because the

corps representatives wanted to meet individually with landowners to talk through possible access agreements or leases and purchase of their land—introduced in letters to most landowners with a threat of taking property using eminent domain if no agreements were met.

However, corps representative Marvin Makarwicz was diplomatic in his comments to landowners. "We want to try to get an understanding if there are other options, if there's things we didn't know that we don't see," he said in a recording of the conversation sent to the *Sentinel*, while still stressing the need to access land to do surveys. "I think that they would have to come and do the survey to come up with the option that suits both the needs of the landowner as well as needs of the administration."

Angell said he appreciated finally getting a face-to-face meeting with federal officials, but he still gave an impassioned argument for why a wall doesn't make sense and the damage it would do blocking him from the river, and he gave the representatives a tour of his property and a significant archaeological site located there.

Angell also repeated a request for a public meeting with DHS/CBP officials and landowners. "And if they can't sit us down and give us a meeting and say, let's talk about how we can compromise or do this a better way because I want border security," he said. "Although it's very secure here. I've never had a single crime yet here in 11 years."

Makarwicz made a comment, reported by an Axios reporter present at the meeting, for landowners who do not respond to CBP or the corps. "If the administration has a plan, and we try to coordinate with a landowner and the landowner doesn't respond to us, that's a ... a message [that] you don't agree" with a plan for access, he said.

Disclaimer: Rob D'Amico formerly was a board member of the nonprofit Friends of the Ruidosa Church, another plaintiff in the lawsuit against the wall project. He did not vote on participating in the lawsuit and has since resigned from the board to avoid any conflict of interest.

Early childhood education seen as key for success

Continued from page 1

Following a site visit to area El Paso schools already implementing School Empowerment network's unique pre-K programs, current first-grade teacher Victoria Villarreal said, "It's clear that early childhood education can be a valuable addition to our school. We observed students as young as three engage in hands-on learning, building vocabulary, developing independence through structure, routines and expectations."

Villarreal, sister of Board Member Teresa Nunez, taught pre-K for six years and kindergarten for three years before teaching first grade. She does not currently hold any Texas State Board certifications.

However, the grant would cover three years of teacher training and development, including curriculum and classroom supplies and management. According to Boyd, the grant "pays for a project manager to oversee compliance and reporting, teacher training ... We would have access to a funding specialist who would work with MISD's business office to ensure we are getting all possible funds from the state." After three years, the program should be self-sustaining and deepen the district's early childhood develop-

ment "institutional knowledge."

While cost to parents and guardians hasn't been determined, if the grant is awarded to Marfa ISD, the programs will charge tuition. The presentation estimates \$600/month per child, but Boyd says parents may apply for assistance from the Texas Workforce Commission.

MEF's presentation to the board emphasized "braided funding pathways," a financial strategy that "pools multiple funding streams toward one purpose while separately tracking and reporting on each source of funding." Their example "braids" include pre-K funding from the TEA with childcare scholarships and private tuition.

Marfa ISD historically has operated on a shoe-string budget made more bare-bones by state "recapture" payments tied to Marfa's skyrocketing property tax valuations coupled with a sharp decline in enrollment. And though the district has earned As from the TEA for financial integrity, past budgets have emphasized penny-pinching in all areas of spending, including athletics.

The grant would be a boon to the district and the community, Boyd said, but the district must be able to sustain it. Though the grant

only covers three years of operational costs, Martinez believes that with a huge kickstart from Moody Foundation, Marfa ISD will be on a new path to success, with the goal at the end of the three-year period to transform early child education at Marfa ISD into "a gold standard, Texas Rising Star program"—a Texas Workforce Commission standard that recognizes childcare providers that meet higher quality learning environment.

"So when the grant is over the childcare, and pre-K programs will be self-sustaining, and the professional learning will remain in the district," Martinez said.

This would not be the first effort to bring in early childhood education at Marfa ISD in recent years. In 2013, then Superintendent Andrew Peters and Marfa Montessori's Emily Steriti partnered to bring a tuition-free early childhood classroom for 3- to 6-year-olds to Marfa schools. In 2014, the program earned the Texas Rising Star award.

In the years following Peters' exit, the district made the decision to offer a choice for parents between Montessori and a more traditional pedagogy, though it added older Montessori classrooms up to grade 6 to accommodate the fami-

lies who wanted to continue that system within the district. Those upper level classrooms were finally disbanded, citing low enrollment, a week before school started in August 2021, and the 3- to 6-year-old classroom closed at the end of that school year.

Former Marfa Montessori teacher Eliza Barton now serves as director of Alpine Montessori. In the fall of 2022, a small group of parents enlisted Steriti to continue teaching at Marfa Wonder School, a nonprofit mixed-ages classroom now in its fourth year.

Recipients of the M-Pact grant will not be announced until likely late next month, but already hopes are high for a district that has struggled in the years since COVID. At last week's "Armed and Generous" fundraiser for MEF and Marfa schools, Martinez announced the grant prospect to the crowd gathered at Planet Marfa and asked for "good vibes" from the community, leading an enthusiastic chant of "Pre-K3!" before the arm wrestling resumed.

Unlike Alpine ISD, which already has an early childhood learning center for children 6 weeks old up to age 3, Marfa does not currently have any licensed daycare or childcare centers.



Visit the Chinati Foundation, an artist-created, artist-centered museum in Marfa, Texas.

Open Wednesday–Sunday.

Book your guided tour at chinati.org/visit

All Work, All Play. Why Choose?

Limited time offer! \$10 off our best internet plan!*

- New and returning customers welcome
- Built-in security and network management
- \$10 in monthly streaming credit*
- Free Wi-Fi extender*

LIMITED TIME!
\$10 OFF
/MO*

FREE INSTALL
NO CONTRACT



800.592.4781
bigbend.com

*Available to qualifying new customers in eligible service areas. \$10 off promotion only available on Work&Play plans. No contract required. Standard rates apply after promotional period. Streaming credit only available on Work & Play plans. Wi-Fi extender included if needed. Restrictions apply. Visit bigbend.com/legal for details.



PRESIDIO INTERNATIONAL

Las elecciones al Concejo Municipal cuentan con 7 candidatos

Los votantes de Marfa pueden acudir a las urnas este sábadopara elegir a tres miembros del Concejo Municipal de entre un grupo de siete candidatos. La votación anticipada para estos comicios concluyó el martes.

Los miembros actuales que buscan la reelección son Mark Cash, Mark Morrison y Eddie Pallarez. Los candidatos opositores son Christopher Johnson, Emily Kolb, Katy Kowal y Sal Tornabene.

Las elecciones de Marfa se rigen por el sistema de mayoría simple (pluralidad), lo que significa que todos los escaños se eligen en circunscripción única y los tres candidatos que obtengan el mayor número de votos serán elegidos para ocupar los tres puestos.

Todos los escaños tienen un mandato de dos años. La votación se llevará a cabo de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. en la Sala Casner, ubicada en el Ayuntamiento, en el 113 de S. Highland Ave, en Marfa.

La biblioteca celebra Día de los Niños y el Día de los Libros

Por Diana Aguirre Armendariz

La Biblioteca Pública de Presidio, en colaboración con el Consulado de México en Presidio, Aliviane y la Big Bend Conservation Alliance, celebrará esta semana el Día del Niño y del Libro.

La Biblioteca Pública invita a la comunidad fronteriza a reunirse este jueves para una celebración anual que tendrá lugar en las instalaciones de la biblioteca en Presidio el 30 de abril a las 5:30 p.m. “Ha sido un honor contar con el apoyo de estas instituciones que—como en ocasiones anteriores—buscan respaldar y fomentar la diversidad cultural, así como inculcar el hábito positivo de la lectura. Por esta razón, agradezco al Consulado de México, a Aliviane y a la BBKA por su compromiso y dedicación en eventos como este”, compartió Carmen Elguezabal, directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Presidio.

AHORA LO VES... AHORA NO

Un mapa del muro añade barreras en parques y luego desaparece

Por Rob D'Amico

Los opositores al muro fronterizo se mostraron consternados al ver aparecer en línea, el pasado 21 de abril, un nuevo “mapa del muro inteligente” del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en inglés) que mostraba nueva infraestructura física para los parques nacionales y estatales; posteriormente, quedaron totalmente desconcertados cuando el mapa desapareció del sitio web de la agencia un par de días después. Dicho mapa —cuyo objetivo es indicar en qué lugares de la frontera se realizarán únicamente incorporaciones de tecnología de detección o dónde se empleará infraestructura física, como muros de bolardos de acero— aún no ha vuelto a publicarse en el sitio.

“Quiero decir, ¿qué tal si pusieran un aviso que dijera: ‘Oigan, lo hemos retirado por uno o dos días para revisarlo. Lo volveremos a publicar el [tal día]’?”, preguntó Greg Henington, juez del condado de Brewster. «Pero el simple hecho de retirarlo sin más solo genera más caos para todo el mundo». Henington comentó que esta semana realizaría una llamada a los funcionarios de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP por sus siglas en inglés) para intentar averiguar qué es lo que está sucediendo.

El 5 de marzo, la designación de “muro principal” (que implicaba la posibilidad de construir muros) fue eliminada del mapa del parque nacional. Posteriormente, el 22 de marzo, un funcionario local de la CBP aseguró que no se construirían muros de acero en el parque estatal, algo que se había planificado específicamente para ciertas zonas de dicho parque. La última actualización del mapa mostraba un cambio en la nomenclatura, pasando a denominarse “tecnología y caminos de patrulla”, así como la incorporación de “sistemas de barreras para vehículos” —estructuras metálicas similares a muros, diseñadas para impedir el tráfico vehicular— tanto en el Parque Nacional Big Bend como en el Parque Estatal Big Bend Ranch. Al igual que en ocasiones anteriores, el DHS no ha ofrecido ninguna aclaración sobre la naturaleza exacta de estas barreras ni sobre la forma en que se construirán o gestionarán los caminos de patrulla.

La incorporación de infraestructura física en los parques, sumada a la misteriosa desaparición del mapa, ha acentuado la



Una barrera vehicular junto a la carretera 170, en el condado de Presidio. Si bien la Patrulla Fronteriza ha utilizado habitualmente este modelo de barrera en el pasado, se desconoce qué tipos de barreras se están considerando para el proyecto del muro fronterizo.

de confianza que los activistas contrarios al muro sienten hacia el DHS. “Cuando simplemente retiran la información —y teniendo en cuenta todo lo demás que han hecho—, lo único que logran es hacernos creer a todos que, una vez más, están ocultando algo”, afirmó Henington.

“El mapa nunca tuvo carácter oficial ni vinculante”, señaló Lai-ken Jordahl, del Centro para la Diversidad Biológica, entidad que figura como demandante en una demanda federal interpuesta contra el proyecto del muro. “Nos servía como indicio de lo que la CBP intentaba comunicar al público; sin embargo, para empezar, nunca depositamos nuestra confianza en ese mapa y, desde el primer momento, instamos a la ciudadanía a no tomar como hechos irrefutables los datos que allí aparecían”.

Joe Portillo, juez del condado de Presidio, coincidió en que los cambios introducidos en el mapa constituyen un claro ejemplo de un problema fundamental: la falta de comunicación entre los funcionarios federales y las autoridades locales. “Es una muestra exacta del motivo de nuestra frustración: nadie sabe nada”, declaró.

Portillo fue uno de los 14 jueces de condado —en representación de todos los condados situados en la frontera— que, el pasado 21

de abril, enviaron una carta al secretario del DHS, Markwayne Mullin, solicitando al departamento que proporcionara más información sobre los proyectos de construcción del muro. “En nuestra calidad de jueces de condado, nos situamos en la intersección entre las políticas federales y las comunidades a las que estas afectan”, rezaba la misiva. “Conocemos nuestro terreno, conocemos a los propietarios de las tierras y conocemos las prácticas ancestrales que sustentan la vida y el sustento de los habitantes de esta región. Ponemos ese conocimiento a su disposición como un valioso recurso”. No está claro si la carta influyó en la desaparición del mapa mural inteligente dos días después.

Portillo añadió que recientemente se reunió con el representante estatal Eddie Morales y otros jueces de los condados fronterizos; Morales accedió a intentar concertar una reunión con Mullin.

Aumentan las tensiones con los contratistas

Si bien los cambios en el mapa han intensificado la desconfianza hacia los funcionarios federales en las cercanías de los parques, la línea del mapa nunca varió en el tramo río arriba, donde las autoridades han indicado explícitamente que se utilizarían muros de acero —aproximadamente desde

Redford, hacia el oeste, hasta Fort Quitman—. Esta realidad ha generado algo más que simple desconfianza: ha provocado un número creciente de conflictos con los contratistas que realizan levantamientos topográficos en los terrenos situados a lo largo de la ruta propuesta para el muro.

Quienquiera que haya chocado contra la puerta de un rancho remoto en el condado de Hudspeth —dejándola hecha pedazos sobre la tierra— dejó tras de sí una pista de identificación: una placa de matrícula que quedó tirada en el camino, la cual se desprendió del vehículo al impactar este contra el brazo lateral de la puerta batiente, que se encontraba abierta.

“Presenté una denuncia ante el sheriff, Arvin West”, declaró Yolanda Alvarado, propietaria de la puerta, quien ha asumido un papel destacado como firme opositora a la construcción del muro fronterizo y cuya familia ha sido propietaria de un rancho a orillas del Río Grande desde hace más de un siglo. “El consultó la placa. Pertenecía a una empresa de alquiler de vehículos con sede en Oklahoma, lo cual encaja con el perfil de todos esos individuos que andan conduciendo camiones de alquiler”. Para Alvarado, la conclusión era evidente: se trataba de un contratista que se encontraba en aquella remota región con el propósito de construir el muro fronterizo.

Dado que la identidad del conductor del camión aún se desconoce y que el incidente de destrucción está siendo investigado por la oficina del sheriff West, no es posible determinar con certeza si el acto fue intencionado o si se trató simplemente de un error de conducción fortuito en un camino accidentado. El agente del orden (Constable) del condado de Hudspeth, Abel Ramírez, declaró el martes que ya se ha puesto en contacto con la empresa de alquiler, pero que hasta el momento no ha recibido respuesta alguna con información sobre la identidad del conductor.

Charlie Angell, residente de Redford y activista contra el muro, ha seguido confrontando a los contratistas de la obra; existe incluso un video en el que se le ve interrogando a un contratista en River Road, dentro del parque estatal. “¿Qué está haciendo?”, le pregunta Angell al hombre, quien se había detenido en la carretera. “Solo estoy realizando un levantamiento topográfico”, responde el hombre. “¿En un parque estatal donde se supone que no debe haber ningún muro?”, inquiriere Angell.

El hombre señala que ese lugar no es el parque estatal, a lo que Angell replica: “¡Esto es el parque estatal!”. Angell añade: “Solo está haciendo su trabajo, ¿verdad?”, a lo que el hombre responde: “Sí, señor”.

SNELL LAW

Trial Lawyers for Complex Civil Litigation

Serving Clients Across Texas

512.477.5291 | snellfirm.com

Trabajo y entretenimiento.

¿Por qué escogerlo?

¡Oferta por tiempo limitado! \$10 de descuento en nuestro mejor plan de internet*

- Clientes nuevos y clientes que regresan son bienvenidos
- Seguridad y control de red incluidos
- \$10 de crédito mensual para streaming*
- repetidor de Wi-Fi gratis*

¡Por tiempo limitado!

\$10

menos* al mes

Instalación gratis. Sin contrato.

800.592.4781

bigbend.com

*Disponible para clientes nuevos que califiquen en áreas de servicio elegibles. La promoción de \$10 de descuento aplica solamente al plan Work & Play. No se requiere contrato. Después del periodo promocional, aplican las tarifas regulares. El crédito para streaming está disponible solo con el plan Work & Play. El repetidor de Wi-Fi se incluye si es necesario. Aplican restricciones. Visite bigbend.com/legal para más detalles.

Presidio, TX FOR SALE: 2-string ALFALFA \$18/per Bale

Call Chris @ 806-752-0976 or Steve @ 806-759-8622
Bell Hay & Ag Farm

Alpine Pool and Spa LLC

Alpine, Texas
512-300-9947
donny@alpinepoolspa.com

Swimming Pool Design • Pool School
New Pool Installations • Remodels
Resurfacing • Service & Repair
All Major Brands

Veteran Owned

Donny Greenway CBP, CPO, CPI, Owner
“As always, Thank You for the opportunity to serve you!”

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.

MAC SEPTIC PORTA POTTIES

Rick McIvor

Owner / Operator

325-812-5541
RickMcIvor7@gmail.com
P.O. Box 640, Fort Davis, TX 79734

Now. A plumber you can trust.

Serving all three Big Bend counties. For leak repair, drain cleaning,
water heaters, fixtures, filtration system, gas (natural and propane), and new construction.

Dependable • Local • Veteran • Insured • Licensed M-46346 (432) 538-8039

IRAM MARQUEZ

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

COCHINEAL

MARFA

CASUAL FINE DINING IN FAR WEST TEXAS

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

Far Out West

.. PROPERTIES ..

CLEAT L. STEPHENS, BROKER

SPECIALIZING IN TEXAS RANCH &
RURAL PROPERTIES

432.249.0401

Protecting Clients. Conserving the Land.

CLASSIFIEDS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF
SHERIFF’S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF PRESIDIO
By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of
the 394th District Court of Presidio
County, Texas in Cause No. 5339-A and
5340-A on the 2nd day of April, 2026 by
the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff,
directed and delivered, I will proceed
to sell at **10:00 a.m. on the 5th day of
May, 2026** at the South Door of the
Presidio County Courthouse, in Marfa,
Texas, the properties described below:

CAUSE NO 5339-A STYLING
City of Presidio, et al vs. Owners of
Various Properties Located Within the
City Limits of Presidio, Texas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1: Lot 1, Block 8, Bellevue Addn.;
SAVE & EXCEPT all minerals, R280

Tract 2: Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 7,
Bellevue Addn., R274

Tract 3: East Five Feet of Lot 5, Block 2,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R724

Tract 4: Lots 21 through 31, Block 5,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R744

Tract 5: Lots 1 through 12, Block 4,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R736

Tract 6: Lots 12, 13, and 14, Block 2,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R726

Tract 7: Lots 25 and 26, Block 1,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R720

Tract 8: Lots 1 through 5, Block 1,
Dupuy’s First Addn., R717

Tract 9: Lots 4 through 10, Block 1,
Kleinman Addn., R1176

Tract 11: West Half of Lot Six A, Block 1,
Cartwright Addn., R515

Tract 12: Lots 11, 12, and 13, Block 27,
Millington Addn., R20120

Tract 13: Lots 9 and 10, Block 65,
Millington Addn., R1453

Tract 14: A tract of land 0.37 acres,
more or less, out of the North Part
of Tract 16, and part of Survey 5, J.W.
Spencer, in Vol.145 and Pg. 134. R2064

Tract 16: Lots 1 and 2, Block 15, Sunset
Addn., R2415

Tract 17: Lots 17 and 18, Block 1,
Millington Addn., surface interest only
R1204

Tract 18: Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block 17,
Sunset Addn., R20247

Tract 19: Lots 1 through 8, Block 14,
Millington Addn., surface interest only,
R4731

CAUSE NO 5340-A STYLING
Presidio County, et al vs. Owners of
Various Properties Located Within
Presidio County, Texas

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Tract 1: Northwest Quarter of the
Southwest Quarter of the Southeast
Quarter and the Northeast Quarter
of the Southwest Quarter of the
Southeast Quarter and the Southwest
Quarter of the Southwest Quarter
of the Southeast Quarter and the
Southeast Quarter of the Southwest
Quarter of the Southeast Quarter
and the Northwest Quarter of the
Northwest Quarter of the Southeast
Quarter and the Northeast Quarter
of the Northwest Quarter of the
Southeast Quarter and the Southwest
Quarter of the Northwest Quarter
of the Southeast Quarter and the
Southeast Quarter of the Northwest
Quarter of the Southeast Quarter,
Survey 175, Block 1, D & P Ry. Co., in
Vol. 254 and Pg. 685, R8370

Tract 2: North Half of the Southwest
Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of
the Northeast Quarter, T & P Ry Co.,
Section 5, Block 1, Abstract 1822,
Subject to a 30’ Easement, in Vol.232
and Pg. 211, R9556

Tract 3: Northwest Quarter of the
Northwest Quarter, Survey 41, Block
312, G.G. & S.F. Ry. Survey, in Vol.145
and Pg. 145, R14854

Tract 4: Lot 22 out of the T & P Ry. Co.,
Section 18, Block 5, Subject to a 20’
Easement, in Vol.345 and Pg. 1, R22213

Tract 5: Lots 21 and 25 out of the T & P
Ry. Co., Section 18, Block 5, Subject to
a 20’ Easement, in Vol.344 and Pg. 315
and Vol.344 and Pg. 319, R22179

Tract 6: Lot 14, out of the T & P Ry. Co.,
Section 5, Block G-25, Subject to a
20’ Easement, in Vol.357 and Pg. 210,
R22772

Tract 7: Lot 56, out of the T & P Ry.
Co., Section 8, Block 5, Subject to a
20’ Easement, in Vol.357 and Pg. 214,
R22248

Tract 8: Lot 10, out of the T & P Ry.
Co., Section 18, Block 5, Subject to a

20’ Easement, in Vol.357 and Pg. 218,
R22773

Tract 9: Southwest Quarter of the
Southwest Quarter of the Northeast
Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, T &
P Ry. Co., Section 5, Block 1, Abstract
1822, in Vol.250 and Pg. 612, R9505

Tract 10: South Half of the Northwest
Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of
the Northeast Quarter and the South
Half of the Northeast Quarter of the
Northwest Quarter of the Northeast
Quarter, of the T & P Ry. Co., Section
11, Block 1, Abstract 1825, Subject to a
30’ Easement, in Vol.250 and Pg. s 613
and Pg. 614, R9675

Tract 11: South Half of the Southeast
Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of
the T & P Ry. Co., Section 13, Block 1,
Abstract 1826, Presidio County, Texas,
Reserving the Northern and Southern
most 30’ for roadway and utility
purposes; reserving all mineral rights,
in Vol.250 and Pg. 615, R9742

Tract 12: Lots 20 through 24, Block 12,
Rio Grande Addn.; minerals reserved
to State, in Vol.79 and Pg. 312, 6405

Tract 13: Lots 1 through 5, Block 35, Rio
Grande Addn.; 1/16 minerals reserved,
in Vol.91 and Pg. 7, R6579

Tract 14: Lots 8 through 12, Block
35, Rio Grande Addn.; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.91 and Pg. 7, R6582

Tract 15: Lots 19 through 24, Block
35, Rio Grande Addn.; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.91 and Pg. 7, R6585

Tract 16: Lots 1 and 2, Block 13, Valley
View Addn. No. 1; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.85 and Pg. 11, R6974

Tract 17: Lots 15 and 16, Block 13,
Valley View Addn. No. 1; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.85 and Pg. 11, R6977

Tract 18: Lots 1 through 9, Block 16,
Valley View Addn. No. 1; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.85 and Pg. 23, R7073

Tract 19: Lots 12 through 20, Block 16,
Valley View Addn. No. 2, described by
the Presidio County Tax Office, R7075

Tract 20: Tract 5 out of Survey 155,
Block 3, D & P Ry. Co., Abstract 2788,
in Vol.351 and Pg. 618, R22508

Tract 21: Tract 4 out of Survey 155,
Block 3, D & P Ry. Co., Abstract 2788,
in Vol.358 and Pg. 197, R22957

Tract 22: Lot 7, Block 11, Rio Grande
Addn.; 1/16 minerals reserved, in Vol.85
and Pg. 88, R6383

Tract 23: Lots 1 and 2, Block 17, Valley
View Addn. No. 2; 1/16 minerals
reserved, in Vol.90 and Pg. 471, R7076

ALL BIDDERS MUST NOW DISPLAY
PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH
SECTION 34.015 OF THE TEXAS
PROPERTY TAX CODE.

LEVIED ON the 2nd day of April 2026,
as the property of those persons listed
above to satisfy taxes, penalties, and
interest and all costs of seizure and
sale against those persons listed in
said Warrant and any other unknown
owners in favor of the Taxing Units
listed in said Tax Warrants.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE
2ND DAY OF APRIL 2026.
Danny Dominguez
Sheriff, Presidio County, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

Policy of Nondiscrimination on the
Basis of Disability

The City of Presidio does not
discriminate on the basis of disability
in the admission or access to, or
employment in, its federally assisted
programs or activities. Pablo
Rodriguez has been designated to
coordinate compliance with the
nondiscrimination requirements
contained in the Department of
Housing and Urban Development’s
(HUD) regulations implementing
Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8).

Política de no discriminación por
motivo de la discapacidad

La Ciudad de Presidio no discrimina
por motivos de discapacidad en la
admisión o acceso a, o empleo, en sus
programas o actividades que reciben
ayuda federal. Pablo Rodríguez ha
sido designado para coordinar el
cumplimiento de los requisitos de
no discriminación contenidos en el
Departamento de Vivienda (HUD) y
reglamentos de Desarrollo Urbano de
aplicación de la Sección 504 (24 CFR
Parte 8).

Citizen Participation & Grievance
Procedures Notice

The City Presidio has adopted
complaint and grievance procedures
regarding its Texas Community
Development Block Grant Programs
(TxCDBG). Citizens may obtain a

copy of these written procedures at
City Hall, 507 W. O’Reilly between
the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday. Citizens may
also request the procedures be mailed
to them by calling Pablo Rodriguez,
City Administrator, at 432-229-3517.
These procedures outline the steps for
a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a
complaint or grievance about TxCDBG
activities.

A person who has a complaint or
grievance about any services or
activities with respect to the TxCDBG
project, may during regular business
hours submit such complaint or
grievance, in writing to the Civil Rights
Officer at PO Box 1899, Presidio, TX
79845 or may call 432-229-3517. The
City of Presidio will make every effort
to respond fully to such complaints
within fifteen (15) working days where
practicable.

**Participación Ciudadana y
Procedimientos de Quejas Aviso**
La Ciudad de Presidio ha adoptado
procedimientos para quejas y
denuncias con respecto al programa
de Texas Community Development
Block Grant Programs (TxCDBG).
Los ciudadanos pueden obtener
una copia de estos procedimientos
escritos en 507 W. O’Reilly entre las
horas de 8:00 am y 5:00 pm de lunes
a viernes. Los ciudadanos también
pueden solicitar los procedimientos
por correo al llamar a Pablo Rodriguez,
City Administrator, en 432-229-3517.
Estos procedimientos describen los
pasos que se deben seguir para que u
ciudadano pueda, si desea, presentar
una queja o reclamo acerca de las
actividades del programa TxCDBG.

Una persona que tiene una queja o
reclamación sobre cualquiera de los
servicios o actividades en relación con
el programa TxCDBG, lo pueden hacer
durante las horas regulares por escrito
a la Civil Rights Officer, a PO Box 1899,
Presidio, TX 79855 o pueden llamar a
432-229-3517. La ciudad de Presidio
hará todo lo posible para responder
con plenitud las quejas dentro de los
quince (15) días hábiles cuando sea
posible.

**Equal Employment Opportunity
Statement**
The City of Presidio does not
discriminate on the basis of race,
color, religion, sex, sexual orientation,
genderidentity, or national origin.

**Declaración de Igualdad de
Oportunidades de Empleo**
La Ciudad de Presidio no discrimina
por motivos de raza, color, religión,
sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de
género u origen nacional.

authorized under House Bill 500
(HB500).

The County is seeking engineering
services to assist with the planning,
design, and construction of water
system improvements, including
water supply, treatment, storage, and
distribution infrastructure.

Experience with Texas Water
Development Board (TWDB) funded
projects or similar state or federally
funded water infrastructure programs
will be evaluated based on the firm’s
demonstrated knowledge of applicable
funding requirements, regulatory
compliance, reporting procedures, and
successful project delivery.

This is a qualifications-based
procurement in accordance with Texas
Government Code Chapter 2254. **No
pricing or cost information shall be
submitted.**

Interested firms may obtain a copy of
the Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
by contacting the Presidio County
Auditor to countyauditor@co.presidio.
tx.us, or submit 5 copies to:

Presidio County Auditor
Attn: Alicia V Sanchez
P.O.BOX 423
Marfa, TX 79843

Proposals shall be received by the
County no later than 4:00 pm on
05/21/2026. The County reserves
the right to negotiate with any
and all individuals or firms that
submit proposals, as per the Texas
Professional Services Procurement
Act and the Uniform Grant and
Contract Management Standards.
Section 3 Residents and Business
Concerns, Minority Business
Enterprises, Small Business
Enterprises, Veteran Business
Enterprises and Women Business
Enterprises are encouraged to submit
proposals.

Presidio County is an Affirmative
Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

ESTATE SALE

Once in a lifetime! Historic Alpine
family Estate Sale!

K-GAGE RANCH

Paintings by Michael Frary, Bill Worrell,
Bill Bristow, Anna Dubsky and Dorothy
Gage Holland Forker. Fine crystal
-Baccarat, Waterford, Steuben.
Sterling silver and designer silver
plate. Amazing midcentury designer
furniture by Enkeboll. Leather couch
and armchair. Vintage Mexico wrought
iron and leather pieces, custom bar,
many great lamps and small tables,
huge live edge slab coffee table, 4
display cabinets, huge pedestal dining
table and 8 chairs, sideboard, huge
Tarahumara pots, big iron birdcages,
yard art and outdoor furniture. Books
and records, games, vintage high end
clothes, bar ware, kitchen ware, small
appliances, linens, lawyer bookcases,
mineral specimens, electronic and
much much more!

Alpine-Sunny Glen
2 Gage Lane
May 2 & 3, Sat/Sun 9-3

HELP WANTED

Biad Chili Company, Presidio area, now
hiring Logistics Manager to schedule
the harvest and delivery of the crop to
the processing facility. If interested,
please email biad_chili@hotmail.com.

Be a part of

BIG BEND

Sentinel

Seeking entrepreneurial
seller for advertising in
the Big Bend Sentinel.

Commission-only,
part time. If you love
the local community
and helping businesses
solve problems,
this is a gig for you.

Please send resume to
mike@orrenand.co.

CITY OF MARFA FREE SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING

May 2 – May 16, 2026 • 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

LOCATION
Marfa Recycling Center
43520 Golf Course Rd, Marfa, Texas 79843

ACCEPTED MATERIAL
Passenger & Light Truck Tires • (Tires only – no wheels or rims)

RESTRICTIONS
No drop-offs from commercial businesses

This free event is for residents only – help keep Marfa clean!

MOONLIGHT GEMSTONES

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

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

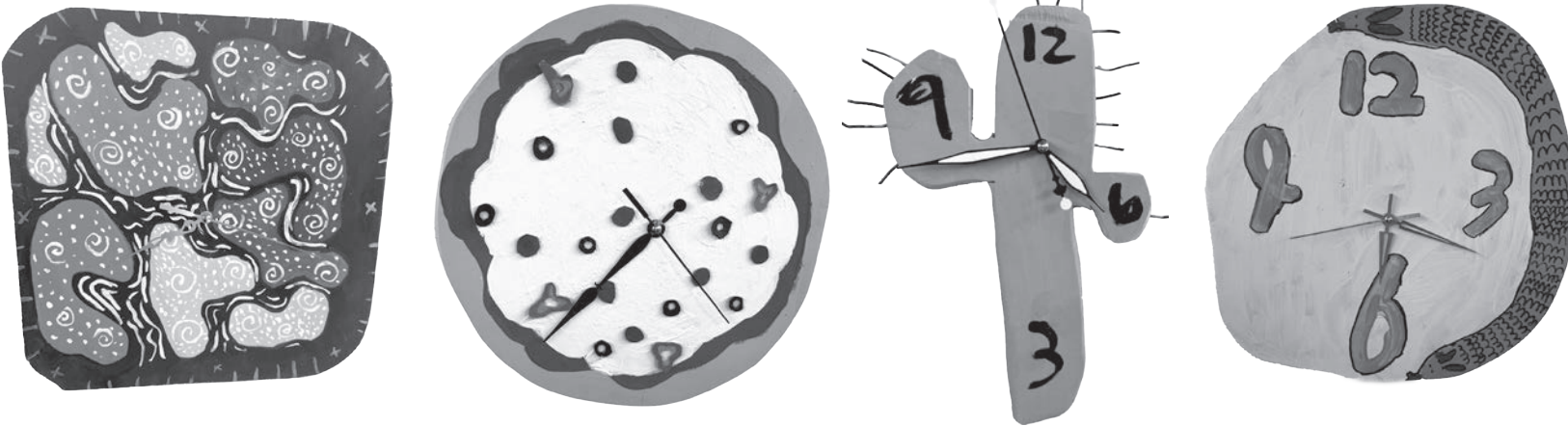
Lapidary • Silversmith • Custom Jewelry • Rocks • Fossils • Minerals

LETTERS



Hundreds pack the Chinati Foundation Arena on Sunday for a community dinner, music and student art show.

ROB D'AMICO



Marfa ISD's 6th-grade class crafted unique, working clocks for the Chinati Community Day. The students included: Julio Gonzales, Lucilla Pippen, Alexis Davila and Levi Caskiola.

ROB D'AMICO

Thanks goes out to the Chinati team

THE CHINATI Foundation extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for Community Day 2026. We're grateful to Los Diablos Azules, MISD Ballet Folklorico, and Mariachi Santa Cruz for sharing their talents with us. We'd like to congratulate the students of Marfa and Presidio ISD on the success of their exhibition, which featured furniture, cyanotypes, and photography. Throughout the event, artist Janelle Esparza generously shared her expertise during drop-in weaving workshops. Several community organizations joined us to share about their important work: Marfa Bird Club, Marfa Live Arts, the Marfa Golf

Course, the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Marfa ISD PTO and the Mexican Consulate. The Judd Foundation hosted Open Hours at the Ranch Office, and Grand Companions brought five puppies—all adopted by the end of the day. Marfa Public Radio, Big Bend Sentinel, the Alpine Avalanche, and KVLP/KALP were instrumental in spreading the word ahead of the event. Thank you, Ben E. Keith, Blue Bell Creameries, Cochineal, L&F Distributors and Glazer's Beer and Beverages, for your contributions, which kept us fed and hydrated. This gathering would not have been possible without you. We extend our gratitude to

the Texas Commission on the Arts and the City of Marfa for their ongoing support of Chinati's programming. The Marfa ISD junior class—with help from volunteers Mark and Isabel Cash, Juana Jaimes, Mayra Torres, Cesar and Yadira Torres—was essential in preparing and serving the many hot dogs and hamburgers. MISD and Presidio ISD played an invaluable role in making this event possible, with thanks to Adele Powers, Molly Ferguson, Arturo Alferez, and Citlali Sanchez. Finally, I'd like to extend a very special thank you to Chinati's staff and docents for their contributions to Community Day 2026:

Michael Carnes, Al Davis, Rowdy Dugan, John Ehrke, Micah Francis, Malinda Galindo, J.D. Garcia, Hannah Goldfarb, Regina Gutierrez, Kyp Hinojos, Miguel Leyva, Rhonda Manley, Stephen Martin, Kat McKenna, Suzanne McLeod, Dillon Orr, Janelly Pereira, Ben Shurley, Bogna Skwara, Rachel Smith, Prepney Torres and Katherine Vaughn. A special thanks is owed to Maritza Bautista and Sandra Hinojos for graciously organizing this wonderful day. We look forward to seeing you on and off Chinati's grounds again soon. With gratitude, —CAITLIN MURRAY Director

Support from community made prom stellar

ON SATURDAY, the Class of 2027 hosted prom at the Capri. It was magical: there was dancing, a photo booth, a killer DJ, and an impromptu and moving cell-phone-lit prom king and queen slow dance. We could not have had such a wonderful night without the help of this amazing community: thank you so much to Laura Buckshaw and Kirish Dirkson of the Capri who let us have the venue at no charge—what a generous gift to our students. To Sarah Vasquez, Desiree Espada, and Chuck Salgado for lending us their talents at deep discounts. To Laura Diaz for a gorgeous balloon arch, and

Ruth Martinez for last-minute table cloths. Special thanks to many others who helped out in ways big and small: Arturo Alferez, Linda Ojeda, Lizzy Donaldson, Rachel Gomez, Jose Salgado, Donel Hartnett, Carlos Morales, the junior class and their parents, and the Marfa Police Department. Events like this are a lot to pull off, and we could not do it without the support of this incredible and loving community! Thank you, —ADELE POWERS MHS Junior Class Sponsor & HSArt/Journalism/Yearbook Teacher



Ricardo "Isaiah" Ramos and Messiah Licon were crowned King and Queen at the Marfa High School prom Saturday.



THE LINCOLN HOTEL



Chose one of our 14 Marfa-style courtyard homes in the heart of town. Full kitchens. The Lincoln Hotel. 105 West Lincoln Street. Marfa, Texas 79843. Book on our site  thelincolnmarfa.com for the best rate.

FOR TODAY
FOR TOMORROW
FOR WEST TEXAS



marfapublicradio.org/donate

MNB

THE MARFA NATIONAL BANK

24 Hour ATM
Loans

Personal Banking
Business Banking

301 S. Highland Ave. - Marfa
432-729-4344 or 877-729-4344 www.marfanb.com



MARFA VISTA
SPECIALIZING IN MARFA PROPERTIES

432.295.3301 MARFAVISTA.COM



**ALPINE SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE
AND LARGE ANIMAL SERVICES**
Mary Dodson, D.V.M.
Zachary Dodson, D.V.M.
3201 N. HWY 118, Box 7
Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-5416
Mon. - Fri. 7:45 - 12:00 & 1:30 - 6:30
after hours - emergency 432.837.5416

Help support your local, non-profit news source, by sending a contribution. Go to bigbendsentinel.com/donate



BIG BEND
Sentinel
Published by Sentinel News Project, a Texas non-profit organization

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thursday April 30

Boxing at Maintenant

7:30am-9:00am
Maintenant
1825 Rabbits Rd.
Marfa, TX

Hike with Homeless Dogs

10:00am-11:00am
Davis Mountains State Park
Fort Davis, TX

Meditation Classes

6:00pm, free and open to all
Marfa Public Library
Community Room
Marfa, TX



Paint & Sip Couples Edition

6:00pm-9:00pm
Alcove Social
211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Friday May 1

Cinco de Mayo

11:00am-10:00pm
Historic Murphy Street
105 E Murphy St
Alpine, TX

Opening Reception "LIMINA" Logan Caldbeck solo exhibition

6:00pm-10:00pm
Club Nowhere
401 South Highland Avenue
Marfa, TX

Live Music: Mitchell Crain

6:30pm-9:30pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Saturday May 2

Native Plant Society Spring Sale

9:00am-1:00pm
Forever West Texas
308 West Avenue E
Alpine, TX

Cinco de Mayo

11:00am-11:00pm
Historic Murphy Street
105 E Murphy St
Alpine, TX

Live Music – Sinkhole

8:00pm-10:00pm
Granada Theatre
207 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Live Music: Doak Hensley

8:30pm-11:30pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Sunday May 3

Boxing at Maintenant

9:00am-11:00am
Maintenant, 1825 Rabbits Rd.
Marfa, TX



Open Mic Night: Music

5:00pm-8:00pm
Alcove Social
211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Tuesday May 5

Too-Early Tuesdays Sunrise Hiking at CDRI

8:00am
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center & Botanical Gardens
43869 State Highway 118
Fort Davis, TX

Meditation Classes

6:00pm, free and open to all
Marfa Public Library
Community Room
Marfa, TX

CROSSWORD

As American as Apple Pie

By Aidan Deshong

4/30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21				22			
				23		24				25				
26	27	28			29			30				31	32	33
34				35				36						
37							38	39			40			
41						42				43		44		
45					46					47	48			
					49				50	51			52	53
54	55	56	57					58						
59							60	61				62		
63							64					65		
66							67					68		

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Oscar winner Malek
5 Wide necktie
10 Purple fruit
14 LSD
15 Some requests for treats
16 Name that anagrams to 12-Down
17 Sushi orders with crab and avocado
20 Li'l buddy
21 The night before Christmas, e.g.
22 "____ Shrugged"
23 "Fame" singer Cara
25 Firepit residue
26 Comparable (to)
29 Thick slice of grilled bread
34 Muscle-bone connector
36 Ticket reseller
37 Colorful rum cocktail
40 Pentathlete's sword
41 Units of land
42 "To repeat ..."
44 CD
45 forerunners
46 Prepared to drive, in golf
47 Harvard or Harvey
48 Mudd: Abbr.
49 Celebratory poem
49 Dish of ice cream, cake and meringue

- 54 Trailblazing astronaut
58 Took home from a pound, say
59 Banquet for a foreign visitor ...
62 Number of U.S. presidents who never married
63 Kind of sax
64 Key's comedy partner
65 Genre for Ice-T and Pusha T
66 Signs of things to come
67 Donkeys
68 Sinusitis doc
DOWN
1 Serving of
2 Purple fruit
3 Not too spicy
4 Emphatic affirmation
5 "Te ____ (Spanish for "I love you")
6 Calm
7 Curved outward
8 Boo-boo
9 Org. associated with JFK?
10 Inconsistency in a story
11 Quiet time
12 39-Down's Golden State alma mater

- 13 What grams measure
18 On behalf of
19 Jah worshipper
24 Volcano associated with
25 ____ art (computer text designs)
26 Ready to leave home?
27 Travis who's engaged to Taylor Swift
28 Acclimate (to)
30 Largest continent
31 Genius' workplace?
32 Leak slowly
33 "____ bien!"
35 Cries of realization
38 Hitman
39 John played by Keanu Reeves
43 Latin labor leader Huerta
46 Composition of some castles
48 Fist bump
49 Brewskis
50 Copenhageners, e.g.
51 "Rolling in the Deep" singer
52 Thompson of "SNL"
53 Skillful
54 This, in Zaragoza
55 Newsworthy couple
56 Lois ____ (Superman's lover)
57 Largest boarding school in England
60 Craft brew letters
61 "Kirby's Adventure" console

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

4/23 © 2026 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

SUDUKO

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

SOLUTION:

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

4/23

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication

4/16

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication

OBITUARIES



Carlton Godbold and his mother, Pat Godbold, celebrate the opening of the Godbold Cultural Center in Lubbock.

Mill owner was a lifelong writer, poet and cultural maven in Lubbock

CARLTON MARK Godbold passed away at home at Buffalo Lake outside of Lubbock, Texas, on March 15, 2026, at the age of 69. Son of Pat (Mildred) Godbold and Happy Godbold, Carlton began his life a month early, being born in Dr. Stover's clinic in his hometown of Marfa, Texas.

Being premature, he was rushed with his mom and twin sister to Alpine, Texas, 30 miles away where the closest hospital was. To prevent a grass fire, Happy, following the ambulance, stopped to put out a burning yucca struck by lightning. Dr. Stover gave Pat his own blood. As such, Carlton started his life in the loving community of Marfa, where neighbors helped neighbors.

Carlton grew up helping his father ranch at the OT Ranch southeast of Marfa leased from Teeny Crosson and later ranched on two properties south of Marfa down Casa Piedra Road. He spent a large amount of time at his uncle Carlton's ranch in Leakey, Texas, raising prize-winning angora goats and quarter horses. Carlton skipped a grade in third grade and continued his undergraduate education and played football at Marfa School and the New Mexico Military Institute, graduating from Marfa High in 1974.

Even though life for Carlton started as a very tiny baby, he grew into a 6-foot-4-inch-tall man. He



attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a double major in Spanish and English. After college Carlton lived, studied, and taught English at Quernavaca and San Miguel de Allende in Mexico where he lived with a family who only spoke Spanish. Carlton was fluent in Spanish—reading, writing, and speaking. Carlton was always interested in geology/gemology, history, and travel. He wrote poetry (Crepuscular Ontogenesis, published in 1987) and stories. He traveled to Spain, Scotland, and Iceland.

When Carlton's father was looking to retire, Carlton bought the two animal feed mills, one in Lubbock, Texas, and one in Marfa, Texas, from his father, Happy Godbold. Happy had produced supplemental feed in pellet and block form for cattle and horses and pioneered quail and deer blocks. Carlton continued to run the mills and expanded the feed markets more into goats and

sheep, successfully continuing his father's businesses.

Carlton eventually sold the mills to Friona Industries. During his life in Lubbock (1993), Carlton owned and renovated an early hospital across from Texas Tech, originally Plains Hospital and Clinic and later St. Mary's Hospital dating from 1936 and 1940—located at the 2600 block of 19th street. He hosted many, cultural, art, and music events there using it as a cultural/arts space. At one time he also had a restaurant and coffee shop in the building. He renamed the roughly 50,000-square-foot building the Godbold Cultural Center. Later he leased part of it out to two businesses, Café J and Chrome. Shortly before he died he sold the building.

Carlton Mark Godbold is preceded in death by his parents, Happy and Pat Godbold, and his brother Paul Godbold (wife Georgia). He is survived by: three sisters, Janet Lancaster (husband Steve), Susan Nelson (husband Stephen), and Patti Godbold; godchild Darcey Achin and her child Jade; ex-wife and friend Adrian Henry; Marfa cousins Ike and Mike Livingston, and their spouses Valda and Gina.

Carlton has many other loving relatives and friends across the globe. Please share your memories of Carlton at Dignity Memorial in the care of Resthaven Funeral Home and Memorial Park.

Top-secret soldier took to the cowboy life

BENNETT BROWNING "Mac" McCutcheon passed away peacefully April 25, 2026, at his Queen Creek home. At his bedside was his devoted and loving wife, Judy, to whom he was happily married for 34 years to the day.

Bennett was born September 27, 1931, in Pecos, Texas. The son of a cattle rancher, Bennett lived a colorful, nomadic adolescent life growing up in places such as Tubac, Arizona; Toluca, Mexico; Sante Fe, New Mexico; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and the greater Phoenix area.

As a testament to his modesty and self-deprecating humor, Bennett was probably more cowboy than most, yet he never considered himself a cowboy, saying that such status would be an insult to real cowboys.

Bennett enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict, attached to the 580th Air Resupply and Communications Squadron at Wheelus Air Force Base in Tripoli, Libya. The 580th was some sort of specialized CIA top-secret-take-to-

the-grave (mission accomplished, Dad), unconventional warfare group that partook in clandestine psychological operations.

Upon return from Libya, Bennett attended ASU and U of A to earn his teaching and counseling credentials. For the next 36 years he taught English, English as a second language, coached football and was a guidance counselor within the Phoenix Unified High School District. During summer breaks he would often work with his sons as a construction laborer.

In retirement, Bennett and Judy became snowbirds between Queen Creek, Arizona, and Walsenburg, Colorado. At both residences, and for as long as he was physically able, Bennett displayed at dawn and took down at dusk the American flag of which he was so proud.

Bennett remained an avid reader, a wordsmith, handball player and volunteer for numerous food banks. During the holidays he could often be seen standing outside of convenience stores ringing the bell for the needy. He quietly took on numerous and



laborious renovation projects at the aging Walsenburg church. At 86-years of age, Bennett was baptized into Christianity.

Bennett hoped to leave this world better than when he first found it. "No man crosses the same river twice, because the river has changed, and so has the man." —Heraclitus

Bennett is survived by wife Judy; children Bennett Jr. (Michelle), Victoria, Patrick (Natalie), Dominick (Jill); and grandchildren Lauren, Ben, Angela, Julie, David and Amy.

Please make donations to any hospice facility.

OPINION

A dear friend inspires a life of wonder on the river

A childhood friend that always got you into trouble. Y'all grew up some, and the trouble followed. But you came to appreciate the way they were always brutally honest with you. Erring on the side of falling too far, never falling too short. Every boundary was pushed—it was a way of life and learning.

MAKING AMENDS was hard, but it was guaranteed. When they dared you, they smiled so big, but it wasn't a joke. They had no time for fear and ensured fear had no home in your friendship. They told you that fear is the mind killer. Your parents were wary of them, rightfully so, but they had a soft spot for them, just like everyone else. Even fraidy cats know a Large Soul when they see one. Did you have a friend like that? I hope everyone has a friend like that. I have a friend like that, and I wrote them a letter:

Dear Big Bend,

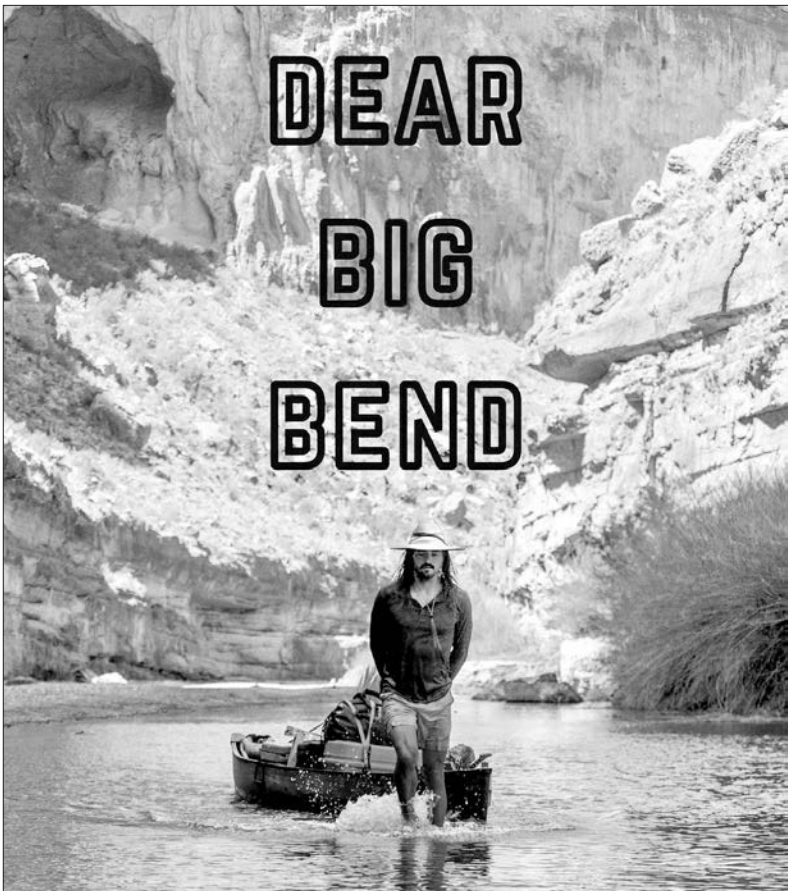
When we first started sneaking out of the house together, I was out of my element. Me and my dad wrapped Rubbermaid containers in duct tape, virtually guaranteed to fail on the first canoe flip, taking on river water. I was only 8 years old at the time, and I thought it was a fun game you were supposed to lose. The respective heights of my sisters and brother and I marked on a doorframe somewhere were superseded over and over again. Was Santa Elena Canyon, too, growing taller by millennia? Or was the river just cutting deeper? Still, becoming a pseudo geologist is so much fun for a boy from the Permian. That it was a side effect of my father's education in the brutal ways of engineering the extraction of petroleum mattered none to me then. Philosophical context is unique to humans; your rocks don't care. We always drove to you from Andrews in a truck. In formations, stark contrasts I've seen nowhere else to this day were exposed anyway: miles-long limestone against an immediate horizontal transition to igneous, and back again. Peering from the front of the canoe: "Explain that, dad!" Something about an igneous intrusion, a sill. Eventually, feeling small and insignificant by measure becomes something to cherish. Us kids on the pale blue dot kept growing and getting new marks on the doorframe, their heights unquestionably negligible. By some point, I'm hungry, maybe even anxious. Doldrums. I'm wondering if I should go try to sneak back in through the window undetected. We've all been there—but my friend eggs me on. Just like always.

Paul handed me a postcard of Salvador Dalí's crazed face in the parking lot of Far Flung Outdoor Center in Terlingua in the summer of 2009. On the back, his name, phone number and email address were hurriedly written in sharpie. On the front, Dalí's signature tendrilling stache spooked me. Wavy ocotillo branches. For both creatures, crude yet effective antennae for extrasensory perception. Dalí and the ocotillo tuned into the same radio station, receiving signals from another dimension, telling them where to go, how to contort, or even what thought to think next.

Everything in you, Big Bend, can be humbling, if you let it. My very first commercial trip was an Santa Elena overnight with one John LeRoy. For some, I don't need to say more. Oh how we must learn to celebrate that which demoralizes us! Only touch any given piece of gear one time, or there's something wrong with you, kid. Another fun game, but this time I was not supposed to lose. Don't ruin the fun for me, nor the guests, John. Enjoy yourself, since it's later than you think. Every trip was different. The stars were different, the river was different. Not every trip glowed the same way. Tip your guides, and stop asking me if Mexico is dangerous.

Fifty days on the river, no days off. If life is anything, it's embarrassing. Paul and I sang Todd Snider songs together in the raft. "Go back to school, Sam," Paul said. At 20 years old, Paul was actively disrupting my life plan to never leave you, Big Bend. His friend, a professional opera singer, sang us an aria inside of Fern Canyon. Even a lobotomy could not remove this memory—it is trapped in my chest. Is it trapped in yours by acoustic remanence? Over three days with Paul and his family in Santa Elena, we shared life stories. His height on the doorway was marked so high and bold and mine a faint pencil line forgotten below.

I hugged him, and walked away with the postcard. I took myself on a



date to the Chilipepper Cafe for enchiladas. As I finish up, Paul and his family walk in. We give each other a nod—they express gratitude. I finish my coca cola. "Those people paid for your meal," the waitress tells me. I cried and tried to hide it. I think he knew he disrupted my plan. He felt bad about it so he bought the enchiladas. We both knew I was going back to engineering school. We hoped that you would be there waiting. In Tsitsikamma, cliffs dissolved into the Indian Ocean, but all I could think about was you. A pathology unknown to the DSM. Days later, I flew from Cape Town to Johannesburg to Amsterdam to Chicago to Austin then hauled ass to Terlingua to run with you in Carol Voss's Big Bend Ultra. "Lost person behavior" in Sam Karas' words. Big, I saw enough of the world to understand that what you are has no precedent nor peer. If they kill you, they'd better kill me too.

Texas was Mexico. Then it was its own country. Then it joined the union. Then it tried to secede. Ninth-generation La Junta families still live in and around Presidio, their roots deeper than any flag that has flown over them. Reliably, your natural walls tell a 130 million year old story. Here I am, worried about a five-year business plan. What a riot!

I didn't ask Paul or the opera singer for permission, but I bought the grocery store in Marathon in 2019. You laughed when you dared me to do it. Someday I'll figure it out. More lost person behavior—you

bring that out in me. The deafening sound of my own hubris colliding with the canyon wall. I wouldn't trade it for the world. I call it courage to make my friends and family feel better about it. I will be buried in Marathon, regardless of what happens between now and then.

In 2021, we dragged a canoe through Colorado Canyon at 17 cubic feet per second. Three days in the shallows, pushing to exhaustion. Humor is this plus time. In the fall of 2025, I floated that same canyon at high water with friends in rafts. Rancherias to Lajitas, 20-some miles, effortless. Same river. Entirely different experience. You are never the same twice, Big, and neither am I.

There is a state of consciousness available at all times. I have heard interpretations such as "prior to awareness." Open, a mirror unencumbered by constructs. Social constructs. Intellectual constructs. Even artistic ones. One needn't be a practitioner of zen to realize this. Big, in your most wild and unperturbed state, you remind us that this openness is always present in us, even when or especially when it has lain dormant a while. We need you as wilderness to remember what we already are. Why do humans have to fuck with every single thing?

A blank slate is forgiveness. A blank slate is consciousness free of every framework we've ever built to protect ourselves from it. A blank slate is every idea you haven't had yet. We need your wild and we need it blank from collusion and vandalism and human imposition now more than ever.

I'm praying so hard for you, Big. I'm praying they leave you be. I'm fighting for you because I now see why you were that kind of friend. It was in your DNA but it was also no accident. You helped me and so many others find suffering yet you saw us through the transformation of that suffering over and over again.

Everything cherished about you is an automatic metaphor for what makes human life roll forward. The river moves. The canyon deepens. There is always more downstream, and we are tormented and blessed by the unknown of what we'd see if we just kept paddling. I'm writing this from my house in Marathon. It's quiet. I see you, just out the window. I still have Paul's postcard. Still tuned in and receiving signals from another dimension.

You've never asked me for anything, Big. You never had to. You just kept daring me, and I tried to keep showing up, and somewhere in there it became a life. Never known a companion so hard to keep up with. The big pull, every time. The same river, new experience. Reliable, consistent, blank and same yet catching me off guard at every turn. I cherish you, friend, for keeping me on my toes.

Living here with you long enough makes one strange. I'll freely admit that. But even stranger is when you go back. To "civilization." Returning to the city after real time in the desert and then feeling that pace, the sounds, the consumerism, the material games crash into you all at once. Disorienting. Nausea-inducing. And then you adjust, and that's worse, because adjusting means the blank slate went dormant again. I am not alone in knowing this feeling. Anyone who has lived here knows it. The re-entry repulsion is the proof that something was open that is now closing. Stay ill, my friends, and never give up this fight. Rarely is our battle so undeniably worth it.

I don't know how to end a letter to someone who was here 130 million years before I learned to hold a paddle. So I won't.

Still sneaking out,
SAM STAVINOHA (STAV.XYZ)
Marathon

BIG BEND
Sentinel

Editor

ROB D'AMICO
rob@bigbendsentinel.com

Chief correspondent

SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

Copy editor, reporter

ARIELE GENTILES
arielle@bigbendsentinel.com

Art director

FOSTER BARNES

Sports reporter

ROXYE LARA

Reporters

KATE BUBACZ
GINA VERA

Contributing editors

TREY GERFERS
ALEXIS WOLFE

Photographer, office manager

JENNIFER PITTINGER

Distribution

GILBERTO CARRILLO
RENE GONZALES

Sentinel News Project

www.bigbendsentinel.com

Published weekly on Thursdays 50 times a year
by Sentinel News Project,
A Texas non-profit organization.

President and Publisher

ROGER BLACK
roger@bigbendsentinel.com

Director

DON GARDNER

Director

GONZALO GARCIA BARCHA

Office

209½ W. El Paso St., Marfa TX

Mailing address

Drawer P, Marfa TX 79843

Telephone

(432) 729-4342

Contact

editor@bigbendsentinel.com

Advertising

ads@bigbendsentinel.com

Annual subscription rates are \$50 in Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis counties, and \$60 elsewhere in the United States. Special rates apply abroad. Periodicals class postage paid at Marfa, Texas 79843
Postmaster: Send address changes to Drawer P, Marfa, TX 79843
Big Bend Sentinel™ is registered trademark of Sentinel News Project
© COPYRIGHT 2026. SENTINEL NEWS PROJECT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Celebrate our first 100 years!

Sentinel

CENTENNIAL CONCERT

JIMMIE

DALE

GILMORE

AND GUESTS

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Marfa, Texas

SUPPORT FREE PRESS IN THE BIG BEND! Help expand *Sentinel's* coverage of the people and art of the region—plus breaking news and analysis on the border. Sign up for ticket information and all the details of the surrounding festivities. Join *Big Bend Sentinel!*

