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BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES
by order of Presidio County

Presidio County pool forecast: Operational updates and where to cool off this summer

By SAM KARAS and ALLEGRA HOBBS
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — As daily temperatures creep toward 100 degrees, tri-county residents are counting down the days until the opening of their local pools. The following is a round-up of the latest pool news, with some suggestions for out-of-county waterholes worth a day trip.

PRESIDIO

At a Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) meeting held on April 20, Presidio Parks and Recreation Director Elvis Medina, stopped by to ask for financial assistance ahead of the upcoming pool season. PMDD members had discussed publicizing and prioritizing the pool at prior meetings in order to potentially draw tourism — board member and business owner Patrick Manian, who runs a bakery across the street from the pool, reported fielding numerous questions from tourists about when the facility would open.

Medina reported that Workforce Solutions out of El Paso had, in previous years, contributed $8-10 thousand toward wages for lifeguards, but had just announced that they would be cutting that funding. Medina currently has a workforce of 10 certified lifeguards who are paid around $56 a shift for their services.

"My rough estimate to run the pool like I have in the past two years is about $400 per day. That's including your salaries, that's including your chlorine, those types of expenses," Medina explained.

As the city has struggled to stay on a positive financial trajectory, city officials have had to approach each expenditure with a ruthless eye. "When you really look at it, the services that the city provides through the general fund are all running at a loss," said Financial Specialist Malynda Richardson. "They're all cost centers, they're not something that the city is making money off of."

"I don't necessarily think we ought to be making a profit on the community swimming pool, but boy, there's got to be a way to get closer," said PMDD Executive Director Jeran Stephens.

The board discussed a number of options to increase revenue

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Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Annie Wilson of Alpine joined others from the tri-county area in front of the Texas Western District Court in Alpine to protest a draft abortion ruling that was leaked from the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday evening. The draft shows the court overturning Roe v. Wade.

Tri-county joins the nation in protesting anticipated Roe v. Wade reversal

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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ALPINE — On Monday night, Politico reported that the Supreme Court had voted to strike down Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 decision guaranteeing constitutional protections for the right to abortion, citing a draft majority opinion leaked to the news site. By Tuesday evening, rallies for abortion rights had sprung up around the country, as the Women's March organization urged pro-choice protesters to gather outside their federal courthouses.

Brewster County swiftly heeded the call. Alpine resident Erica David had created an event on Facebook titled "Defend Reproductive Rights" early Tuesday morning — angry citizens would come together for a "peaceful gathering" protesting the leaked decision at 5 p.m., the local time slated for every other rally across the nation. That day, outside Alpine's federal courthouse, David held up a sign that read "Never again," skewed with a wire hanger and dripping in red paint.

"I was in such a rage, I couldn't do anything else," she said of the whirlwind organizing. "And I saw that it was happening across the county at federal courthouses — which we have one, with a parking lot, owned by the people. I figured I would just come here, and tell everybody to come here."

Last year, Texas passed a "trigger law" that will go into effect 30 days after the overturning of Roe v. Wade, which would make performing abortion a second-degree felony. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released a statement celebrating that anticipated outcome. "If the leaked draft is indeed accurate, it is a great day for innocent babies in the womb," he said. "They will finally be safe in Texas and other Republican states. Prayerfully, in time, all states will protect them."

Over 30 participants of all ages showed up at Tuesday's rally, from Alpine and from neighboring Marfa. Drivers in passing cars honked to show their support, eliciting cheers from the small but impassioned crowd, which had been drawn to the courthouse by Facebook and word of mouth. Mollie Durkin, who lives in Alpine and works in Marfa, said David had texted her that morning, and she had gone on to invite others. "I texted a big group of Alpinians and Marfinians that would come out and show

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DA moves to dismiss criminal case against Jeff Leach, as Leach's civil suit against alleged victim is allowed to move forward

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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BREWSTER COUNTY — After roughly one year of little to no movement on either front, both the criminal case against Jeff Leach, which in 2020 yielded a grand jury indictment on a felony sexual assault charge, and the civil case Leach had brought against one of his accusers have seen stark reversals within days of one another, both in Leach's favor.

On Friday, the Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso reversed a Brewster County judge's decision to toss the defamation suit that Leach, the founder of Basecamp Terlingua, had brought against a former employee who accused him of assault. Now, over two years after its dismissal, that case will resume in trial court.

Then, on Monday, Assistant District Attorney William E. Parham — of the office of 83rd District Attorney Ori White, who assumed the position in early 2021 — filed a motion to dismiss the sexual assault charge against Leach, citing insufficient evidence. As of December 2020, when former District Attorney Sandy Wilson still held the office, the case had been poised to go to trial, presumably within the coming year.

The protracted legal battle, which The Big Bend Sentinel has covered extensively, began in 2019, when Leach sued former employee Katy Milam for defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress after she told authorities that Leach had held her down and told her "he gets what he wants."Amidst the civil suit against Milam, who also goes by Schwartz, three more women came forward with accusations of rape and sexual assault against Leach. One of

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Marfa City Council discusses broken fire hydrants, replaces new food ordinance and greenlights Pride Marfa

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — On Thursday, Marfa City Council made some tweaks to a recently-passed controversial food ordinance, discussed the ongoing issue of out-of-commission fire hydrants, okayed temporary street closures for a Pride Marfa event, and more. All members were present for the meeting.

Amended food ordinance

Council briefly revisited a new food ordinance, just passed at the end of March, requiring food establishments to obtain city-issued permits following an inspection ensuring the presence of adequate grease traps — that ordinance was rescinded and replaced with a new ordinance specifically regulating fats, oils and grease (FOG) and requiring a FOG permit for food establishments.

The Texas Department of State Health Services will be performing health inspections on food establishments moving forward, not the city. City Manager Mandy Roane cited the change was initiated due to a sudden response from DSHS in regards to the ordinance, who was previously unresponsive to the city on the matter. Roane said food establishment owners may contact local health inspectors for more information: Josh Turner at josh.turner@dshs.Texas.gov and Cheney Taylor at Cheney.taylor@dshs.Texas.gov. It will still fall to the city to check establishments for proper grease traps.

City Attorney Teresa Todd explained that the revised ordinance creates the requirement of a FOG permit, and makes it a violation for anyone to operate an establishment that requires such a permit without one; any establishment that requires a grease trap must comply with the ordinance and prominently display it inside their business. A fine of $2,000 will be imposed on establishments found in violation of the ordinance.

The council voted unanimously to rescind the ordinance titled "Regulation of Food Establishments" and adopt the amended ordinance titled "Regulating Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)."

Defunct fire hydrants undergo repairs

Roane reported that out of nine fire hydrants that had been out of service, three hydrants have now been repaired. Roane clarified later via email that two more of those fire hydrants are expected to be back in working order by the end of May, while one may need to be replaced altogether.

At Thursday's meeting, she said that the fire hydrants that had been fixed required "basic repairs," and more advanced fixes would be done in August, after water works employees had

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County and city elections to take place on May 7 in Presidio County

By MARY CANTRELL
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — Voting for local general and special elections will take place this Saturday, May 7, across the state. In addition to a county election in which voters will decide on two constitutional amendments relating to property taxes, the cities of Marfa and Presidio will also host elections.

In a special election in Marfa, voters will determine whether or not to reauthorize a quarter-cent sales tax for street improvement projects which has been in place for 20 years. In Presidio, general and special elections will decide the fate of the town's city council in which all five seats are up for grabs.

The deadline to register to vote in the May 7 election has passed — to find out if you are registered to vote, visit the secretary of state's website. Voters will be asked to present a valid form of identification at polling locations.

Presidio County:

Two amendments to the Texas Constitution, both relating to homestead exemptions and property taxes, will appear on the county ballot. Voters across the state will vote on these two amendments, which, if passed, would see the state increasing funding for schools as a result of decreasing property taxes.

Proposition 1 — which has received criticism for being lengthy, totaling 77 words, and unclear — if passed, would continue to freeze and lower over time school property tax bills for those who are disabled or over age 65.

Proposition 2, if passed, would increase the general homestead exemption for public school taxes from $25,000 to $40,000.

In Marfa, voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Casner Room at City Hall. Polls will be open through lunchtime.

In Presidio, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Presidio Annex Building C.

Runoff elections will take place on May 24. There are no county-level races in the runoff elections for Presidio County. More information on the runoff elections can be found here. The Big Bend Sentinel will post times and locations for voting in the May 24 runoff when they become available.

City of Marfa:

In Marfa, local joint elections held each May determine the makeup of the city council and Marfa ISD School Board, however this year both elections have been canceled due to a lack of candidates vying for the positions. Candidates will simply be appointed to fill the roles for which they applied due to a lack of contested races. But unlike the school board, where all seats have been filled, the city council only had two candidates apply to fill three expired seats, meaning one seat remains vacant.

Current Councilmember Eddie Pallarez will serve for a second term, and new, soon-to-be Councilmember Mark Cash will fill in another open seat. As a matter of public transparency, Pallarez and Cash will appear on the ballot as "unopposed candidates declared elected."

Council members Buck Johnston

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Roe v. Wade reversal

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their support," she said. She then went to David's house to make signs — hers read "Reproductive justice is a class war."

"I see this as such a class war," Durkin explained. "Rich white women are going to be able to fly out and get their abortions. This is going to affect more impoverished women who can't pack up and leave the state."

Some of those gathered remembered when Roe v. Wade came down from the Supreme Court. Annie Wilson, now 64, was 14 at the time — she found it shocking to witness such a reversal in her lifetime. "It's like going backwards," she said.

Wilson has lived in Alpine for 17 years, and said she was not surprised to see her neighbors come out in support of abortion access. "This community's got a lot of heart, it really does," she said. "And I love it when we get people from all the surrounding communities — it's like a big effort from the surrounding communities."

She also was not surprised that the rally was entirely free of counter-protesters — folks in Alpine tend to abide by a "live and let live" philosophy, she said.

A few women at the rally had traveled farther than Presidio County. Nancy Thompson, founder of the PAC Mothers Against Greg Abbott, had come to the Big Bend region from Austin, in pursuit of a vacation with her two friends. When she heard the news Monday night, she resolved to grab her signs and head to the nearest federal courthouse.

"We were going on a girl's trip to get away, because I needed to relax," she said. "It kind of didn't work out."

Thompson founded Mothers Against Greg Abbott ("MAGA the good," joked Thompson) in August of last year, after Abbott had banned mask mandates. Her youngest son was very sick at the time with a non-COVID virus that she feared had weakened his immune system, and she was terrified to send him to school. She made a handmade sign and posted up alone outside the Texas capitol building for three hours — her one-woman protest got over a thousand likes and hundreds of shares on Twitter.

Since then, her organization has taken on more causes. In September, when Texas' six-week abortion ban went into effect, the group's "membership really exploded," Thompson recalled, and it took off from there. "I have always been a 'mind your own damn business' kind of person," she said. "Even though I'm a Catholic and I had a baby at age 43, I would never impose my beliefs on anyone. I think everybody should make their own personal choices for what's best for their family."

County and city elections

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and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda will exit office in late May or early June. Once the new council is sworn in, they will vote whether to solicit letters of interest from the public in order to appoint a new council member or to host a special election this coming November in order to fill the seat.

While the city canceled its general election due to few city council and school board candidates, it will host a special election regarding a local initiative to reauthorize a one-quarter of one-percent sales tax for street and roadway maintenance and improvements. The quarter-cent tax has been in place since 2002 and must be reauthorized by voters every four years.

Since its implementation in 2002, the city has collected $991,000 in sales tax for street maintenance, which both residents and non-residents pay into. Recently, the city has utilized the sales tax for street maintenance to seal coat N. Spring, S. Hill/Gonzales, E. Dallas, W. Texas, S. Summer, Hartford and Edinburg Streets, and repave S. Yale, S. Hoover, S. Ridge, S. Austin, S. Dean and S. Spring streets.

On election day, May 7, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Casner Room at City Hall. Polls will be open through lunchtime. To see a sample ballot, visit the city's website.

City of Presidio:

The City of Presidio hosts a joint election with Presidio ISD every two years. In the upcoming general election voters will decide exclusively on city council candidates because there are no expired school board terms.

The City of Presidio will hold a general and special election in order to fill all five of the city council vacancies. Three seats will be up for election as a part of the general election, while two will be up for election as a part of the special election because there are open seats for unexpired terms. All candidates will appear on one ballot.

Voters may choose three candidates out of a total of four to serve for full, two-year terms on the city council. Those running for full terms in the general election are city council candidates Steve "Nicky" Alvarez III, Angel Campos, Joe Andy Mendoza and John Razo.

Running to fill two one year, unexpired terms are candidates Nancy Arevalo and Arian Velazquez-Ornelas. Arevalo and Velazquez-Ornelas will automatically be appointed as they are each running unopposed but will still appear on the ballot.

Voting on election day, May 7, will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room, 107 W. O'Reilly St.

Jeff Leach

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those women, who has asked not to be named in our reporting, filed an affidavit alleging that Leach had raped her in 2014 — it was that affidavit that ultimately led to Leach's indictment in early 2020. The woman who filed that affidavit declined to comment for this story.

Around that time, Judge Stephen Ables tossed Leach's defamation case against Schwartz, stating that Milam's account of her alleged experience with Leach was protected by free speech laws. Leach appealed that decision, moving the suit to the Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso, where it could continue as a personal-injury mediation. Milam's attorney, Jodi Cole, moved to have the appeal tossed in March of 2021, arguing in part that Leach's lawyers could not prove any of Milam's statements were false, and that Milam was exercising her First Amendment right.

In the criminal proceedings, meanwhile, then-District Attorney Sandy Wilson said in December of 2020 that her office had offered Leach its "best and final plea offer," and Judge Roy Ferguson told Leach he would face a jury trial in the coming months.

Now, the defamation suit is moving forward, and Wilson's successor has moved to toss the criminal case.

The reason for the appeal court's opinion reversing the trial court's dismissal comes down not to the merits of the suit or the merits of the dismissal, but to missed deadlines and an ordinance dictating the timeline for such dismissals.

The dismissal was made under the Texas Citizens Participation Act, which protects people from being sued for exercising their legal rights. Once a motion to dismiss is filed under the TCPA, the opinion states, a statutory 60-day deadline for a hearing on the dismissal is put into place. An extension to 90 days can be granted, but an extension past 90 days is prohibited unless the court is allowing discovery germane to the TCPA motion.

"This case is dedicated to all recipients of abusive and assaultive behavior. We will not be silenced."

In this case, the dismissal was granted past the 90-day deadline. The trial court's order had acknowledged the missed deadline, but deemed it had been missed for good reason: "(1) the docket conditions of the 394th District Court, (2) the assignment of two subsequent trial judges as a result of striking the first assigned judge, (3) the physical remoteness of the Court and (4) agreed settings by counsel." (With regards to the reshuffling of judges, the first trial judge had recused himself, and Leach had objected to the second).

But the appeals court has said it is bound by the limits of the TCPA statute. "The reasons for the late hearing here are entirely understandable, but we are not empowered to graft onto a statute a new exception to the deadline, no matter how compelling the reasons for an exception might be in this particular case," reads the opinion.

Jodi Cole, Milam's lawyer, said that she and her client were undeterred. "This case is dedicated to all recipients of abusive and assaultive behavior," said Cole. "We will not be silenced."

Cole also shared the following statement from Milam: "This is just a chance to settle it once and for all. I'm not backing down. I am not demoralized in the slightest, and I will never be silenced."

Then there is the criminal case against Leach, poised to be tossed if a Brewster County judge grants the district attorney's motion, which cites the following reasons for the requested dismissal: "After review of evidence and investigation of the case, including witness statements and interviews by law enforcement, timelines, dates and circumstances between parties, there is insufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution and in the interest of justice."

When reached by phone, 83rd District Attorney Ori White said his office did not believe there was sufficient evidence to sway a jury. "It is something that we do not think we could persuade the jury beyond a reasonable doubt," said White. "And we have a lot of cases, all the jails are full, and we just have to focus on cases that we think that we can win."

When asked to elaborate on what obstacles the prosecutor faced in producing sufficient evidence, White said: "We just felt like the jury would not believe that it was not consensual."

Former District Attorney Sandy Wilson, during whose tenure Leach had been charged and indicted, disagreed. "I thought the case was valid, and there's plenty of evidence to show that he not only did it to her but to other women as well," said Wilson, when reached by phone.

"She had some good evidence that showed where she did a follow-up after the incident to prove her truthfulness that could have been brought up in court, and I think the jury could have had enough reason to believe that he was guilty of that crime," she continued. "And I think that's a travesty to women, that that happened. I hate to hear it happened, but I'm not surprised."

She saw the case and its possible outcome as indicative of a larger problem in the region. "A lot of men out here don't consider rape a big deal," she said.

A hearing regarding the motion to dismiss has been set for the morning of May 12, according to the Brewster County District Clerk's office. Leach's lawyer, Rae Leifeste, did not return a request for comment by press time.

Fire destroys Alpine home, torches over a dozen cars and leaves family dog dead

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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ALPINE — On Saturday evening, an Alpine home was engulfed in flames, leaving the structure largely decimated while also torching over a dozen surrounding vehicles. The house's inhabitants, a man and a woman, escaped unscathed, according to Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson, but the fire did claim the life of a family dog.

Firefighters with the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department rushed to the scene of the fire — a large, fairly remote house on Church Road, neighboring Hillside Baptist Church and in the vicinity of Sul Ross State University — at around 7:30 p.m. to find the structure completely engulfed.

"There was nothing anybody could do to save it," said Dodson, who was present at the scene. "Just keep it from spreading to the grass around.

Firefighters had managed to subdue the flames by around 11 p.m., said Alpine Fire Chief Andrew Pierce. "From there it was just mopping up hot spots and getting the cooling down, because all that debris was still super heated," he said.

The jarring scene was compounded by "ammunition and vehicle explosions," the fire department shared in a Facebook post.

"There was some ammunition left in the house," confirmed Dodson, who said that ammunition "pops" in such conditions. There were also several oxygen bottles left in the home, presumably from a person's previous illness, he said, to which he attributed the "major explosions" occurring as a result of the fire.

The man who lived in the house was an antique car collector, said Dodson, so the home was surrounded by his collection, plus the family's vehicles for personal use — approximately 14 to 15 cars were destroyed, while around three were spared. "His personal truck, it burned so bad you can't even tell what kind of truck it was," said Dodson. "It melted it."

Witnesses gathered in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn Express & Suites along Highway 90, situated across the street from the home — the vantage point in the parking lot allowed a clear view as the house burned up on the hill. While those gathered watched the blaze from a safe distance, a fire truck with the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department pulled into the parking lot to retrieve water from a nearby fire hydrant — the nearest available water source, confirmed Dodson. The sheriff also noted that the County Road and Bridge Department provided a large tanker full of water — "One of our life savers," he said.

Those gathered outside the Holiday Inn recalled seeing the fire start up at around 7 p.m., only to be completely engulfed within a half-hour. "The third story collapsed, then the second story — it all fell down fast," said Moroni Vargas. Then there was an explosion, said Vargas — presumably from the oxygen tanks referenced by Dodson. Then, "All you hear was was kind of like fireworks popping off — that was all the ammunition they had inside the house."

As of press time, the cause of the fire remains under investigation.



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

A house located on Church Road in Alpine was destroyed in a fire Saturday night.

Values in Marfa and Presidio continue to rise

PRESIDIO COUNTY — Values continue to rise in Presidio County as sales of properties indicate that appraised values are lower than the sales. Richard Petree, consultant to Presidio CAD, worked with Cynthia Ramirez to arrive at the proposed values. The recently released property value study completed by the state comptroller indicated that both school districts were below the required 95 percent of appraised value compared to sales prices.

The appraisal district made significant changes to land values in Marfa as sales indicated rising prices. A complete reappraisal of land in Marfa was done to ensure equality of appraisals throughout the community. Adobe homes continue to be in high demand and appraised values based on the sales of adobe homes reflect the demand.

The Presidio County Appraisal District asks taxpayers to look at the notice of value and ask themselves, "Could I sell my property for the amount proposed by the appraisal district?"

The district says, if the answer is yes, then the taxpayer is probably being treated fairly as the state Constitution requires market value appraisal. If the answer is "no," then the taxpayer should file a notice of protest that is included in the notice information. An informal discussion with the appraisal district staff may result in an agreed value. If an agreement is not reached, then the protest goes before the Appraisal Review Board which hears the evidence presented by each side and makes a decision on value.

Some good news is that homestead values are limited to a maximum of a 10 percent increase annually, says the appraisal district. Over-65 and disabled persons receive a "cap" on their school tax, so regardless of the value increase their school tax remains the same. Also, an election on May 7 could result in an increase of the homestead exemption for schools by $15,000 and a downward adjustment on the "capped" value on over-65 and disabled persons will result in a similar savings for those persons.

2022 Notices of Appraisal Value will be mailed the week of May 9, 2022. For additional comments and information, contact Cynthia Ramirez at 432-729-3431 or Richard Petree at 325-829-0614, Presidio County Appraisal District 107 E Texas St, Marfa, Texas.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Marfa City Council

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undergone the necessary training.

At Thursday's meeting, she said that Fire Chief Gary Mitschke and Public Utilities Supervisor Chuck Salgado had assessed the locations of the city hydrants and determined that there are no structures prohibitively far from a working hydrant.

"Between the hose that the fire department has and the locations of the fire hydrants, we can get water to the structures in town," said Roane.

The Big Bend Sentinel reported in June of last year that at least 11 fire hydrants were malfunctioning or inoperable. The Judd Foundation Architecture Office had just been destroyed in a fire, and a faulty fire hydrant across from the building added roughly 20 to 30 minutes to the time it took for firefighters to subdue the blaze. The city then developed a plan for fixing the fire hydrants, but ran up against a lack of funding and training, which pushed the repairs to the next fiscal year.

Street closures approved for Pride Marfa

Pride Marfa organizer and previous Marfa resident Christopher Gonzales joined council over the phone to discuss the Pride event to take place in town June 17-19, which will include a free, family-friendly block party to take place on June 18. That event — featuring drag karaoke, food vendors, retail and art vendors, a makeup station and a stage setup — will take place on June 18 and will necessitate the temporary closure of the streets flanking the courthouse, West Highland Avenue and East Highland Avenue from Washington Street to Lincoln Street.

The event will "allow people to get exposure to Marfa's queer community," said Gonzales, "to get an understanding of what we represent."

Though requested for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., council voted unanimously to approve the street closures until 3 p.m. to allow plenty of time for setup, breakdown and cleanup.

Gas bill assistance implemented

Council voted to join an agreement with Big Bend Community Action Committee, Inc. that will provide assistance for those struggling to pay their water bills. The committee has helped folks struggling with gas bills in the past, said Roane, and have found the funding to help with water as well.

"We have some customers with really high water bills and they're trying," she said. "They're making payments, but they're not really catching up, so they do have this funding now that will help with water fees."

Customers will have to reach out to BBCAC, which will walk citizens through the process of getting assistance with their bills, said Roane.

Council voted unanimously to enter into the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program's Water Provider Agreement with BBCAC.

City joins municipalities in lobbying for lower AEP rates

American Electric Power (AEP) has filed its intention to increase rates, said Todd, and Marfa had the opportunity to join other municipalities in contesting that rate increase. After some discussion, upon establishing that AEP would have to cover legal costs regardless of outcome, council decided it couldn't hurt.

"If we're not going to incur any legal fees, I would say we go ahead," said Mayor Pro Tem Irma Salgado.

"It ain't gonna hurt," concurred Councilmember Eddie Pallarez.

Mayor Manny Baeza abstained from voting, but all other council members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Presidio County pool

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and offset costs: charging tourists higher admission prices, expanding the menu at the snack bar, adjusting hours. Brenda Witty, a retired Presidio ISD educator and a frequent patron of the pool's morning lap swim, made the case that investing in the pool was a worthy project for the city, even if it had to operate at a loss.

"People who come in from somewhere else to Presidio — school personnel, Customs — often they end up leaving because there's nothing for their kids," Witty said. "I think in order for us to build a thriving municipality, we have to offer things in the way of recreation and amusement."

The board eventually voted to table a donation to the pool until Medina could gather more information from potential grants and state programs that could offer assistance, but planned to chip in for the pool down the line. At Monday night's city council meeting, council voted to set the rates and hours of operation for this year's pool season.

This summer, the pool will be open for general admission Thursday and Friday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. "Adults only" pool hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kids 12 and under will be charged $2 for admission, and adult tickets cost $3. Season passes can be purchased for individuals for $80, $100 for couples, and family passes for $120. The entire facility can be rented out for special events starting at $250 with a refundable cleaning fee of $50.

Medina hopes that the pool will be able to have its grand opening for the season on May 20. "Things could change, but that's what we're shooting for right now," he said.

MARFA

Last Thursday's Marfa City Council meeting was mostly dominated by discussion of the fate of the aging Marfa Activities Center pool, which has been the subject of a feasibility study and public discussion around whether to repair it or replace it altogether.

At the end of Thursday's meeting, at which a representative for the company conducting the study presented its findings, council voted to set a special meeting and workshop for June 15 at 6 p.m. in the MAC building, where the community can weigh in before plans are finalized.

The current pool is riddled with cracks, and leaks approximately one inch of water per day, while the facility enclosing it has been corroded by perpetual exposure to the chlorinated water, said George Deines of aquatic design, planning and operations company Counsilman-Hunsaker at the start of his presentation. But the question of how best to tackle those problems comes with a set of "complexities," said Deines — the pool facility shares space with the Nutrition Center and thrift store, so any extensive overhaul raises the question of what to do with those facilities.

A community survey, which had 188 respondents, indicated a preference for an indoor, recreational pool that would be open year-round, equipped with lap lanes, a children's area, a waterslide and a diving board.

Deines laid out several options for how to proceed, ranging from an estimated $1.04 million-$1.4 million in cost up into the $4.4 million-$4.5 million range, depending in part on whether the pool would be indoor or outdoor and what kinds of amenities it would include. The cheapest option would be to simply renovate the existing pool while keeping the current structure around it — in this case, Deines recommended a dehumidification system to help dispel chlorinated air. At a slightly higher cost, a new pool could be built inside the existing structure, in the existing pool's footprint.

"It serves purposes — I think the bigger idea is to reimagine those purposes in different ways, and that's personally what I would like to see, is for us to reimagine the MAC Building and that land."

A step up from those options would be the removal of the existing facility, which would include the demolition and reconstruction of the swimming pool — in this case, the swimming pool could potentially be relocated to allow the Nutrition Center to remain where it is, and could be indoor or outdoor. Then there is the option of the construction of an entirely new aquatic facility, either at the current facility's location or in an entirely new location (which would allow the Nutrition Center to remain where it is, and for the pool area to be repurposed).

Finally, Deines presented the possibility of re-doing the entire MAC site, which would include an aquatics center, nutrition center, office spaces, locker rooms, restrooms and a gym.

Mayor Manny Baeza ultimately advocated that the council "leave everything on the table" moving into the June workshop, rather than winnowing the options down, but it was clear that a reconsideration of the entire facility would be up for discussion.

"I do think we should talk about the MAC, just the MAC Building itself," said Councilmember Buck Johnston, citing problems with the offices and the Nutrition Center. "It serves purposes — I think the bigger idea is to reimagine those purposes in different ways, and that's personally what I would like to see, is for us to reimagine the MAC Building and that land."

Trey Gerfers, Parks and Recreation Board president, was also enthusiastic about reimagining the MAC, and argued that with an attractive enough plan, the necessary funding could be secured. "If the whole site can be reimagined, maybe the next step is you figure out what you do with the site, then you hire a designer to come up with options for what the whole site would be like after integrating all the input from the public, and then you figure out how to integrate the park better, and then if you have a really sexy plan, then you do a capital campaign," said Gerfers.

In the meantime, the existing pool is slated to open on May 31 and stay open until August 6.

In addition to the public pool, Marfa residents will have another option this summer: Arlene Acosta of the Thunderbird Hotel announced last week on Facebook that the iconic Marfa hotel would be opening its pool to the public for a small daily entry fee.

In previous years, the Hotel Saint George pool hosted a family night for local kids, but ended the practice during the pandemic due to liability and safety concerns. Marfa residents looking to catch some sun can now head to the Thunderbird, where snacks and sodas will be served poolside, and adult beverages can be purchased across the street at the hotel's lounge.

Admission for the public to the Thunderbird pool will be $5 for children and $10 for adults. Children under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Outside food and drink is not allowed, and guests must be careful to keep glass bottles 5 feet from the edge of the pool.

ALPINE

City Secretary Geo Calderon said that the City of Alpine hopes to open the municipal pool, just down the road from Kokernot Field, in time for Memorial Day weekend. Admission to the pool will be $3 for adults and $2 for children. Season passes are available for $85 for families up to five members and $105 for families over five members. The facility can be rented out for private parties for $80 with a $30 deposit.

The pool will be open daily for the season from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. for general admission and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for water aerobics. Lap swimming hours are typically 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — all hours are subject to change due to staffing.

The city doesn't yet have an end date for the season. "It just depends," Calderon says. "If we have the staffing and it doesn't start raining, we'll continue to keep it open."

North Brewster County swimmers also typically have the option of visiting the Sul Ross pool, the region's only true lap swimming pool. That may not be the case this summer — Branden Lewis, a Sul Ross freshman who works at the gym's front desk, explained that the recreation department was facing staffing shortages. "We need another lifeguard," he said. Lewis wasn't sure when the public could expect an update on a reopening date for the pool.

BALMORHEA

After years of sporadic construction and closures, Balmorhea is set to be open all summer long. The state's largest spring-fed pool is a bona fide road trip destination — with a maximum depth of 25 feet and a natural bottom home to catfish, turtles and an endangered species of salamanders, it's a unique place that draws scuba divers and snorkelers in addition to swimmers and high divers.

In recent years, the pool has implemented an online reservation system to help manage the crowds. "It's been really busy, we've sold out the past three weekends," said Edith Peña of Balmorhea State Park. "We're seeing more people coming out earlier in the season."

Passes can be purchased online through Reserve America for two daily slots: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If all passes for a specific day sell out online, the park will not accept walk-ups.

The park's campground and RV sites are currently closed for renovation, and won't reopen until the end of the season.

Border Patrol Big Bend Sector hosts annual open house event

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Border Patrol's Big Bend Sector last week opened its headquarters to local school children for an annual open house event aimed at education and recruitment.

Border Patrol, as well as sister organizations Air and Marine Operations and the Office of Field Operations, set up various booths outdoors and showcased tools of the trade. Students from Marfa, Valentine, Presidio and Van Horn independent school districts viewed everything from high tech vehicles and devices — including a new mobile surveillance system mounted onto a truck, rescue beacons, a helicopter and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) — to more old school methods, including mustangs handled by mounted Border Patrol agents and dogs with the canine program.

"A lot of these kids don't get to see exactly what it is we do. We can't take them out [in the field], obviously, because of the dangers of the job, so we open up the sector so they can come by," said Sergio Nava, acting special operations supervisor with the Big Bend Sector.

The sector's large garage was opened up and many vehicles were parked outside, doors ajar. The sound of sirens was ever present at the event, with kids pressing the buttons setting the sounds off in the patrol vehicles and speaking through vehicles' loudspeakers.

Janet Enriquez, Marfa Elementary School teacher, whose class was being guided to various stations by a Border Patrol staff person, said her students were happy to have the opportunity to get out of the classroom, and particularly enjoy the hot dog lunch and canine demonstrations every year.

"I think they're getting something out of this. A lot of their families work here, so they get to see what their parents are doing. And this is a big part of the community, and a big part of Marfa," said Enriquez, who has attended the open house in years prior.

The event is, in part, aimed at the recruitment of students who will one day enter the workforce. A recruiting booth passed out fliers and Border Patrol merchandise. Border Patrol agents who are also certified emergency medical technicians (EMTs) were present to discuss their roles. On display was also a new mobile video surveillance system, in which an adjustable, up to 27-foot high mobile camera and laser range finder operated by an Xbox controller, are mounted onto the back of a truck, allowing for agents to scan areas in a multi-mile radius. Rescue beacons the agency launched last year, which act as alert systems for undocumented migrants in distress, accompanied the mobile surveillence systems.

Border Patrol Sector Chief Sean McGoffin said the agency is currently operating nine beacons and working on establishing more, but it could be a complex process, involving proper cell signal, intelligence information about undocumented migrant paths, and the cooperation of private landowners.

With the level of migrant crossings continuously rising and the possible suspension of Title 42 — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton recently filed a lawsuit against the repeal — many state Republican leaders have expressed concerns over adequate staffing levels across Border Patrol sectors on the Southwest border. In regards to the Big Bend Sector's staffing levels, McGoffin said he could use more staff, but that is almost always the case.

"All of us are busy working, doing our jobs, doing the best we can. We utilize the resources that we have. We're getting more technology, we're getting more things to help us with our mission," said McGoffin. "The reality is we have to deal with what we've got."

President Biden recently proposed a budget that would allocate $15.3 billion to U.S. Customs and Border Protection — of which Border Patrol is a part — and $8.1 billion to ICE, amounting to a roughly 13 percent increase in funding for both immigration enforcement agencies. The budget includes $19 million for border fencing and infrastructure. On the state level, Gov. Abbott's Operation Lone Star costs $2 billion per year to deploy around 10,000 National Guard troops to the border, and Abbott's office recently allocated an additional $495.3 million for the program.

Special Operations Supervisor and Canine Coordinator William Perez, who was hosting program demonstrations showcasing the dogs' abilities to detect humans and narcotics, has been working with dogs since 2003 and worked his way up to his current role after training others at the Border Patrol Academy. He was educating students and the public about the dogs' performances at Border Patrol checkpoints. He said lately they have been working on expanding the capabilities of their canines to better help with locating migrants and missing people.



Photo courtesy Big Bend Sector Border Patrol

Border Patrol Agent Israel Navarro demonstrates to area school children a new mobile surveillance system at last week's Big Bend Sector open house.

"We've been training our canines on tracking and trailing capabilities. These dogs actually have the ability to follow the ground disturbances, whatever it is, it could be rocks. The scent actually gets impregnated into the ground and they have that ability to track that scent," said Perez.

For Perez, the open house also acts as an opportunity to educate the community's youth about the dangers of drugs transported across the southern border. According to CBP data, drug seizures peaked in 2020 and have seen a significant decrease this year to-date, compared to last year.

"I mean, we are there to facilitate, help and make things harder for those narcotics that come into our country and corrupt or damage our youngest," said Perez.

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Last weekend the Chinati Foundation's reopening of the beautifully restored John Chamberlain building was a great success and should be a source of pride. It feels like it has been a long time since an art event was able to bring the Marfa community together in such a celebratory way, with a connection that will continue as the building remains free to visitors for the remainder of 2022.

Congratulations to the Chinati team, including skilled contractors, dedicated staff, and Director Jenny Moore, who overcame added challenges during the pandemic to complete a thorough renovation on time that was done to the highest standards. Those of us who live here have a special appreciation of just how hard that can be.

With gratitude,

Laura Doll
Marfa

• • •

Dear Editor,

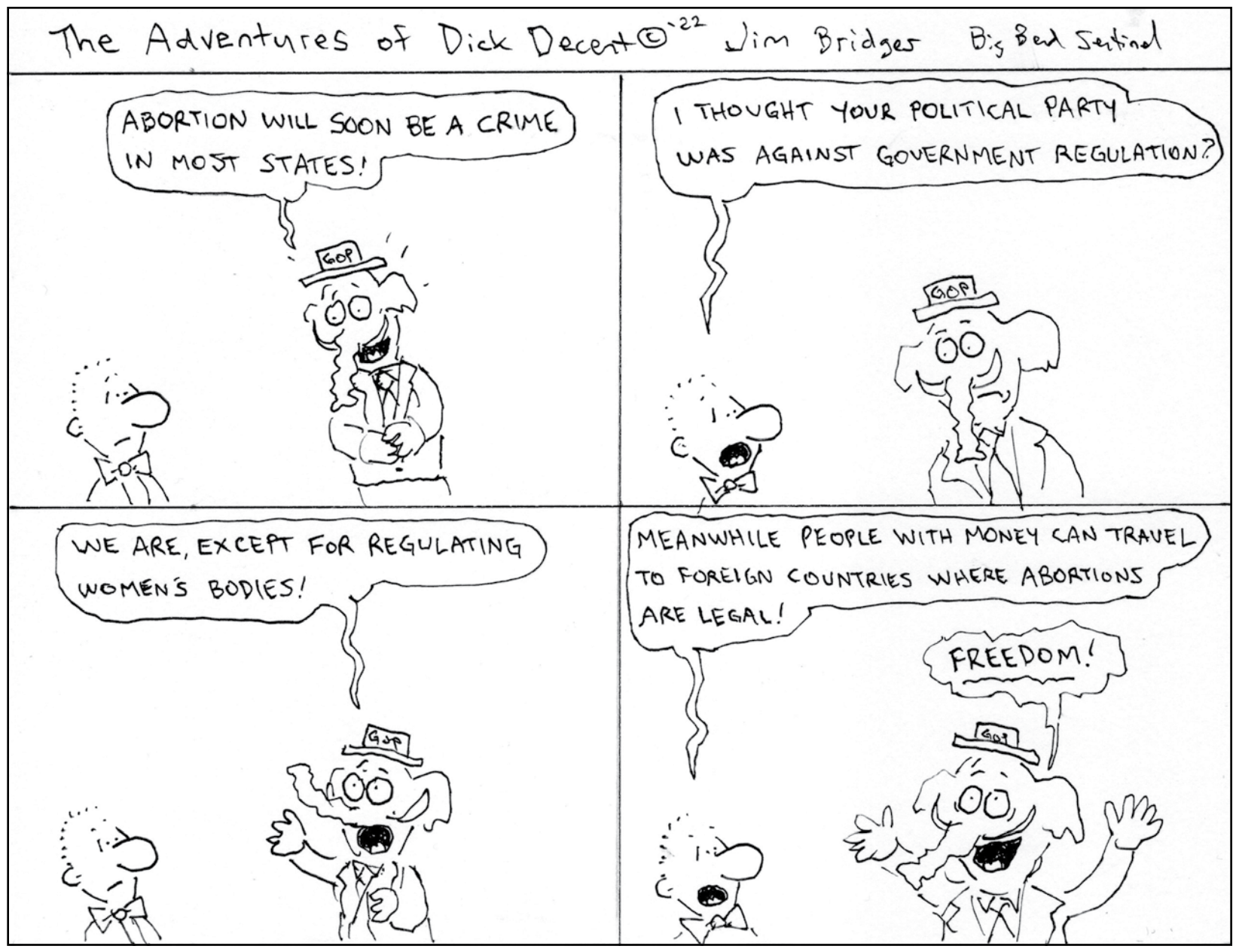
Last weekend's two-day "Dark Skies Festival" at McDonald Observatory was outstanding. Kudos to the observatory superintendent Dr. Teznie Pugh, Director Dr. Taft Armandroff, and staff for supporting this event to raise awareness about the value of keeping outdoor light pollution to a minimum at night. Special thanks to the Cielo Quartet for the classical music concert in the amphitheater. Hats off to Stephen Hummel, dark skies initiative coordinator, and to others such as the International Dark-Sky Association www.darksky.org. In addition to being a world-class scientific research facility, McDonald Observatory brings many tourists to our area — as does the lure of dark skies — and it is important for our communities, businesses, and citizens to support dark skies.

Donna & Barry Smith
Fort Davis

We want to hear from YOU!

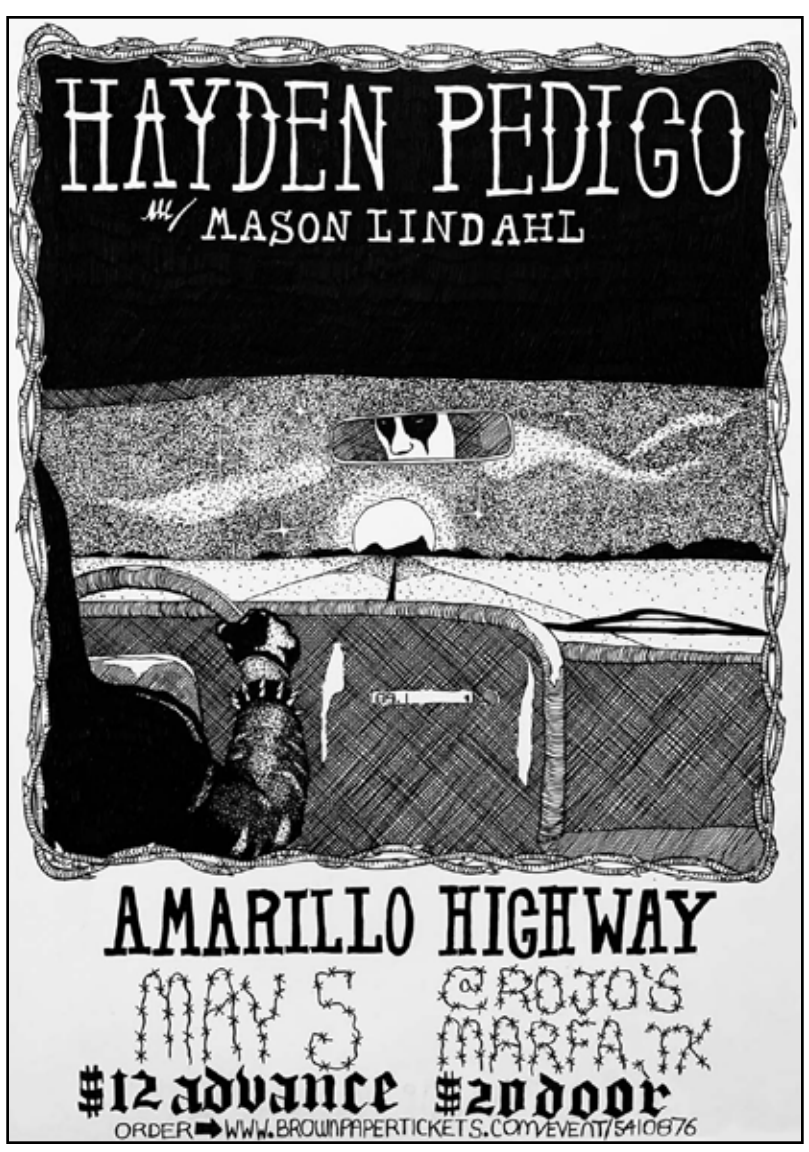
- Letters should be sent to editor@bigbendsentinel.com, and must provide the writer's full name, city of residence and an email or phone number, so that we may follow up and verify information as needed.
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- ***The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff***



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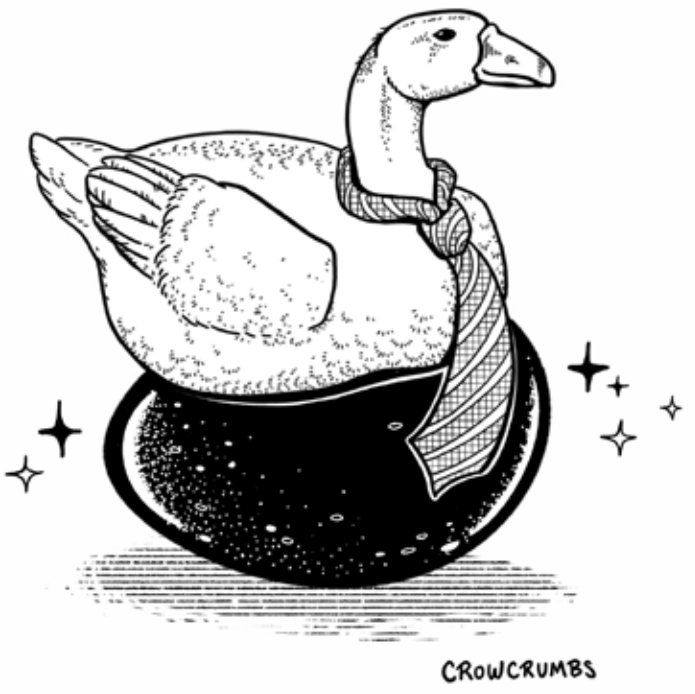
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HIGH DESERT SKETCHES

The goose, the egg, the IRS, and modern politics

By GEORGE A. COVINGTON
gcovington@mac.com



We all remember the old children's fairy tale about the goose that laid the golden egg. In American politics today the goose has become very particular about where it lays its golden eggs. Politicians of all stripes try to lure the fantasy bird to their campaign coffers.

In Texas, the guv has a campaign chest filled with golden eggs to the tune of $45 million, but like many Republicans he seems to prefer dark eggs instead of the golden, gleaming kind. Maybe that's because a sizable number of his golden eggs are covered with Texas oil. While the campaign coffers of many politicians are bulging, the biggest golden egg was laid in the form of the incredibly inequitable tax system in which we live.

Who, you may ask, can afford such a wonderful bird? Well, it isn't most of us poor folks, but those who sit on the pinnacle of accumulated wealth.

In fiscal year 2010, the Internal Revenue Service completed 4,325 criminal investigations, but by 2021, that number dropped to 2,766, which was higher than the performance goal set by Congress. The agency estimates corporations alone are underpaying $125 billion in taxes every year because they know the odds of getting audited are so low.

Because of my suspicious nature, I suspect far more than 2,766 taxpayers committed criminal tax evasion in 2020. And I would be willing to bet you a dime against the dollar that the $75 billion the criminal investigators did recover last year is just the tip of the iceberg.

While everybody agrees that our tax system is not only too complicated and too tedious, it seems to always be slanted toward protecting the rich among us.

For generations, Congress has promised an easy way that lobbyists don't get paid for creating ease for the working poor. Laws have even been passed to create a system that would make the overall tax system easier with the assistance of the IRS. The only problem is that Congress has allowed situations to develop that make it almost impossible for the average citizen to reach the IRS for help.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan promised a "return-free" tax system in which half of all Americans would never fill out a tax return again. Under the framework, taxpayers with simple returns would automatically receive a refund or a letter detailing any tax owed. Taxpayers with more complicated returns would use the system in place today.

In 2006, President Barack Obama's chief economist, Austan Goolsbee, suggested a "simple return," in which taxpayers would receive already completed tax forms for their review or correction. Goolsbee estimated his system would save taxpayers more than $2 billion a year in tax preparation fees. As you realize by now, those two suggested reforms were never implemented. At least 30 countries permit return-free filing.

Furthermore, 95 percent of American taxpayers receive at least one of more than 30 types of information returns that let the government know their exact income. These information returns give the government everything it needs to fill out most taxpayers' returns.

The U.S. system is 10 times more expensive than tax systems in 36 other countries with robust economies. But those costs vanish in a return-free system, as would the 2.6 billion hours Americans spend on tax preparation each year.

About two decades ago, Congress directed the IRS to provide low-income taxpayers with free tax preparation. The agency responded in 2002 with "Free File," a public-private partnership between the government and the tax-preparation industry. As part of the deal, the IRS agreed not to compete with the private sector in the free tax preparation market.

In 2007, the House of Representatives rejected legislation to provide free government tax preparation for all taxpayers. And in 2019, Congress tried to legally bar the IRS from ever providing free online tax preparation services.

The public part of Free File consists of the IRS herding taxpayers to commercial tax -preparation websites. The private part consists of those commercial entities diverting taxpayers toward costly alternatives.

According to the treasury inspector general for tax administration, which oversees IRS activities, private partners use computer code to hide the free websites and take unsuspecting taxpayers to paid sites. Should a taxpayer discover a free preparation alternative, the private preparers impose various restrictions such as income or the use of various forms as an excuse to kick taxpayers back to paid preparation.

Consequently, of the more than 100 million taxpayers eligible for free help, 35 percent end up paying for tax preparation and 60 percent never even visit the free websites. Instead of 70 percent of Americans receiving free tax preparation, commercial companies whittled that percentage down to 3 percent.

Tax preparation companies lobby Congress to keep tax preparation costly and complicated. ProPublica reported in 2019 on Indeed and Intuit's 20-year fight to prevent the government from making tax filing simple and free for most citizens.

The laws are in place to provide easy tax payments, but somebody has used their golden eggs to stifle the process. I wonder how many of those eggs were dark?

George A. Covington has worked in the fields of law, education, journalism and disability rights. He considers himself retired from every one of them with the possible exception of journalism. He is a graduate of the University of Texas schools of Journalism and Law. He moved to West Texas – Alpine - in 1997 after a 20-year career in Washington, D.C. where he once served on the staff of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (Democrat) and shortly thereafter served as Special Assistant to the Vice President of the United States (Republican) 1989 to 1993.

Crowcrumbs is a Houston-based illustrator. Follow her on Instagram @crowcrumbs.

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GEO NOTES

A disturbance in the force

By DENIS FOLEY
Geologist

In early April I attended a seminar hosted by the West Texas Geological Society at UTPB on "Understanding Induced Seismicity — Earthquake Monitoring, Seismologic Analysis, Geological Characterization, Mechanistic Analysis." I am curious about why we are experiencing so many small earthquakes around our neighboring Permian Basin.

As reported in an earlier "GeoNotes," West Texas and the Panhandle are areas of large faults in the planet's crust, and some of those are still moving at times. Most famously, the fault system near Valentine, Texas, on Aug 16,1931, slipped to the tune of a 6.0-6.5 Richter scale event. Nearer in time was the 5.5 event on the northeast end of the Del Norte Mountains in 1995. But the recently reported events to our north and northeast are something else. They are being influenced by injection of oil field produced brine back into the crust.

Oil wells almost always produce a combination of oil and brine. The oil is separated from the water for sale, and the brine is piped or hauled away to be injected into a disposal well. With the ramp up of oil and water production with all the drilling and frac completions in the Permian Basin over the past 10 years, there has been a huge increase in the volumes of brine being injected into disposal wells.

The speakers at the WTGS conference were from our Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. In 2016-17, the 84th Texas Legislature passed Section 16 of House Bill 2 which established and funded TexNet. TexNet is a statewide listening system for earthquakes, and it is being moved around to listen to oil field injection related tremors. This legislation was mostly in response to urban development growing out over the Fort Worth Basin which has been producing oil since 1917. New drilling made economic by fracking and brine injection activity in the FWB began causing small earthquakes. So the TexNet seismic listening array was created to provide science-based management and regulation of brine injection. I think there is an earthquake sensor at Sul Ross State University from which data is used by TexNet.

The BEG scientists showed statistics that almost all of the brine injection induced seismicity is below 4.0 on the Richter scale, and most is below 3.0. Damage to surface structures begins in the 5.0 to 6.0 range. The tremor measurements are being used by the Texas Railroad Commission to moderate and sometimes shutdown injection when faults become active because the pore pressures around them have been changed by fluid removal and/or injection. So Midland, Pecos and Orla are at risk of small earthquakes which could damage homes and other structures.

I have never felt an earthquake and would like to. I was hoping for one of the 4.0s while I was in this class at UTPB, but no luck that day. Nuts.

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FRONT STREET BOOKS

Marfa's own Michaeleen Doucleff!
Thursday, May 12
@ 6:00 pm

Come learn parenting tricks and tips from moms and dads around the world! Author and NPR correspondent Michaeleen Doucleff, PhD, will talk about her *New York Times* Bestseller,

Hunt, Gather, Parent: ***What Ancient Cultures Can Teach Us About Raising Happy, Helpful Little Humans***

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Save this date

May 7, 2022
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Wedding Blessings With:
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Reception Followiing: Alpine American Legion Post 79, Mariachi Santa Cruz

Dance: 9:00pm 'til 1:00am
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Public is Invited

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Laura Fast

Come Have Fun!

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The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum created by the artist Donald Judd.

Open to the public
Thursday – Saturday

Guided Tours of the work of Donald Judd
Outdoor Self-guided Walking Tours

Reservations are required and space is limited.
Tickets are timed.

Experience the connection between art, architecture, and the land unique to Chinati. The hour-long guided tour covers Judd's art and architecture, including the Artillery Sheds. The walking tour path follows along Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete, covers 1.6 miles, takes approximately 1½ hours to complete, and is best enjoyed wearing sturdy shoes.

Chinati follows COVID-19 precautions.
Masks and social distancing are required.

Visit chinati.org for more information and to book reservations.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Community



Photo by Molly Bondy / Chinati Foundation

MISD eighth grade art students, Ava Lola Flores and Kayla Vasquez, painting their final compositions onto plywood.

Chinati and MISD's 'Project 22' to open next Thursday

MARFA — A series of emotive paintings offer a glimpse into the lives of Marfa ISD students in Project 22, an art show on view this Thursday, May 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Arena at Chinati Foundation.

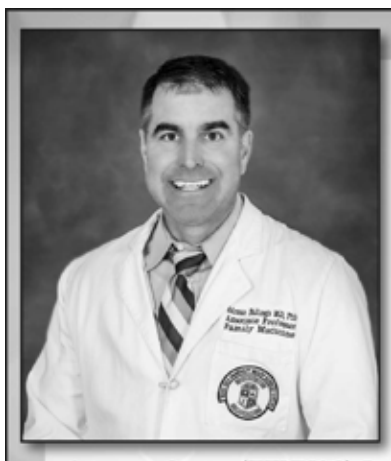
The skeleton of a hybrid creature, part-man-part eagle, gracefully lands next to Donald Judd's 15 untitled works in concrete. Meanwhile, a young woman with electric blue hair enters a realm of kaleidoscopic patterns. Further on, a Marfa sophomore is "literally just vibing" and another transforms into Shrek. These are just a few of the uncanny portraits produced this spring by eighth-12th grade artists in Chinati's annual partnership with Marfa ISD's high school art teacher, Adele Powers. For Project 22, students undertook a multi-step process that culminated in painting graphic-style compositions on plywood.

At the project's start, these young artists visited Chinati to view paintings by John Wesley and consider his use of found imagery and graphic-style painting. The following week, the students gathered at the Ayn Foundation to contemplate Andy Warhol's Last Supper canvases and further explore ways an artist may alter and claim imagery they did not originally make.

With Wesley and Warhol as an entry point, students began composing their own artworks by collaging together self-referential and found imagery. From homages to friendships to wackadoo composite creatures, they explored themes of identity, humor, emotion and fantasy.

Next, each collage was photographed and digitally processed into hi-contrast black and white images printed onto transparencies. Setting up in Hunter Gym, students projected their transparencies onto wood panels and carefully traced them with pencil. For the final iteration of this project, students painted in their tracings — ignoring, editing out, and sometimes adding to their compositions.

To view these remarkable artworks and celebrate the achievements of these talented young artists, please join Chinati and Marfa ISD on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Arena (Chinati Foundation, 1 Cavalry Row, Marfa, TX, 79843). Students will share their favorite playlists and there will be free ice cream.



To my beloved Big Bend communities, friends, colleagues and patients,

It is with great excitement yet sadness that I share with you that I have been asked and I have accepted an invitation to take a full time newly created academic position as Associate Academic Dean of Rural Health Professions at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC)-Permian Basin beginning on August 15, 2022.

Through significant deliberation and prayer, I have accepted this position as a calling to have a different upstream impact on the pipeline and supply of the rural health workforce that is so desperately needed. In this position, with the support of the President of TTUHSC and the Regional Dean of the TTUHSC-Permian Basin campus I will be tasked with creating pipeline programs for rural students into health care training programs at TTUHSC with the ultimate goal of increasing the rural health workforce in the area.

My family and I do not plan to move from Alpine. I will work remotely as well as commute when needed. I will still be involved with Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS) and will be in the position to leverage the resources of TTUHSC to further expand health care services in the Big Bend region and beyond. PCHS is doing well and I look forward to continuing to be involved with many future successes of PCHS. I will continue to see patients at PCHS until July 29, 2022.

I want to thank all of you who have given me the privilege of providing health care to you over the past 15+ years. My family and I are so grateful for your friendships and love we have felt from you over this time.

In service and health,

Adrian Billings, MD, PhD, FAAFP

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Sul Ross University names interim president

TEXAS — Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall has appointed Carlos Hernandez, Ed.D., as interim president of Sul Ross State University. Hernandez, who has served since 2014 as chief financial officer and senior vice president for operations at Sam Houston State University, will assume office on June 4, 2022.

"Dr. Hernandez brings more than 30 years of higher education experience and expertise to his new role at Sul Ross," said Chancellor McCall. "As chief operating officer at Sam Houston State, Carlos has played a central role in the university's growth and success over the past eight years, and I am confident that he will make a similar impact at Sul Ross."

In his current role at SHSU, Hernandez oversees the university's budget, financial reporting, human resources, facilities, risk management, compliance, and campus security and police programs. He has more than 34 years of public higher education experience, including leadership positions at the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of North Texas System and SHSU.

Hernandez is currently president of the Texas Association of State Senior College and University Business Officers, a position to which he was elected by his peers across the state. A West Texas native, Hernandez attended the University of Texas at El Paso from 1984 to 2009, earning a BBA Accounting, a Master of Education and a Doctorate of Education.

"I am thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to join Sul Ross State University, to serve our students in Alpine, Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Uvalde and to be a part of their Sul Ross experience," said Hernandez.

Hernandez will work to further strengthen SRSU's academic programs, enhance the university's student recruitment and student success efforts across all campuses, and continue to fine-tune institutional operations. He will also work with the system administration on legislative and budgetary priorities in advance of the 2023 Legislative Session.

Hernandez will succeed Sul Ross State University President and alumnus Pete Gallego, who is leaving the university next month.



Photo courtesy of SRSU

Dr. Carlos Hernandez will succeed Sul Ross State University President and alumnus Pete Gallego, who is leaving the university next month.

In Front of Us presents a screening of 'Cow'

MARFA — In Front of Us film series in association with Marfa Live Arts is proud to present a screening of Cow, the award-winning first documentary feature by the remarkable British auteur filmmaker Andrea Arnold, who has won numerous awards and critical acclaim for her earlier films, American Honey and Fish Tank.

Cow is a soulful and clear-eyed documentary about the life of Luma, who lives in a cattle farm in Park Farm in Kent, England, who was followed by Arnold and her crew for an intermittent four-year period. Cow is unsentimental, and a unique and an especially rare treat since Marfa is surrounded by ranch land. Many Marfans will remember Arnold from six years back when she directed several episodes of "I Love Dick." Andrea Arnold is a big fan of Marfa and could often be seen at the Lost Horse where she held court at night during the shoot.

The screening is May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Crowley Theater and is free to attend.



Photo by Jessica Lutz, courtesy of Marfa Live Arts

Actors Willy Somma, Crystal Catano, Ian Lewis and Yoseff Ben-Yehuda perform 'They Are Here' by Georgina Brugette during the eighth annual Marfa Live Arts One Act Plays in May 2019 at the Crowley Theater.

Marfa Live Arts stages MHS one-act plays on May 11

By JD GARCIA

MARFA — It's that time of the year again in which four Marfa High School students, chosen by a jury of Marfa Live Arts judges, will see their plays come to life with the help of local thespians at the Crowley Theater on Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

The 11th Annual One Act Plays features the plays Margaret, I Think I Love You by senior Febi Brimhall, The Gone by junior Maribel Meraz, You Can What!? by sophomore Tristan Kelly, and Sightless by freshman Ashley Certain.

The plays were written this year under the tutelage of award-winning Juarez playwright Georgina Escobar in conjunction with Marfa Live Arts and Marfa High School. For the winning students, seeing life breathed into their work is an exciting prospect, and the learning experience has been a highlight. "I think it really opened my creativity. Like, I can actually do anything I want, and my plays can be about everything," said Certain. "And I think that it's really crazy to think that everything that I do can be seen in the future. Like, someday, somebody's going to read my play and be like, 'Dang, this ninth grader won a playwriting contest and it's about being blind!'"

"I definitely learn something new every time with it," Brimhall, whose freshman-year play was also chosen, followed. "I think that learning new things is always awesome." Working with Escobar, the student playwrights added, also allowed them to delve deeper within themselves and find their voices. "[Escobar] was a really good teacher for this program," Brimhall said. "I can relate to her being from the Borderland because I live here too. We learned a lot with her." "She was a really cool mentor," Meraz added. "She was nice and comfortable. It was really easy to ask for help. It was easy to talk to her." For Certain, the playwriting program has also given credence to her past work, which she initially thought was "weird." "When I was younger, I would always write crazy stories that didn't make sense, but they slowly became more interesting," she said. "It's very interesting to think that I can write crazy stories and open my creative side."

The experience, Brimhall, Certain and Meraz said, was overall positive,"I think that coming from a bigger school in a city, we wouldn't have this opportunity," said Brimhall, who moved to Marfa from Las Vegas. "In bigger schools, we're seen more just as a number, and I think it's really cool how we're looked at as individuals here and are able to experience things that not a lot of kids are able to experience."

For Certain and Meraz the annual playwriting program has also opened their minds to continue writing. "For me, I really want to be an actress. It would be amazing if I could perform my own monologues and my own plays. That'd be really fun, and I really do want to continue writing," said Certain. "I'm definitely participating in the program next year," Meraz said. "I want to keep writing in the future, like for college. It's something I'd be interested in."

As for the plays themselves, the students are eager to see how their stories will come to life.

"I want to see if it comes out the way I imagined it," Meraz said. "That's gonna be pretty cool."

"I don't even know how they're going to do mine," Certain laughed. "I mean, half the characters are blind and it's confusing, but it's going to be interesting to see."

Actors slated to perform these pieces include: Caitlynn Almance, Abby Boyd, Ashley Certain, David DeLao, Lisa George, Romi Gold, Jessica Lutz, Rachel Monroe, Dillon Orr and Arthur Ruiz.

The Playwriting Program is supported by Wyatt Ranches Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts and Marfa Education Foundation. In its eleventh year, the annual Marfa Live Arts program has resulted in over 925 one-act plays written by Marfa students.



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Photo courtesy of Dallas Baxter

Maurie Cunningham, left, and Shea Cadrin help plant sale customers load their plants at the recent Native Plant Society plant sale in Alpine. The sale continues this Saturday.

Native plant sale Saturday in Alpine

ALPINE — The Big Bend Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will continue their native plant sale on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. The sale will be behind Forever West Texas Realty on Ave. E at N. 8th. Payment by cash or check only.



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Community

DISPATCHES FROM MISD JOURNALISM CLASS

Thoughts on Marfa Live Arts Playwriting

By TORI

On Wednesday, May 11, Marfa High School students and other community members will have the opportunity to see the winning plays from this year's playwriting class. The week before spring break, grades 9-12 participated in the Marfa Live Arts Playwriting Workshop. In the workshop, we did exercises that taught us how to write a play and how to enhance it. Then, we spent the last few days putting together the play. The lucky winner is awarded a prize and a scholarship!

This is something I started doing in junior high, but with monologues. I kept my winning streak going until it was broken last year, but that's okay. It's not good to always win (most of the time, at least). But, this year, I'm back to being on the leaderboard!

The winners for the playwriting this year are..

9th grade: Austin (honorable mention), Ashley (1st place)

10th grade: Zaley (honorable mention), Tristan (1st place)

11th grade: Tori (honorable mention), Maribel (1st place)

12 grade: Hannah (honorable mention), Febi (1st place)

This event is always something that I look forward to each year because I'm a big daydreamer, and I love writing. It's the best way to let my imagination and creativity run wild, as this workshop has no boundaries. It helps bring out the cores of my being when it comes to writing, like emotion and thought. Trust me, I'm a very emotional person!

My play this year was about a woman who is a crow's daughter (crows symbolize death) that receives letters about people who are going to die within the next 24 hours. She will go find that person, then take them out to have the best day of their life. "Today," she gets a letter sealed with purple wax. It's something she's never seen before. When she opens it and scans through it, she finds out that it's a young girl, a teenager. The letter was delivered 12 hours late, which means she only has 12 hours to spend with the teenager. So, she goes out to find the girl and take her out. They fight along the way, take a few punches, and then comes the time for the girl to die. The crow's daughter begins to leave, unable to prevent the tragic death. But, it turns out the girl didn't die, as it was someone else with the same name. They reunite, overwhelmed with joy. After that, the daughter makes as much time as she can to spend with her new friend, even though it may seem impossible at times.

In conclusion, I think the workshop is always something to look forward to because it's such a great way to let your imagination and creativity run wild! Writing out your emotions and thoughts evoke such great plays and writing pieces, and even help bring people together. I wonder what people are going to write about next year…

MHS romance: An opinion

By JESSICA

Romance between teenagers is gross, and I should know, because I see it all the time. I just don't get it. Some boys are icky, in every single way, when they're teenagers. Some boys at Marfa High are stinky, and they don't know what deodorant is, and they already look like dads in their golf outfits with their tall socks. And hardly any of them put any effort into their appearance, they just wear sweatpants and Nike slides to school. While many girls smell good, and put effort into their outfits, and get style inspiration from someone besides their parents.

And everyone knows that boys are often less mature than girls at this age. Some of the boys from Marfa don't really know what love is because they don't really put effort into the relationship. They mostly cheat or talk to you and then ghost you out of nowhere. These boys get all arrogant over nothing. Many girls don't like that. What's the point of talking to them if they're just going to hurt you? Then, when they realize what they did wrong, they try to talk to girls and say, "Please give me a second chance." But, no! It's not okay! Because boundaries are established at the beginning of a relationship.

Some of us girls set those boundaries because of our pasts, and we don't want it to happen again; break boundaries, get lost. If these boys really wanted to change, they would. Instead, they say one thing when it's just you, but when there are people around they say something different because they feel embarrassed and because their pride is too big, they think they are always right! Like, no, they don't know how to communicate, they have no practice.

Anyways, my point is, it's better to wait than to date some teenage boys!

Sports update

The past month has been a huge one for the Marfa Shorthorns! Our athletes are excelling in the spring sports of golf and track and field! The girls and boys golf team has made it to regionals, and now, two students are going to state! The golf team consists of Cristian Ontiveros, Ian Marquez, Juan Avila, Ethan Zubia, Nathen Peña, Diego Jurado, Alexis Gonzalas, Zaley Porter, Maryfer Martinez, Loretta Rivera and Ashley Certain. On Monday, April 18, these students played in San Angelo to compete in two rounds of 18 holes. Alexis Gonzales placed 3rd. Cristian Ontiveros placed 1st.

The Marfa Shorthorn have also advanced to area meets in track, which was held last week on April 14. From there, a few of our Marfa boys and girls have advanced to regionals: Nathen Peña, Ethan Zubia, Marco Ruiz, Ummi Chanez, Lesly Torres, Aundrea Garcia and Loretta Rivera will be advancing in a few weeks. This event will also be in San Angelo, where these track stars will compete for the top two spots in their event to be able to advance to the state competition. Go Shorthorns!

Chinati at MHS

By KASSANDRA

On Thursday, May 12, the Chinati Foundation will host an art show reception with work by Ms. Powers' art students in grades 8-12. There will be free snacks and sodas for all attendees, and everyone's invited!

This six weeks, Ms. Powers and her art classes did a project with Chinati's education department. The foundation collaborates with our school every year for a sustained project in the art class.

This project took several weeks to do and some people are still trying to finish their art pieces up to this day! The works are large paintings on plywood panels and can be extremely detailed! For this project, students had to begin by making a collage, and when they were finished, they had to make their way to the Hunter Gym where they painted a large canvas a flat color and then traced their collages onto it using an old overhead projector and a pencil. After students finished tracing, they had to make their way back to Ms. Powers' art class and trace and fill in their work with a sharpie, paint, or both.

I interviewed a ninth grader, Janayah Villa, who is enrolled in one of Ms. Powers' art classes. Janayah said that she "didn't mind doing the project." She also said the project took forever to finish and that parts of it were annoying because people kept moving the projector, and after it was moved it took a while to get it back in place. And Janayah said that, during tracing, getting all the details was difficult but it was ultimately rewarding. Jan also added that she had a friend and a teacher help with painting her project, but she got a little mad at her friend when she took some liberties with Janayah's artistic vision.

Another student who participated in the project, Tenessa, said she "love[d] how it came out!" after seeing it photographed.

Finally, Saul Garcia loves his finished piece, which is huge and blue and features his face with a Shrek filter and the "M" patch from his letterman jacket. When asked about his artwork, Saul said, "Oh my gosh it looks so cool!" and then clapped his hands together in excitement.

The Big Bend Sentinel is running the Marfa ISD journalism class' April newsletter in installments. The rest of the newsletter will appear in future issues.

Marfa High School track team updates

MARFA — The Marfa High School track team competed in a regional track meet on Friday and Saturday in San Angelo. Because no athletes advanced to state competitions this year, the meet marked the end of their 2021-2022 season.

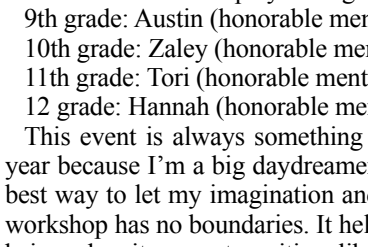
The team consisted of 10 boys and 11 girls, with the majority of athletes underclassmen who will return to the sport next year. Coach Josh Kelly was hopeful for the future of the track program.

"I expect, with us getting our new track in, and the way we're headed, I see us being a lot more successful in the future," said Kelly.

For the girls team, Emily Hernandez competed in the 400 meter dash and finished 14th overall. Lesly Torres competed in the 100 meter and finished 15th overall. The girls 4 x 200 relay, which consisted of team members Torres, Andrea Garcia, Ummi Chanez and Loretta Rivera, finished 16th. The girls 4 x 400 relay, which consists of team members Hernandez, Garcia, Liani Salcido (who subbed in for Ummi Chanez, who was suffering from a recurring injury) and Torres, finished 16th. Garcia also competed in the 800 meter run and finished 11th overall. Torres competed in the triple jump, coming in 12th overall.

For the boys team, Marco Ruiz competed in the 3,200 meter run, finishing 13th overall. Nathan Peña competed in shot put, coming in 14th overall. In 110 hurdles, Ethan Zubia came in 7th overall. For boys discus, Peña came in 14th overall. Kelly said he hopes to put together boys relay teams next season.

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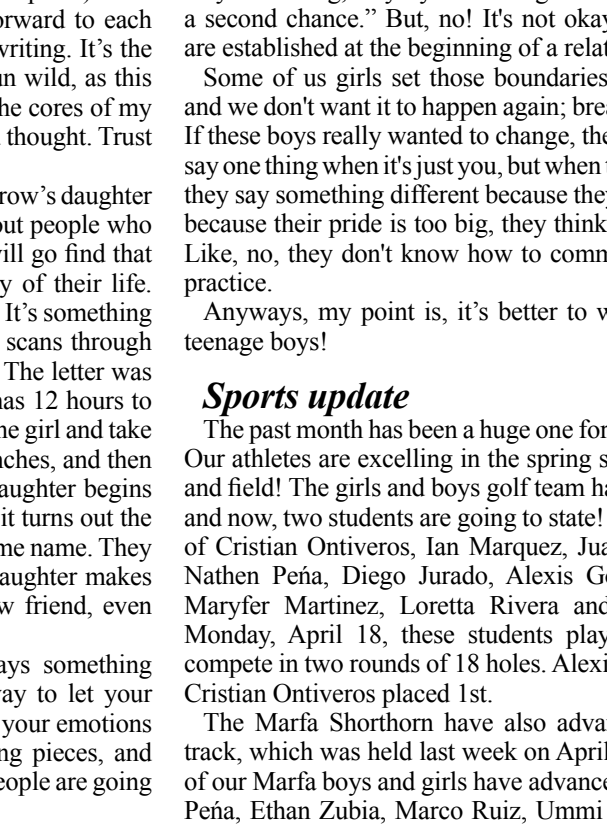


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I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
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Isaiah 41:10

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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Febi Brimhall
12th Grade

Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 2, 2022

ACROSS
1 Long-lasting 'do
5 Dull-colored
9 "Definitely!"
13 Really irked
15 Part of a choral ensemble?
16 Forested Norwegian city
17 Step between landings
18 Not closed
19 Employs
20 Oscar winner for "Norma Rae"
22 "___ got company!"
23 Gets in shape?
24 Queues, or some cues
25 Home to the New York State Museum
28 "Not following"
31 Become a member
32 Author of "Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence"
35 Word after "fine" or "folk"
36 Soft shoe, for short
38 Was in first place
39 "And I'm gonna be high ___ kite by then" (Elton John)
40 "Hairspray" star who became a TV host
43 Spill the tea, say
44 Eclipsed
45 Cummerbunds' places
47 River spanned by the Pont de Normandie
49 Very funny people
51 Suspend, as Christmas lights
52 "Thinkin Bout You" R&B singer
57 "Stat!"
58 First Mexican movie to win Best Foreign Language Film
59 Breastfeed
60 Self-referential
61 Enthusiasm
62 Two cubed
63 Muppet who had a Twitter beef with a rock
64 Alternatively
65 Common gifts for children

DOWN
1 Overtake in a race
2 Mathematician Zuber Falconer or singer James
3 Authentic
4 Many dogs bark at him
5 "Robot" synonym that Lucasfilm trademarked
6 Recruits through pressure
7 Cain's victim
8 Flex
9 "Keep dreamin'!"
10 Bare necessities
11 "All Day Strong" pain reliever
12 Gardeners' tubes
14 Evaluate in the dressing room
21 Soar, say
24 Laundry unit
25 Not quite closed
26 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
27 Crypto-purchasing device
29 1,760 yards
30 4G ___
32 Berry whose name is 75% vowels
33 Exam taken before the bar, often: Abbr.
34 Research facilities
36 Tiny pest
37 Former
41 ___ chicken (spicy, stir-fried dish)
42 Some TV shows from Seoul's country, informally
43 Buttery, flaky bread
45 Bowl-shaped pan
46 Make amends
47 "Tsk, tsk!"
48 Oil holder?
50 Silly
52 Liberate
53 Stop, drop and ___
54 Thus
55 Like a used firepit
56 Aptly named NBA team

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

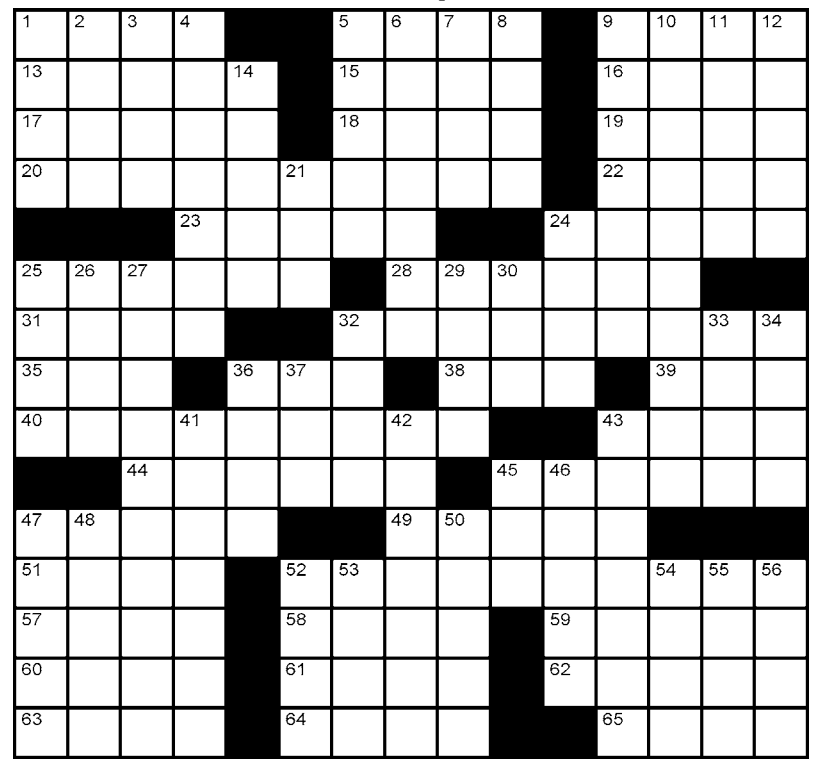
G	I	M	M	E	■	I	C	U	■	■	H	U	N	T
A	L	I	A	S	■	W	A	N	■	D	I	N	E	R
P	L	A	N	A	■	A	R	F	■	O	N	C	U	E
■	■	■	T	U	R	N	T	U	R	N	T	U	R	N
A	L	O	E	■	U	T	E	R	I	■	■	R	A	D
B	I	L	L	S	B	I	L	L	S	B	I	L	L	S
L	A	G	■	W	E	T	S	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
E	R	A	S	E	■	■	■	■	■	O	S	C	A	R
■	■	■	E	D	U	■	E	I	R	E	■	A	R	E
D	A	N	C	E	D	A	N	C	E	D	A	N	C	E
U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

5/1

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5/2

We're on the Map *by Joe O'Brien*



☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, May 5	Fri, May 6	Mon, May 9	Tue, May 10	Wed, May 11
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THU, MAY 5: Softball Playoffs vs Eula at Stanton Highschool Softball Field, 6:00 p.m.
MON, MAY 9: JH Softball vs Van Horn at Marfa, 5:00 p.m.
MON, MAY 9: JH Softball vs Alpine at Marfa, 6:00 p.m.
MON/TUE, MAY 9/10: Boys State Golf Tournament in Austin

Border Network for Human Rights hopes to inspire borderlands residents to organize

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — On Sunday, El Paso's Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR) hosted a luncheon and roundtable discussion for representatives from organizations in Presidio, Terlingua and Marfa. The conversation flowed easily between English and Spanish as participants briefed the El Paso contingency with local views on Operation Lone Star and how the national news casts the border in an unfairly negative light.

Though it was some of the El Paso organizers' first trip to Presidio, the group has a long history in Presidio County — according to the BNHR's website, the organization listed its involvement in fighting for justice for Esequiel Hernandez, a teenager from Redford who was murdered by National Guard troops stationed at the border in 1997, as one of its proudest achievements. In recent years, the group has organized protests against the use of military force at the border, citing Hernandez's death as an example of how dangerous these policies can be.

"Right now what we're doing is convening our Frontera Tejas organizing project," explained Betty Camargo, policy director for the BNHR. "The focus of this project is to be able to partner with different leaders along the border to strengthen communities where there is no community organizing capacity, and to be able to develop programming where families can come and learn about human, civil and constitutional rights."

The organization will be touring communities along the border over the next few weeks — Presidio is their first stop. "We want to share our organizing model and see what necessities are in this community," Camargo said.

Executive Director Fernando García moderated Sunday's roundtable discussion. "What we want to do is to start training organizers, where we teach community members to become human and constitutional rights promoters," he said. "That's the first step — we want to train people how to document abuses and to deliver noise presentations to members of the community who want to learn more. Most importantly, we want to bring people together."

Camargo explained that the training offered to community members in Presidio will be a condensed version of the workshops the organization offers in El Paso. "Our curriculum talks about what human rights are, and how we can share that information with others. We talk about the universal declaration of rights as well as civil and constitutional rights. Usually it's a 40-hour training, but we're shrinking it down to a day and a half."

García said that organizing rural communities like Presidio could be "a challenge" for his El Paso team, but that they have experience working in rural communities outside the city and in southern New Mexico. "The first thing is to actually identify and create some empathy in regards to the issues people are going through. I think, if that happens, then the rest of it is going to come more easily."

He cited the "massive presence of DPS troopers" at the border in the wake of Governor Abbott's Operation Lone Star surge as an example of a statewide issue that could have repercussions even in remote communities along the border in the Big Bend. "We want to know how people here are dealing with that," he said. "To be honest, organizing is a very slow process — sometimes you need to connect with people one by one, one family and then another family."

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OBITUARIES



Escobedo

Catarino Escobedo, 86, of Seminole, Texas, was born March 22, 1936, in Marfa, Texas, to Carmen (Frias) and Jose Escobedo. Starting at the age of 14, he began his career in ranching in Ft. Davis, Texas, with his father, where he worked roundups and became a real cowboy. He rode horses and enjoyed rodeo animals, always wearing his black cowboy hat; he never left it at home. On July 22, 1957, he married the love of his life, Mary Lou Valverde, in Ft. Davis. He owned a little farm on Lamesa Highway where he raised cows, horses, chickens and sheep; he really enjoyed sharing the chicken eggs with his neighbors.

He worked for Parker Drilling Company in 1961 as a water well technician in Seminole, which later became Fire Ball Irrigation; he went on to retire in 2004. Catarino was known to call all of his family members on their birthdays and sing "Happy Birthday" to them, making it such a personal memory.

Catarino Escobedo passed away at his home in Seminole on Sunday, April 24, 2022. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two sons, Johnny Escobedo in 1978, and Reno Escobedo in 2021; three brothers, Robert, Jesus, and Joe; and one sister, Carmen.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Escobedo of Seminole; two daughters, Delma Gusman of Wolfforth, Texas, and Norma Medina of Seminole; one sister, Francis Alvarado of Cisco, Texas; seven grandchildren, Rebecca, Laura, Cathy, John Paul, Amanda, Melinda and Kimberly; and 12 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, April 30, at St. James Catholic Church with Father Jose De Dios Gonzalez officiating. Burial followed at Gaines County Cemetery. A Rosary will was held Friday, April 29. All services were under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home.

• • •



Farrer

Kevin Carlton Farrer, 59, lost his battle with depression on April 29, 2022, in Alpine, Texas.

Kevin was born January 28, 1963, in Jourdanton, Texas. He was the second child to Sally LaBeff Farrer and Asa Moody Farrer. The family lived in Pleasanton, Texas, where Kevin and his sister, Kim, spent their childhood.

Kevin discovered his love for golf at an early age. He excelled in competitions while attending Pleasanton High School, where he graduated in 1981. The success he found in his game as a teenager led him to South Plains College on a golf scholarship, followed by completion of his Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Sul Ross State University. Kevin spent the majority of his life in West Texas including the communities of Marfa, Fort Davis, Study Butte and Alpine. He had numerous careers in his lifetime such as a greenskeeper, teacher's aide and car salesman, but he spent the last years of his life employed by West Texas National Bank in Alpine and Study Butte.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Asa Brucks Farrer and Faith Alexandria Farrer; stepdaughter Brittany Bader Decker; mother Sally LaBeff Farrer; sister Kim Farrer Fine; nephew Justin Michael Fine (Astrid); niece Kristin Nicole Fine; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who loved him dearly. Preceding him in death was his father Asa Moody Farrer; maternal grandparents Ray and Frances LaBeff; paternal grandparents Asa and Ida Farrer; brother-in-law James Michael Fine; and special friend, Joe Richardson.

Kevin was an easy going, kind-hearted soul who made friends easily. He touched the lives of many during his career and during his many rounds of golf. Kevin will be terribly missed, but comfort is taken in knowing that he is at peace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to, or dropped off at the Alpine Country Club Golf Course; PO Box 985 Alpine, Texas 79831.

• • •



Martin

Patricia Shely Martin, retired rancher, passed away peacefully at her home in Marathon on April 30, 2022.

Pat is survived by her three children: Ann, husband Walter Miller of Horizon City; Don, wife Bernice McKinney Martin of Marathon; and James, wife Dawn Quent Martin of Midland. Her husband of 60-plus years, Biddy Martin, preceded her in death in 2010.

Her grandchildren are Wesley and Lori, Cody and Leslee, Juston and Norma, Weldon and Benita, Shely and Ryan Adamson, and Kourtney and Andrew Bassett. She is also survived by four great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter.

Pat lived at the Shely ranch at and near Tesnus, and in Marathon her entire life, and was proud of being in Brewster County all those years. Her parents, Charlie and Cecil Shoemake Shely (both deceased) were sheep ranchers in Brewster County on land owned by the family since 1906. Pat was particularly close to her paternal grandmother, "Annie" Shely, and her cousin Fred Shely. Her only brother, Jack Hovis Shely, preceded her in death in 2009. She is survived by several sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews who love their Aunt Pat.

Pat was a role-model rancher's wife in that she was always at Biddy's side and could probably do everything he could. Pat and Biddy were inducted into the Big Bend Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2005. She is also mourned by many others, including those she helped Biddy mentor in ranching, roping and horsemanship including the Lee, Holland, Leary, Hofacket, Roberts, Yadon, and Moorhouse families, and many, many close friends.

Pat served as treasurer of the Marathon Cemetery Association and on the Marathon ISD School Board. She was an avid participant in the annual M2M and walked most days of the year to prepare for that 5K. Well-known for her baking, Pat generously shared her apple cakes or pecan pies with family and friends.

Ashes will be scattered at the family ranch in a private ceremony. The family will host a Celebration of Pat's life at her home in Marathon on Saturday, May 14, from 2 to 5 p.m. Come as you can to share memories. In lieu of floral arrangements, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Marathon Library, P.O. Box 177, Marathon, TX 79842, or on their website at marathonpubliclibrary.org.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememoiralfuneralhome.com

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The Presidio County Appraisal District is seeking a full-time Office Clerk for our Marfa office.

Bi-lingual preferred.
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Please submit applications/resume to the Presidio CAD Office, PO Box 879, Marfa, Texas 79843 or by email cramirez@presidiocad.org.

All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2022.

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Applications available at the hotel's front desk or email manager@hotelpaisano.com

JETT'S GRILL at the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, Texas is accepting applications for **PREP AND LINE COOKS**.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the Casner Room at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

CITY OF MARFA INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Marfa is soliciting sealed bids for Project 1 and Project 2 of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department Addition and Renovation Project until 3:00 p.m. CDT on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Marfa City Hall, 113 S Highland Ave, P.O. Box 787, Marfa, TX 79843. Emailed bids may be sent to mroane@cityofmarfa.com. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 4:00 p.m. CDT on the same day in the Casner Room, located in Marfa City Hall.

The Invitation for Bids and Project Specifications are available at https://cityofmarfa.com/administration/page/invitation-bids

NOTICE OF AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04A (Fats Oils and Grease)

On April 28, 2022, the Marfa City Council voted to amend Ordinance No. 2021-04 to require a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Permit for any establishment required to have a grease trap/interceptor. This FOG Permit replaces the Food Establishment Permit formerly required by Ordinance No. 2022-03, which was rescinded at the request of the Texas Department of State Health Services. The FOG Permit is required to protect the public wastewater system and is available from the City at no cost. Both new and existing businesses that discharge fats, oils, and/or grease into the sewer system are required to have a permit (food service establishments, for example). Operating a business without the required permit is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $2,000.00 per violation. Injunctive relief, civil penalties, and work stoppages for continued violations or public health emergencies are also available remedies.

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Marfa
Invitational



2022

Arts & Culture

Marfa Invitational to host 3rd annual contemporary art fair featuring new outdoor sculpture component

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — The Marfa Invitational, a contemporary art fair which attracts art enthusiasts from across Texas, the nation, and the world to the remote arts destination of Marfa, will host its third annual event this weekend at venues across town.

The inaugural event took place in 2019, was canceled twice due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, and finally regrouped last year for its second annual gathering.

"Reflecting on the past two years of extraordinary challenge, I look forward with utmost anticipation and excitement to welcoming our Marfa Invitational familia, near and far, to Marfa Invitational's third edition this spring," said Marfa Invitational founder and Marfa resident Michael Phelan.

The art-filled weekend commences Thursday and lasts through Sunday. VIPs will have access to a multimedia performance by fashion designer Cynthia Rowley, musical performance by Louis Price, book talk with architecture firm Lake|Flato, and more. The hub of the event, Saint George Hall in downtown Marfa, will feature gallerists' booths set up to showcase their artists, and will be open to the public. Open hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

This year's participating galleries, many returning exhibitors, are from New York, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Miami, Austin, Taos and more and include Nino Mier Gallery, Half Gallery, The Pit, Richard Heller Gallery, Bill Brady Gallery, Lora Reynolds Gallery, and others. First-time exhibitors include Carl Kostyál Gallery, based in London, and Baldwin Gallery, based in Aspen.

This year's event involves a new component of outdoor sculptures, works collectively titled "Monuments," by artists Ethan Cook, Charles Harlan, Ryan Schneider and Emma Stern, on view from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the future site of the Marfa Invitational Foundation, situated on the edge of Marfa on Hwy 90 and Golf Course Road.

Phelan announced in February of 2021 that Marfa Invitational was working on constructing a permanent space in town in order to host installations and performances year-round and extend their event space during annual fairs. Marfa Invitational is a nonprofit foundation and the space would act as the fair's fulltime home. At the time, Phelan told The New York Times the site would be situated on five acres and would open fall of 2021.

Earlier this week, Phelan told The Big Bend Sentinel that the Marfa Invitational Foundation was hoping to receive building and construction materials in late summer or early fall 2022 and cited supply chain issues and the pandemic for the delay.

Marfa Invitational's "VIP program," in which attendees pay for an all-access pass to event goings-on such as private tours, artist talks and parties, is helping fund their new foundation space, said Phelan. Costs to enter into the event as a VIP range from $700 for out-of-town guests to a discounted $400 for tri-county residents.

Still in its early, formative years, the Marfa Invitational has received wide acclaim from the art world at large for its intimate VIP programming, swift art sales and locality in the high desert. As Phelan sees it, the four-day event aims to "provide context for the art exhibited and performed, while establishing a space and atmosphere conducive to viewing and experiencing art among the vast landscape and historical backdrop of Marfa."

The event, which will host visitors from Paris, Berlin and Brussels, means big business for the town. Hotels and Airbnbs are fully booked and shops see an influx in sales for the year, said Abby Boyd, director of tourism for the City of Marfa.

"Marfa Invitational brings in a huge amount of visitors to Marfa. I've heard from some of our shop owners that their audience has made a big impact on sales in past years," said Boyd. "Our hotels and short-term rentals are close to being sold out the weekend of the event, which is great for those businesses and the tourism department. Those HOT tax dollars will go into promoting Marfa as a whole."

Putting on an art fair in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert, where resources and skilled arts labor can be hard to come by, is no easy feat, said Phelan, who organizes all of the logistics of the event with the help of his wife Melissa Bent. The set up at Saint George Hall, which involves constructing booths and hanging fine art which is being shipped into Marfa from around the world, must take place within two short days, he said.

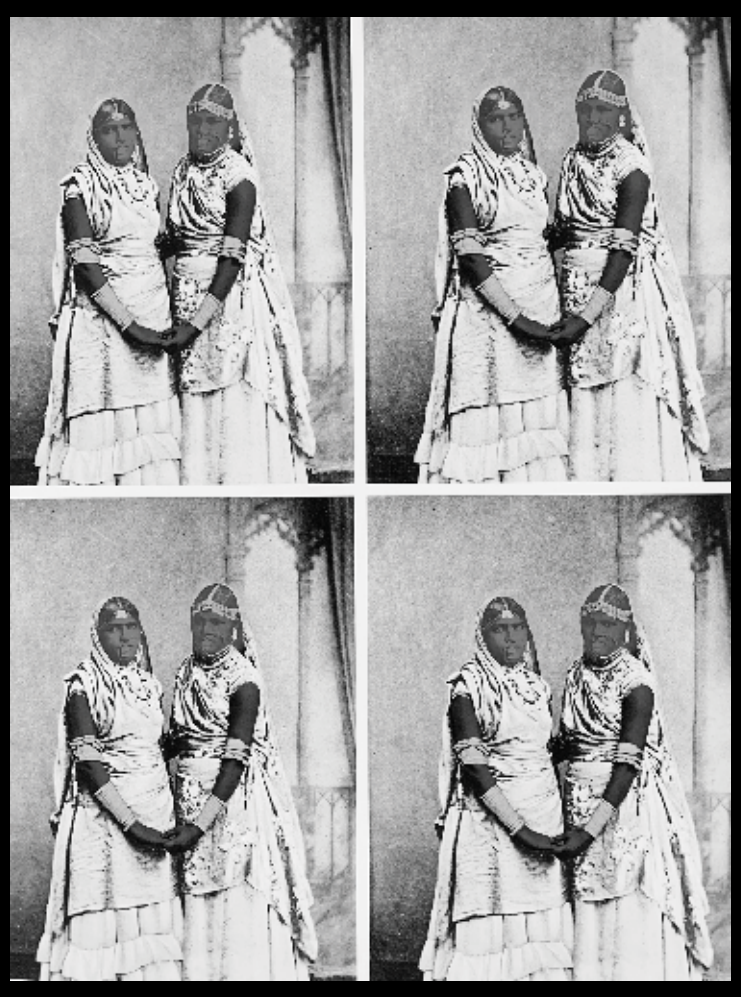
"Just days following each edition, I am back to work curating and organizing the next year's edition," said Phelan. "Each edition is a year in the making."

For more information visit https://www.marfainvitational.com/invitational or follow @marfainvitational on Instagram.



Photo courtesy of Marfa Invitational

An outdoor sculpture by Ethan Cook. The third annual Marfa Invitational Art Fair will welcome outdoor sculpture components for the first time this year. Works will be on public view on the grounds of their future foundation site.

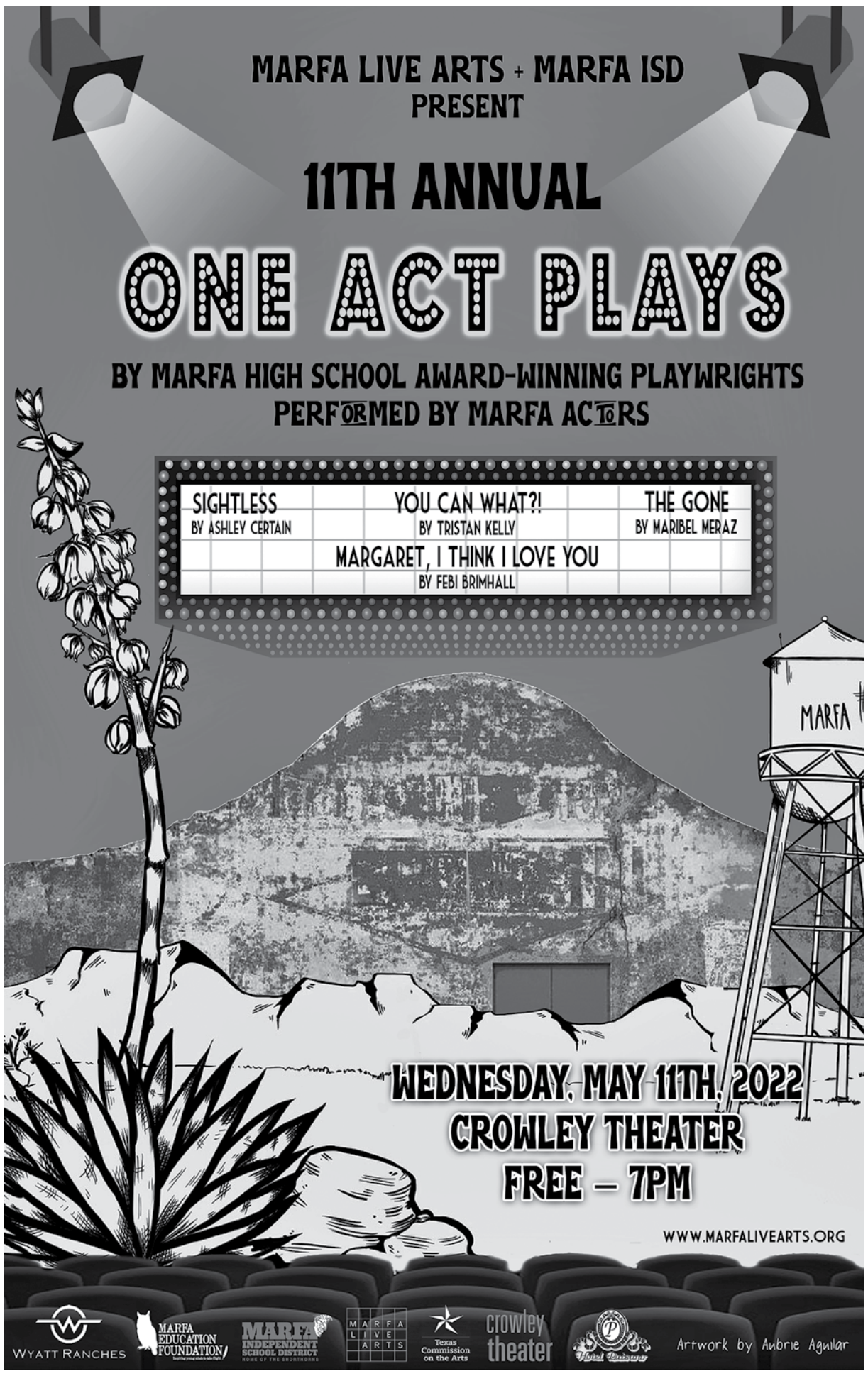


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Presidio County Community Fund ramps up fundraising efforts with print sale, concert

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO COUNTY — In lieu of wedding gifts, David Beebe and Hilary Scruggs Beebe asked for donations for their newly-established Presidio County Community Fund when they got married in 2020.

At the time, the Beebes were motivated to establish a nonprofit to help combat the region's lack of mental health resources. Fast forward two years later, the pandemic and other life changes led them to rethink their original mission for the fund. The couple is now launching a series of fundraisers in hopes of generating more money to aid the county. They intend to cast a wide net when it comes to the causes they support, focusing on causes that raise the quality of life in Presidio County and the surrounding region.

"We're interested in using these funds to support individual projects and other organizations in the region, including, hopefully, people working on this mental health issue, which is still something that's important to us personally," said Hilary.

The Beebes opted to go through an already established entity instead of becoming their own nonprofit organization, setting up the Presidio County Community Fund through the nonprofit Community Foundation of Texas, which acts as an umbrella organization by offering administrative support and allowing for tax-deductible contributions.

Recent recipients of modest grants from the Presidio County Community Fund include the Big Bend Conservation Alliance for their work on the Lipan Apache Cemetery in Presidio and the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid's Alpine office.

"We can support, on some smaller level, a diverse amount of organizations. And also really highlight some of these causes, because if you're not actively engaged in the needs around here, you might not even know that these organizations are out here working," said Hilary.

While the exact type of local organizations the Presidio County Community Fund will support are loose, David Beebe — who is running as a Democrat for County Commissioner Precinct 4 against Republican Garey Willbanks — said he'd definitely like to fold environmental organizations into the mix.

"It kind of goes in tandem with what I want to do as a county commissioner — responsibly-managed economic development for the Presidio area," said David. "Meaning water quality, air quality issues."

But before they can be more active in doling out substantial grants to local organizations, they need to focus on growing their giving dollars, they said.

"We need to raise some money so we can be more effective," said David.

"Financially, we're not making as big of a contribution as we need to to make a real difference," said Hilary.

They are optimistic an upcoming art sale they have organized will help significantly boost their charitable fund balance. Opening May 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Rojo's bar at the Capri, an exhibition benefiting the Presidio County Community Fund will be on view, featuring prints by photographer and Marfa resident Douglas Friedman.

All of the prints on view were shot with a digital camera by Friedman on the final day local restaurant Bad Hombres, which was operated by the Beebes, was open for business. "[That building] always had such a presence in my time in Marfa. So even in closing, I said to David and Hilary, 'Can I come by to take some pictures? I think it needs to be documented,'" Friedman recalled.

The Beebes thought the images Friedman took deserved to be seen, and saw it as an opportunity to raise money for the Presidio County Community Fund.

"It was exciting to have these very professional, very intimate portraits of the building," said Hilary.

The prints will be on view at Rojo's Marfa until mid-July and will be for sale, ranging in size and price point. The event coincides with the Marfa Invitational Art Fair, a time where a concentrated art crowd is roaming town. Large format prints measuring 5 by 4 feet will be available for $10,000 to $12,000.

"To be able to blow these images up to such a big scale, you really get sucked in. It becomes slightly abstract, which is beautiful," said Friedman. "But then there's so much information, you could stand in front of these prints and stare at them forever because you're always gonna find something new."

Also available will be prints measuring 30 by 30 inches and a limited edition number of 12 by 18 inch prints for $100 in an effort to offer an affordable option for locals looking to commemorate the beloved, defunct burger and brisket joint.

"When I started turning my camera on corners, it was like, there's so much on those walls. You get lost in the layers and layers of detail, history and nostalgia," said Friedman.

In conjunction with the print sale, David and his musical partner Primo Carrasco will release a new album on Memorial Day, May 30, titled, Bad Hombres, two years after the closing of the restaurant. Friedman's photography will also be incorporated into the album design. Primo y Beebe, as the musical duo is known, will celebrate the release of their second album with a free concert at Rojo's at the Capri also on May 30.

Another concert featuring musicians Hayden Pedigo and Mason Lindahl, which will benefit the Presidio County Community Fund, will take place May 5 at Rojo's at the Capri from 8 to 10 p.m. The Beebes said they do not intend to host other concerts benefiting the fund in the future and will focus on other fundraising avenues. Posters by local artist Brenden Cicoria will also be for sale at the event.

Hilary said as it grows she hopes the Presidio County Community Fund will help elevate the work of local organizations and promote their causes.

"There's a lot of real needs in this community. There are plenty of wealthy people who live here and the tourists who come through town give a lot to our economy. But there's still a lot of need out here and a lot of it when we were still a very isolated, very poor part of rural Texas."

To make a donation to the Presidio County Community fund, visit https://portal.cftexas.org/The-Presidio-County-Community-Fund. To purchase tickets to the Hayden Pedigo and Mason Lindahl performance on May 5, visit https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5410876 or contact Vance Knowles at howardvance@mac.com.



Bad Hombres No. 2 (May 24, 2020) by Douglas Friedman

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MARFA EXQUISITE HORSE

COMMUNITY DRAWING PROJECT / PROYECTO DE DIBUJAR COMUNITARIO

Join with the community to create a herd of strange and fantastic horses! Don't know how to draw a horse? Yes you do. In your heart, you already know.

1. Cut this template out and fold it into three equal sections. Fold it again so you're just looking at the left section. Draw the front part of a horse, connecting it to the little lines that go across the fold. The lines will tell the next person what to connect their drawing to.

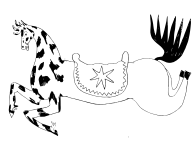
2. Flip it to the middle and hand it to your friend (or whoever!) to draw the middle of the horse. If they complain that the middle is boring, remind them that middles are where the saddle and rider might be placed.

3. Fold the paper over again to the last blank section and hand to someone else- this person draws the last bit of the horse, the butt, legs and tail.

4. Unfold!

5. Behold!

6. Put the finished horse into the horse box (located at Marfa Public Library, The Sentinel and LTK Enterprises) to join its friends anytime before May 25th. Your provided drawings will be published anonymously as a publication representing the exquisite horses of our community! You can follow the project at @LTKenterprises on Instagram.



¡únete a la comunidad para crear una manada de caballos extraños y fantásticos! No sabes cómo dibujar un caballo? Si, tu puedes. En tu corazón, que ya conoces.

1. Recorta esta plantilla y dóblala en tres secciones iguales. Dóblalo de nuevo para que solo mires la sección izquierda. Dibuja la parte delantera de un caballo, conectándolo con las pequeñas líneas que cruzan el pliegue. Las líneas le dirán a la siguiente persona a qué conectar su dibujo.

2. Darle la vuelta a la mitad y dáselo a tu amigo (o quien sea!) para dibujar el medio del caballo. Si se quejan de que el medio es aburrido, recuerda que en el medio la silla de montar y el/la jinete podrían ser colocados.

3. Doblar el papel de nuevo a la última sección en blanco y dárselo a alguien más - esta persona llegará a la última parte del caballo, el trasero, las piernas y la cola.

4. Despliegue!

5. Aquí vamos!

6. Poner el caballo terminado en el cuadro de caballo (que se encuentra en la biblioteca publica de marfa, el sentinel y ltk enterprises) para unirse a sus amigos, antes de el 25 de Mayo. . Los dibujos proporcionados se publicarán de forma anónima como una publicación que representa los exquisitos caballos de nuestra comunidad. Se puede seguir el proyecto en @LTKenterprises por Instagram.

FRONT OF HORSE

MIDDLE OF HORSE

END OF HORSE

'Cosmic Reef' by Leo Villareal opens at Art Blocks gallery, over a thousand NFTs on view

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com



Photo courtesy of Art Blocks

Interior of the Art Blocks house in Marfa, Texas, 109 W San Antonio St.

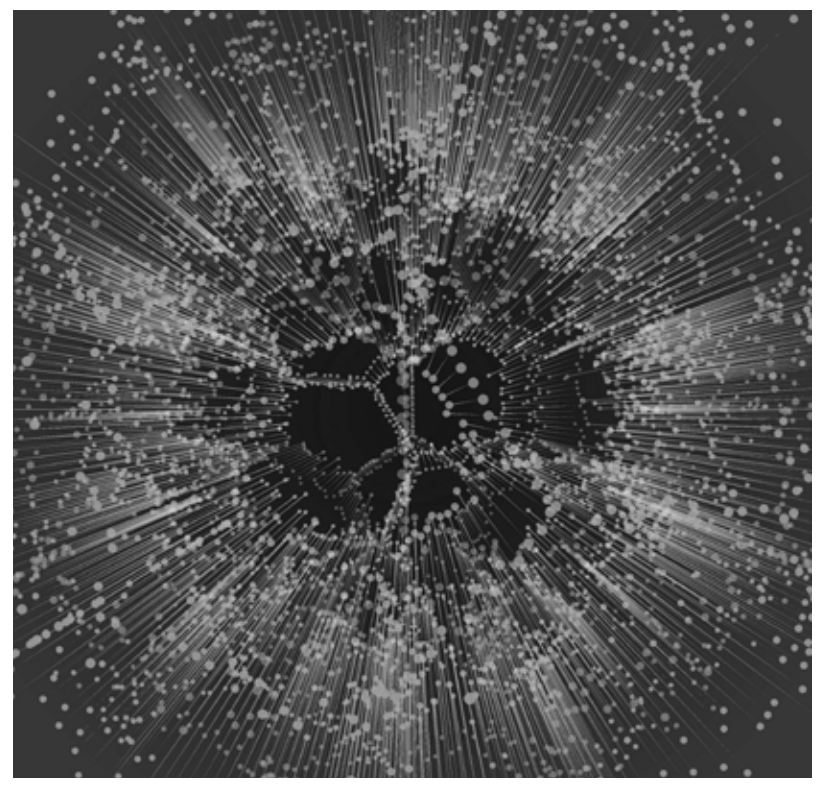


Image courtesy of Art Blocks

Cosmic Reef #80 by Leo Villareal.

MARFA — Artist Leo Villareal, a contemporary American artist well-known for his computer-generated light sculptures that sometimes take the form of monumental public installations, will have 1,024 generative non-fungible tokens (NFTs) — part of his Cosmic Reef series — on view in person at Art Blocks in Marfa starting this Thursday.

The exhibit, which marks the artist's first foray into the world NFTs, will kick off with a free public reception from 5 to 8 p.m. May 5 at the Art Blocks space, a house-turned-gallery, located at 109 W San Antonio Street. There will also be additional works on view by Cooper Jamieson, and the show will remain up until September 2022. Art Blocks, a digital platform and physical gallery space dedicated to minting and showcasing NFT art, officially opened its brick and mortar location in Marfa this fall, to much skepticism from the local art community. Villareal's installation will be the gallery's second since opening.

Villareal has family roots in Marfa dating back to the 1880s. The descendent of early Big Bend rancher Lucas Charles Brite, he is now the owner of the Brite Mansion, which he and his wife, Yvonne Force Villareal, are restoring and opening up to artist residencies and exhibitions. Born in New Mexico, Villareal studied set design and sculpture at Yale University and interactive telecommunications at New York University. He is responsible for, among other works, creating two large-scale light sculptures, The Bay Lights in San Francisco and Illuminated River in London.

Art Blocks invites artists to create algorithms with parameters that will result in visual variability, allowing for many iterations of a certain work of digital art. Once uploaded to the blockchain — a digital ledger that decentralizes digital storage and proves digital ownership — collectors, not yet knowing exactly what they've purchased, run the code, minting their own unique NFT in the process. Art Blocks typically generates around 1,000 NFTs per curated project, which are purchased by collectors using cryptocurrency.

Cosmic Reef, a series of 1,024 NFTs, numbered for two to the tenth power, launched on Art Blocks in January and completely sold out within an hour of being uploaded on the blockchain, said Villareal.

Villareal, no stranger to computer code and custom software, said he was initially grappling with understanding NFTs and their role, but after meeting Art Blocks founder Erick Calderon, other cryptocurrency advocates and attending the Art Blocks opening, was excited about the possibility of working in NFTs and thought it was a good match for his existing art practice.

"It took me a long time to wrap my head around it, and I already work with code and software and do very new things in terms of the art world," said Villareal. "But for me, it's been a huge learning experience. Everyone is learning and the form [of the NFT market] is taking shape."

He worked for several months creating the code for Cosmic Reef, he said. Pace Gallery, who represents Villareal, has shown some of the works recently, but the Marfa show will be the first time they are being displayed in entirety — a video Villareal created shows all 1,024 works. Some monitors will show singular works, while others will rotate through a handful of NFTs. Permission had to be obtained to show the work from each of the collectors.

"Even though they exist purely digitally, it is very interesting to actually make a physical exhibition of these things with particular kinds of screens and all these things which are always connecting back to my day-to-day work in sculpture," said Villareal.

The images are not stationary and are always in motion, taking the viewer on an immersive journey, said Villareal. He programmed a zoom function into the works which viewers can activate by pressing the Z key on a keyboard, taking them deeper into the image.

The show name Cosmic Reef refers to the 2020 image of starbirth taken by the Hubble Space telescope. Villareal is often inspired by phenomena found in nature, he said, and he liked that the concept of a cosmic reef refers to both celestial and aquatic life.

"What's interesting to me is how with a tiny little bit of code you can create things that look like they're possibly from nature or things that are very complex. But in a way, it's kind of understanding the underlying structures of the things that surround us in the world," said Villareal.

Rather than making scientific visualizations, Villareal often interprets, using software, how he might view moving water or a sunset. He said he relates to the age-old concept of an artist interpreting an everyday scene in their own style. For example, Claude Monet painting the scene of the Westminster Bridge and the River Thames in London just as he saw it.

"He's capturing his impression of that moment. In a way I'm doing the same thing except I'm not doing it with pigment. I happen to be doing it with my own custom made software and other kinds of tools, but it's very much with the same impulse I think that artists have always had," said Villareal.

Fully aware of Art Block's initial less than ideal reception from the Marfa arts community, and the larger controversies surrounding NFTs, Villareal said he encourages people to turn out to the show with an open mind.

"What I would say to people is that they should reserve judgment, learn a bit about it, come and spend some time at the Art Block space, see the exhibition," said Villareal. "It's not going to be everybody's cup of tea. But I think that it's something very new, innovative and exciting."

He recalled how his great-grandmother, the family matriarch, met with Donald Judd back when he was new to town.

"She really did not know much about minimal art. She knew about cattle, ranching and a lot of other things," said Villareal. "[Judd] sat with her and they had tea and he really tried to explain what he was doing and she thought, well, this is good for Marfa, and welcomed him as many others did."

Art Blocks is, in a sense, working in a similar vein to freely explore new ideas, he said. In addition to his artwork reaching a wider audience through his expansion into NFTs, Villareal said the philanthropic aspect of Art Blocks is also admirable. Art Blocks announced in February they facilitated nearly $45 million dollars in charitable donations in 2021.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from Cosmic Reef sales will be donated, said Villareal, focusing on organizations that work with children and in the fields of art and technology. Recipients will be the Marfa Education Foundation and Alpine Montessori school. Additionally, Villareal is exploring the possibility of partnering with Ballroom Marfa, where he also serves on the board, to host internships for young people to gain experience in the arts industry and learn about the various jobs available.

This will be Art Blocks' first public event to coincide with the Marfa Invitational Art Fair.

"It was a conscious decision from Art Blocks to launch the exhibit with a free event during the highly exclusive and anticipated Marfa Invitational weekend," said a press release from Art Blocks. "Core to Art Blocks' mission is to open doors previously shut to a new generation of art enthusiasts and digital-first artists. They believe that the more art is available to a wider audience, the more transformative power it can hold."

COMMUNITIE
MARFA



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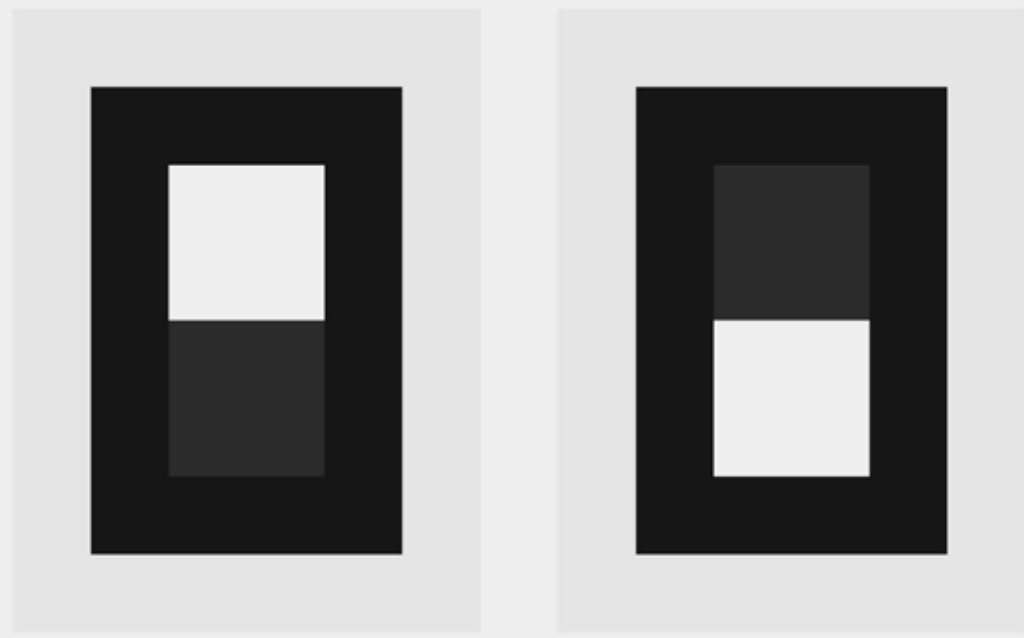
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MARFA INVITATIONAL 2022

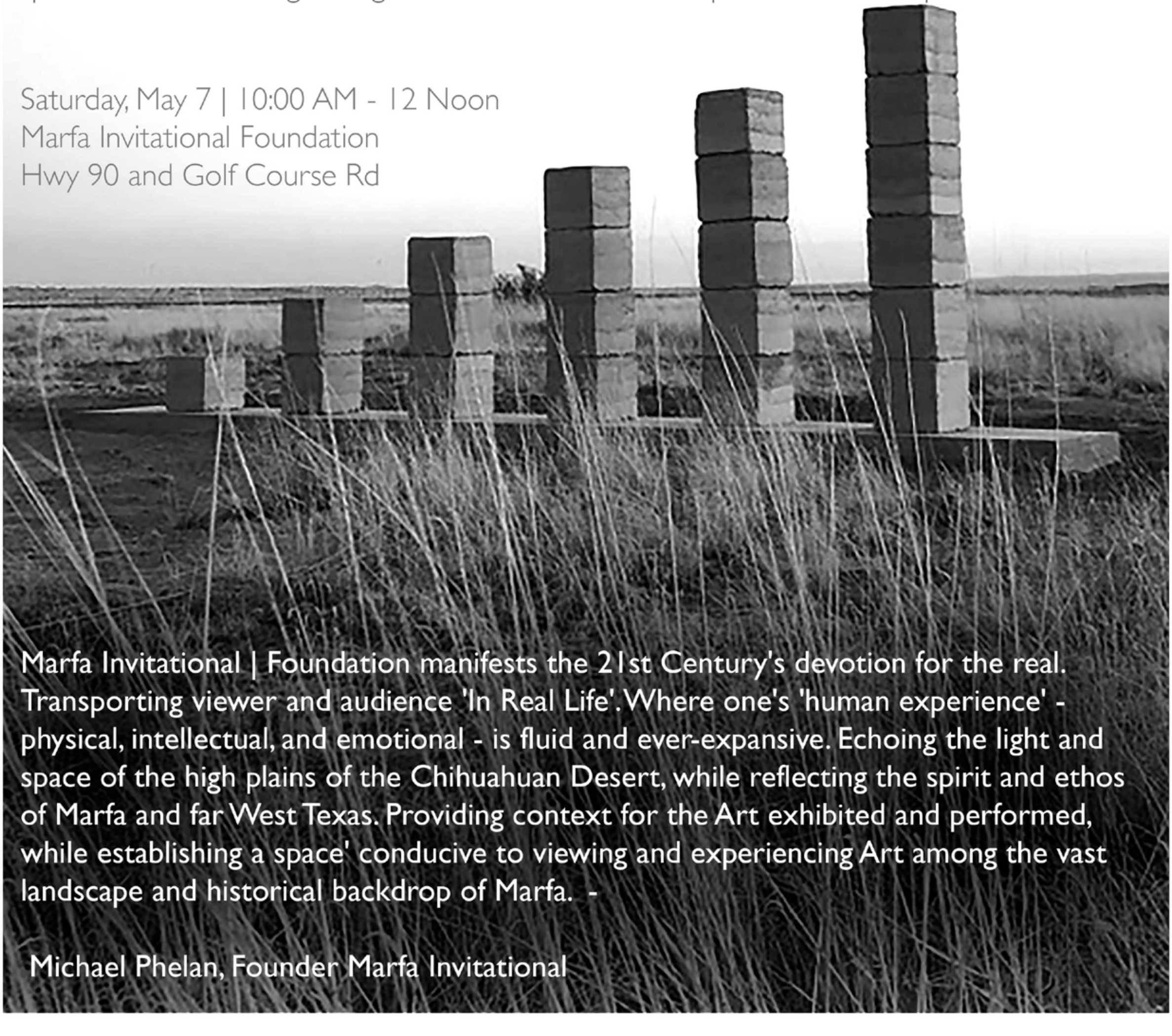
MONUMENTS :
Outdoor Sculpture Section

MARFA INVITATIONAL 2022 is beyond thrilled to announce its inaugural Outdoor Sculpture Section: **MONUMENTS**

Ethan Cook
Charles Harlan
Ryan Schneider
Emma Stern

Installed amongst Marfa Invitational | Foundation's grounds-
located on the edge of Marfa, amid the high plains of the far West Texas Chihuahuan Desert
MONUMENTS comprises today's foremost considered and consequential Artists.
All of the site-specific works have been constructed and composed by the artists for this special occasion- inaugurating MARFA INVITATIONAL | Foundation Sculpture Grounds.

Saturday, May 7 | 10:00 AM - 12 Noon
Marfa Invitational Foundation
Hwy 90 and Golf Course Rd



Marfa Invitational | Foundation manifests the 21st Century's devotion for the real. Transporting viewer and audience 'In Real Life'. Where one's 'human experience' - physical, intellectual, and emotional - is fluid and ever-expansive. Echoing the light and space of the high plains of the Chihuahuan Desert, while reflecting the spirit and ethos of Marfa and far West Texas. Providing context for the Art exhibited and performed, while establishing a space' conducive to viewing and experiencing Art among the vast landscape and historical backdrop of Marfa. -

Michael Phelan, Founder Marfa Invitational

MARFA INVITATIONAL 2022

As we reflect on the past two years of extraordinary challenge, we look forward with utmost anticipation and excitement to welcoming ALL back to Marfa Invitational this Spring for its 3rd Edition.

Given the overwhelming success of this past April's Edition- which 'Opened with a sense of optimism'- Marfa Invitational's Vision and mission continues to nurture a holistic approach to our relationship to and with Art, the landscape, and each other. The antidote to the quotidian.

Establishing a new vision for the 21st century as a leading global platform for Contemporary Art and Culture- Marfa Invitational provides an unparalleled platform for viewing and experiencing today's foremost considered and consequential Visionaries. From Contemporary Art, Architecture and Design to Film and Fashion. Welcoming Art patrons and visitors from around the globe to experience a truly unique and singular aesthetic and conceptual immersion that is Marfa Invitational.

Equal parts Exhibition and Experience, Marfa Invitational's format transcends what we have come to understand as the traditional model. Giving Context to the Art exhibited and performed, while transporting viewer and audience. Where one's human experience is fluid and ever expansive- echoing and reflecting the light, space, and ethos of the far West Texas high plains that is Marfa. At once immersive and transportive.

DATES + TIMES

MAY 06 - 08 | 2022

SAINT GEORGE HALL

Public Viewing:

FRIDAY, MAY 6
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 7
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 8
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

* ALL Exhibitions and Artist Projects are Open and Free of Charge to the General Public.

EXHIBITORS

NINO MIER GALLERY | LA + BRUSSELS + MARFA
STEFAN RINCK
HALF GALLERY | NYC + LA
EMMA STERN
THE PIT | LA + PALM SPRINGS
RYAN SCHNEIDER
BALDWIN GALLERY | ASPEN
AUSTIN EDDY
RICHARD HELLER GALLERY | LA
CARTER FLACHBARTH
BILL BRADY GALLERY | MIAMI + LA
EVGEN ČOPI GORIŠEK
CARL KOSTYÁL | LONDON + STOCKHOLM
TIM IRANI
LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY | AUSTIN
LADDIE JOHN DILL
DARREN FLOOK | LONDON
CHARLES HARLAN
THE VALLEY | TAOS
FERNANDA MELLO
JAMES BARRON ART | SOUTH KENT
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Image courtesy of the Will Cotton

Will Cotton, The Cowboy, 2022, Oil on linen, 54 x 72 inches



Photo courtesy of Brite Force

A historic photograph of the Brite Mansion.

Brite House, Yvonne Force Villareal to host inaugural 'Brite Force' exhibition featuring artist Will Cotton

MARFA — This weekend, in conjunction with the third annual Marfa Invitational Art Fair, a new arts initiative, "Brite Force," founded by arts leader and curator Yvonne Force Villareal, will celebrate its inaugural exhibition opening with works by American painter Will Cotton on view inside of the historic Brite House.

Through residencies, exhibitions and public projects, the newly-established multidisciplinary program Brite Force seeks to create a cultural exchange between international artists, including poetry, performance artists and more, and the Marfa community. Each year, artists will be given the opportunity to work locally in horse stables converted into artist studios on the Brite House property and put on an accompanying exhibition of their work.

The Brite House has been passed down in Yvonne's husband Leo Villareal's maternal side of the family for over a century. In 2014, the couple purchased the house from the Brite Family Trust and began a restoration project, partnering with an architect and interior designer, to create a welcoming space for both family and artists-in-residence.

Yvonne is the co-founder of the nonprofit Art Production Fund, which facilitates contemporary art projects and played a major role in bringing to fruition Elmgreen and Dragset's "PRADA MARFA" installation and the large-scale "Seven Magic Mountains" by Ugo Rondinone in the Nevada desert. She is also the co-founder of art advisory and cultural programming company Culture Corps.

"Brite Force is a personal passion project merging my career working in the art world and our

own family history deeply rooted in Marfa dating back to the late 19th century," said Yvonne in a recent press release. "My hope is that the participating artists contemplate the history of the Brite House and explore the remote Big Bend region and channel it into their creations."

Known locally as the Brite Mansion, the property, established in 1917, sits on the northwest edge of town overlooking the Brite Ranch, a pasture of grasslands with vistas of the Davis Mountains. Early Big Bend rancher Lucas Charles Brite and his wife, Eddie, remodeled the one-story adobe home, which they purchased from Eddie's uncle, into its current footprint, the 16-room mansion.

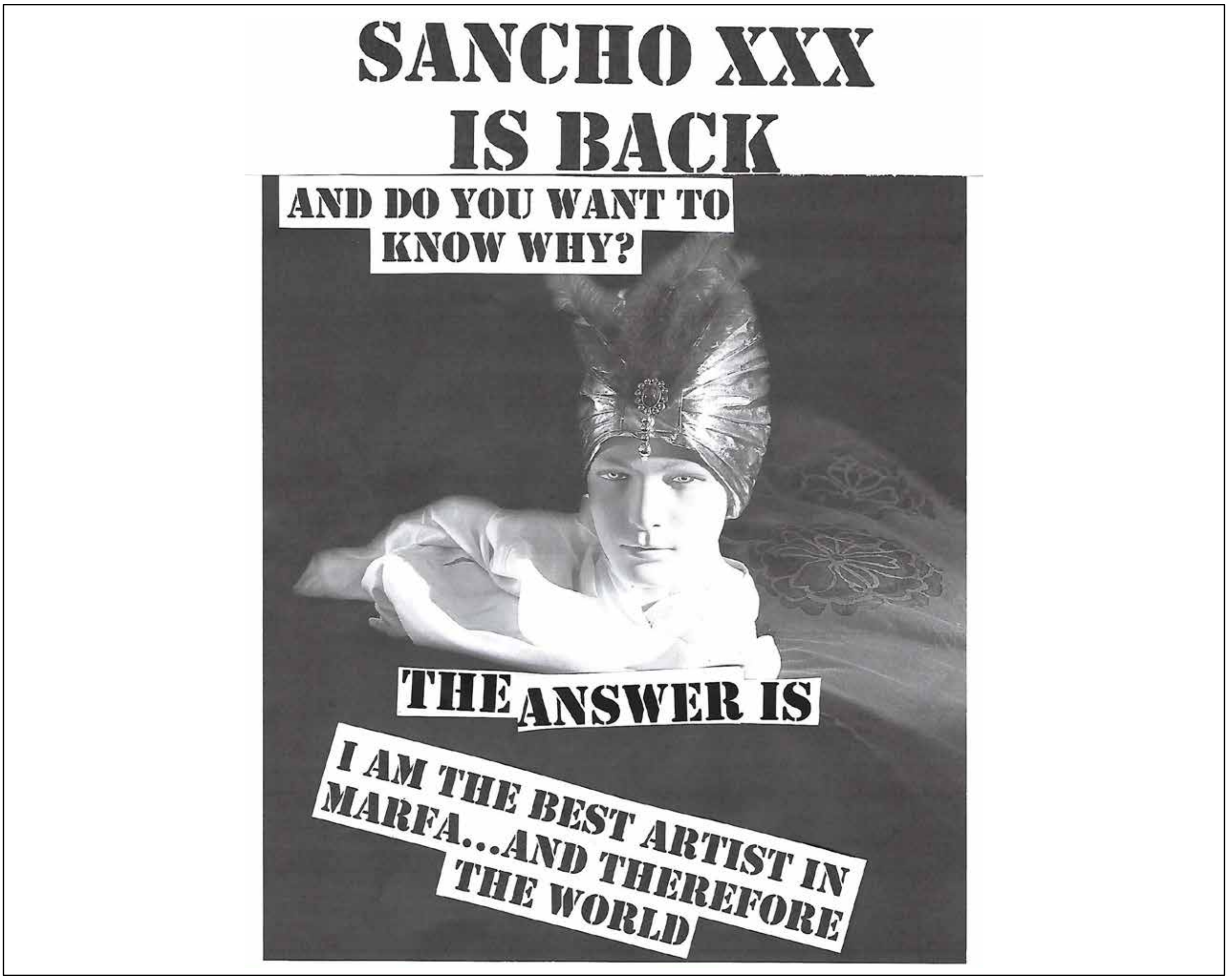
Cotton spent time working and creating in Marfa on the Brite House property in the fall of 2021. The show, titled Will Cotton: Marfa features a number of Cotton's fantastical, pink-hued, cloud shrouded pieces, which often depict the unlikely, mythical duo of cowboys and unicorns. Based in New York City, Cotton's paintings are in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Seattle Art Museum, Washington; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; and Orlando Museum of Art, Florida, as well as many private collections.

While in town, Cotton photographed the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo in Alpine and connected with working ranch hands, building subject matter for his series of paintings featuring cowboys and unicorns.

"The Brite House is situated on the edge of town and feels deeply connected to the miles of ranch land and history beyond," said Cotton in a press release. "This is a fantastic place to work, to devote yourself fully to your craft and immerse yourself in a welcoming community and infinite horizons that you can't help but feel inspired by."

Will Cotton: Marfa will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5-6, from 3 to 5 p.m. May 7, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 8 at the Brite House, located at 601 North Ridge Street in Marfa. The exhibition will also be on view by appointment from May 9 to September 2022, email info@britemarfa.com for more information.

For more information, visit BriteForceMarfa.com or follow @BriteMarfa on Instagram



'Out of Bounds' to open at Eugene Binder Friday

MARFA — Zeke Williams, Out of Bounds, an exhibition of polychrome wood reliefs, will open at Eugene Binder with a reception for the artist on Friday, May 6, from 4 until 6 p.m. The public is invited.

The polychrome, wood reliefs by Zeke Williams initially can be perceived as images of iconic vistas of the American West and Southwest, specifically Big Bend. Although these images could have been captured by any number of countless visitors to these sites, many were photographed by William's grandfather, whom he was close to, and shared an affinity for national parks. The dynamic of family history and relationships grounds the artist's imagery as something more than simply using a stock image of a national park scene, easily obtainable from a multitude of sources. Likewise, exposing laminations of bonded layers inherent in the plywood he uses becomes a visual history of another aspect of his art-making process. The tool paths made by the cutting tool of a computer numeric control router, the slightly burned areas, and other marks made when the algorithm that controls the machine causes the router to pause momentarily, the depth settings he uses to accentuate specific areas in the composition, even the knowledge of the development of the software used in programing the CNC router, and a sequence of other intermediate software required, becomes an integral part of his process.

In the production of these works, the cuts into the wood expose layers of unfinished plywood combined with surfaces that have not been machined, onto which the artist has applied vivid color. Together these two very different aspects of Williams' process create the perception of fractured vision, as though one might be viewing the work through a kaleidoscope or in some altered state of consciousness. While the controlled cuts made with a computer numeric control router reveal precise paths of varying depth, in contrast the seemingly diametrically opposed application of color to the uncut surfaces simultaneously heightens the sharpness of the overall imagery, while magnified areas of the machined aspects of the composition become abstracted, patterned intricacies that struggle for dominance with their flat, painted counterparts. Williams is especially interested in these moments of algorithm pauses, describing them as areas "where patterns break down and well defined areas become more ambiguous."

It becomes obvious that although the work initially has the look of spontaneity, the process of making it involves a complicated sequence of adapting photographic imagery and Williams' supplemental drawings to the software that controls the computer numeric control router, the machine that Williams programs to actually making the cuts into the plywood, and the final process of painting the uncut wood surfaces.

For further information contact Eugene Binder at eugenbinder.com or at 432.729.3900. The reception for the artist will take place at 218 N. Highland Avenue in the back space in conjunction with the opening of the Nino Mier Gallery exhibition of work by German artist Jan-Ole Schiemann.

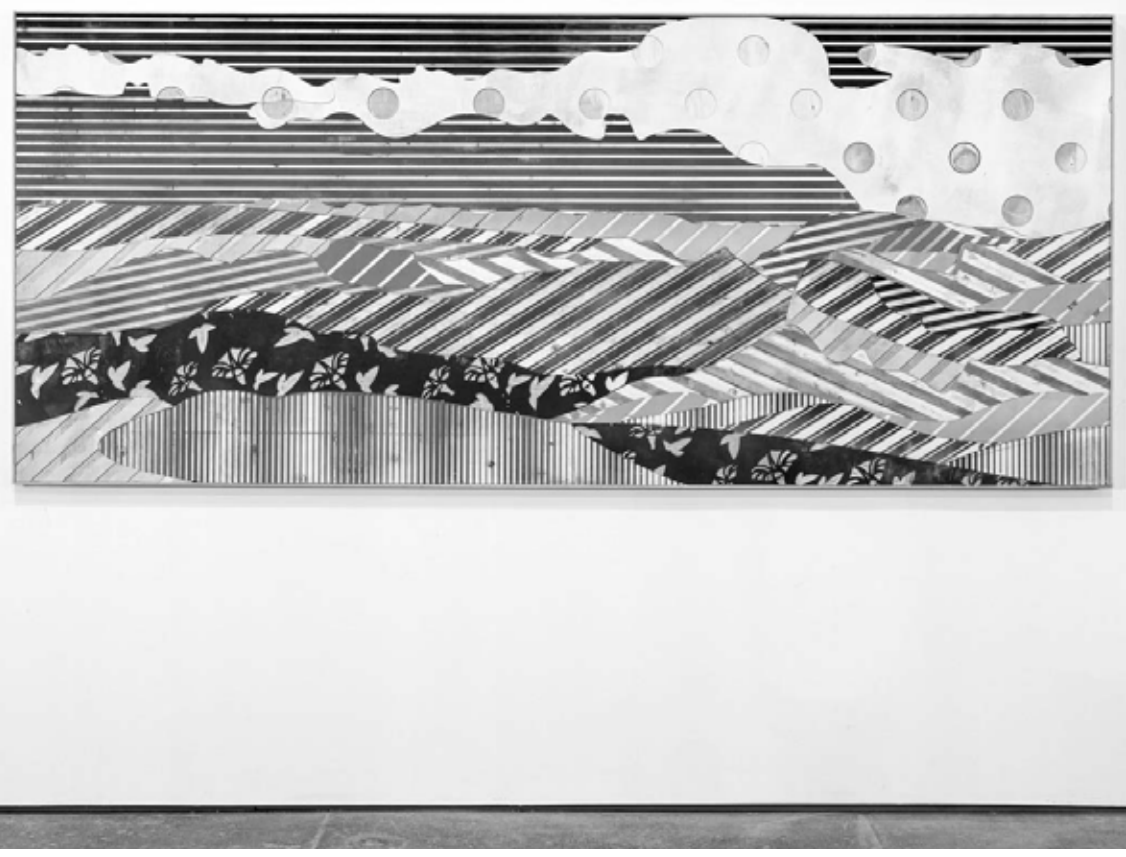


Photo courtesy of Eugene Binder

Zeke Williams, Sotol Vista Overlook, Big Bend, 2022, oil on birch plywood, 45 x 105 inches

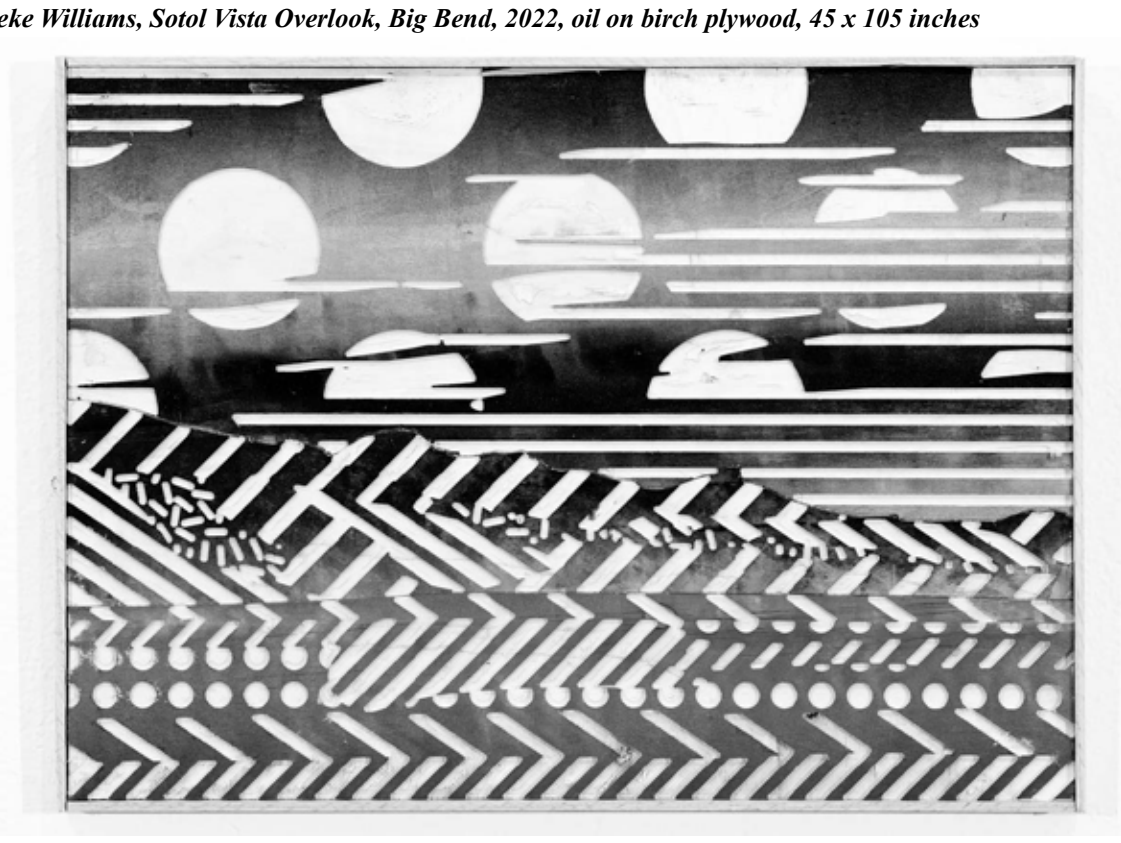


Photo courtesy of Eugene Binder

Zeke Williams, Willow Mountain from Terlingua, (squashed), 2022, oil on birch plywood, 16 1/4 x 22.1/2 inches

JOEY FAUERSO
2022 Guggenheim Fellow



LET ME HEAR YOUR BODY TALK
works by Joey Fauerso and Gyan Shrosbree

WRONG 110 N Highland Ave
Open daily noon to 5



Photo courtesy of RULE Gallery

Renluka Maharaj, Mana, 2022, archival inkjet print, cotton fabric on canvas, 49 x 32 inches

RULE Gallery to present 'Lambi Kahani (Long Story)'

MARFA — RULE Gallery to present Lambi Kahani (Long Story), an exhibition of new work by Renluka Maharaj. This will be the artist's second solo with RULE, but her first at the Marfa location. An opening reception will be held Saturday, May 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. The gallery will host a talk by the artist at 4 p.m. on May 7.

In her new exhibition, Lambi Kahani (Long Story), Renluka Maharaj continues to investigate her Indo-Caribbean heritage, drawing attention to the impact of Western colonialism and consumerism on the people of India and the Caribbean. Using a multidisciplinary approach, Maharaj repurposes advertising images of indentured Indian women in Trinidad and Tobago, made in the 1800s by French photographer Felix Morin. His photographs, originally used as marketing schemes, invited tourism to the "exotic" West Indies. The women pictured had no say in their appearance or use, but were instead objectified, dressed and posed for a Western audience, their names not even recorded in the archives.

For Maharaj, reclaiming, transforming and reimagining this history was a way to remove the colonial, white-male gaze and honor and protect these women through her own vision. Her resulting works are visually complex portrayals highlighted in vivid color and elevated with the details they deserved. The multiple iterations of each female subject on her canvas emphasize the gaze of the women depicted, ultimately engaging the viewer in the power stance of the model. The repetition also calls to mind the multi-limbed goddesses and gods of the Hindu religion. In their final forms, the unstretched canvas works are backed with chintz, a luxury Indian textile heavily Westernized in the late 1700s and cheapened by mass production techniques. Each piece is suspended from a neon-colored acrylic rod, integrating the traditional and contemporary in a manner that celebrates her cultural legacy while updating it for the new millennium.

For Maharaj, the works in Lambi Kahani are her way of bringing attention to a long story of which most people are not aware and of sharing the history of women who, while never voiceless, were long silenced.



BAD HOMBRES
PHOTOGRAPHS: DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN
ALBUM: PRIMO CARRASCO & DAVID BEEBE
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DRINKS BY CASA DRAGONES • BURGERS BY BAD HOMBRES

Central Marfa Historic District, including Donald Judd's buildings, recognized on the National Register of Historic Places

MARFA — The Central Marfa Historic District, including 11 buildings preserved and repurposed by the artist Donald Judd, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The listing is the first time that Judd's approach to architecture and preservation has been recognized as historically significant at the federal level.

This addition to the National Register acknowledges the historical, architectural and cultural significance of the city of Marfa, the importance of the town's Hispanic heritage, and its growth as a mercantile center from the late nineteenth century into the postwar period. The district's listing further recognizes 11 buildings Judd acquired and adapted between 1973 and 1994. These buildings are today maintained by Judd Foundation and the Chinati Foundation.

"Through this designation, granted to the town of Marfa and Don's buildings, we join a meaningful list of historic sites in the United States," says Rainer Judd, president of Judd Foundation. "Don had a profound regard and deep respect for the history and contributions of the Hispanic community that this nomination specifically recognizes. He believed that these efforts, reflected in the built environment of the town, should be preserved and celebrated. This national honor for Marfa is important to understanding our shared past and preserving these buildings for future generations."

"The Chinati Foundation is deeply honored for our buildings in downtown Marfa to be worthy of such recognition by the National Park Service. Being added to the National Register of Historic Places will help build community pride and amplify our sense of place," says Chinati Foundation Director Jenny Moore. "We are proud of our Marfa neighbors with whom we share this distinction, and we look forward to working together in the restoration and preservation of our unique town."

The buildings associated with Judd, which span multiple typologies and use, are highly visible elements of the city's commercial roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Judd largely preserved the overall configurations of the buildings and repurposed them in ways cognizant of their respective scale and architectural qualities. His considered adaptations were central to his own artistic production and the long-term installation of his work and that of fellow artists, as well his belief in the importance of preservation. Maintained and made publicly accessible by the Chinati Foundation and Judd Foundation, they are places in which visitors can study Judd's art and architecture and recognize the importance of preserving historic buildings.

The Central Marfa Historic District comprises 183 contributing buildings and architectural resources centered on Marfa's principal commercial street, Highland Avenue. The district builds on the current historic designations for Fort D.A. Russell, a military base that was active until shortly after World War II, and that of the Blackwell School, the only public institution built for the education of the Mexican American community of Marfa, which it served for more than 50 years.

"This National Register listing required hard work and cooperation between many persons and organizations over several years," says Gregory Smith of the Texas Historical Commission. Smith continues: "The nomination tells a complex story, from the city's founding along the railroad, its settlement and growth through the first half of the 20th century, and its more recent history that led to its recognition as an essential place to experience modern art. This nomination is distinct from most National Register listings that focus on local history that occurred more than 50 years prior as it expands on those stories to also recognize the significance of Donald Judd and his exceptional contributions."



A map showing the boundaries of the Central Marfa Historic District. Courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission.

Of the 11 buildings purchased and adapted by Judd, eight are maintained today by Judd Foundation and three by the Chinati Foundation. Under Judd Foundation's stewardship are the Architecture Office, Architecture Studio, Art Studio, Cobb House, Gatehouse, Ranch Office, Print Building and Whyte Building. The Chinati Foundation oversees the Chamberlain Building, Ice Plant and Locker Plant.

The Central Marfa Historic District was recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the Texas Historical Commission in December 2021. It was added to the National Register in April 2022 by the National Park Service.

Longtime locals, newcomers, tourists break bread and celebrate the return of the Chamberlain Building



Staff photo by Maisie Crow

Chinati Foundation Board of Trustees Sam Hamilton (left), Lee Cohn, Mack Fowler and Anthony Meier take part in a dinner Saturday evening hosted by the Chinati Foundation to celebrate the opening of the John Chamberlain Building on Highland Avenue.

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA —The city was treated on Saturday to the welcome sight of Highland Avenue filled with dining tables and live music, as a mixture of locals and visitors converged on the thoroughfare to celebrate the return of a Marfa landmark: the John Chamberlain Building, which prior to that weekend had been closed for a year-long restoration project.

The Chinati Foundation's tradition of hosting a dinner in the closed-off street, generally coinciding with the foundation's Chinati Weekend, was revived for the special occasion, which followed the grand-reopening of the restored structure. The building was open to the public beginning at 10 a.m. that morning until 5 p.m., shortly before the dinner kicked off.

The community gathering was a welcome opportunity to mingle and enjoy the sunshine — especially welcome after weathering a prolonged pandemic, said one local. "I think it's wonderful that they're doing this," beamed Mona Garcia, owner of Marfa's Building 98. "This is the coming out party after a horrible COVID, for two years."

The crowd lined up for a meal provided by Walter Burke Catering out of Sante Fe, then flocked to the tables lined up down the street; others took a seat directly in front of the evening's entertainment, Alpine-based band the Swifts.

Visitors to Marfa, who had not known about the event before arriving, were deeply appreciative of the hospitality. "I think it's really cool this event is put on," said Scott Hullum of Austin. "We're from Austin, so we're used to big city life. We were like, 'Is this actually free?'"

The event was free, and open to all. Chinati Director Jenny Moore had previously told The Big Bend Sentinel that she hoped visitors who happened to be in town would gravitate to the activity on Highland Avenue — and gravitate they did. Hullum said he and his travel partner, Lindsey Sweet, had never been to Marfa before, so it was quite the small town welcome.

"It's great to see the community come together," said Hullum.

A table full of recent Marfa transplants, having made the move from Austin, said the gathering felt special and community-oriented. "It's nice that Chinati is doing things for the community," said Jake Prichard. His wife, April, chimed in, noting it was a departure from their more recent hometown: "You can't bring the entire community of Austin together," she said. "It's really nice to feel there's a sense of community."

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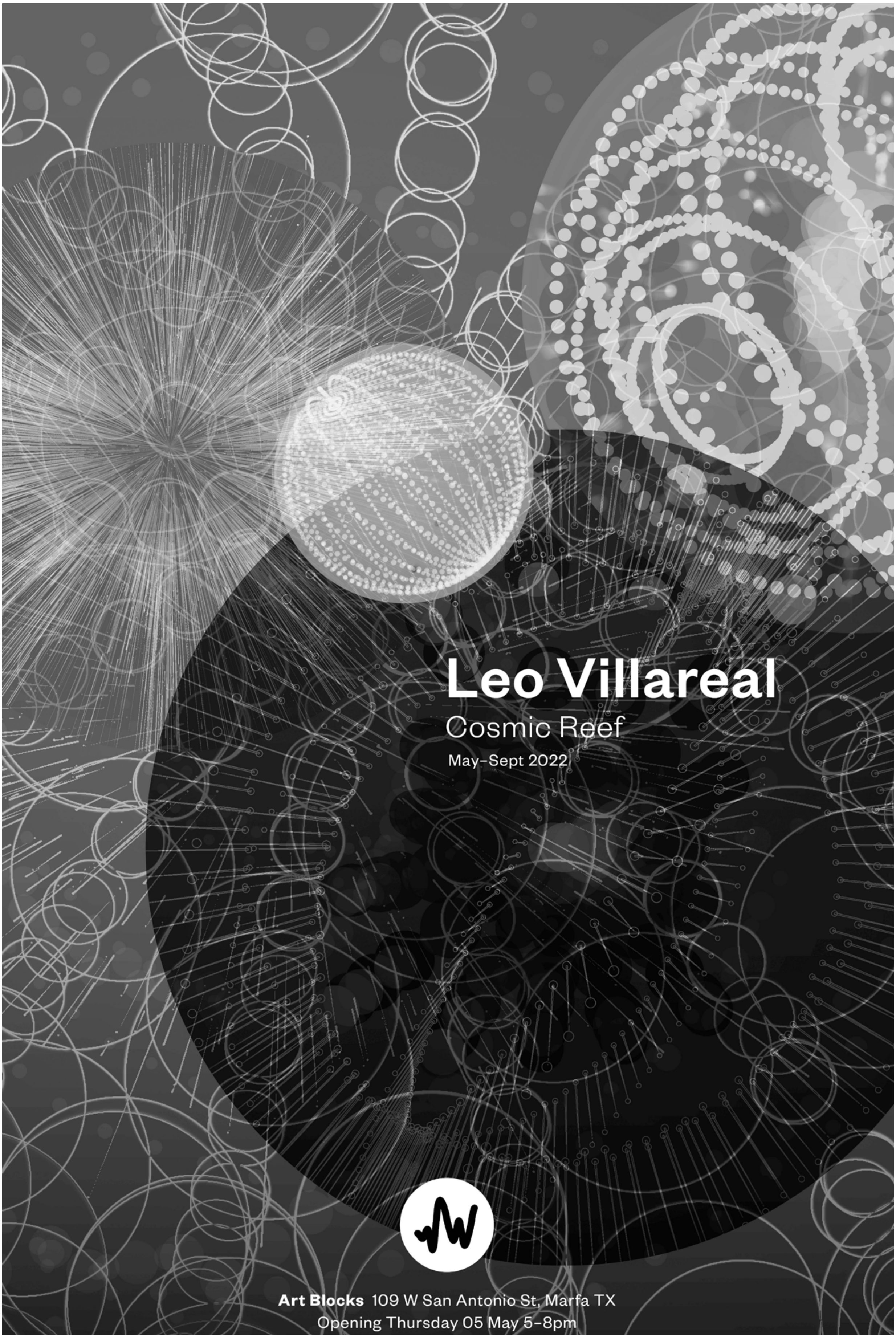
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