

AEP seeks to buy county property for substation

Also, news on new Marfa city administrator, resolution on wall conflicts of interest

MARFA — American Electric Power (AEP) is the lone bidder on a 5-acre property near Vizcaino Park northeast of Marfa, and if county commissioners accept the bid, the company will start building its “Marfa Shorthorn Substation” there, according to Fred Guerrero, AEP’s external affairs manager.

County Attorney Blair Park confirmed AEP is the only bidder, but the actual proposal and offer will not be public until commissioners open it in court, which was on the agenda for Wednesday, after The Big Bend Sentinel press time.

More than a year of meetings on the initial proposal to build the substation in Marfa on a residentially-zoned lot at Oak and Apache streets ended in May after the City Council denied AEP’s final effort — a special use permit for the facility. That proposal drew significant opposition from neighbors of the land and from Marfa residents concerned about maintaining the character of the city.

Council hires new city administrator

MARFA — The Marfa City Council hired a new city administrator — Marfa native Hilda Cordero — last Thursday after struggling with the open position for some two years.

Cordero is currently an assistant managing director for business operations, energy and utilities at Texas Tech University, where she has worked in various positions since 2018. She said her responsibilities at the university equate well to helping manage city operations.

The daughter of the late Felipe “Phil” Cordero — a former Presidio County commissioner who played numerous roles in the community — she also runs the family’s RV park business in Marfa. “So, I’ve been very in tune with what’s happening in Marfa,” she said. Cordero will be moving from Lubbock to Marfa at the end of the month and will start full time on November 2.

“My number one priority is sticking true to my core values,

and communications and accountability,” Codero said. She said she will be devoted to bringing the city’s residents to common ground when addressing the challenges of aging infrastructure, lack of city staff and limited resources.

“There still are issues with transparency and communications as well,” she said, and she intends to open up city government to engage the public more in policy decisions.

Commissioner offers resolution against profiting off the wall

MARFA — Precinct 1 County Commissioner Deidre Hisler will be asking the county to pass a resolution prohibiting the county judge, commissioners, their families or businesses from profiting in any way with border wall contractors.

Hisler said after seeing a former Presidio official lease his land to a contractor, and also seeing questions about Terrell County officials ties to a lease of the county’s airport to a contractor, she felt a strong statement needed to be made prohibiting conflicts of interest.

“Transparency and sunshine in government leads both to the best decision-making by and the greatest faith in government,” the resolution states.

The resolution also contains details on the kinds of benefits from contracts that would be prohibited, such as road improvements. “That, in the event that by geographical necessity road improvements are to, from, or bordering any such property, the implicated elected official must advise the County Clerk who must post a notice describing the work, location, and naming the official on the door to the Courthouse before any such contract is entered and any such work commenced, and the notice must remain posted for no less than one month,” it states.

The Commissioners Court was set to decide on the resolution at its Wednesday meeting after *The Big Bend Sentinel* press time. Check online at bigbendsentinel.com for updates.

Shorthorns get shutout in Homecoming match

By Roxye Lara

The Marfa Shorthorns gave their Homecoming crowd an exciting night of football on October 2, defeating Immanuel Christian School 46-0 with strong offensive performances and relentless defense.

Miguel Rey sparked the scoring with a 30-yard rushing touchdown. Austin McGary added a 40-yard touchdown reception, and Bubba Marquez contributed a touchdown reception along with tough runs on the ground. Ayden Alvarez also helped fuel the Shorthorns’ scoring attack.

Marfa’s defense kept Immanuel Christian off the scoreboard. Fabian Marquez and Bubba Marquez made numerous tackles and repeatedly broke through the line to

pressure the quarterback.

After two weeks off, the Shorthorns will return to action at home on October 23 against El Paso Leadership Academy. That game replaces the Fort Davis matchup, which Fort Davis forfeited because it did not have enough players.

Marfa girls capture district cross-country championship

Marfa’s varsity girls cross-country team captured the District 9 championship on October 7, finishing with 59 points. Balmorhea placed second with 63 points, giving the Lady Horns a four-point advantage.

Marfa runners took three of the district’s top five individual spots. Alyssa Harden won the district title in 14:28. Ora Webb finished

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INSIDE

See inside for a special notice on *The Big Bend Sentinel* printing schedule moving into the end of the year. Page 5

The Big Bend Reporting Project



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A monarch is dusted with pollen while sipping nectar on a Mexican sunflower.

Texas is a key to success in monarch migrations

By Amy Rebecca Kaufman
Special to The Big Bend Sentinel

I fell in love with West Texas while researching the monarch butterfly. In my day, which you might call the olden days, we didn’t study the monarch in school. When my niece asked for a story about the butterfly, I had to find a picture of it. At the first flash of those wings I was captivated. There seemed to be a meaning beyond their wondrous beauty.

During the pandemic I became an armchair explorer. Through books, films and scientific papers, I could follow the migration from eastern parts of the United States and Canada to isolated fir groves in Mexico’s Transvolcanic Belt. Wildlife photographers had illuminated stopping places along the trail. In an old magazine I came upon George D. Lepp’s breathtaking shot of monarchs densely clustered on an oyamel fir. Searching thousands of images, I found a rare view of monarchs flying past volcanic cones into the overwintering grounds. Placed side by side, the photographs were a window to a phenomenon that “dates back

a million years,” according to neurobiologist Steven M. Reppert, whose research has focused on the monarch’s navigational abilities and unique circadian clock.

The terrain of Texas and New Mexico suggested the ancientness of the migration.

I decided my monarch would originate in a Rocky Mountain state and encounter glistening white sands, sky islands erupting from the desert, and a massive reef overlooking an evaporated sea. A paper by entomologist William H. Calvert validated this route: “Large numbers (hundreds to thousands) are traversing areas much further west than previously reported If they continue to the south/southwest, they will soon strike the Davis Mountains or the mountains of Big Bend National Park. Following these mountain chains will take them rapidly into Coahuila, Mexico, where they are expected to continue on a south-southeasterly course.”

Oyamel, the sacred fir, creates a unique climate where North American monarchs can survive the winter. The treetops form a

canopy that holds in heat and keeps out the rain and snow. For five months the monarchs cling to the firs, too cold to fly. While temperatures hover above lethal freezing, the trees radiate just enough warmth to keep the butterflies alive. Sexual maturity has been delayed to extend their lipid (fat) reserves. This is all part of nature’s plan. The monarchs must conserve enough energy to last the winter and begin the journey north.

Texas is crucial to the success of the migration. The population east of the Rockies, comprising 99% of the world’s monarchs, funnels through Texas in the fall. Tens of millions of monarchs feed on the late-blooming flowers. The sugary nectar is converted into lipids. Brower found that monarchs store moderate amounts of lipids until they reach Texas, where they “undergo a behavioral shift and spend more time nectaring.” Flowers will be scarce in the overwintering colonies, and they need large lipid reserves to survive.

To reach a tiny fir grove in a sea of volcanoes, the monarchs must

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Early voting starts Monday

Early voting for the November 3 General Election runs from Monday, October 19, to Friday, October 30, at the following times and locations.

Presidio County

Early Voting

Voters from any precinct may cast their ballots at either location.

Voters from any precinct may cast their ballots at either location. USO Visitors Center, 302 S.Highland Avenue, Marfa. Presidio County Annex Building B, 300 O’Reilly Street, Presidio

- Monday, October 19 through 23, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 26-30, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3

Election Day

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters must vote at their precinct location — the USO Building or the Presidio County Annex Building B.

Brewster County

Early Voting

Voters from any precinct may cast their ballots at this location: Judge Val Clark Beard Complex, 203 North 7th Street, Alpine

- Monday, October. 19, through • Friday, October. 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- October. 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 7 a.m. 7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 25, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3

Election Day

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters must vote at their precinct location

- Precinct 1,2: Judge Val Clark Beard Complex, 203 North 7th Street, Alpine

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‘This year we’re doing it with intent’: Marfa ISD hosts community forum

By Ariele Gentiles

MARFA — About 30 parents, teachers and community members gathered in the Marfa ISD auditorium last Wednesday for an open forum with Superintendent Stephen McCannless and administration to hear his vision for the district, voice concerns, and offer suggestions and praise for the new superintendent.

McCannless opened the evening by sharing his approach to leadership and his role as superintendent.

“Leadership is about defining who you are and figuring out your place in an organization. Marfa ISD is headed up and it’s headed in the right direction,” McCannless said. “A superintendent comes in and they set expectations. They provide a vision – it’s like a roadmap, ‘How are we going to get from here to here?’”

Elementary Principal Rosie Martinez also waxed optimistic about Marfa ISD’s trajectory — emphasizing key differences between last year and the current term, boiling it down to intention.

“We’re going into the classrooms a whole lot this year. In the past, they may have been



Superintendent Stephen McCannless outlines his priorities and takes questions at a community forum.

happening, but not with intent. We kind of just talked about it and let it go. Now we’re talking about it and we have a plan attached to it,” Martinez said.

Before taking questions, McCannless offered another view on

leadership: “I don’t have a problem telling somebody I don’t have an answer for tonight; I’ll get back to you. One of the worst things a leader can do is to make up an answer just to make it look like we’re giving you an answer ... so

tonight we might have to tell you give us some time on that.”

Community questions concerned “walkthroughs” — when the district’s leadership team visits classrooms to evaluate teachers

Continued on page 5

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Obituary: Margarita Urquidez

Margarita “Margie” Urquidez, a longtime resident of Alpine, Texas, passed away on October 5, 2026, at the age of 84. Born on September 18, 1942, in Shafter, Texas, she moved to Alpine with her family as an infant. She attended Centennial School and graduated from Alpine High School in 1962.

Margie dedicated much of her working life to serving others. She worked at Sul Ross State University for 19 years, serving as custodial supervisor. When appointed to that position in 1998, she became the first female supervisor in the university’s Physical Plant Department. She valued the friendships she formed there and spoke of her coworkers as family.

Before joining Sul Ross, Margie spent nine years with the Alpine ISD District 588 Cooperative, working with students with learning disabilities.

She also worked for Brewster County Industry for five years, including four as director, assisting adults with disabilities. Her employment history also included True Value Hardware and Western Auto.

Throughout her career, Margie believed in communication, orga-



nization, and treating people with kindness. Her friendly spirit and sense of humor were reflected in her words: “Smiles and laughter help a lot, too.”

Margie married Vicente Urquidez in 1966. Together, they had three children: sons Vincent and Judas, and daughter Mercedes “Mercy.” Her family was an important part of her life, and she treasured time with her three children, seven grandchildren and

seven great grandchildren.

Margie looked forward to retirement as an opportunity to enjoy crafts, sewing, cooking, volunteering, and spending time with her family. Her life reflected a commitment to helping others and a deep connection to the Alpine community she called home.

Her warmth, dedication, and welcoming smile leave a lasting legacy among those who knew and loved her.



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To better assist you, please bring the following items:

- Original Medicare card
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- Information about any other health plans
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Questions? Call us at
(915) 533-0998 or 1-800-333-7082

Need Help Navigating Your Options?

Certified Benefits Counselors from the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging will be available at the following locations to assist:

Monday, October 19, 2026
11:00 AM- 3:00 PM
Culberson County Nutrition Center
1206 W. Broadway St. Van Horn, TX 79855

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunshine House Senior Center
402 E. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX 79830

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Jeff Davis County Community Center
601 Cemetery Rd, Fort Davis, TX 79734

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Presidio Senior Citizens Center
1200 E. O’ Reilly St., Presidio, TX 79845

Thursday, October 22, 2026
9:30 AM -1:30 PM
City of Marfa Nutrition Center
101 N. Mesa St., Marfa, TX 79843

This is not a sales event: Benefits Counselors from the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging, a division of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, are certified through the Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). HICAP serves as the official State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for Texans. These counselors are specially trained to provide unbiased, confidential guidance to help Medicare beneficiaries make informed decisions about their health coverage.



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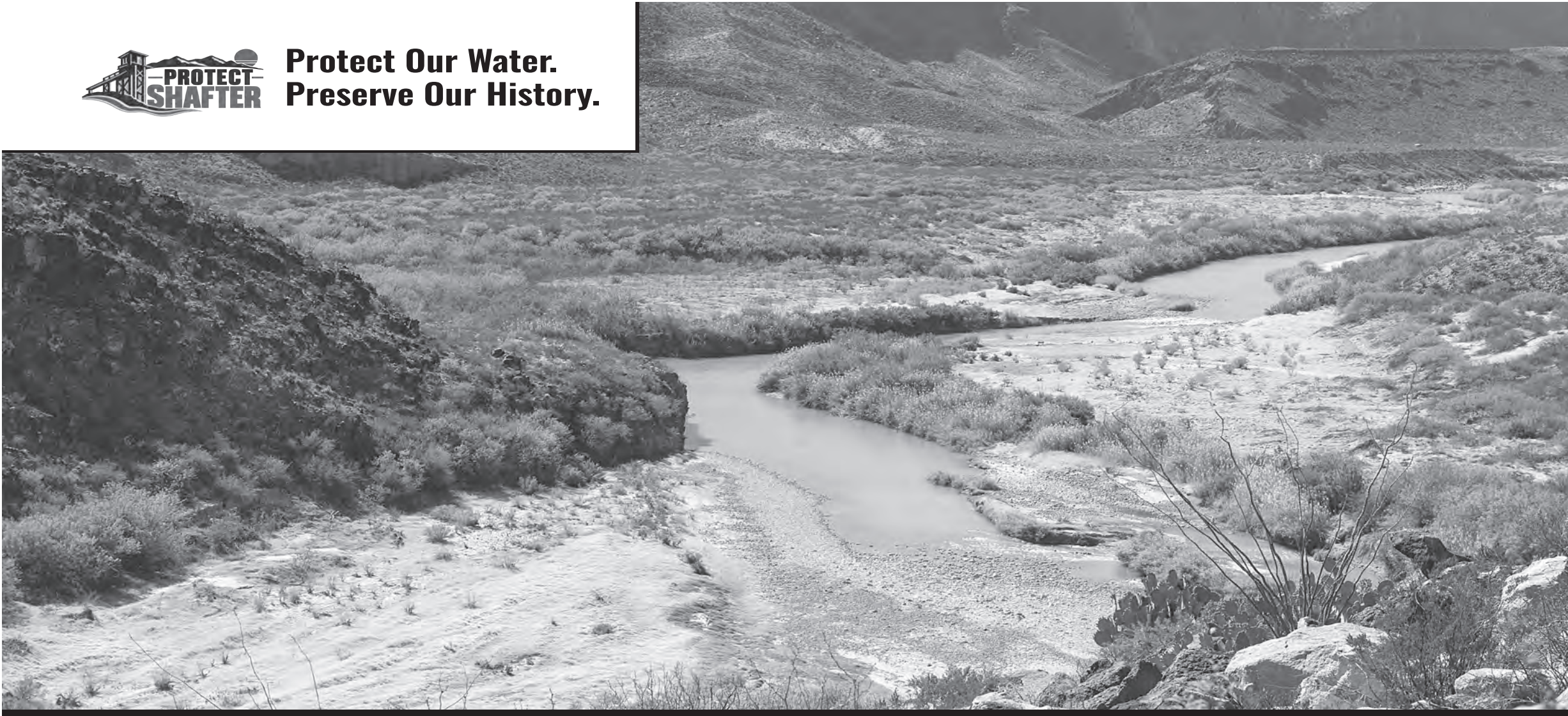
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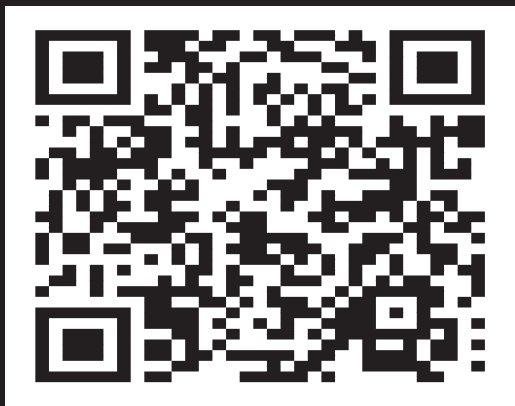
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TUESDAY, OCT. 27 - 7 PM

Presidio High School Cafeteria
1000 E. Highway 170, Presidio



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¹ JBM Project, LLC permit application and TCEQ Statement of Basis, Permit No. WQ0004297000 (daily maximum 1,080,000 gallons; stated average 360,000). ² CDC ³ EPA ⁴ IARC; National Toxicology Program. Photo: The Rio Grande along FM 170, Carol M. Highsmith, Library of Congress.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Marfa Board of Adjustment has scheduled a Special Meeting for October 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Casner Room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland Street, Marfa, Texas. This meeting is open to the public. The Board will discuss and render decisions regarding the following requests:

- Variance No. 26-04, requested by Kathryn Davis, from the requirements of Marfa’s Zoning Ordinance, regarding a side yard setback at 501 S. Plateau St., also known as Block 9, Lot 2, Raetzsch Addition.
- Variance No. 26-05, requested by Virgil Scott, from the requirements of Marfa’s Zoning Ordinance, regarding side yard setbacks at 1401 W. Philadelphia St., also known as Block 9, Lot 1, West Heights Addition.
- Variance No. 26-06, requested by Marfa Stars Trust, from the requirements of Marfa’s Zoning Ordinance, regarding a garage setback at 401 W. Galveston St., also known as Block 57, Lot 1, Original Town of Marfa.

Additional information concerning the above is available by calling Ann Dunlap, Permitting, at (432) 729-4315.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MARFA PLANNING & ZONING ORDINANCE

The City Council of the City of Marfa will conduct a public hearing on the 9th of November, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Casner Room at City Hall: This is a public hearing for information and comments regarding a series of proposed amendments to the City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Ordinance 02-04 for the purpose of combatting the housing affordability crisis and increasing housing opportunities as follows:

- Remove the mixed-use prohibition (Article 1, Section 5)
- Introduce elements of form-based area regulations for dwellings in districts other than the (R-1) Single Family Residential District (Articles 3 and 4)
- Relax street frontage requirements for dwellings in Commercial and Industrial districts (Article 4)
- Require all dwelling units to have one or more off-street parking spaces (Article 4).

Residents and property owners are encouraged to participate. Comments may be presented at the hearing or submitted in writing to asalgado@cityofmarfa.com. The full text of the Proposed Amendments and Recommendation Report of the Marfa Planning & Zoning Commission may be found on the city’s website at cityofmarfa.com.

ADMINISTRATION/ PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Marfa intends to participate in the 2027-2028 Texas Community Development Block Grant program through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). These services are being solicited to assist the City in its application and administration of the TxCDBG CD contract, if awarded, to support eligible activities associated with the program in the City of Marfa. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified professional Administrator or Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the awarded grant.

Please electronically submit your proposal of services for the proposed services in .pdf format via email/website to/at asalgado@cityofmarfa.com or submit your proposal to the address below:

Mayor Manuel V. Baeza Mayor, City of Marfa: 113 S. Highland Ave. (if UPS/FE-DEX) P.O. Box 787 (if USPS) Marfa, TX 799843

Proposals shall be received by the City of Marfa later than 4:00 p.m. CST on October 27, 2026 to be considered. The City of Marfa 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 and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Marfa is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

[NOTE TO GRANT RECIPIENT: The proposal deadline must be no less than 10 (ten) days after the publication of this advertisement and the contact dates of the RFP.]

PUBLIC NOTICE

Far West Texas Water Planning Group – Region E Pre-Planning Meeting for the Development of the 2031 Regional Water Plan. Notice is hereby given that Far West Texas Water Planning Group – Region E will hold a pre-planning meeting seeking public input and comments on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the 2031 Region E Regional Water Plan and the 2032 State Water Plan. Discussion will also be held to consider the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies for the seventh cycle of regional water planning.

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group – Region E includes the following Texas Counties: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio.

The Pre-Planning Public Meeting will be held at 12:00 p.m. MST on Thursday, November 5, 2026, followed by the Region E Planning Group Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. MST, at the Rio Grande Council of Governments, 8037 Lockhead DR, Suite 100, El Paso, Texas 79925. Written comments will be accepted from October 1, 2026, through November 5, 2026, and can be mailed to Ms. Annette Gutierrez, Executive Director, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 8037 Lockhead DR, Suite 100, El Paso, Texas 79925 or emailed to annetteg@riocog.org

If you wish to provide written comments prior to the meeting, please email your comments to annetteg@riocog.org and include “Region E Water Planning Group Meeting” in the subject line of the email.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Marfa, Texas will hold a public hearing on October 20, 2026, at 6pm in the Casner Room at City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave.

The request concerns a property of .4 acres of land, situated at 105 W Lincoln St. (ID 10417), also described as All of Lots Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7) and the West 15.0 feet (W. 15’) of Lot Four (4), Block Nine (9), Original Townsite of Marfa, located in Presidio County, Texas, and 119 W Lincoln St. (ID 10418), also described as All of Lots Eight (8), Nine (9), and the East 12.5 feet (E. 12.5’) of Lot Ten (10), Block Nine (9), Original Townsite of Marfa, located in Presidio County, Texas.

The applicant, Quarter Circle A, LLC / The Lincoln Hotel, is requesting a change in zoning from (M) Multiple Family Residential to (C-2) General Commercial for the purpose of additional business opportunities such as a gift shop or café.

Following the Commission’s recommendation, the City Council of the City of Marfa will hold a subsequent public hearing to take final action on the proposed zoning change.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Written comments may be submitted to Stephen.rabourn@gmail.com prior to the hearing. Additional notices and agendas will be posted on the City of Marfa’s website at

HELP WANTED

Marfa Parks Board Treasurer
Municipality: Marfa Parks and Recreation Development Corporation, Marfa, Texas
Classification: Part-Time
Salary Range: Competitive / Dependent on Qualifications (DOQ)
Closing Date: November 15, 2026

Position Summary

The Board is seeking a qualified person to serve as its next Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible for stewarding the organization’s resources, and ensures records are maintained, reviews and prepares

financial reports for the Board, and interacts with accountants and auditors to help keep the Board informed of financial matters.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Understanding of financial accounting for nonprofit organizations
Knowledge of financial reports and the organization’s record-keeping and accounting systems (Quickbooks)

Ability and willingness to work with the Board and auditors as necessary

Ability to attend every Board Meeting (Third Thursday of every month)

Ability to receive training from the previous Treasurer in the months of November and December.

Minimum Qualifications

Education: Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university.

Experience: Experience preferred but not required.

How to Apply: Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to: Michael Camacho, Marfa Parks Board PresidentEmail: michael.camachito@gmail.com

Mailing Address: Marfa Parks Board, PO Box 386 Marfa, Texas, 79843

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Development Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Opening: Executive Director Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County

The Food Pantry is Seeking a community-minded leader with nonprofit or related management experience to oversee programs, staff, volunteers, and daily operations.

Details: www.foodpantry-jdc.org/jobs.html

Apply: jobs@foodpantry-jdc.org

Resume + brief letter of interest
Deadline: October 15, 2026

The Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE ESTATE OF: MARCEL DE VAAL

CAUSE: 2086

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARCEL DE VAAL, Deceased. Docket No. 2086, County Court, Presidio County, Texas APPLICATION TO DECLARE HEIRSHIP, filed in the County Court of Presidio County, Texas, on October 8, 2026

Said application may be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 O’clock A.M. on the first Monday next after

HELP WANTED: DESIGNER

The Big Bend Sentinel is looking for a freelance designer. The Designer lays out the paper every week and owns the Sentinel's visual identity across print, social, and advertising materials. The designer will also be involved in creating merchandise.

About the Sentinel

The Big Bend Sentinel is a nonprofit weekly newspaper serving Presidio, Brewster and Jeff Davis Counties in far west Texas. We cover local government, schools, public safety, culture and community life, in print every week and online. Our newsroom operates independently of the readers, donors, foundations and advertisers who support it.

What You'll Do

- Lay out the print edition every week, on deadline.
- Design social media content.
- Design ads for print and online, as needed.
- Maintain the Sentinel's brand and design style.
- Design merchandise for regional and online sales.
- Design impact reports and collateral for events and fundraising, as needed

Requirements

- Experience with newspaper or

the expiration of 10 days from the date of publishing this citation at the County Courthouse in Marfa, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

All interested persons are further advised that they have the right to employ an attorney and if they or their attorney fail to file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 A.M. on the Monday next filing after ten days

publication layout on a weekly deadline.
• Proficiency in standard layout and design software.
• A portfolio covering print layout, ad design and brand work.
• Functioning laptop and ability to work on deadline
• What we're looking for
• Strong portfolio with experience both print and digital products
• A familiarity with social media
• Previous experience with media outlets a plus

Application Process

This is a part-time role. Send a short note on why you want to join The Big Bend Sentinel, a copy or link to your portfolio, a resume, and your contact information.

The Big Bend Sentinel is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome applicants of every background and encourage people from the communities we cover to apply. Send info to kate@bigbendsentinel.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Home for Sale

Historic Alpine Home, 606 West Sul Ross. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Cellar , Garage and fenced yard. \$195,000. Text 210-218-9933 for pictures and details.

Rental Wanted: December–May

I’m seeking an apartment, casa, or similar rental.

CROSSWORD

Edited by David Steinberg October 15, 2026

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- 36 Like shad

- 37 Mystery prizes
- 38 \$\$\$ execs
- 39 Williams of “Girls”
- 40 Noodle dish topped with peanuts and lime
- 42 Healthy kind of bar
- 43 Not just my
- 44 Rest area?
- 47 Spasm
- 49 “Which came first?” item
- 50 Trio on a tripod
- 51 Like a good pooch
- 55 Teamwork interferences
- 57 Part of MoMA
- 58 Go from blonde to bronde, say
- 59 10/10
- 60 Same old routine
- 61 “Affirmative!”

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Wagging Tale by Dena R. Verkuil

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	65						66				67	

DRAWING OF THE WEEK

TABC Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit (BG) by Desert Heaven LLC dba Desert Heaven LLC, to be located at 1004 Foothill Blvd, Presidio, Presidio County, Texas Officers of said corporation Owner are Ivan Muniz, Owner.

Print paper will be bi-weekly through end of year

“Thank you for saving the paper,” a few people told me as I attended open studios over Chinati Weekend. It was gratifying to talk openly about the future of The Big Bend Sentinel after working behind the scenes for so long. I met so many wonderful people who are excited to see the paper on newsstands again.

After a four-month absence, it was a good sight to see.

We will be printing the paper bi-weekly for the remainder of the

year as we rebuild the business structure and cash flow. We will still be publishing a twice-weekly newsletter and stories on our site covering breaking news.

I remain dedicated to bringing back the print edition full-time. We are actively seeking to raise \$250,000 to ensure the solid financial foundation that print news requires. There is a bright future ahead, but we are still navigating a transition period.

Thank you for the continued sup-

port and patience. I deeply appreciate all the kind words and offers to help.

I want to hear all the ideas and comments on what you’d like to see with the paper. This will be a team effort to build the print edition that the Big Bend region needs and deserves. If you’re able, please give a donation of time, money or ideas to support the paper. My door is open.

Respectfully,
Kate Bubacz
Executive Director

Thanks from Chinati for weekend magic

On behalf of The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who made the 39th annual Chinati Weekend so memorable. In 1986, the artist Donald Judd founded Chinati as a place for art, architecture and land to exist in a coherent context. Reflecting on this past weekend, I’m reminded of another essential part of that context: community. As we celebrate our 40th year and approach a major restoration project, I’m grateful to those who continue to come together in support of Judd’s vision.

This Chinati Weekend celebrated the opening of Richard Long: ROCKS RIVER, the first exhibition dedicated to new work by the artist in Chinati’s 40-year history. While many are familiar with Long’s work Sea Lava Circles, which Donald Judd installed on a former tennis court near Chinati’s Arena, ROCKS RIVER includes four new works that further our understanding of Long’s practice. This exhibition relied heavily on the assistance of many, including Josh Edwards, Joe Esparza, Denise Hooker, Tim Johnson, Ethyn Maki, and Bryon Schroeder. Additionally, ROCKS RIVER is generously supported by the Chinati Foundation Director’s Circle, and Heather Pesanti and David Booth.

I also want to thank the many artists who participated in Chinati Weekend: artist in residence Will Boone for sharing his work in many forms throughout the weekend; Sharon Van Etten for a beautiful evening at the Crowley Theater; and Jeanhee Yu, MarfaMUST, and the many artists in Marfa who opened their studios and exhibited work throughout the weekend. I’m grateful to the individuals and teams who supported these artists: Fatima Anaza, Travis Bubenik, Ross Cashiola, Chris Dyer, Nate Freeman, Will Floyd, Zeke Hutchins, Christine Jackson, Randy Kennedy, Pat Keesey, Sir Nicholas

Serota, Rigo Zamarron. Finally, I’m indebted to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation for co-presenting a talk on artists’ writings, and to those who joined me on stage: Mirsini Amidon, Rainer Judd, Randy Kennedy, and Francine Snyder. We sincerely hope you enjoyed this year’s programming.

Chinati Weekend 2026 was supported by our wonderful Board of Trustees: Douglas Baxter, Gabriel Catone, Lee Baumann Cohn, J. Patrick Collins, Chad Dayton, Miguel Fernandez, Mack Fowler, Franck Giraud, Sam Hamilton, George Kelly, Courtney J. Martin, Anthony Meier, Heather Pesanti, Noelle M. Reed, Annabelle Selldorf, Richard Schiff, José Noé Suro, Annabel Thompson, Steven Volpe. Additional support was provided by Siete Leguas Tequila, RG | NY, Aesop, Rambler Sparkling Water, Tejas Brewery, and the City of Marfa.

Chinati would like to extend a special thanks to YEYES Libamex Food Co. and Brian Espinoza for two remarkable meals on Friday and Saturday nights. Thank you to Monika Bernstein and INDUSTRI-HAUS, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, Rob Crowley, Faith Gay and Cactus Liquors, Paul Graybeal and Moonlight Gemstones, the MiLO Collective, and the Wild Mare for your time and service throughout the weekend. Saturday night’s benefit dinner provides essential funding for Chinati programming, and we’re grateful to the Moody Foundation, Heather Pesanti and David Booth, Miguel Fernandez, Bob and Nora Ackerley, and Nancy and Rod Sanders.

Thank you to Tim Crowley and the Crowley Theater, Marfa Public Radio, and Rainer Judd, Flavin Judd, Richard Griggs, and the entire staff at Judd Foundation for their collaboration throughout the weekend. Chinati is grateful to our members and friends, including those in Marfa,

Far West Texas and beyond: Jeanie Capps-Lytle, Mark Cash, Joe Cashiola, Crawford Marginot and the MISD junior class, Marella Consolini, Janet Enriquez, Naomi Francis, Daniela Fernandez, Susan Flusche, Melissa Firmin, Rutger Fuchs, Rachel Gomez, Griselda Hinojos, Jessica Hinojos, Joe Jimenez, Alex Marks, Eliseo Martinez, Carlos Morales, Linda Ojeda, Riley O’Brien, Curtis Pittman, Sara Pittman, Andrew Ramirez, Erika Reyes, Jose Salgado, Norma Salgado, Samuel Salgado, Francisco Soto, Dimetrey Stewart, Stacy Tucker, Sarah Vasquez, and Amy White.

Sharing Chinati would not be possible without our staff, whose hard work and dedication continue to inspire me. Many thanks to our exceptional visitor services staff, docents, and guards: Shea Carley, Kathie Compton, Al Davis, John Ehrke, Katy Rose Elsasser, Kyp Hinojos, Alex Kamelhair, Pat Kessey, Kat McKenna, Suzanne McLeod, Dillon Orr, Chelsea Quinlan, and Prepney Torres.

Thank you to colleagues for their many months of preparation, which made this weekend possible: Maritza Bautista, Michael Carnes, Alberto De Leon, Rowdy Dugan, Micah Francis, J.D. Garcia, Hannah Goldfarb, Regina Gutierrez, Sandra Hinojos, Christine Jackson, Ruben Jauregui Jr., Miguel Leyva, Ethyn Maki, Rhonda Manley, Stephen Martin, Janelly Pereira, Ben Shurley, Bogna Skwara, Rachel May Smith, Katherine Vaughn, and Kirstyn Wright.

As we begin a major restoration of the Artillery Sheds, I’m especially grateful for our community in Marfa and beyond. We are grateful for your support, which has allowed Chinati to persist for the past 40 years.

I look forward to welcoming you back to Chinati soon.

With appreciation,
Caitlin Murray, Director



LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK IS FIGHTING FOR RURAL TEXAS:

- ✓ **Protecting Texas farms, ranches, and natural resources from ownership by hostile foreign interests.**
- ✓ **Cutting property taxes and continuing to push for additional relief.**
- ✓ **Protecting Texas water and investing in the infrastructure rural communities need.**
- ✓ **Supporting rural law enforcement.**
- ✓ **Standing up for Texas agriculture and the people who produce our food and energy.**

Early Voting: Oct.19-30 ★ Election Day: Nov. 3

DanPatrick.org

Pd Pol Ad -Texans For Dan Patrick

Letter: Alpine, be reasonable on backyard RVs

This fall, the City of Alpine photographed my back yard over my fence and cited me. My offense: the slides on my RV were open. Nobody lives in it. It isn't hooked up to water or power. It sits behind my fence, on my property, in nobody's way. I use it for storage and freezer space my 910-square-foot house doesn't have.

I lived in that RV for years. I bought this house so I could finally live in a house and keep my RV in a fenced back yard. That was the entire reason. Before I bought it this spring, I went to City Hall in person and asked if I could keep my RV in the back yard. I was told yes.

Now I'm told city code requires every slide closed, because in the past some people have lived in their RVs. But my bed works fine with the slides in. Closing them doesn't stop anyone from living in

an RV. It only blocks the freezer and storage, the things I actually use it for.

When I asked why I couldn't get an exception, the answer was that if they let me keep my slides open, they'd have to let everyone. Yes. Exactly. They should. Punishing every RV owner in town because a few people once lived in theirs is like telling every homeowner to board up their kitchen when they're not cooking, because someone once cooked meth in one. Enforce the rule against living in RVs. Leave the rest of us alone.

City staff also told me a variance isn't meant for a situation like mine and would almost certainly be denied. The fee is \$500, nonrefundable. So the answer to a resident who did his homework and is hurting no one is: pay \$500 for a no.I'm paying it anyway. Not because I expect a yes, but

because I want it on the record that a law-abiding resident asked to use his own property on his own land and was told no.

This is Texas. People ought to be able to use their own property behind their own fence without being treated like a problem to manage. The city has real work to do: wells, pipes, water. Photographing quiet residents' back yards shouldn't be on that list.

There's a simple fix, and I'm asking City Council to adopt it: allow RV slides out in the fenced side or back yard of an owner-occupied home, with no utility hookups, registered and road ready, and nobody living in it.

City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., 803 W. Holland. One resident at the podium is a complaint. A full room is a message.

Luke MacNeil
Alpine

Community forum includes survey request

Continued from page 1

and students — data analysis of testing, getting kids to take tests seriously, parental involvement and more.

In response to a parent’s concern about the district’s lack of music education, McCanless confirmed they had posted a band director position across the state and they had some interest, but exercised caution: “I’m not just going to hire anybody...we’re going to wait until we find the best person.”

Genie Wright asked what percentage of MISD teachers are currently uncertified, a concern that has plagued the tiny district for years, especially after its loss of “district of innovation” status last fall due to a series of low TEA accountability scores. McCanless didn’t have an exact number, but in a follow-up with The Big Bend Sentinel, confirmed the district currently employs 21 teachers. Of those 21, he said, seven are certified with TEA at the elementary

level, with three enrolled in a Texas alternative certification program (ACP), which allows them to hold a temporary state credential that allows them to legally teach. Nine junior high/high school teachers are certified, and two are in an ACP program and will complete within a year.

McCanless also added that all teachers enrolled in an ACP are monitored by a field supervisor and receive the same observations and walkthroughs and are held to the same standards as certified teachers.

Another comment from parent Beck Dugan suggested that school board meetings be accessible by Zoom or another platform for those parents and community members who cannot find childcare or attend in person for any reason. McCanless said his previous board meetings were livestreamed and saved on YouTube, and would bring the suggestion to the board, emphasizing the importance of transparency. In districts of 10,000 or more students, districts must

post recordings of the meetings online, but Marfa ISD currently only makes audio recordings for legal purposes.

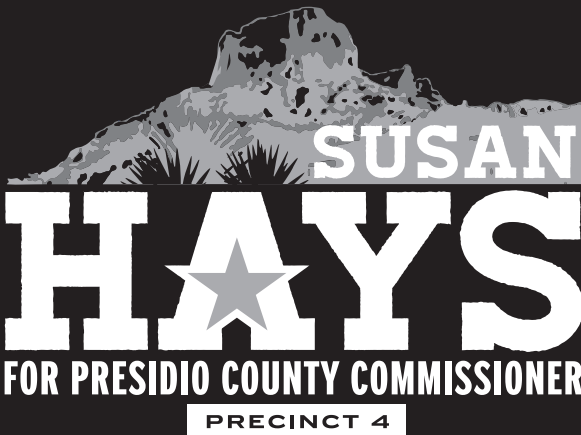
McCanless said he would happily bring the suggestion to the board next meeting, scheduled for Monday, October 19. Marfa ISD School Board still has two seats to fill and is accepting letters of interest.

District leadership also handed out QR codes to an anonymous open-ended survey to provide feedback, which will be used to help focus Marfa ISD’s vision.



Experience came with age. My fighting spirit comes naturally.





SUSAN HAYS
FOR PRESIDIO COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 4

Pol. Adv. paid for by the Susan Hays Campaign

WHERE & WHEN TO VOTE:

- ★ **MARFA VISITOR’S CENTER**
302 S. HIGHLAND AVE.
- ★ **FRI. OCT. 23**
LAST DAY FOR THE ELECTIONS
OFFICE TO
RECEIVE AN APPLICATION TO
VOTE BY MAIL
(SEND IT SOONER TO GIVE TIME FOR MAILING!)
- ★ **MON. OCT. 19 - FRI. OCT 30**
EARLY VOTING
- ★ **TUES. NOV. 3**
ELECTION DAY

Cross-country girls take district championship

Continued from page 1

third in 15:32, and Zoey Salgado placed fifth in 15:51. Adeline Marquez finished 22nd in 21:17, while Mikayla Bentley placed 28th in 23:30. Together, the five scoring runners secured the team championship.

The junior high girls also celebrated an individual district champion as Dania Fernandez won her division in 15:36.

Marfa's varsity boys did not advance to regionals, but they continued to show hard work and dedication throughout the season. Luis Reyes led the Shorthorns with a 12th-place finish in 21:41, earning Outstanding Newcomer of the Year in boys cross-country. Diego Sanchez Bravo placed 18th in 23:11, Raivon Hamilton finished 27th in 28:24, and Abelardo Marquez placed 29th in 30:08.

The varsity girls will compete at the regional meet in Fort Worth on Tuesday, October 27, seeking a place at the state cross-country meet. Great work by these runners and coaches on a strong district performance and wishes the Lady Horns success at regionals.

Lady Horns split road and home matches as JV squad earns Pink Out victory

The Marfa Lady Horns volleyball team hit the court twice in early October, earning a road victory over Fort Hancock before returning home to host Fort Davis for their Pink Out game in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

On Saturday, October 3, the Lady Horns traveled to Fort Hancock and defeated the Lady Mustangs in four sets, winning 25-18, 17-25, 25-13, and 25-23.

The match featured plenty of back-and-forth action, with the Lady Horns stepping up to secure the victory. Giselle Torres made several important digs in the back row, while Liliana Zubia contributed key blocks at the net. Adeline Marquez also helped at the net with assists and blocks, keeping the Lady Horns competitive throughout the match.

Madison Cash came up big in the fourth set, recording three kills to help seal the win. Team captain Dariela Munoz made her presence felt at the service line, serving



Senior Dariela Munoz serves the opponents

13 times and recording an ace in the third set. Leading the Lady Horns offensively was Itzel Urrutia with 14 kills, followed by Zoey Salgado with eight.

On Tuesday, October 6, the Lady Horns returned home to host Fort Davis for their Pink Out game. The varsity squad fell to the Lady Indians in three sets, 14-25, 22-25, and 9-25.

Following the varsity match, the JV Lady Horns delivered a strong performance, winning two of three sets to earn the victory. Ora Webb, Gracie Peraz, Mary Carmen Ortiz, Adonise Lujan, Liliana Zubia, and Adeline Marquez opened the match in the starting rotation and secured the first-set win.

The second set proved more challenging after Lujan suffered an injury, requiring Salgado to step in as the Lady Horns dropped the set. However, the JV squad regrouped and battled back in the third set, finishing strong to claim



Sophomores Adeline Marquez and Liliana Zubia going up for a block.

the match victory.

Despite the varsity loss on Pink Out night, the JV Lady Horns showed resilience and teamwork, giving the home crowd something to celebrate. The Lady Horns will look to build on these performances as they continue their vol-

leyball season.

The Lady Horns were set to travel on Tuesday to Sierra Blanca to take on the Lady Vaqueros and on Saturday, Marfa will host Dell City for senior recognition at noon.



Cross-country district champion, junior Alyssa Harden

Election info

Continued from page 1

- Precinct 3: Marathon Community Center, 2nd and Ave E, Marathon
- Precinct 4, 8: Alpine Civic Center, 801 W. Holland Avenue, Alpine
- Precincts 5, 6, 7: JW "Red" Pattillo Community Center, 201 Rex Ivey Road, Study Butte

Jeff Davis County

Early Voting

Voters from any precinct may cast their ballots at this location: Jeff Davis County, District and County Clerk's Office, 111 N. Street (double green doors).

- Monday, October 19, through Friday, October 23, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, October 26, through Friday, October, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Times and locations for the November 3 General Election have not been posted yet.

Support our efforts to provide sustainable local news. Donate today!



OPEN HOUSE
403 N8TH - 402 N9TH ST.
ALPINE, TX
SATURDAY OCTOBER 17
2-5PM
HISTORIC QUEEN ANNE
COTTAGE STYLE HOME
6 BATHROOMS
OVERSIZED METAL BARN
4 PRIVATE GUEST ROOMS
1 PRIVATE WELL
3 HOT TUBS
OWNERS AREA

\$1,400,000

MARFA REALTY
283 S NEVILL ST. MARFA

MARFA REALTY



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Monarchs use several skills to navigate

Continued from page 1

navigate precisely. If at any point they have flown off course, they will miss the narrow entrance to the colonies. Southerly flight is sufficient until they funnel through Texas, states Reppert. “However, once the butterflies continue to approach their destination, how do they find their way to the same grove in Michoacán year after year?” This is an enduring mystery.

Monarchs born in late summer are the fifth generation of the year and the only ones to migrate. Weeks after emergence they embark, following the path of their ancestors. Precise information has been transmitted genetically. The purpose-driven monarch flies in the direction of its destination: south in the fall, north in the spring. Reppert states: “A time-compensated sun compass and an inclination-based magnetic compass ... allow migrant monarchs to use reliable environmental cues, such as the sun’s position in the sky and the inclination angle of the Earth’s magnetic field, to fly in the appropriate migratory direction.” He postulates they also possess a “geomagnetic map sense” that guides them to the forest. The sense of smell, located in the antennae, may be a component of this map. Beyond Texas, the monarchs may smell the oyamel forests.

They can also sense the presence of water. Perhaps that is how they find Cuatro Ciénegas in Coahuila, one of the most spectacular stopping places. I had already collected George Grall’s aerial shot when I found NASA’s image of a deep gorge with a patch of blue at the bottom. The monarchs descend to a desert brimming with ponds, lagoons and marshes. There



Transvolcanic Belt. To reach the colonies in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve they must cross Sierra Gorda, a 900,000-acre region “crisscrossed by rivers and valleys that run in many directions. The region appears to lack the north-south ridge lines that would serve as physical cues,” according to NASA.

Near the overwintering grounds Calvert and Brower observed monarchs perched on high ridges. They hypothesized that the presence of these small groups “serves as a visual cue to attract more migrants” to the colonies. The entomologists also reported the astounding sight of towering columns of butterflies spiraling above the ridges. For this there is no photograph.

The wings are in near-perfect condition on arrival, Brower notes. The monarch is able to conserve energy and preserve its wings by soaring and gliding on favorable winds. A million microscopic scales, shingled and angled upward, “boost flight efficiency, generate thrust,

is no visual cue that pools of fish lie beneath the arid mountains on their path. Have they followed landmarks to this isolated basin, or have their ancestors left them a map to the best stopping places?

If landmarks serve as visual cues, they are absent when the monarchs approach the

and reduce drag,” explains Alan R. Masters. The black thorax, where the flight muscles are located, is also covered with scales. The scales insulate a cold-blooded creature who cannot fly when its flight muscles are below 55°F. According to Masters, “If too many scales are lost, the monarch loses some ability to thermoregulate.”

What makes the monarch butterfly an uplifting symbol? The migration saga throws light upon the infinite renewal of life. Through this story it is possible to see how natural forces work in synchrony to help the monarch complete its mission. The cycle culminates in a triumphal spring. In mid-March the monarchs fly north, reaching southern Texas first. Each female is carrying about 400 eggs. She must find enough milkweed to lay them singly, if possible. The caterpillars only eat milkweed, and they are voracious. Milkweed comes into bloom in Texas just in time to host the next generation. This ending to nature’s story has held me in a state of exaltation ever since.

I’ll never make it to the top of an 11,000-foot volcano, but one day I hope to see monarchs in the wild. I want to see a lush glen on a desert mountain; the Trans-Pecos thimblehead, offering a drop of nectar; Santa Elena Canyon in golden light and a river of stars in the dark skies of Big Bend National Park.

Kaufman’s book, *The Monarch’s Message* is available in bookstores at Big Bend National Park and online at bbnha.org/shop-online/. Your purchase will support the park’s educational and interpretive missions. Please email the author with questions or comments: writings.lit@gmail.com.



GEORGE D. LEPP

George D. Lepp captured this image of a trunk blanketed with monarchs on Lincoln Brower’s 1976 expedition to the sanctuaries.

Final rule on monarch listing proposal deferred to 2030

By Amy Rebecca Kaufman

On Sept. 30, 2026, the deadline for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to decide whether to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species was extended to June 6, 2030.

The binding date was set as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, its director, Brian Nesvik, and Doug Burgum, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In 2024 USFWS published its proposal to list the monarch as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. When it missed the December 12, 2025, deadline

to issue a final ruling on this proposal, the plaintiffs sued “to compel the Service to publish a final listing determination ... by a date certain,” according to the September 30 settlement agreement.

Before an animal species can receive federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, it must be added to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the premier conservation agency in the United States.

A threatened species is defined as “one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range,” according to an USFWS summary of the Endangered Species Act.

When it announced the 2024 proposal,

USFWS encouraged the public to submit comments to be considered in the final decision. By March 2025 the agency had received more than 140,000 public comments, according to Birgit Rollins, staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center.

Referring to its most recent Species Status Assessment of the monarch, dated December 2024, USFWS states, “[B]y 2080 the probability of extinction for eastern monarchs ranges from 56 to 74% and the probability of extinction for western monarchs is greater than 95%.”

The population of eastern monarchs is measured by acres densely covered with monarchs in Mexico’s oyamel forests. Since annual monitoring began in 1993,

the population has declined by an estimated 70%. This is attributed to agricultural use of neonic pesticides, destruction of milkweed, thinning of the oyamel forest by legal and illegal logging, extreme weather throughout the monarch’s range, climate change, storms, fire and drought.

In 1986 the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve was established by decree of President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico. The reserve originally protected five overwintering sites within 39,680 acres. Today it encompasses 139,000 acres, spreading across the states of Michoacán and Mexico. Monarchs occupied only 4.42 acres in the Reserve in 2024-25 and 7.24 acres in 2025-26, according to World Wildlife Fund and Mexico’s National Commission on Natural

Protected Areas, CONANP.

International governments are working with community partners to restore Mexico’s oyamel forests. Forests for Monarchs has planted 17 million trees. American Forests has funded the planting of more than one million trees since 2006. Forest geneticist Cuauhtémoc Sáenz-Romero has led massive replanting projects since 2015. From 2022 to 2024, World Wildlife Fund planted 160,000 saplings. In 2025, Colorado’s Butterfly Pavilion, in collaboration with the government of Mexico and community partners, planted 100,000 oyamel firs at higher elevations. Through a global program of Monarch Watch, individuals have created 58,776 certified waystations to sustain monarchs on their journey.

BALLROOM MARFA
Fall 2026

Sky Hopinka: Selected Short Films / 09.26—10.23
Andrew Durbin: *The Wonderful World That Almost Was: A Life of Peter Hujar and Paul Thek* / 10.24
Rainer Judd: *I Saw the Sun* / 11.27
An Evening with **Jo Harvey Allen** / 11.28

All programs are free and open to all.
Learn more at ballroommarfa.org.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE! ¡SU VOTO ES SU VOZ!
BREWSTER COUNTY VOTERS

From Federal to State and Local offices, in the November 2026 General Election, Democratic candidates offer better alternatives than obstruction, division, corruption and policies that harm our citizens, businesses, communities, state and nation.

Core Values of Democrats:

- * An economy focused on the middle-class and small businesses, not the super-wealthy and large corporation.
- * Equal opportunity and Justice under the law for everyone.
- * Available and affordable healthcare for all.
- * The right to privacy in reproductive health and other personal decisions.
- * Support for essential industries while protecting our health and the environment.
- * Advancements in public and higher education for our children’s future.
- * Respect and care for our Veterans.
- * Security, safety, and health for our nation and people.
- * Honesty and transparency in leadership.

EARLY VOTING: October 19– October 23, 8 am – 5 pm; Saturday October 24, 7 am – 7 pm; Sunday October 25, 1 pm - 7 pm; October 26 – October 30, 7 am – 7 pm
EARLY VOTING LOCATION: Val Clark Beard Complex 203 N 7th St, Alpine
ELECTION DAY: November 3, 7 am – 7 pm
BALLOTS BY MAIL: Eligible voters can request mail ballots from the County Election Office 432-837-6000 Ext 6230. Deadline to request a ballot by mail is October 23. To be counted, mail ballots must be returned to the County Election Office by 4 pm on November 3.
ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS:
Precinct 1 & 2 --Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex, 203 N 7th, Alpine
Precinct 3—Marathon Community Center 150 N 2nd St, Marathon
Precincts 4 & 8—Alpine Civic Center 801 West Holland Ave, Alpine
Precincts 5, 6, & 7—JW “Red” Pattillo Community Center, 201 Rex Ivey Road, Study Butte

No phones at the polls, but you can clip below and bring it with you when you vote!

Texas no-longer allows “Straight-ticket” voting by Political Party. Instead, candidates have their Party affiliation beside their names. Look for those with “DEM” beside their name to vote for each individual Democrat on the ballot.

We strongly urge a vote FOR the provision creating Emergency Services District #2 for Northern Brewster County.

ALL DEMOCRATS OPPOSE ANY BARRIERS, LIGHTING, WIRE, AND WATER OBSTRUCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE BORDER REGION OF THE BIG BEND!

In this election, residents of the City of Alpine will also cast separate ballots in their non-partisan General Election as follows:
For Mayor – Candidate Catherine Eaves
For Council Member Ward 5 – Candidates Rozolen Stanford and Isaiah Eytayo Olayinka
Nine Charter Amendment Provisions

Paid by Brewster County Democratic Party, 107 E Lockhart Ave, Alpine, Texas 79830
Mary Bell Lockhart, Secretary-Treasurer

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Greetings from

BREWSTER COUNTY

Texas' Last Frontier



Home to Big Bend National Park and

Home to the Nation's Largest Off-Grid AI Data Center

and Its Biggest, Most Polluting Power Plant?

Massive AI Data Center and Power Plant proposed for the Ahern Ranch near the Glass Mountains.

All the Emissions of Houston. Enough Power for LA. *Our New Front Yard?*

7.65 GW

at the Pecos County sister project — **bigger than any U.S. power plant**, even Grand Coulee (7.1 GW)

2× Larger

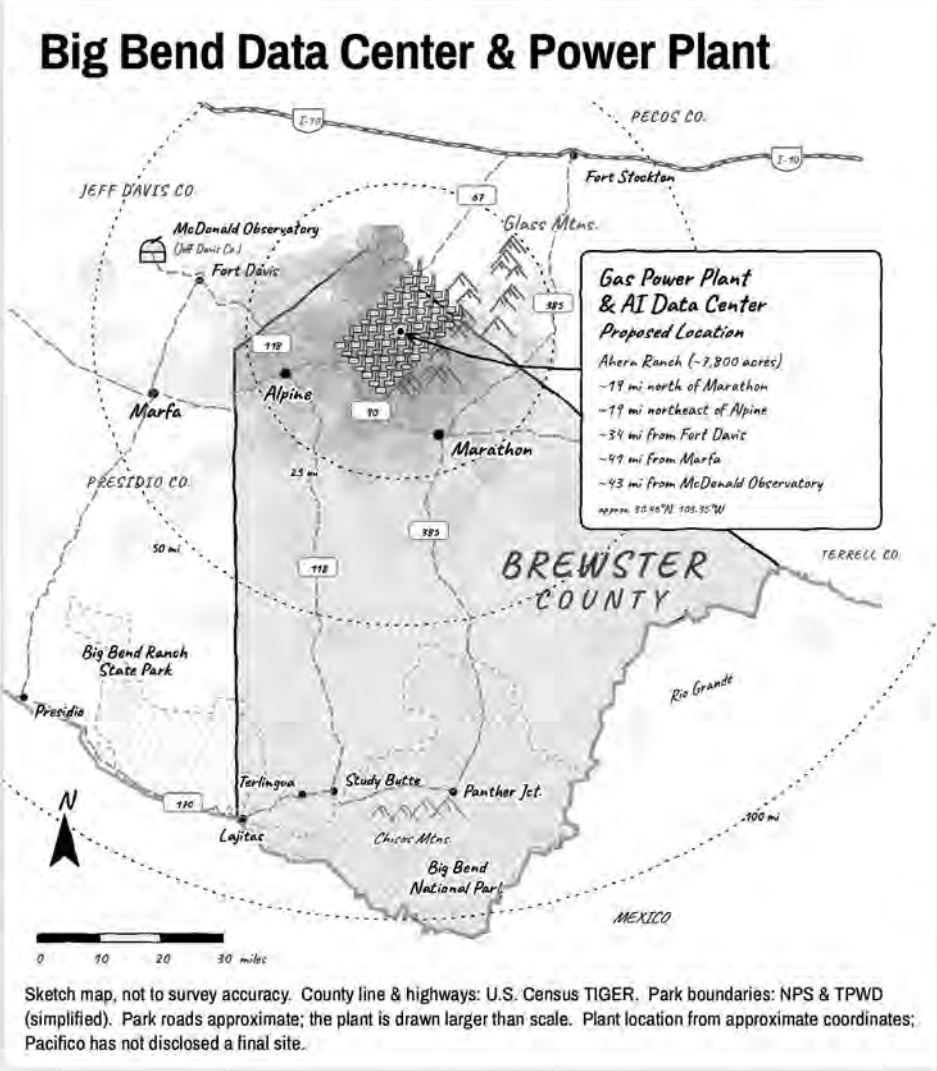
than the largest U.S. gas plant (3.8 GW) — and more than **Los Angeles** uses on its hottest day (6.5 GW)

33M Tons

of **greenhouse gases** a year allowed there — nearly as much as the entire city of **Houston** (34M)

12,000+ Tons

a year of **air pollutants** allowed there (soot, ammonia, CO, VOCs) — particles that can drift hundreds of miles



Record-Breaking, Just Miles From Town

Pacifico's model is its Pecos County plant: **35 gas turbines** on **3,000–4,000 acres** — up to half the ~7,800-acre Ahern Ranch, about **19 miles from both Alpine and Marathon**, permitted to be **bigger than any U.S. power plant**. It's planned "**off-grid**," with its own power plant, to sidestep state regulation and power-line building timelines. But "off-grid" isn't a promise: a likely later hookup could bring **giant 765-kV power lines**.

Scarred at Both Ends?

In south Brewster County, Judge Henington and **140+ local businesses** have fought a border wall through Big Bend National Park, whose visitors bring **\$56.8 million a year** to the area. Now a record-scale gas plant could rise in the north end, on **Highway 67** — the scenic road into Alpine traveled by many of the park's **500,000+ yearly visitors**. A **lasting haze over the Glass Mountains, Marathon and Alpine**: the same scars, at our northern gateway.

Testing the Limits of Our Water

This is a desert in drought: parts of Brewster County hit **exceptional drought** this year, and every ranch and town here runs on wells. Yet there's no water source and no usage figure, **just a plan to test** the Hovey Trough, which Pacifico's team called "*not a studied aquifer*." Our aquifers are already targeted: Midland–Odessa's water district seeks Glass Mountains wells to pump **25,000 acre-feet a year** from the slow-recharging Capitan Reef. Why risk our limited water or haul polluted water here, when the Permian has a **billion gallons a day** of oilfield water it can't get rid of?

Worth the Cost?

New tax revenue is real money — but weigh what comes with it. Abilene's AI data center brought nearly **6,000 construction workers a day** — to a city of 125,000. Here, that's **as many people as live in all of Alpine**, through a **5–7 year** buildout: man camps, crowded roads, scarce housing and **small schools overwhelmed**. After that, just **100–200 permanent jobs**, and Pacifico's rep said workers from Reeves County and Odessa may not "*go live in Alpine*." Add the health cost: the EPA links soot like the plant's to **aggravated asthma, heart attacks and early deaths**. The ranching, ag and tourism that sustain us will likely pay the price.

No More Dark Skies, No More Quiet Nights?

Our lighting rules **exempt temporary construction lighting** — and this buildout runs **5–7 years**. Twenty-one construction lights, each **7–16 times** the county's cap, already sit at the border-wall staging area. The plant would sit about **43 miles from McDonald Observatory**. It's noisy too: a turbine-and-chiller **hum that never stops**. Lose the dark and the quiet, and we **lose our way of life and the stargazers and visitors they bring**.

Not Here. North of I-10.

The roads, pipelines and power lines would never leave — "*once you cut a road here, it's here forever*." Communities in the Permian Basin, already shaped by decades of oil and gas, are welcoming projects like this one, and they have the gas, pipelines and oilfield water — plus the housing, workers and infrastructure to support it. If it's built anywhere, build it there, **north of I-10**, where its emissions would land **farther from Big Bend National Park**.

Why do you live in the Last Frontier?

Clean air? Dark skies? Room to make your own way? Preserve what you love. Don't let land developers, Big Power and AI companies decide our future.

Write back: let your voice be heard — here's how.

- **Contact the Brewster County Commissioners Court and County Judge Greg Henington.** Ask them to:
 - **Reject this project**, disclose the exact site and sign **NO secrecy agreements (NDAs)**.
 - **Pass rules now that keep projects like this out of the Big Bend** — a **formal resolution opposing this project**, with the county ready to **challenge its state air and water permits** — not just rules for how they're built: an **independent water study before any development plans**, firm limits on water, noise and lighting, and an end to the construction-lighting loophole.
- **Show up** when it returns to the Commissioners Court agenda, and bring your neighbors. Pacifico's CEO reportedly credited "lack of local opposition" in Pecos County. Let's not give them that here.
- **Call your state lawmakers:** **Rep. Eddie Morales** (House District 74) and **Sen. César Blanco** (District 29: Alpine, Marfa, Ft. Davis, Terlingua, Presidio) or **Sen. Roland Gutierrez** (District 19: Marathon & BBNP). **Gov. Abbott** has frozen state permits for data centers, **but only until a state audit ends, expected in December**. **Lt. Gov. Patrick** has made their impact on landowners and water a Senate priority, and **no neighboring landowners are known to support this project**. **Use this pause: act locally now, before the permits flow again.**

Brewster County has time to stop this — speak up now.

Home to Big Bend National Park. Home to the Last Frontier. Home to Us.

Not the nation's largest off-grid data center. Not its biggest, most polluting power plant.