

Jury issues stiff sentence  
in marijuana case, page 2

Game warden performs cowboy  
poetry at state park, page 5

Club helps in OJ, page 10  
Valentine school news, page 11

# THE BIG BEND Sentinel

Vol. 66 No. 13

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50 cents

## news notes

### Is Wal-Mart store coming to Marfa?

By STERRY BUTCHER  
MARFA — It's been part of most everyone's conversation in Marfa over the last few weeks — "Did you hear? Wal-Mart is coming. Wal-Mart is coming."

News that Wal-Mart is bringing one of its super stores to Far West Texas may be great fodder for grocery store chatter and the friendly talk over lunch, but some investigative digging by The Big Bend Sentinel indicates that at least so far, the story is just that, a story.

Property owners on both the east and west edges of town, where a Wal-Mart would be likely to land, each say that no one from the giant corporation has approached them with any kind of offer.

Likewise, neither the Marfa Chamber of Commerce nor any county office that deals with real estate transactions has heard from the Wal-Mart corporate office.

"We haven't heard from them," said Dennis James, office manager for the chamber. "Last month three guys came in (to the office) and they were asking about Wal-Mart, when it's coming and where it's going to be. We've heard this rumor, but there doesn't seem to be anything to it." "I've been hearing that, too," said County Clerk Brenda Silva. "But we haven't seen anything. Nothing's come across our office. Nobody who would know seems to know."

The story is the same at the appraisal district. "We were just talking about Wal-Mart this morning," said Jennifer Perales. "We don't know anything about it."

But it is the word of Keith Morris, a Wal-Mart public relations officer that puts a stop to all the speculation.

"There are no development plans in that area or even anything proposed," Morris said Wednesday. Any development in the future "really depends on the dynamics of the market, but I can say that there are no plans," he continued.

### Rains return to much of area

FAR WEST TEXAS — Thunder. Lightning. Rain. It all came crashing down Tuesday night as Marfa and area residents witnessed an intense lightning storm which brought much needed rain. The rain began at about 10 p.m. in Marfa and continued throughout the night finally stopping in the early hours Wednesday morning.

Marfa received one and a half inches of rain and Paisano Pass received 2.10 inches of rain from Tuesday's storm, according to Ray Hendryx of KVLV radio station. Hendryx also reported that the city of Alpine received half an inch of rainfall from Tuesday's downpour and one half to one and a half inches of rain Monday evening.

Reports from the cities of Presidio and Ojinaga were that

(Continued on page 5)

## Brisbin takes job with council of governments



Jake Brisbin Jr.

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Presidio County commissioners will be shopping for a new chief executive now that County Judge Jake Brisbin Jr. has been selected for a key job in El Paso.

By unanimous vote, Brisbin was hired Friday as the executive director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments (COG), board President Vicki Icard said.

It was a position Brisbin actively sought.

"I do feel honored," Brisbin said this week. "I'm really looking forward to it. It's just what I needed

to charge my batteries." The job begins July 1.

Said Icard: "I'm very pleased with the selection."

She said Brisbin faces the daunting task of running a large organization on a tight budget.

The COG is an agency that assists cities, counties, school districts and non-profit assistance organizations apply for state and federal grant funds. The COG also provides a wide variety of public services as well.

Its service area includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth,

Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster in Texas and Doña Ana County, N.M.

"From my new position, I can be of great benefit to this area in helping with grant applications and assistance like that," Brisbin said, adding that he would also help all COG members.

"My new job will be to assist the 33 members," he said. "I'll be there to help the tri-county area, too. I hope they ask for my help. That's my job."

Icard said Brisbin brings to the job a wealth of knowledge about

the area and complete information about how the COG works.

A Marfa native who has lived in Alpine and Fort Davis as well, Brisbin served as a Marfa city commissioner, was elected Marfa mayor for a term and currently is serving in his second four-year term as county judge.

He has been associated with the COG for almost as many years as he's served in elected office and is a past COG board president.

"He knows the board members,

(Continued on page 14)

### Government change meeting Tuesday

MARFA — Marfa City Commission members will meet for a public workshop next week to map out how to bring about a change in the form of Marfa city government.

The meeting is set for 9 a.m. Tuesday at City Hall with City Attorney Greg Hudson of Austin, elected public servants decided at their meeting Tuesday evening.

"The change is long overdue," Mayor Fritz Kahl said, "and will be long-lasting." That's why city officials and the public need to know all the steps in the process and what form city government will take.

Kahl has said it may not take a referendum by voters to change the government form, just a vote by the city commission at a special meeting in the near future.

One proposal calls for a mayor and five council members, all elected at large but perhaps by place.

The current elected officials would serve on the new panel and make appointments to the newly created council positions until the next election, and then staggered terms would be created.

Whether the city embarks on the services a city administrator-type arrangement or keeps the current mode of city management has yet to be decided.

Kahl said Hudson is expected to "walk" officials and members of the public who attend the meet-

(Continued on page 10)



(staff photo by ROBERT HALPERN)

Enviroress Consulting Inc. President Bill Burleson of Abilene, Texas, and a helper work to remove a nine-ton condenser near the old ice plant last week.

### Condenser once supplied electricity to Marfa homes

MARFA — A couple of Abilene firms huffed and puffed and removed about nine tons of Marfa history last week.

"We pulled the truck forward, latched on to the condenser and lifted it on a flatbed," said Bill Burleson, president of Enviroress Consulting Inc. of Abilene, the

firm West Texas Utilities Co. contracted for the work.

The entire process took the better part of two days and a bit of improvisation.

Eddie Pallares, WTU Marfa distribution supervisor, said the company is disposing of its property

(Continued on page 7)

### Test scores up significantly at elementary, junior high

By STERRY BUTCHER  
MARFA — School board trustees were treated to some good news regarding Marfa Elementary and Junior High test scores at Tuesday evening's regular meeting.

Texas Academic Assessment Skills (TAAS) test scores for third through eighth grades are generally up from last year, reported David Clark, principal for the elementary and junior high schools.

"We're getting better," Clark told school board members. "We're not where we ought to be, but we're working on it."

Students begin taking the TAAS in third grade and this year 89 percent of third-graders passed the

reading portion of the test.

For fourth-graders, 65 percent passed reading this year versus 74 percent last year.

Fifth-graders saw a jump in reading skills with 77 percent passing the reading section this year compared to 62 percent last school year.

Sixth-graders held steady with 64 percent passing TAAS reading both this year and last year.

Seventh-graders edged from 79 percent passing the reading portion last year to 80 percent this year, while eighth-graders saw an increase in scores from 82 percent passing last year to 89 per-

(Continued on page 11)

### Fate of rural clinics not decided, director says

PRESIDIO, BREWSTER COUNTIES — With the Big Bend area's new hospital nearing completion in Alpine, officials are beginning to divide the roles and responsibilities of the area's two main healthcare players: Community Health Systems (CHS) and the Big Bend Regional Hospital District.

The matter came up during the regular meeting of Big Bend Regional Hospital District directors last week.

The district will continue to levy and collect a 14-cent per \$100 valuation healthcare property tax in Brewster and Presidio counties, and under contract with the district, CHS will manage and oper-

ate for a profit the new hospital. As to the fate of the district's five rural clinics, board President Ralph Meriwether said that still is under study, but, "Our intent is to keep them open."

The legislation creating the two-county hospital district mandates a clinic in Presidio County, and currently there are two, one in Marfa and one in Presidio.

The other three are located each in Alpine, Study Butte-Terlingua and Marathon.

Meriwether said the Alpine clinic may not be needed since non-critical services likely can be addressed by the new hospital facility. The scenario is being consid-

(Continued on page 9)

### In Marfa construction boom, check with city about permits

By STERRY BUTCHER  
MARFA — In light of the upswing of new construction and renovation in town, folks looking at building a shop in the back yard or remodeling the kitchen are reminded to check with the city regarding any permits that the project may require.

Any new building within the city limits, such as the construction of a carport, driveway, storage shed or an expansion to a house or business is subject to a city building permit, said City Administrative Assistant Lorina Rivera. "Anything that changes the exterior structure of a building or any new

building requires a permit," Rivera said.

If a homeowner wishes to alter city property, such as curbing, that, too, requires a building permit.

"The city is just concerned about flooding and drainage," said Rivera. "We want to make sure that it's not in an area with potential problems."

New construction outside the city limits does not require a city building permit.

Likewise, any additions or changes to the plumbing of a house or a building requires a

(Continued on page 3)



(staff photo by ROBERT ARMENDARIZ)

Marfa youngsters, from left, Ashley Watts, Victoria Villarreal and Jennifer Watts take a dip in the municipal swimming pool, which opened Tuesday. Please see pool schedule, page 10.

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## City, county officials to address water line differences at meeting

By STERRY BUTCHER  
PRESIDIO COUNTY - City of Marfa and Presidio County officials are to resolve the longstanding differences between them on two Texas Capital Fund grant projects during a joint meeting scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, June 14, at the Marfa AmVets post.

At a special commissioners' court meeting Monday night, Presidio County Judge Jake Brisbin Jr. alerted county commissioners to the upcoming meeting with city officials, which will involve discussion on the stalled completion of two waterlines, one to the tomato greenhouses and the other to the feather factories. Both lines tie into the city water system.

Although the time of the June 14 meeting competes with a regularly scheduled session of commissioners' court, Brisbin maintained a willingness to somehow squeeze in the get together with the city.

"I told them, if you set it, we're coming," Brisbin said. "I want to reach some resolution in this. There's no ego involved here. I just want to fix things."

"We're each using taxpayer's money to fight each other," he said.

City Commissioner Jeffrey Jacinto was also present at Monday night's meeting. Although he said that he could not speak for the other city commissioner or the mayor, Jacinto was optimistic and adamant in his readiness to move

toward some kind of agreement. "Hopefully we can resolve these county city water line issues," he said. "We can all sit down and work this out."

Also at the meeting, county commissioners considered proposals for the engineering and management of two separate water and sewer colonia improvement grants. The Loma Pelona, Pueblo Nuevo, Ruidosa and Las Conchas areas are set to receive improvements specific for the different sites, such as a water distribution center for Pueblo Nuevo and a series of septic tanks for homes at Las Conchas and Ruidosa.

Commissioners approved the choice of Frank X. Spencer and Associates to engineer the improvements and Carlos Colina Vargas to serve as a managing consultant on the projects.

During the discussion of the colonia projects, Commissioner Jaime Ramirez expressed concern that land owners be properly notified and reimbursed, if necessary, for work done on their land.

In order to assuage the worries of property owners about the impending use of their land, engineer Frank Spencer suggested and commissioners agreed to setting up a meeting of all the concerned parties. "We can get together with the (grant) administrator and one or two members of commissioners' court with these people," he said. "We can coordinate a meeting date and take sufficient information as to what's on out there."

## Jury convicts man on Presidio marijuana case

PRESIDIO COUNTY Twelve Presidio County jurors on Wednesday found guilty a 27-year-old Mexican man of possessing 65 pounds of marijuana.

The eight Marfa and four Presidio jury members also sentenced Ramon Ontiveros Dominguez of Cienega de los Padres, Chihuahua, Mexico, to 15 years in a Texas Department of Corrections prison and ordered him to pay the maximum fine of \$10,000.

"I commend this jury for taking a hard stand against drug smuggling in Presidio County," Assistant District Attorney Steve Spurgin said after the verdict.

"The jury's position is that they've had enough illegal narcotics trafficking along the border."

The defendant faced a sentence of two years probation to 20 years in prison.

Dominguez was the passenger, in a pickup truck pulling a trailer that carried 16 truck tires. Marijuana was found concealed in the tires.

Border Patrol agents spotted the vehicle upriver from Presidio on March 16 and followed it to downtown Presidio.

After an immigration inspection that determined Dominguez and the driver, 17-year-old Luis Armando Q. Armendariz of

Aldama, Chihuahua, Mexico, were illegal immigrants, agents called Presidio investigator Gilbert Spencer and Gringo, his narcotics-detecting dog, to the scene, where the dog alerted to the pot. A trial date hasn't been set for Armendariz.

Co-prosecutor was Assistant District Attorney James Jepson, while defense counsel was Brian Jose Chavez of Odessa.



need \$17,945

### Thank you

Doc & Francis Whitman, Larry & Laura Doll - Austin  
Robin Sugg - San Angelo  
William R. & Patricia Plumbley

In memory of Angie DeCocq,  
from her children

Please make a contribution to our fire truck fund.  
The Marfa Volunteer Fire Department,  
Box 846, Marfa, TX 79843.

## Infant dies, boy injured in separate one-vehicle accidents

FAR WEST TEXAS - A one-car accident near Marathon last Wednesday claimed the life of an Alpine infant, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Lucinda Guerrero, 38, Timoteo Guerrero, 39 and April Guerrero, 14, all of San Diego, Texas were traveling June 2 with Michael Jefferson, six months, of Alpine. At about 2:40 p.m., the 1992 4-door Saturn driven by Lucinda Guerrero was ten miles east of Marathon on Highway 90 when it ran off the north side of the road and struck a dirt berm. The car was airborne for 118 feet before coming to rest.

All the vehicle's occupants were taken to Big Bend Regional Medical Center for treatment, where Michael Jefferson was pronounced dead.

Whether the infant was secured in a child's safety car seat is still under investigation, but the other occupants in the vehicle were wearing seat belts.

April Guerrero was released from the hospital June 3, while Lucinda Guerrero remained at BBRMC in stable condition as of

Wednesday. Timoteo Guerrero was transferred to Odessa Medical Center.

Trooper Philip Muller is the investigating officer for the accident.

A June 4 accident near Fort Davis likewise sent three people to the hospital. Ignacio Tarin, 46, Dora Tarin, 40, and Felipe Ortiz, 5, were traveling north on Highway 17 when Ignacio Tarin was unable to negotiate a curve in the road and lost control of the tractor trailer in which they were riding. The rig flipped onto its side and struck a tree, the impact of which tore the semi-trailer in half.

Both adults were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, although the child was not. All three occupants of the truck, which was hauling a load of bicycles to Balmorhea, were transported to Big Bend Regional Medical Center for treatment.

Ignacio Tarin was treated there and released. Dora Tarin and Felipe Ortiz were transferred to Midland and Odessa hospitals respectively.

Trooper Dan Bristow investigated that accident.



## Births/ Nacimientos

Michael Francisco Hernandez Sillas, boy, born May 31, 1999, to Michael and Perla Sillas of Redford; 7 lb. 1 oz. 21 in.

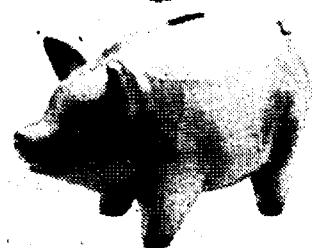
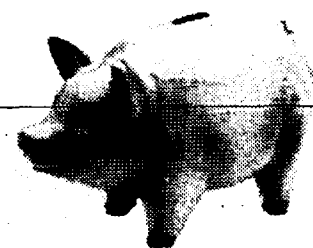
Kimberleigh Keyla Apodaca Hernandez, girl, born May 31, 1999, to Armida Apodaca of Presidio; 7 lb. 20 in.

Luis Angel Padilla Ramirez, boy, born May 31, 1999, to Sergio Padilla and Elizabeth Ramirez of Presidio; 7 lb. 7 oz. 20 1/2 in.

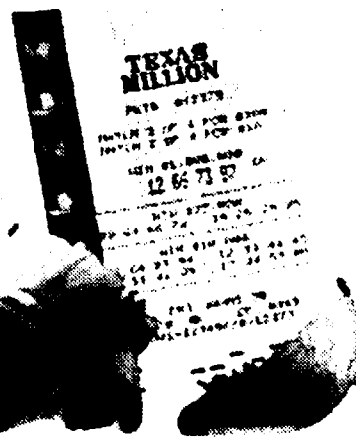
Richard Zay LeFevre, boy, born May 31, 1999, to Jeffrey and Paula LeFevre of Alpine; 8 lb. 21 in.

Eugene Howard Sheets III, boy, born May 31, 1999, to Eugene Jr. and Cynthia Sheets of Alpine; 8 lb. 1 oz. 22 in.

Zachary Cole Williams, boy, born June 3, 1999, to Kevin and Susan Williams of Alpine; 7 lb. 4 1/2 oz. 19 in.



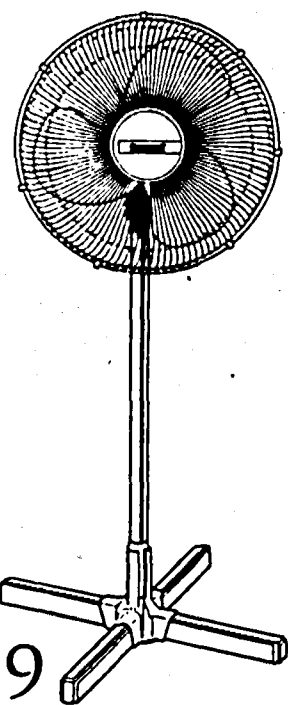
To play Texas Million, just pick 4 numbers or Quick Pick (QP) for the \$1,000,000 cash prize, and you automatically get 6 more sets of random numbers for more ways to win. In fact, Texas Million offers a \$10 cash prize for matching just 2 numbers within any of the seven sets and \$300 for matching 3. What more could you ask for?



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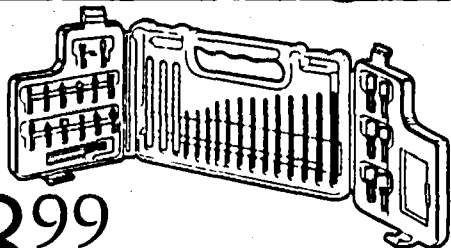
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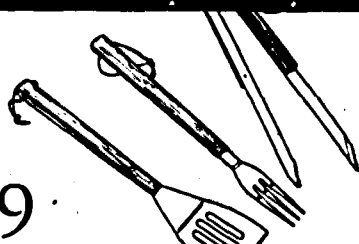
Bargain



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Bargain



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(photo by ROBERT ARMENDARIZ)  
Marfa shopper and bargain connoisseur Billy Marginot kneels to pay for his purchases at the Gardinier estate sale in Fort Davis last weekend.

## Border secures tax incentives from legislature

AUSTIN - Texas border counties received a much-needed economic boost when the Texas Legislature finally approved a package of tax incentives for border counties late Sunday night. The tax incentives will be worth almost \$150 million and are designed to reward businesses that create jobs in areas with above average unemployment and below average per capita income.

Passage of the package of tax incentives made it a successful session for the Texas border Infrastructure Coalition - an organization of mayors, elected officials and community leaders from the 42 counties along the Texas-Mexico border who joined forces to lobby the 76th Legislature for border funding issues. It was almost 11 p.m. Sunday when the House of Representatives gave final approval to the tax cuts, and the coalition could relax.

"These tax credits are sorely needed on the Texas-Mexico border. We are confident that they will help bring jobs to our communities," said Mike Allen, executive director of the coalition. "It's a significant win for the border, and everyone who worked in this coalition share the credit."

"We didn't get the additional money the border needs for highways and bridges," Allen admitted. "But we made significant progress. I'm pleased with the overall results."

In addition to the tax credits for job creation, the Border Coalition leadership also pointed to the following successes:

- An additional \$42 million in Texas Department of Transportation funding to accelerate the planning, design and construction of critical border trade-related projects.

- an office of border advocacy within the governor's office

- A "one stop" truck inspection facility that will increase the flow of commerce and improve the

productivity of NAFTA.

- Increased funding for the operation of workforce development and smart job training programs.

The Border Infrastructure Coalition benefited from strong leadership in the House and Senate, particularly from the Senate Border Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Eddie Lucio. Senator Lucio was a real star for the border region, according to Allen.

"For the first time, the border was united," Allen said. "We came here with one voice and we had great advocates from our border delegation. Senators Lucio, Senator Eliot Shapleigh and Representatives Rene Oliviera, Henry Cuellar, Joe Pickett, and the entire border delegation just kept pushing our agenda."

The Border Coalition's work with TxDOT paid off in a commitment from Lt. Governor Rick Perry and Transportation commissioner David Laney to invest an additional \$42 million on the border and the appointment of a border czar, Edward Wueste, to oversee border infrastructure needs.

"Commissioner Laney's emphasis on the border is going to pay off for the state of Texas," Allen said. "This is the most comprehensive package ever put together to address strategically important trade-related transportation needs."

After failing to receive an appropriation of \$900 million for the additional highway funding, the Border Coalition threw its support behind a "Garvey bond" bill that would have provided financing and construction of highways by the Texas Department of Transportation. The bond proposal was pushed by Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander, and would have made \$3 billion in bonds available for statewide infrastructure work, with \$1 billion designated for the

border.

"We found a real champion in comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander," Allen said. "The comptroller stated eloquently that the Texas border was the key to this state's economic future. With her help, I believe we are going to secure the transportation funding we deserve."

"We will be back next session - stronger, more experienced, and unified to fight for infrastructure funding for the border that will ultimately benefit all of Texas."

Other legislation backed by TBIC which passed the 76th Legislature included:

- Measures to address slow traffic at customs in inspection lanes and congestion at Texas-Mexico border crossing areas.

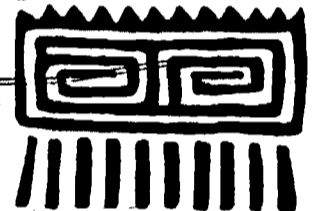
- Recognition of the Texas-Mexico border being a key transportation corridor for international commerce; and since the implementation of NAFTA, trade activity has increased significantly.

- Implementation of a Texas community investment program to assist certain businesses in distressed areas of the state.

- Operation of vehicle theft checkpoints near the Mexican border to cut down on auto theft in both Texas and Mexico.

- Use of state research and technology funds on environmental issues in the border region.

- Job training funding expenditures through taxes collected by certain industrial development corporations.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Attention high school students or graduates:  
Are you bored already - have nothing to do?!

Then come help youngster learn to swim. Volunteers are needed as spotters for two weeks, two hours a day starting June 21.

It is great fun and the joy you see in a child's face when he/she can actually float, is a tremendous reward. Besides, the word 'Volunteer' looks good on a college application!

Volunteers are also needed to deliver meals to homebound clients on Thursdays and Fridays or to substitute when needed. This takes only about 30 to 45 minutes. This is a great way for teenagers to become involved with the community!

To volunteer, call Corina Lopez at 729-4703

### Permits

(Continued from page 1)

plumbing permit. Inside or outside the city limits, if new plumbing work taps into the city's sewer or water lines, a plumbing permit is needed. "If you add a kitchen or bath, you need a permit," said Rivera.

If those plumbing changes are not made by a licensed plumber, the owner of the house or building must sign a homeowner's affidavit that releases the city from any liability. Plumbing work not done by a licensed plumber must also pass inspection by a city plumbing inspector.

Renovations to a home or business within the city limits do not require any permit, unless changes are made that would affect the city water or sewer lines, Rivera said.

# Quetzal IMPORTS

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302 West Holland Avenue in Alpine

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday

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Alpine Police Department	Keith Grigsby
The Border Patrolman who reported our fire	Justin Martin
David Hart	Polo Hernandez
Becky Hart	Alpine Main Street Board
Donna Hart	Gilbert Valenzuela
Justin Brown	
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Jeff Williams	
Pat Trager/Inspire Insurance Solutions	

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Rafael Vasquez  
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Ellison Electric  
Bob Ellison  
Ryan Kunkade  
Robert Fierro  
Randy Reed/Talley Reed Insurance  
Jeff Franklin/West Texas Claims  
Johnny White

**Thanks to all of our family, friends, and customers who have offered help and support the past three months!**

\* Susie & Charlie Bell \* Robin Brown & John Davis \* Brenna Cook \* Libbie & Ronnie Drewry \* Mary Flanders \*  
\* Vaughn & Jenny Grisham \* Sally & George Johnson \* Carolyn & Tom Mangrem \* Margaret & Rob Matthews \*  
\* Lucia Mercer \* Bob Miller \* Hiram & Liz Sibley \* Diana & Steve Walker \* Dayna Yarborough \* and many more \*

**Watch for our open house and fire sale Saturday, June 26:  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

# Opinions

Write to: P.O. Box P  
Marfa, TX 79843  
Fax us: 915-729-4601  
E-mail: editor@bigbendsentinel.com

## Letters to the editor

Editor:

I am writing this letter in regard to statements made by Mr. Jeff Hubbard in last week's letters to the editor. He made the comment that (Presidio County) Judge (Jake) Brisbin Jr. is unable to deal with the complexities of the judicial aspects of his job.

I beg to differ. I had the pleasure of serving Judge Brisbin for three and one half years as his Probation Officer on an almost daily basis involving matters both adult and juvenile. Together, along with the county attorney, we disposed of more juvenile matters than I really care to remember, and Judge Brisbin has an innate grasp of the complexities of the Juvenile Justice System in the State of Texas. At all times he conducted his court in fairness and with the interest of the child at heart.

Perhaps if Mr. Hubbard were more familiar with the case in question, he would better understand Judge Brisbin's reasons for recusing himself. Mr. Hubbard should also be aware that the practice of exchanging benches by judges is common in juvenile cases in Texas, and by allowing Judge Beard to sit on the bench in this transfer hearing he afforded the child one of the most competent judges in the area to hear the case. Or perhaps Mr. Hubbard is inferring that Judge Beard is also incompetent when he states that no qualified person was available to perform the job.

As for as being local, these two judges sit on the same Juvenile Board, along with Judge Robertson of Jeff Davis County and District Judge DeHart and oversee juvenile matters in the tri-county area.

It should be also noted that the state allows that due to the nature of the offense committed, youths may stand trial as an adult. Since I am the victim of the alleged offense, I am more than intimately aware of the brutal nature in which it was committed. Also, by being transferred to state district court, and as far as I am aware, he lost no rights as an American citizen and was afforded due process at all times during the transfer proceedings.

In closing, Mr. Hubbard, I would like to say this: The election was held last November. You lost. Get over it!

Kelly Baker  
Marfa

Editor:

Bill Clinton is either the luckiest man to have sat in the Oval Office or the most astute politician of our times. Not only has the president beat a seven year Republican effort to remove him from office, but now it appears his much-maligned leadership of the NATO alliance will have succeeded in achieving all of his stated objectives in the Kosovo war - all without incurring a single combat casualty. We elect presidents to exercise their best political judgement even in the face of massive criticism. That's presidential character. FDR and Harry Truman had it. Bill Clinton?

Why don't Tom DeLay and his running dogs just give up trying to undermine this president and go find some real issues to run on in the year 2000 elections? They could sit down with the president and work out a long-term solution to Social Security or even Medicare. Naw, they're not that smart. Their big issue for the next campaign will probably be Clinton's defiance of Jesse Helms - his recent appointment of an openly gay man to be ambassador to Luxembourg. Now there's a wedge issue if ever there was one! Character counts but it apparently is not a prerequisite for political leadership.

As an afterthought, I think there should be an investigation of the general who went public in his opposition to the Joint Chiefs' war plans by stating his views (in confidence?) to Congressman Henry Bonilla. Is this a case of military insubordination or was the congressman just acting like Big Blabby when it suited his purpose to do so?

Joel Gormley  
Fort Davis

Editor:

Typical Responses to the Y2K problem:

1. There is no problem.
2. There is a problem, but someone will fix it in time.
3. There is a problem. It won't be fixed in time. Let's pretend there is no problem.
4. There is a problem. It won't be fixed in time. I'll take care of number one.
5. There is a problem. It won't be fixed in time. The city and county leaders need to get the community ready.
6. There is a problem. It won't be fixed in time. Individuals need to prepare for their families' needs while helping the community prepare. Together we can get through this.
7. What is Y2K?

There are three things you should understand about the so-called Y2K computer bug:

1. The deadline is non-negotiable.
2. NOBODY knows what is going to happen for certain.
3. You personally may not be "OK," just because you don't use a computer.

I encourage you to ask your community leaders hard questions about their assessment of community risk, and let them know if you are concerned. I encourage you to take note of the increasing frequency this topic is appearing in the news. I suggest the best answer blend items five and six above, but whatever your answer, be informed and be honest with yourself.

Sincerely,  
James D. O'Steen  
Marfa

Editor:

In response to Bill Fletcher's letter regarding the Marfa Golf Course, I would like to submit this rebuttal.

Mr. Fletcher states that the Marfa Golf Course does not provide monies to the economy or produce anything. That statement is completely false. My family and I spend at least \$100 each weekend we visit Marfa. We are members of the Marfa Golf Association, therefore, we must be spending our money in town. As far as production goes, what do you call tourism? The Marfa Golf Course provides a place for the Marfa High School golf team, the Big Bend Golf Association, the Border Patrol and the Boy Scouts (just to mention a few) to host annual tournaments and fund raisers. What exactly does Mrs. Fletcher want - perhaps pecan trees in the fairway?

Mr. Fletcher, are you familiar with the saying, "It takes money to make money." In order for a business to be successful, one has to invest time and money before the profits start rolling in. Has it ever



occurred to you that perhaps no one has ever complained because they do care how the golf course looks? Simply imagine what would happen if the usage of water was drastically cut back and the course turned brown.

I am no expert on maintaining greens, however I do know they are very delicate and require lots of attention. Should the greens be watered at night, fungus would appear and damage them. Now tell me, which is a great waste: watering the greens during the early morning hours or watering at night, allowing fungus to destroy the greens, thus requiring temporary greens to be set up while repairs are being made?

Another concern of Mr. Fletcher is the watering of cart paths and the driving range. Would you also like for the city to discontinue the watering of the practice greens? Both the cart paths and the driving range are a part of the golf course. Watering these locations makes sense - it helps to settle down the dirt, thus reducing the amount of dust in the air. Mr. Fletcher, if you are unhappy with dirt cart paths, the solution is simple: A resolution should be passed in which all players (members and non-members) be required to pay a \$2 surcharge with the funds being set aside in a special account going towards paving and maintaining new cart paths. Not only will the course look nice, but I can get an extra 20-30 years off my drive! Do you think the citizens of Marfa would go for that?

I cannot comprehend why someone who enjoys playing golf would complain about the hard efforts Ernest Villarreal and Glenn Rojas contribute towards maintaining the highest golf course in Texas. Perhaps Mr. Fletcher complained because the golf course is still wet when he plays early in the morning - not because of the "blatant" waste of water. The golf course is open six days a week from dawn to dusk. I suggest that he tee-off around 11 a.m. (no tee-time required). By then, the greens and cart paths have had ample time to dry. Since Mr. Fletcher has lived in Marfa for 19 years, I don't think the heat will pose a problem.

Sincerely,  
Frank P. Jimenez  
Midland

Editor:

I find myself often wondering why we spend so much time agonizing over why we are faced with this ever growing rash of school violence. We blame too many guns, drugs, parental failure, TV violence, lack of religious exposure, directionless life-styles, etc. There is no question but each and every one hits a part of the truth.

What is missed, however, is that we are asking our youth to grow up in he most sophomoric culture in the whole world. We offer nothing adult for them to adhere to or find in any way stimulating or set as goals as future life paths to follow.

I will place my blame on two distinct but very closely associated factors: our growth of technological expertise and the basic users and manipulators of its very powerful influences, our financially motivated capitalist system.

In today's culture there is practically no place to hide from the onslaught of vivid pictorialising of our world as an arena where violence is both fun and successful. Nor can we escape from the constant pressure of the advertising media that steadily presents us with the concepts of selling and buying as the end-all of our daily existences. These are totally amoral and, under many circumstances, even immoral influences. As a steady diet their effects serve to deeply undermine and shred our higher and better inclinations. This is particularly true for young people whose youthful years are their most formative ones.

Advanced technology now permits us to escape from reality into a world of "virtual reality". This makes for unbelievably vivid and imaginative advertising, and creating movies of spectacular effects. It also removes us from the real world in which we live and serves to weaken our senses of belonging to this world and our responsibilities to our own fellow human beings. They almost become "playthings" like the "virtual" creatures that we see on our TV screens. This represents a severe loss of self-identification and self-awareness as a responsible member of one's society, particularly for a growing child.

Of course all the initial problems I listed in the opening paragraph are certainly major contributors to our current school crime spree. ("Copy-catism" is clearly also an important factor in this equation, but it would not even exist if it weren't for the incredible amount of publicity given on our TV sets to prior school tragedies.) But all these outside considerations only have major significance when they

are placed in the contexts outlined above.

We are a sophomoric culture because we constantly seek simplistic but spectacularly exciting solutions, and we basically give very little thought to the consequences of our activities beyond the immediate satisfaction of our narrowly selfish needs. Of course there are many adult voices in our society but their sound is too often drowned in the cacophony of our "exciting" media presentations. Our children rarely hear them.

Malcolm Tweedy  
Fort Davis

Editor:

Not too long ago I read in the Sentinel that football coach Joe Boyd had died. Surely his family realizes what a tremendous influence he had upon all of us who were his students at Alpine High. We all would be in our 50s by now. And still, during all my media career in Texas, Washington, D.C. and Russia, I can not tell you how often I practiced in the offices I managed the "rules of the game" Coach Boyd taught us back at Alpine High School in the late 60s.

Rule #1 was never kick the opposition when he's down. "Soon enough," he'd say, "the loser will turn into the winner and he'll remember who kicked him when he was down and out. Don't do it. Help your opposition. Always give an honorable way out to lose the game. Do this and you'll win every game in life you play."

I never forgot Coach Boyd's advice and quoted him again and again throughout my journalism career, especially when a handful of us Americans were fighting with all our might to help Russia win a free press and bring down Communism. His words inspired us to help complete the task.

Then, when the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado hit the airwaves I immediately remembered Coach Boyd again. "Rule #2," he said, "is not to even bother to try out for my football team until you can prove you've joined at least one other school club. I don't care if it's choir, drama club, debate team, ROTC, Spanish Club, Future Farmers of America, Future Teachers of America, heck, it can even be Future Homemakers of America! I don't care which one it is...but unless you belong to another club in this school, you'll never be on my football team. That's because we can not expect the school to support us if we don't support the school. No prima donnas in my ball club. Only winners. And winners start by supporting the friends who support them."

Needless to say, Alpine High School had a winning football team under Coach Boyd, not to mention a hilarious drama club and a wonderful baritone choir. As far as I know, every one of us who were his students at Alpine High School have had winning lives too. Thank you Coach Boyd. I wish more coaches would be like you.

Cynthia Neu McCluskey  
Washington, D.C.

## WOOL GATHERING

Mary Katherine Metcalfe Farney

### Life is in the details

We think of life in the sweep of large historical events, but it is in the little flashes of moments that we see real life.

For instance, the time Nancy Rawls Baker and I were down at the railroad crossing near Bill Bishop's (the early day settler) feed store. We were waiting for a passenger train to go through town; it was World War II time. Tommy Bogel was on that train, leaning over the half-door in one of the vestibules between train cars, staring out at his hometown as the train took him on to some Army station. Just one or two words to him and he would have jumped off with the train moving and gone AWOL.

Or, the paragraph added to a letter as an afterthought by an early day customs inspector. "My wife and two girls have been down with the flu (sic) and pretty sick. Three weeks or more." It was in a 1920 letter from Marfa and reflected the last of the great worldwide flu epidemics.

Or, in another letter, he wrote, "I had to leave the car at Marathon and take Number 10 passenger train to Marfa to get here. It had rained all week, and the roads were too muddy to drive over." The letter was dated in the spring of 1921.

My Houston editor has forbid me to say much about those letters found in my family's old files, but wow! Just wait. One of the richest lodes of Marfa history yet.

## Beleaguered Texas rail line gets help from State Rep. Junell

SAN ANGELO — State Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, goes to Dallas next week as part of a continuing effort to save the rail line through San Angelo from abandonment.

During the legislative session just completed, Junell, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, managed to get \$6 million set aside for the railroad.

That money could be used to help purchase the rail from San Angelo Junction, near Coleman, to Presidio.

The South Orient Rural Rail transportation District already owns the right-of-way, but not the rail itself, Junell explained to the 200-plus people attending the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Rio Concho West.

The problem at this point is that \$6 million may not be enough, the lawmaker said.

The owners of the line have said previously they want to get the full scrap value of the line — something that's been estimated at \$15 million, Junell said.

But that issue will be discussed further during the Dallas meeting, which will include Joel T. Williams III, president of South Orient as well as Junell and local leaders and representatives of the Texas Department of Transportation.

"I think it's critical to the United States, Texas and San Angelo that we keep the line open, particularly when it is one of only seven gateways into Mexico," Junell said.

(San Angelo Standard-Times)

## Kitchens is game warden by day, cowboy poet by night

FORT DAVIS — Jim Kitchens, a multi-talented man who refers to himself as "a Game Warden by profession, a saddle maker by trade, and a poet by heart," will once again be performing live at the Davis Mountain State Park.

Kitchens began entertaining park visitors last summer with his singing, guitar playing and poetry reading. He will perform there this summer each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m., starting June 9 and continuing until August 18.

Kitchens' music is old cowboy ballads and the poetry he recites is written by him and from the heart. He likes to get the audience involved by having the kids come up to help sing some of the ballads such as "Home On the Range" and "Red River Valley."

The poetry he writes is known as Western Poetry, obvious in titles such as "An Old Saddle" and "Stampede." Some of his poems and short stories have been published and even won awards.

Kitchens has also been a Texas Game Warden for the past 19 years, in addition to teaching a wildlife law enforcement class at Sul Ross University. In his spare

time he likes to work with leather, making items such as saddles and chaps.

About his live performances at the park, he said that he hopes to have as much fun this year as he did last year.

"I got to meet a lot of tourists from all over the country last year and I hope to make even more friends this year. So come see my show and I promise you a good time," stated Kitchens.

Davis Mountain State Park is located in Fort Davis, north of Alpine. The park also has a variety of other programs planned for the summer evenings. On Thursdays they will host local entertainment, while Fridays will consist of an interpretive nature slide program by the park staff. The Frontier Living History program will be put on each Saturday, along with a non-denominational worship service on Sunday evenings. Park entrance fee for all programs is only \$4 per person age 13 and up and free for children 12 and under. For more information or questions about specific times and dates call (915)426-3337.

## Expanded Godbold Ranch Store readies for grand opening

MARFA — The new Godbold Hi-Pro Ranch Store in Marfa will celebrate its grand opening next week with a good old-fashioned chuckwagon lunch and everyone's invited.

Lots of door prizes will be given away during the all-day event on Friday, June 18, and lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The store is located at 305 West El Paso Street in Marfa.

Godbold Hi-Pro continues to operate its feed mill, but now they've expanded their product lines and services, not just for the rancher, but for the gardener and pet owner, too.

The new ranch store joins with Hi-Pro to bring a complete line of animal health products, as well as ranch supplies, fencing, hardware, pet supplies, wildlife feeds, hay and tack.

The facility will continue to manufacture and carry its complete line of high-quality and range-proven Godbold and Hi-Pro livestock feeds.

The place to be Friday, June 18, is the new Godbold Hi-Pro Ranch Store in Marfa. RSVP for lunch would be appreciated.

Information: 1.800.320.2370.



(Staff photo by ROBERT ARMENDARIZ)  
Top photo: Bob Stovell is the manager for the newly expanded Godbold's Ranch Store. Below, Charlie Simpson, left, and Joe Baltazar load hay into one of the store's storage sheds.



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## Rains

(Continued from page 1)

Monday evening the city received anywhere from .22 inches of rain to as much as an inch of rain. The sister cities didn't get any rain Tuesday night.

Lajitas and places north of Lajitas received hail Monday evening with little rain.

Sources at the Resort in Fort Davis reported traces of rain on Sunday and Monday, but Tuesday evening's storm poured almost an inch of rain. McDonald Observatory reported almost an inch of rain as well.

The Rio Grande was up two feet in Presidio as of Tuesday and up four feet at Castolon, according to Hendryx, who said that both Terlingua Creek and Calamity Creek "were carrying lots of water."

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Randy Martinez and Jodie Welsh

## Martinez, Welsh to marry

Jeanie Olson of Phoenix, Ariz., and Roger Welsh of Columbus Ohio are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jodie L. Welsh, to Randy V. Martinez, son of Josie and Eliseo Martinez of Marfa.

The wedding ceremony will be Saturday, June 19, 1999, at Alamo Heights Christian Church in San Antonio. A dinner and reception

will follow the ceremony.

The bride to be is a Head Coach in volleyball and track at Cole High School in San Antonio.

The groom to be is a 1992 Marfa High School graduate and a 1997 graduate of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin where he earned a degree in accounting. He is a stockbroker with Price Waterhouse Inc. in San Antonio.

## Bloys camp planning meeting set for June 13 at Skillman grove

The annual planning meeting of the Bloys Campmeeting Association will be held at 11 a.m. June 13 at the Skillman Grove grounds. Following the worship service, a picnic lunch will be served at the Means-Evans camp shed. A business meeting will be held in the Tabernacle after lunch.

With no resident pastor, at present, the Presbyterians have asked Dr. Jerry Kelly of Midland to fill the pulpit.

The Reverend Dr. Kelly first came to the Samaritan Counseling Center in 1983 as a pastoral counselor and has been the Executive Director since 1991. He specializes in providing long term therapy for people who grew up in dysfunctional families. Jerry especially enjoys working with men, people in mid-life transition and people recovering from some type of addiction. He focuses on integrating spirituality and psychotherapy and offers workshops on the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, prayer and temperament, stress management, healing the inner child, building family strengths,

growing through grief and discovering the deep masculine.

Dr. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Whitworth College, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Psychology from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and parish associate with Thrinity Presbyterian Church in Midland. Professional affiliations include Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and member of the Association of Psychological Type.

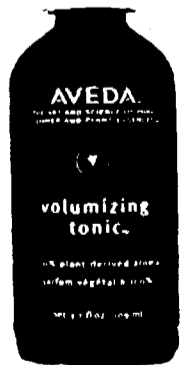
In addition to his work at Samaritan, Dr. Kelly's career has included service as Chaplain in the federal prison system, pastorates in Presbyterian churches in Arizona and Colorado and voluntary missionary work in Brazil. He and his wife Sharon have two grown children.

His sermon is entitled "Christ's Compassion for Don Quixote and other West Texas Characters."

**Report cards for Marfa High School students can be picked between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. today at the high school office.**

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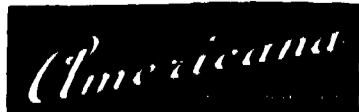
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## Texas Gallery features works by Condo

HOUSTON - Texas Gallery is pleased to announce a one-person show of paintings by the New York-based artist, George Condo.

The exhibition features paintings on canvas from the last two years. Condo has been recognized through the 80s and 90s for his technical wizardry and bold attempt to achieve a demanding immediacy for himself and the viewer through the medium of painting.

Combining the sacred and the profane, Condo skips from referencing Picasso to graffiti with Looney Tunes and surrealism thrown in along the way, managing to fuse a startling combination of elements that elicit a response that moves from surprise and annoyance to admiration and concession: "Hey, he can't to that - but, oh, yes he can!" Or as Peter Schjeldahl wrote in the Village Voice last year - "What makes it all work is taut formal elegance and mimicry beyond caricature."

Condo's work was last seen in Houston at the Contemporary Arts Museum in 1995.

The show remains on view until July 17. For more information, please contact Fredericka Hunter at 713-523-1593 (T). Gallery hours are Tues.-Sat., 10-5:30.



The Calderon family recently held a family reunion in New Mexico. Sitting, from left, are Faye Segura, Ernesto Calderon, Richard Calderon, Raymundo Calderon and Miguel Calderon; standing, from left, are Stanley Segura, Elodia Calderon, Maria Calderon, Esther Calderon and Elvira Calderon.

## Calderon family of Valentine attends New Mexico reunion

The descendants of the late Clemente and Adela Calderon of Valentine celebrated their first annual family reunion in Ruidoso, New Mexico during the Memorial Day weekend.

Five of the seven Calderon children and their families got together for a fun filled weekend which included lots of reminiscing and good food, along with horseback riding, fishing, golfing, shopping, horse racing and some even visited the local casinos and also went dancing. Clemente and Adela's children attending the reunion included Richard Calderon, Mike Calderon, Raymundo Calderon, Faye Calderon Segura and Ernesto Calderon. Virginia Calderon Vallejo and Eliseo Calderon were unable to attend, but Virginia's daughter, Yolanda Sanchez and family were present. A total of about 60 people attended the reunion. Ages of those in attendance ranged from nine-month-old Brandon Calderon,

grandson of Ernesto Calderon to the oldest, Richard Calderon, 83, son of Clemente and Adela Calderon.

The families met Saturday, May 29, where they dined on delicious asado with all the trimmings which was prepared by Raymundo and Chuy Calderon. This reunion was a time for getting reacquainted with family members, for some had not seen each other in over twenty years. One of the high

points of the reunion was when all the family got together for family prayer. Another special moment was when Viola Calderon was pleasantly surprised with a birthday cake on Sunday, May 30.

The Calderon family plans to make this a yearly event with the next reunion being scheduled for Memorial Day weekend 2000 in San Antonio.

Special thanks to Eva Alvarez and Ray Calderon for coordinating this beautiful reunion.



The oldest Calderon who attended the reunion was 83-year old Richard Calderon, pictured here holding the youngest family member at the get-together, nine-month old Brandon Calderon.



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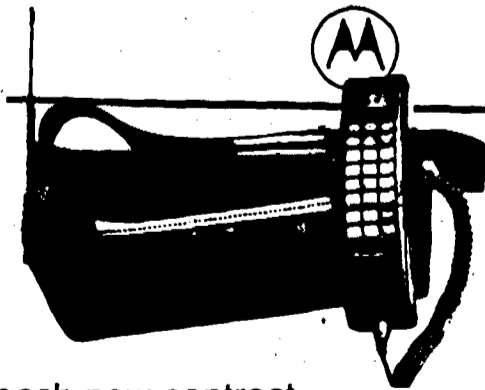
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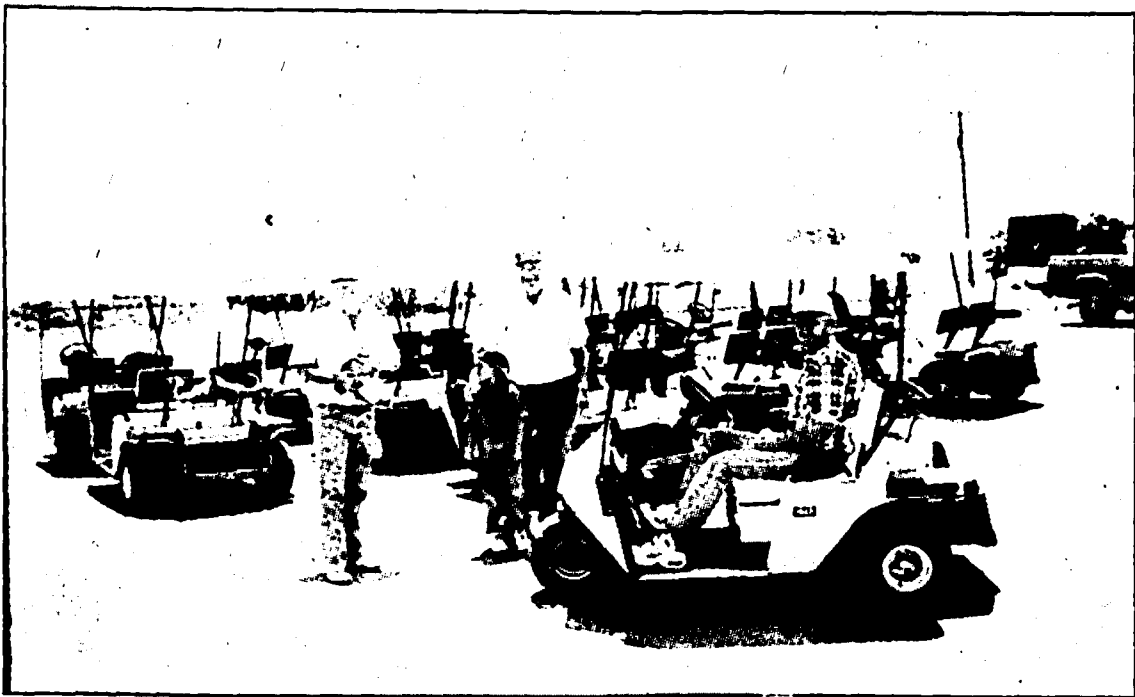
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(photo by ELVA ALANIS)  
The golf carts recently arrived for the soon-to-be-opened Loma Pelona Golf Course. Pictured, from left, are Terry Bishop, Tray Sharp, Bill Bishop and Bobby Sharp.

## Golfers may soon putt on Presidio course

PRESIDIO - Golfing enthusiasts will soon have a chance to hit the links at a new 18-hole course in Presidio, according to Bill Bishop, one of the owner/operators of the facility.

"We're located one half mile east of Fort Leaton off FM 170, two or three miles from Presidio.

We're within two months of opening the course."

The Loma Pelona Golf Course will offer both a golf membership and be open to the public, said Bishop. Golf carts have been installed at the newly finished cart barn, the clubhouse is nearing completion and an application is

in the works for a beer license. Plans also include for the construction of an 87-unit RV park to be installed across the highway from the course.

"We'll have a good driving range," Bishop continued. "You need to come play when it's all finished."

## Chamber seeks votes for best t-shirt design

MARFA - What will it look like? Who will be the winner? Marfa Chamber of Commerce members will answer these questions about the first place entry in the Marfa Lights Festival T-shirt design contest at an open meeting set for 6:30 p.m. June 21 at the Westenburg Gallery.

Chamber of Commerce members and the general public alike are invited to drop by the Westenburg Gallery before the June 21 meeting to view the 60 or

so entries that will be displayed on the gallery walls. While visiting the gallery, chamber members may vote for the winning design, while non-members are encouraged to vote in the People's Choice category.

The winning design will make its way onto the hundreds of t-shirts sold for the festival, while the People's Choice winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate for art supplies.

"There's a lot of really neat

stuff," said Johan Westenburg, a chamber director. "There are some UFOs, there are some cowboys. It's a nice way to give everyone the opportunity to see what people are coming up with. Any time the gallery doors are open, people can come in to take a look and vote."

For more information, call the chamber of Commerce at 729-4942.

## Spiritual meeting set for June 12

An invitation is extended by David Fees to bring comfort to those who need healing emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

The meeting will be held in Alpine at the Ramada Inn on Saturday, June 12, at 7 p.m.

Prepare for praise and worship and set your faith for healing from the Father.

## Electricity

(Continued from page 1)

just east of the old Marfa ice plant, and all the stuff inside the metal warehouse had to go, including the 18,000-pound condenser.

"It generated power from DC to AC and was put on line to the system," he said.

Pallares figures the condenser dates back to the 1940s or earlier when Central Power and Light Co. (CPL) was the electricity provider to Marfa. CPL and WTU now are subsidiaries of Central and South West Corp.

The condenser was decommissioned when a new transmission line was constructed to Marfa. Burleson said the work of his firm and K.C.I. heavy equipment operators was made challenging by the tight quarters of the site and overhead power lines.

The first day, Oscar Lujan of Highland Tires and Service of Marfa, used his wrecker truck to pull the condenser out of the warehouse.

The following day, Burleson, K.C.I. principal Glenn Knowles and a crew of several men used a heavy cable attached to a front-end loader to pull the condenser on to a flatbed trailer.

The condenser, an old tractor and a dentist's chair found in the warehouse were destined for an Odessa scrap metal yard.

WTU planned to remove the condenser about five years ago, Pallares said, but a crane that was enroute to Marfa to be used in the work got stuck in the underpass in Alpine.

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Daniel Watts,  
Financial consultant

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## McDonald Observatory announces telescope's first light

**McDONALD OBSERVATORY** - The Hobby-Eberly Telescope consortium is pleased to announce the first light of the Marcario Low-Resolution spectrograph (LRS). The Marcario LRS is the first facility-class instrument to be delivered for the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET), which is the third largest telescope in the world.

The HET is a unique optical telescope located on Mount Fowlkes at McDonald Observatory in West Texas. The primary mirror is 11 meters across and consists of 91 spherically figured segments. The telescope is fixed in elevation but movable in azimuth, and stars are followed across the sky by a tracker atop the telescope's frame. Because of this design, the HET was built for a fraction of the cost of a conventional telescope of its size.

The strengths of the HET will be conducting large spectroscopic surveys and in observations of

time-variable phenomena and targets of opportunity, such as newly discovered supernovae.

The Marcario spectrograph is designed to observe very faint astronomical objects. It is an imaging spectrograph with rapid reconfiguration, giving maximum flexibility to respond to the observing program of the telescope, which will be queue-scheduled.

The first-light observations of the HET with the Marcario LRS, obtained in April, illustrate these capabilities and indicate that the performance goals of the instrument are being realized.

One of the first observations of the Marcario LRS was of a distant quasar candidate that had been identified earlier in commissioning data of the Sloan Digital Sky survey (SDSS).

The SDSS will image one-quarter of the sky in five different filters. In the next few years, this database will allow the identification of approximately 100,000

quasars, which compares with the fewer than 20,000 quasars that have been discovered in more than 35 years since the first quasar was found. Quasars are very luminous objects that are thought to be powered by supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies.

On April 23, 1999, the HET and the Marcario LRS confirmed that one of the SDSS quasar candidates was indeed a quasar residing approximately 10 billion light-years from Earth. The light gathered to capture the spectrum left this quasar when the universe was only one-eighth as old as it is today.

Another observation with the HET and the Marcario LRS illustrates the important role that the HET will play in responding to new time-critical opportunities, and in monitoring time-variable phenomena. This was actually the first observation obtained by the new instrument, two days before

identification of the SDSS quasar. It involved capturing the spectrum of supernova 1999bv.

This supernova was observed 2 days after its discovery, and the spectrum allowed it to be confirmed and classified. As this supernova fades beyond the reach of smaller telescopes, the HET will be able to follow its evolution in a systematic manner.

Further observations over the next few months will be used to characterize and commission the Marcario LRS, and the observing communities of the HET partners are looking forward to realizing the great scientific promise of this instrument.

A consortium of five institutions built and operates the HET: The University of Texas at Austin; the Pennsylvania State University; Stanford University; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany; and Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany.

The Marcario LRS was built by an international consortium of institutions under the direction of Dr. Gary J. Hill of The University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory. It utilizes a state-of-the-art CCD system built by Dr. Phillip MacQueen, also of McDonald Observatory. The project combined expertise from UT Austin; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany; Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany; the Instituto de Astronomía de Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Stanford University; and Pennsylvania State University. The spectrograph is named for Mike Marcario of High Lonesome Optics in West Texas, who produced superb lenses for the spectrograph but who died tragically before its completion.

For additional information on the HET or the Marcario Spectrograph: Dr. Gary Hill, University of Texas at Austin - Phone: 512-471-1477; e-mail, hill@astro.as.utexas.edu.

For additional information on Sloan Survey targets or the Medium Resolution spectrograph: Barbara K. Kennedy, Penn State - phone, 814-863-4682; e-mail, science@psu.edu.

An electronic version of this release and a high-resolution jpeg image are available at: [http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/het/lrs\\_press/](http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/het/lrs_press/)

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope: A joint project of The University of Texas at Austin, The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), Stanford University, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and Georg-August Universität Göttingen.

**Marfa Masonic Lodge #596**  
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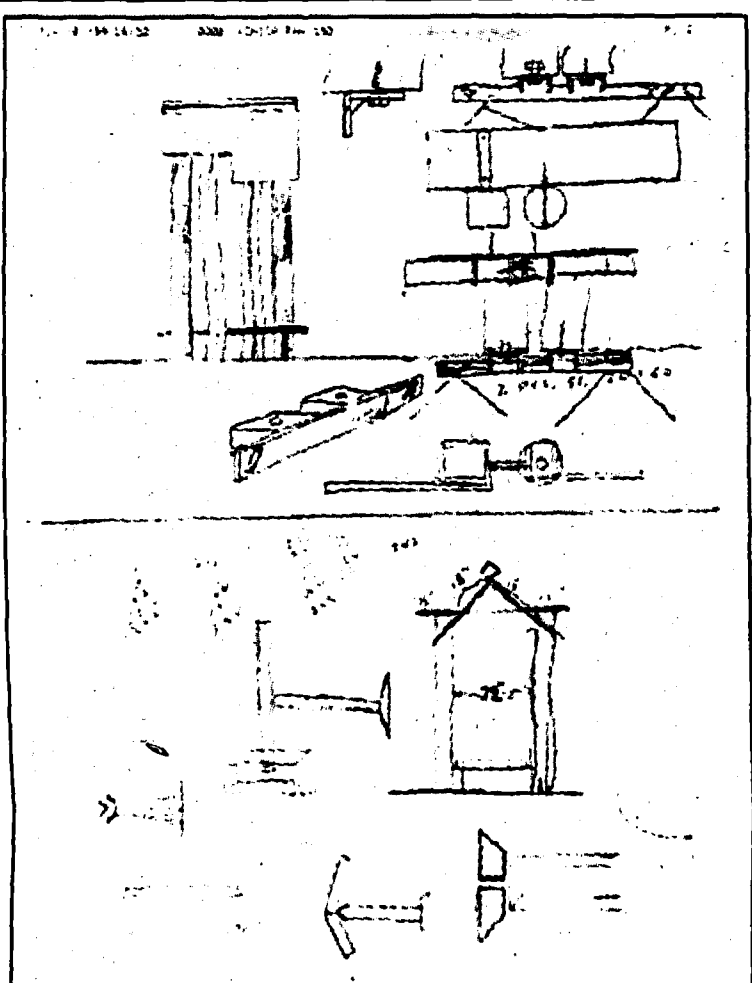
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## Bill will extend terms for local hospital board members

ALPINE - Elected officials in the next Big Bend Regional Hospital District election will get longer stints at their elected posts. House Bill 3772 by State Representative Pete P. Gallego extended the terms of hospital board members from two years to four years. Two-year terms require an incumbent to campaign almost continuously. Extending the terms will allow board members to focus more of their attention on the issues facing the district instead of having to constantly balance official responsibilities with the election season.

"It takes about two years just to get a good handle on what your responsibilities are and to understand the complex issues facing the hospital district. Then, just when you start to understand what is going on, your term expires," said Representative Gallego. "It also takes a tremendous amount of work to balance a campaign, your responsibilities as an elected official, and your

daily responsibilities and commitments to family and career. Extending these terms will give the board more of an opportunity to focus on the issues facing the hospital district. This will only improve the quality of service provided by the hospital district."

In addition, H.B. 3772 sets forth certain criteria for newly elected members to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Such criteria are a common in the bylaws for

elected boards, such as hospital boards or school boards. Under the new law, board members cannot be district employees, parties to a contract with the district to perform services for compensation; or with physicians who currently have staff privileges at a district facility.

H.B. 3772 was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Frank Madla. It was signed into law by Governor George Bush on May 29, 1999, and will take effect on September 1st of this year.

## Clinics

(Continued from page 1)

ered that the Marathon clinic come under the umbrella of the Pecos County hospital in Fort Stockton.

And no final decision has been made on the clinics in south Brewster County or the two in Presidio County.

"We recognize the need for them all," Meriwether said, but whether the hospital district has the funds to keep them all open is another matter. "We hope to stretch our tobacco settlement money real far."

All the clinics will remain open in the immediate future, he said.

As the two entities define their roles, the indigent care program will continue under an agreement between CHS and the hospital district.

That means no one will be turned away at the new hospital, Meriwether said, noting that a portion of the property taxes underwrites indigent health care of residents of Brewster and Presidio counties.

On another matter, Meriwether said indications look good that CHS will agree to operate a detox program for the hospital district.

In a civil matter last year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Justice Department and Attorney's Office ordered that the district operate a detox program for 30 months.

An investigation revealed the hospital violated rules and regulations concerning the dispensation of controlled substances.

Meriwether said hospital directors continue to discuss the fate of the existing hospital facility, and that no decisions have been reached.

The building belongs to the district, he said, and there are two caveats in its use. It can't be used to compete against the new hospital nor can it be donated to a non-profit organization.

Meriwether said under consideration is its use as an assisted living center or some sort of low-income housing arrangement.

In hospital Administrator Don Edd Green's report, Meriwether said the administrator regretted a recent software and computer glitch by its outside billing firm in sending erroneous bills to patients.

He reported that construction on the new hospital is on track for an early October opening.

An open house is planned for September 25.

Green also reported that an internist with great credentials is interested in coming to work for the new hospital. The recruiting of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals also is under way.

Directors considered a proposal from First Baptist Church of Alpine Pastor Phil McGraw and hospital chaplain Charles Wright for hostel services.

Meriwether said accommodations are needed for families of patients who come from afar.

"In the past, they've slept in the lobby and that's not permitted. We're trying to find lodging, at least for one night."

Using tobacco settlement money to help offset expenses, lodging is proposed at the Friendship Baptist Church in Alpine, the hospital board president said.

Meriwether noted that the District 1 director's post continues to be vacant.

That directorship represents folks in portions of Marfa and Presidio, and the boundaries roughly are south of U.S. 90 and west of U.S. 67 in Marfa and west of U.S. 67 and south of O'Reilly and east FM 170 in Presidio.

Persons interested in being considered for appointment should call hospital Administrator Don Edd Green at 915.837.3447.

## Marfa ISD cafeteria menus Summer Program

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**Wednesday**

Corn dogs, French fries, carrot & celery sticks, fresh fruit

**Thursday**

Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, bread

**Friday**

Beef nachos, refried beans, tossed salad, fruit

(Milk served with all meals. Juice served with all breakfasts. Menus subject to change.)

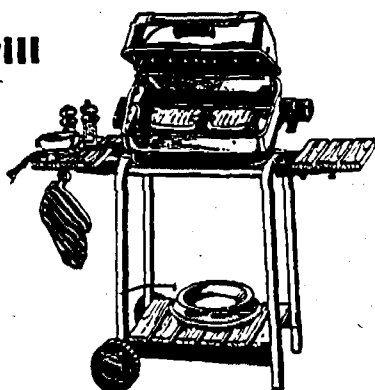


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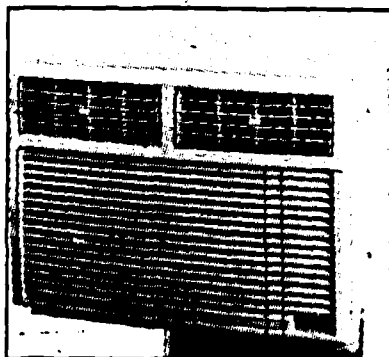
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## Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

ing through the process.

Considering the change in the form of city government was the result of a grassroots community effort.

In other business, Bill Wren, public information specialist and visitor center staffer at McDonald Observatory, told city officials, planning and zoning board members and others in attendance at the meeting not to fear controlling outdoor lighting.

"It's not a question of taking light away, but keeping it out of the sky," he said during his presentation.

Light should be directed toward the ground where it does more good, he said. That's also more cost effective.

As to the security issue, that more light makes for a safer area is a misconception, Wren said. "Bright, glaring light isn't safer."

The idea is to get light "out of your eyes and down on the ground," he said.

Optimum-designed light fixtures do just that, he said, or existing lights can be fitted with a shield with no degradation in the ground area being lighted.

Look for lights called "full cut-off fixtures," which means no light is emitted above the horizontal plane of the fixture.

When unshielded lights were changed to shielded directional lights at an Arizona prison, guards reported better vision and better security, he said.

Wren said the observatory has installed about 300 light shields throughout the area, and they have about 90 more in stock.

They are yours for the asking, he said, and under an agreement with West Texas Utilities Co., the electricity company will install them free of charge.

The Texas Star Party purchased the light shields for the observatory.

They cost about \$30 or less, he said.

City Commissioner Bob Wright said he was interested in getting some for the city and Wren said that could be arranged.

Two planning and zoning board member were present at the meeting. In the coming weeks, they and fellow panelists are expected to be working on a proposed outdoor lighting and sign ordinance for the city commission to consider.

In a unanimous vote, elected public servants voted to spend \$108,500 in capital purchases. The money will come from an \$8,500 insurance settlement on a damaged police vehicle and \$100,000 in notes from The Marfa National Bank.

Kahl and city Comptroller Leo Salgado say city finances are in good shape and the city auditor has said it's okay for the city to incur a little debt.

The capital outlay calls for new computers and software for the

city tax office, three new vehicles - including two for the Utility Department and one for administration - a front-end loader and a telemetry system for the water department.

The notes will be paid back with property tax revenue, Salgado said.

It was noted in the presentation of the monthly expense report that with eight months into the current fiscal budget, all departments remain in the black.

In other business, Marfa Police Chief Oscar Carrillo asked for and received a working agreement between the city and the West Texas Narcotics Enforcement Task Force for fiscal year 1999-2000.

The two entities already are partners, but the task force this year funded at 100 percent a task force officer assigned to the police department.

Next year, the city will have to come up with 25 percent, or \$7,000, of that salary.

Task force Assistant Commander Glenn Liso of Midland made the presentation. He said there have been a number of seizures and arrests in Presidio County, but very little in Marfa. He did note that the task force is less than a year old, and that numerous investigations are under way, in Marfa and throughout its area, which stretches to the Permian Basin.

Through its area, the task force has seized \$2 million worth of illegal narcotics, including 2,560 pounds of marijuana, some cocaine and heroin.

A total 104 defendants were arrested, 15 vehicles seized and \$17,400 in U.S. currency seized.

Liso said the task force would be watching how the governor's office of criminal justice division interprets a bill approved in the just completed state legislature that appears to waive or help pay for the local officer salary matches.

"We don't know what it all means yet, but it could be possible assistance," he said.

State Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, sponsored that rider, Liso noted.

"It's a very beneficial program," said Wright, a U.S. Customs Service officer. "I support it."

In other business, elected public servants:

- Waived taxes on Marfa Housing Authority property, as commissions have done in past years;
- Tabled for more study a professional contract with Pritchard and Abbott on tax office support, computer software and hardware;

- Approved a proposal by Mary Davis of the Marfa Public Library Board to explore the possibility of building a movie theater on the vacant city-owned property between the library and the Chinati Foundation Locker Plant Gallery.

## Club to fundraise for Ojinaga orphanage

ALPINE, OJINAGA - The Pilot Club of Alpine is accepting donations on a hand-made doll house that has been constructed and donated by Teda Neill, a past President of the Pilot Club of Alpine. Neill is also Volunteer West Texas Coordinator for One Family International, an international charity based in Cedar Park, Texas. Proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit Casa Hogar, a shelter for street children in Ojinaga, across the Rio Grande from Presidio.

"We are so proud of the excellent workmanship and beauty of this doll house, which Teda has literally put hours and hours of time into its construction. Her donation of this work of art will raise a great deal of money for the children at Casa Hogar," stated Luz Olga Prieto, President-elect of the Pilot Club of Alpine.

"All of our members, as well as Teda and her friends are selling tickets which are \$5/\$5 or \$12/\$10. Persons interested are encouraged to contact Teda or any member of the Pilot Club. The doll house is on display at the First National Bank in Alpine," Prieto explained.

The two-story Georgian-style house is completely furnished and has a doll family in residence. Neill knitted bedspreads and made needle-point rugs for several of the rooms in the lovely house. All furniture is to scale, 1" to 1'. There is a large, colored, leaded-glass window above the front door.

Casa Hogar is a non-profit



These are some of the Ojinaga street children who call the orphanage, Casa Hogar, home.

agency in Ojinaga, dependent upon financial support from donors. Neil has assisted with raising funds for the shelter, as well as gifts of in-kind contributions of clothes, food, furniture and appliances. Each year she coordinates the annual OFI Christmas Party for the children. She tries to spend time at the orphanage once each month and is always warmly welcomed by the children when she arrives. They consider her their "abuelita."

"The Pilot Club of Alpine has provided needed items and financial support to Casa Hogar for the past four years," according to Prieto.

The drawing for the doll house will be held on the Fourth of July at the Pilot Club Sweet Bingo Booth in Kokernot Park at 8 p.m.



Teda Neill shows off the intricate Georgian doll house she constructed to benefit Casa Hogar in a July 4 raffle.

## Trooper applicants sought by DPS

ALPINE - The Texas Department of Public Safety is looking for people interested in a law enforcement career, according to Area Sergeant Nichols of the Alpine sector.

A need for new troopers nearly statewide has prompted the DPS to seek applications for the next class of trooper recruits, set to begin academy training in Austin this September.

"We are especially encouraging qualified females to apply," Nichols said.

Requirements for admission to the academy include U.S. citizenship, the ability to obtain a Texas driver's license and the willingness to re-locate anywhere in the state. Applicants must be 21 at the time of entry into the academy. Sixty hours of college or two years experience in either police work or the military is also required.

Trooper school lasts 28 weeks, the "longest academy of any state police organization," said Nichols. "It runs the gamut of law enforcement: first aid, classes in criminal law, civil law, accidents, interview techniques and firearms."

Currently there are no trooper positions open in Presidio, Jeff Davis or Brewster counties, but trooper vacancies exist in Van Horn, Pecos and Fort Stockton, Nichols said.

Application deadline is June 25.

Anyone interested in becoming a trooper can pick up an application at the DPS office in Alpine, or may call Nichols at 837.5841 for more information.

## Marfa Swimming Pool Schedule Pool Now Open!

### New Admission Fees:

Adults - \$2.50  
Students 12 years & under - \$2  
Children under 4 years - \$1

Pool Passes  
Immediate family only - \$55  
Adults - \$45  
Students - \$35

### The following activities will be offered Open Swimming

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Seniors \$1 - others regular fees

### Senior water fitness classes

\* 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Mondays - Wednesdays - Fridays  
\* Due to swimming lessons 11 a.m. - noon, from June 21 - July 2 only

### Family Night 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays

### Swimming lessons

Beginning June 21 - July 2; Monday-Friday (two weeks)  
Classes for 3, 4, & 5 year olds 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Fee: \$30  
Classes for 6 years and up; 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Fee: \$35  
Each session will be one hour - first come first serve

City pool is available for private parties.  
Rental fee is \$60 plus a \$25 deposit.  
You hire lifeguards at \$6 per hour; \$8 pool manager. One to two are required depending on participation.

To register for swimming lessons or for further information call, Corina Lopez, pool manager at 729-4703; pool manager: 915-729-3444.



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# Education

## Valentine students place in the All Texas Shootout

VALENTINE - Results are in and Valentine High School and Junior High students did very well in the All Texas ShootOut academic contest where 125 students from throughout the state competed. Valentine placed in the following categories:

High School Biology  
Beau Tyler 2nd place in Class A Division, 4th in all classes as a junior

Ralph Almanza 4th place in all classes as a sophomore  
Mikey Cancino 5th place in all classes as a sophomore

As a team, these three students received 3rd place.  
High School Chemistry Class A

Division  
Beau Tyler 1st place  
Robert Townsend 2nd place  
Mikey Cancino 3rd place  
Ralph Almanza 4th place  
Hilda Lopez 5th place

As a team these five students received 1st place.  
Junior High Science  
Out of About 200 students, Valentine had two students that placed in the top six.

Brenda Estrada 2nd place  
Josh Townsend 6th place  
Mr. Jesus Calderon, Junior High and High School science teacher, is proud of all his students for their participation and accomplishments.



Marfa elementary and junior high Students of the Month for May are, in no particular order, Selina Navarrete, pre-kindergarten; Joshua Ramos, kindergarten; Marissa Marquez, first grade; Lorraine Rojas, first grade; Victoria Villarreal, first grade; Javier Cano, second grade; Ariel Lujan, second grade; Adela Mediano, fourth grade; Andrea Gonzales, fifth grade; Deandra Natividad, sixth grade; Christopher Dominguez, seventh grade; Elea Sanchez, seventh grade; and Leah Wiemers, eighth grade. Sponsors were Livingston Insurance Agency, Allen Realty, Corder Lumber Co., and Marfa PTA 1998-99 officers.

## Scores

(Continued from page 1)

cent passing this year.  
In the math portion of the test, 74 percent of third-graders made the passing mark.

Although 81 percent of fourth-graders passed the math last year, that figure dropped to 52 percent this year.

Fifth-graders, however, gained tremendous strides, jumping to an 81 percent passing rate in math this year versus only 41 percent last year.

Sixth-graders bumped up from 64 percent passing math last year to 69 percent this year, while seventh-graders saw an increase from 75 percent passing the math section last year to 87 percent this year.

Math section scores for the eighth-grade class were particularly notable, leaping from a 79 percent passing rate last year to 91 percent this year.

The writing portion of the exam, which is taken by fourth- and eighth-graders only, also saw score increases. Last year, just over 80 percent of fourth-graders passed the writing section, while this year 93 percent posted a passing score. Eighth-graders scored better as well, with 94 percent passing the writing portion this year versus 82.1 percent last year.

Eighth-graders must also test in science and social studies in the TAAS exam. These scores likewise jumped over last year's figures, with 97 percent of the class passing science this year compared to 78.6 percent last year. In social studies, 77 percent of the eighth-graders passed this year, over 64.3 percent this year.

"This was a fabulous group of kids," said audience member and junior high science teacher Patricia Mecke of the eighth-grade class. "They are real competitive, a great group of kids."

Superintendent Judy Ledbetter concurred. "I think the teachers and students have done a wonderful job in grades three through eight. They're quite impressive," she said.

Ledbetter also pointed out that TAAS scores at the Redford Elementary campus reflects great good change academically. Four children took the exam and their performance "was extremely good," she said. "Since there are so few children, they're not reported as a percentage, but they did phenomenally. No longer will (Redford) be rated a low-performing campus."

Also at the meeting, Clark relayed scores on the ITBS tests, which are given to children in kindergarten through second grade. Some improvement was evident in these scores, with 43 percent of kindergartners passing the reading section of the test over the 35 percent who passed last year. Clark allowed that the 83 percent of first graders who passed reading last year may be a computational error, given that figures show that only 55 percent passed this year. Second grade scores on reading held fairly steady, with 63 percent passing reading last year, while 62 passed

reading this year.

Math ITBS scores improved, with 60 percent of kindergarten students passing last year and 70 percent this year. First grade scores in math increased 11 points to a 55 percent passing rate this year and second grade scores moved from 19 percent passing last year to 37 percent this year.

Clark's report on this year's TAAS and ITBS scores were part of a larger presentation of the Campus Plan, a kind of guide that targets goals and evaluates student and faculty performance in different areas. In that presentation, Clark also noted increases in the numbers of parent volunteers this year, as well as in the number of students eligible for rewards.

As a part of his report, Clark pointed out the work of the year-old Marfa PTA. A problem that plagues many PTA chapters is that the swell of enthusiastic volunteers in the beginning of the year often dwindles to a core of a dedicated few, Clark told the board. "I give a great deal of credit to the current officers," Clark said. "Hopefully next year will be better and more people will be involved. What they do is greatly appreciated."

School board members also considered the field of architects who showed interest in working with the school district on a long-term vision of major renovations and new construction to the Marfa campuses. Board members listened to presentations and participated in a question and answer session with four architectural firms at a meeting about the Marfa projects last week. After discussion at Tuesday's meeting, board members opted to begin contract negotiations with Guillermo Barajas of the El Paso architectural firm PSRBB. Should those negotiations with Barajas fall through, the board plans to approach the Austin firm of Pfluger and Associates. "I like that he's very environmental, that he considers all the elements in his designs," said Board President Leticia Garcia of Barajas. "I'm highly impressed."

Board members likewise tabled any plan to buy or lease specially constructed portable buildings until

## Marfa PTA elects new officers; new playground money nears \$4K

MARFA - The Marfa PTA is excited to have elected a new roster of officers. Those chosen were Betty Russell, president, Chyrell Poenisch, treasurer, and Patricia Olvera, secretary. We are still looking for a vice president. If you are interested contact Tammy Maris or Betty Russell. They have their work cut out for them and are hopeful that the members and community will be there to support them.

The final total are in for all the fund-raising projects to build a new playground. The penny drive brought in \$1,417.64. The spaghetti dinner made \$671.63. The pizza sale profited \$1,274.50. The spring dinner made \$569.46. This brought our total to \$3,933.23. Please continue to drop off your pennies during the summer. We

are hopeful we will install the new playground spring of 2000.

The PTA would like to thank the Methodist Church for its generosity in allowing our meetings, award ceremonies and art classes to be held there. Additionally, we want to thank Mrs. Kitchens and her class who provided the free child care at our meetings.

At the final party held to honor all the Student of the Month recipients we were very pleased to see all the children and parents. It made quite an impressive photo and represented what the PTA wants to be remembered for helping to motivate.

Thank you to everyone who made this a successful year. We are very proud of what we accomplished our first year.

an architect can be consulted.

The selection process of new school personnel was also detailed at the meeting by the teacher/faculty team that conducts the interviewing process of hiring candidates. Although the presentation was only informational, the report came as the result of board member Nancy Polson's request to have more information on hand when the board members vote on hiring matters. "We get a name and we accept them or not," Polson told the members of the interview committee who were present at the meeting. "We don't even know who they are. Are we the rubber stamp? I thought it'd be nice to know a little more about the person."

High School Principal Sharon Parsons laid out different aspects of the interview process for the board members and emphasized the training of each of the committee members as well as the seriousness and detail with which they approach their duties. "We know how to listen to the answers given," Parsons said. "We spend a great deal of time doing this.

They volunteer their time in the summertime doing this; they don't get paid. We want the best teachers for our students. We don't bring names to board lightly."

Some members of the committee appeared concerned that, with more board involvement, the committee's hiring recommendations could be second-guessed and the hiring process bogged down, thus risking the loss of good prospective teachers. "They're interviewing in other places," Patricia Mecke reminded the board.

"We have some fantastic applicants right now and we need to get them on the table," Parsons agreed.

Polson and other members of the board were quick to extend their appreciation for the committee's work and confidence in their abilities to discern and pass along quality teachers for Marfa schools.

"Please keep on bringing us the good recommendations," Garcia said.

No action was taken in the personnel selection matter.

Also at the meeting, Superinten-

## Eleven Valentine students receive academic recognition in TAAS

VALENTINE - Eleven students taking the TAAS test for the 1998-99 school year received Academic Recognition. All but two students missed at least one question in either math, reading, science or social studies. Ismelda Ornelas, 5th grader and Cole Armerding, 7th grader scored a perfect score in Reading.

Students receiving Academic Recognition and the subject areas in which they excelled are:

3rd grade: Theron Parson, math and reading.

4th grade: Veronica Calderon, math and reading.

5th grade: Ismelda Ornelas, reading.

Calvin Armerding, math and reading.

6th grade: Mandy Almanza, reading.

7th grade: Cole Armerding, reading.

8th grade: Brenda Estrada, science and social studies.

John Porras, reading.

Josh Townsend, science and social studies.

Exit level: Ralph Almanza, math and reading.

Mikey Cancino, math.

Valentine elected to test all mainstreamed students this year.

Four of the seven mainstreamed Special Education students passed all parts of the exam. One student passed one of two parts.

Two did not pass either math or reading. Valentine-ISD was a

Recognized school last year and even though it elected to test mainstream students, the school

administration feels confident that they will maintain that status this year.

## Valentine ISD offers summer reading program

VALENTINE - The Valentine Independent School District under the direction of reading specialist Viola Calderon will be offering reading classes to all students in grades K-12th beginning June 7 and ending July 2. The purpose of the program is to motivate students to continue reading during the summer months. The students will use the Internet and Accelerated Reader Program to improve their reading comprehension skills. They will also be engaged in writing projects that they will share over the Internet with other students. The program has proven to be successful during the past six years that it has been offered. TAAS Reading scored continue to improve yearly at the Valentine school.

## Honor roll posted at Valentine ISD

### A Honor Roll

1st grade: Jovana Hinojos  
2nd grade: Angelica Navarrete, Eric Cancino, Raelen Cortez  
3rd grade: Adeline Fox  
4th grade: Veronica Calderon  
5th grade: Calvin Armerding, Ismelda Ornelas, Corey Townsend  
6th grade: Mandy Almanza  
10th grade: Mickey Cancino, Ralph Almanza  
11th grade: Beau Tyler

### A & B Honor Roll

3rd grade: Theron Parson  
4th grade: Logan Furlong  
5th grade: Rosemary Gonzales, Peter Quintela  
6th grade: John Jordan, Hondo Davis  
7th grade: Carol Beare, Cole Armerding  
8th grade: Brenda Estrada, Jesse Gomez, Chester Melvin, Josh Townsend  
9th grade: Adrian Gonzales  
11th grade: Raelen White, Rob Townsend, Hilda Lopez

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Call Donieta O'Keefe at 1-800-749-1509 or send your request to RGE, Administrative Department, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas 78832. Applications may also be picked up from any area office and must be postmarked on or before June 25, 1999. RGE is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 13-1tb

#### Accepting Applications

Marfa Independent School District is accepting job applications for a campus secretarial position (10 months) for Marfa Elementary School and Marfa High School. School secretarial and PEIMS knowledge job requirements. Applications are available at 401 N. Hill Street and will be accepted through June 18, 1999. Applicants on file should call 915-729-4252.

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The Marfa Housing Authority operates through laws passed by congress & the state & under rules & regulations issued by the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Resumes may be faxed to 915-729-4214 or mailed to MHA, P.O. Box 1138, Marfa, TX. Applications may be picked up at the Housing Authority office, 510 S. Kelly St., Monday-Friday, 8-12, 1-5 or by calling 915-729-4811. EOE

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## Brisbin

(Continued from page 1)

our likes and the issues of the various counties," Icard said.

Before he moves to El Paso, Brisbin said he has a full agenda of things to do in the coming weeks to wrap up his county business.

His last regular commissioners' court meeting is Monday, as is a joint meeting with the Marfa City Commission on the controversial public works projects - water lines - to the tomato greenhouses and the feather factory.

On Tuesday and Wednesday is county court.

"I want to resolve these grant problems and tie up these loose ends. I don't want to leave a mess," he said.

Brisbin said once he's up to speed in his new job, he wants to embark on an education project about the COG. "I don't think most people know what it does."

One of Brisbin's loves is politics, but he said it's "very doubtful" if he would again seek elected public office.

"But I'll never say never," he quickly added.

Meanwhile, three men have indicated they are interested in succeeding Brisbin as county judge: former Presidio County Judge Charlie Henderson, former Presidio County Commissioner Jack Brunson and Presidio businessman Carlos Nieto, currently the Presidio school board president.

The four county commissioners - Eloy Aranda, Felipe Cordero, Jaime Ramirez and Danny Watts - will make the appointment, and they indicated Monday at a special county meeting that they would like to see more names in the hopper.

They instructed Brisbin to put the item on Monday regular commissioners' court meeting.

Cordero of Marfa said he wants to get the word out to all who are interested in the job, conduct interviews with the candidates and make a selection by July 1.

Aranda of Presidio said he liked Brunson and Nieto as candidates, especially Brunson's past service on the panel.

"But Carlos would be a good county judge, too," Aranda said.

noting Nieto has served his community well on the school board.

Watts of Marfa said it's important to get as many applications as possible and interview them well so commissioners can make an informed selection.

"We should do it in reasonable time, but it's important not to rush into it. The more applicants the better."

Ramirez of Presidio said Brunson would be a good candidate, as would Nieto. "Quite a few people have asked me about Carlos."

But, "We need a judge who will represent all of Presidio County, like Jake did," Ramirez said.

Brisbin's successor would fill an unexpired term through December 2000. Should the appointed judge seek the remainder of Brisbin's term - through 2002 - they would have to seek the party nomination in March 2000, and depending on the outcome of the primary election, run in the general election in November, 2000.

Brisbin's selection as COG executive director creates another key vacancy in Marfa.

His wife, Cookie Brisbin, is the Marfa Housing Authority executive director, a post she's held the past two years.

She said this week she will be tendering her resignation in the coming months to join her husband in El Paso.

"She's the best executive director we've ever had," said authority board chairman Sarah Villa. "Everything is running smoothly and we really hate to lose her but we're glad for both of them."

Brisbin was responsible for one of the best HUD 'report cards' ever received by the Marfa Housing Authority.

Villa said the authority has started advertising for the executive director's position.

Brisbin said she hopes to have her replacement on board by July 1. "I've told the board I will work with them (the new executive director) and train them until they (the authority board members) are comfortable and then stay as a consultant until such time as they see fit."

The housing authority must complete a five-year management

plan mandated by HUD that is due October 1.

Brisbin said she also wants to be sure a day care facility gets

started at the authority, to help people on welfare get off public assistance and enter the workforce.

## THANK YOU

*I want to thank all my many friends and family members for their prayers, beautiful flowers, plants, lovely cards and thoughtful phone calls that I received during my recent, long stay in the hospital.*

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