

BURN BAN IN EFFECT, NO GROUND FIRES

by order of Presidio County

Presidio mourns loss of two sisters killed on Highway 67

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At around 6 p.m. on April 10, two Presidio women — sisters Irma Rodriguez Dominguez and Carolina Rodriguez Leyva — were driving back from Marfa when they were struck by a northbound vehicle that had veered into their lane. The sisters were pronounced dead on the scene, and the driver of the other vehicle was transported to El Paso for treatment.

In the week since, the families of the deceased have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from their community. So many people showed up to last weekend’s funeral at Santa Teresa church that some mourners were turned away at the door. “I’m so grateful to live here in Presidio,” said sister Letty Tharp. “There was too much love around us.”

Tharp, Leyva and Dominguez grew up as three of four Rodriguez girls. “We were a team of four — they were my angels,” Tharp remembered.

As the sisters grew older, they stayed in Presidio and had families of their own. They also dedicated more and more time to taking care of their father, Francisco.

At the time of the crash, Irma had already retired, and Carolina was looking forward to celebrating the end of a long career at Presidio ISD by spending even more time with family. “We liked to spend time together here at the house, to eat and talk about our dreams,” Tharp said.

Earlier in the day on April 10, Irma and Carolina invited Letty to come with them for a sweet tradition — driving to Marfa to take their aunt out for a meal at Dairy Queen. When Letty turned down their invite, they told their sister not to make anything for supper because they’d return with everyone’s favorites. “I said, ‘Ok, I’m waiting for you girls,’” Letty remembered. “They never came back.”

The Rodriguez sisters are just the latest in a series of tragic accidents on Highway 67, which connects Presidio and Marfa. The route sees far more traffic than just two small border towns — it’s one of a few highways that connect northern Mexico with the Permian Basin, and sees lots of traffic traveling long distances with heavy loads, especially over holiday weekends.

County Judge Joe Portillo has known all his life just how dangerous the road can be, but said this accident spurred him to take formal action — just four months into his first term as judge. “To see two sisters in coffins laying side by side — there was not a dry eye,” he said.

As a former state trooper himself,
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Village Farms in Marfa is applying for a license from the state to grow medical marijuana. If approved, it plans to help qualifying patients access cannabis in Far West Texas.

Village Farms applies for license to grow medical marijuana

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — Village Farms is applying for a license from the Texas Department of Public Safety to grow cannabis in a one-acre greenhouse at its Marfa location in addition to existing tomato crops. If the application is successful, the company also plans to add a dispensary to the property.

The move comes at a time when lawmakers are calling for the expansion of Texas’ Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) — which allows for the cultivation and sale of medical marijuana in limited doses to patients with certain conditions — and the agribusiness is seeking to diversify its revenue streams.

At a Presidio County Commissioners Court

meeting last week, Senior Vice President of Strategy for Village Farms Paul Furfaro and the company’s lawyer, Susan Hays, sought, and ultimately won, a letter of support from local government officials for their license application.

The company representatives argued that the addition of cannabis crops would help keep the business alive — adding taxable value and creating new jobs — while opening up the potential for future expansion as marijuana laws in Texas evolve.

“This climate, this altitude and the days of sun, is extraordinary for growing both tomatoes and cannabis,” said Hays. “Looking long term as the laws around cannabis change in the country and internationally, this region is really well positioned to have steady manufacturing or

cultivation and bring dollars to the community.”

As it stands, Texas has one of the most conservative medical marijuana programs in the nation, said Hays, and while current bipartisan legislation — which recently passed the House — seeks to broaden the conditions that qualify for the TCUP program to include chronic pain (accepted conditions now include epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder and more), there is still a long way to go to ensure enough medical marijuana supply to meet demand.

Gaining a foothold in the medical cannabis market could help the tri-county’s Village Farms greenhouses avoid the fate of its Monahans greenhouse, Hays argued to commissioners, which the company recently chose to shut down and sell due to the fact that the operation was no

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Marfa Police Department to position license plate reader at 4-way stop

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — The Marfa Police Department plans to use money acquired through Operation Stonegarden to acquire an automated license plate reader it will position at Marfa’s four-way stop, facing south.

Marfa City Council voted unanimously last week to add a policy to the Marfa Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual allowing the department to move forward with purchasing the license plate reader once the grant money is allocated. At the same meeting, Council voted to approve the application for Stonegarden funds, which will also go towards buying a new police vehicle and covering gas expenses for the department.

Operation Stonegarden is a Department of Homeland Security program with the stated mission of enhancing cooperation between Border Patrol and local agencies. As the funds exist, essentially, to aid Border Patrol, the grant money can only be used for purposes that fall within those initiative guidelines.

Marfa Police Chief Gilbert Carillo explained to *The Big Bend Sentinel* that because Marfa is a border community, the license plate reader falls within the prescribed guidelines.

“It’s still considered border security because Marfa is so close to the border,” said Carillo. “Usually, stolen vehicles always end up in Mexico, so that’s the reason why they want to track those before they get to the border.”

There is already an automated license plate reader on U.S. 67 south of the Border Patrol

station, outside city limits, also facing south — that reader is operated and maintained by Presidio County and Border Patrol, said Carillo.

At the City Council meeting, Carillo said that the license plate reader would be used to hasten response time to reported stolen vehicles.

“Within five seconds it’ll be on the system,” he said. “If we get a stolen vehicle from Porters, by the time they get to the four-way it might already be in the system.”

Carillo also clarified to council members that the reader will be stationed on a trailer, also funded by Operation Stonegarden, so will be movable.

License plate readers automatically take photos of the license plates of cars that come into view, and store those photos in a database. According

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Marfa City Council candidate questionnaires

MARFA — Marfa residents will cast their ballots for Mayor of Marfa and two City Council seats this election season. Early voting begins April 24, leading up to Election Day on May 6, and voting takes place at Marfa City Hall in the Casner Room.

Incumbent Mayor Manny Baeza will appear on the ballot against opposing candidate Stephen Salgado — however, Salgado has said in a statement that he is withdrawing from the race. As it is too late to remove his name from the ballot, he will have to decline the role if elected, leaving the City of Marfa to fill the vacancy by appointment.

Current council member Raul Lara is running for reelection, against new candidates Travis Acreman and Christa Marquez, who did not submit a questionnaire. Voters will be instructed to select up to two out of the three council member candidates. City Council candidate

Mark Morrison is running unopposed, so is declared elected for a one-year term.

Here, the candidates share a bit about themselves and talk about pressing issues the city is facing.

Mayor of Marfa

Incumbent Manny Baeza
What qualifies you to serve as the Mayor of Marfa? I’ve decided to run for reelection because I want to make sure that the projects that the city has planned come to fruition. We currently have a major streets project that will be seeking RFPs (Request for Proposals) once engineering finalizes the scope of work, that will include complete renovation of Mesa, Russel, 3rd , Summer, Edinburg and Gonzales Streets. We have also applied for a \$500,000 TXCDBG grant to help with street improvements for the

roads connecting to the Marfa Housing Authority on Madrid Street.

We are also working on the completion of a new water well, and are making repairs to our sewer system. While Mayor, the City of Marfa has created a Streets Department, passed its annual audit(s), and has a contingency fund with at least three months of operating funds in the account. The city has also purchased a new ambulance, contributed to the expansion of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department’s building, are making renovations to the Marfa Museum, continued conversion of older natural gas lines to poly, and have extended the hours of the landfill. We have put together a great team over the past few years that is dedicated to the community. I want to continue to support their efforts for improving our community.

What local issues are you passionate about

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Early voting for May 6 local elections starts Monday, April 24

By MARY CANTRELL
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TRI-COUNTY — Early voting for the May 6 General Election — in which locals elect city council and school board candidates as well as decide on any ballot propositions — begins Monday, April 24.

Early voting runs through Tuesday, May 2. The voter registration deadline has passed. To see if you are registered to vote, visit the secretary of state’s website, votetexas.gov.

The Big Bend Sentinel has compiled voting times and locations for races taking place in Presidio and Brewster counties. There are no contested elections in Jeff Davis County.

Presidio County Proposition 1 — Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District

Early voting for the county election will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 24 through April 28 and May 1-2 at Marfa City Hall, in the Casner Room, and at the Presidio Activity Center. Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Both polling locations will serve residents in precincts 1-7 for early voting, but on Election Day, May 6, precincts 1 and 7 are required to vote in Marfa and precincts 2-6 are required to vote in Presidio. While located in the same building, the county and cities will hold separate elections, appearing on separate ballots.

For Proposition 1, voters will decide whether or not to allow the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District to become a taxing entity. The district, made up of a board and general manager, currently oversees well-drilling permits and operating permits for commercial entities, and is increasing water-level monitoring efforts to ensure the future of the area’s water supply.

The district has operated from a budget from the county commissioners since its inception in 1999 and has entered into an agreement with the county to offset a potential new tax by lowering their tax rate so that citizens would not be impacted. The district may levy a property tax not to exceed \$0.05 per \$100 of assessed property valuation and will work with the county tax assessor-collector to determine what the tax rate would need to be in order to get their required budget — currently around \$51,000.

The PCUWCD has released a series of educational videos on various groundwater topics in the lead up to the election, which can be found on their website, pcuwcd.org.

Marfa

Early voting for the City of Marfa election will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 24 through April 29 and May 1-2 at City Hall in the Casner Room. Polling hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Marfa City Council is made up of a mayor, who serves a two-year term, and five council members, which serve two-year staggered terms. In the upcoming election, the seat of Mayor Manny Baeza will be up for election, as will the seats of council members Irma Salgado and Raul Lara.

Incumbent Baeza is running for the role of the mayor of Marfa, which if elected would be his third

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Medical marijuana

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longer profitable.

“We don’t want that to happen in Marfa. We don’t want that to happen in Fort Davis,” said Hays. “This is a way to create jobs, but within a very, very restrictive conservative market right now, which is the medical market for cannabis here.”

County Commissioner David Beebe voiced support for the initiative, stating that the county had little by way of industry. “Just any type of job where somebody can make a living and pay the bills is a big deal for us,” he said.

Village Farms has been working for years to future-proof its business. In 2019 it announced it would begin growing hemp — a non-psychoactive form of the cannabis plant — in the area. “You can’t make it in vegetables,” CEO Mike De-Giglio told The Big Bend Sentinel at the time, citing an inability to compete with Mexico grower’s low produce prices.

But, due to a volatile market and prohibitive state regulatory practices, according to Hays, the hemp initiative never came to fruition. Village Farms did, however, make a successful foray into cultivating cannabis in Canada, where it is currently one of the top growers, having entered into the market at the time of legalization in the country around 2017. If it were to be awarded the license through the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to grow medical marijuana in Marfa, it would be the company’s first cannabis operation in the U.S.

In an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel* Furfaro explained the one-acre greenhouse — a small portion of the company’s 60 acres worth of Marfa tomato crops — they intend to use for cannabis production, if awarded the license, was severely damaged in a 2012 hail storm and never rehabilitated. He said the company wanted to retrofit it and put it to good use using their know-how from growing cannabis in Canada and saw a need in the Texas market, where just three licenses have been awarded for medical marijuana cultivation, all of which are in the general Central Texas area.

“One of the biggest criticisms that we’ve been able to learn about from patients is not enough producers, way too expensive, not very easy to get depending on where you are in Texas,” said Furfaro.

“We'll be able to serve a part of Texas which has been underserved right now, which is all of West Texas,” he

continued.

Hays said current regulations are not clear on how many plants or acres can be grown, but if the license is awarded Village Farms will not be limited to raising one acre of cannabis plants — though that greenhouse will serve as ample starting space.

“You can make a lot of cannabis medicine off an acre,” said Hays. “In the long run, that facility is very well positioned if the laws in Texas get broader.”

But with legalization up in the air on the federal and state levels as well as laws regarding interstate commerce, the future of the nation’s marijuana market is unknown, said Furfaro, and Village Farms was poised to focus on what it could accomplish with the license and one-acre greenhouse for now.

“Right now, the only thing we can really focus on is that one little greenhouse, which is going to be able to supply Texans, if they want it, and to be able to do it at a competitive, good price,” said Furfaro. “Our only ambition is to be able to get a license and then to evolve at the same pace that regulations evolve with the states and not anywhere faster.”

Because the license through the state is a vertically-integrated license, Village Farms will be required to not only cultivate, but also process, test and distribute their own cannabis products. (In other states, third party independent testing is a basic safety regulation.) The creation of a lab will lead to more highly-skilled, higher-paying jobs in the area, said Furfaro, for people trained in quality assurance practices and governmental regulations.

“There's going to be new jobs that are going to be created, and there's going to be very specialized jobs that are going to be created to be able to run a medical cannabis facility within the state of Texas,” said Furfaro.

From a cultivation standpoint, tomatoes and cannabis are fairly similar, said Furfaro, with marijuana plants being slightly more laborious, requiring careful handling. He claimed new cannabis plants would not require more water than the company was currently using to farm tomatoes. Village Farms is the largest user of water in Presidio County and utilizes a reverse osmosis to remove minerals from well water, as well as a water recycling system.

Heightened security would also be a feature of the

one-acre medical cannabis greenhouse — in addition to the existing 24-7 security booth guarding the property, Village Farms would also install a security fence with motion detectors around the one-acre greenhouse as well as a multitude of security cameras, said Furfaro.

“There are going to be so many cameras that there is not an inch of the facility that is not going to be covered every moment in time by a video feed,” said Furfaro.

Greenhouse walls would be opaque for further protection, and transparent ceilings would have shatterproof glass. Hays, who will submit architectural renderings of the entire operation as a part of Village Farms medical cannabis application, said they would also work to prevent light pollution if additional grow lights were needed at night.

A dispensary and sales location is also planned for the site, said Hays. A small public road would be built in order for patients to drive in and fill prescriptions. By law, Village Farms would be limited to distribution sites within a day's drive of the Marfa greenhouse.

“We would be able to, if the communities are interested, set up sales locations in each community and as far away as Odessa,” said Hays.

In order for that supply chain to work, the area will need doctors registered with DPS’s TCUP program to give out medical marijuana prescriptions. Hays said moving forward, underserved rural Texans deserve access to medical cannabis, which acts as an effective alternative to medications such as highly-addictive opioids.

“Rural Texas does not have the same access to healthcare as most of the state, and there is no access to medical cannabis here at all,” said Hays. “That's not fair. It can have really great effects for some people.”

Current legislation would also simplify the process of adding more conditions to the list of TCUP qualifiers by giving the authority to the Texas Department of State Health Services rather than requiring a change in the law. The majority of Texans, or 82%, are in favor of making marijuana legal for a wider range of medical purposes with a prescription, according to a February 2023 poll conducted by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston.

Hays, who operates a hop and hemp farm in Alpine and has been lobbying on cannabis issues at the

state level since 2017, recently ran for agriculture commissioner on a platform of more sensible cannabis laws. She said the state’s laws and conservative politics have led to the under-developed medical cannabis market that has resulted in a lack of access for patients and high prices.

“We have this leadership in the state, it's extremely conservative and likes to think of themselves as tough, but they really haven't engaged in what it means to regulate cannabis,” said Hays. “They want to slow boat it, but you can't slow boat it when the world is changing so quickly around you.”

Texas is the only state which regulates medical marijuana through law enforcement rather than a public health agency. In other states with more robust medical marijuana programs, around 4% of the population typically enrolls, said Hays, and Texas was way behind on serving that level of patients.

According to the DPS website, 50,000 patients have utilized TCUP since its inception in 2015. The Texas Tribune recently reported that the program actively serves around 10,000 to 12,000 participants.

“Texas ought to have a million patients, not 10,000 or 50,000,” said Hays.

While there are currently only three licensed medical cannabis producers in the state of Texas, the 2015 Texas Compassionate Use Act states “issuance or renewal of the license is necessary to ensure reasonable statewide access,” and a previous study conducted by DPS concluded that 12 providers were needed to adequately cover the state.

Since 2015, license applications have only opened up twice: once in 2017, when the existing three were awarded, and in January 2023.

Applications for the new second round are due in late April, and Village Farms expects to hear if they are awarded a license late this summer or early fall, according to Hays. It is not known how many licenses DPS intends to give out, and the application process is highly detailed and competitive, said Hays, requiring not only architectural plans, but a projected two-year budget, inventory tracking system, waste management plans and more.

“I think they're gonna get like 200 applications,” said Hays. “Every major cannabis company in the country is applying.”

Early voting

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term. According to the city secretary, the other mayoral candidate, Stephen Salgado Boelter, withdrew from the race on April 19, citing family matters.

However, according to state law, it is too late for Boelter’s name to be removed from the ballot. If he wins the election, he will have to decline the office of mayor, leaving the city with a vacancy which council would fill via appointment.

“Unfortunately I will be withdrawing as a candidate for mayor due to family matters I have been dealing with,” Salgado wrote in a statement to The Big Bend Sentinel. “I would like citizens to know about my circumstance so they will vote accordingly since I will still be on the ballot.”

“It has been a tough decision to make. I hope the citizens will understand,” he added.

For the two available council member seats, current Councilmember Lara is running for reelection, along with new candidates Travis Acreman and Christa Marquez. Voters will be instructed to select up to two out of the three council member candidates. Mark Morrison, who is running unopposed, is declared elected for a one-year term.

After May 6, newly-elected council members take office in late May or early June. There were no contested Marfa ISD School Board positions, so the district will not participate in the election with the city.

Candidate Questionnaires for Marfa City Council can be found in this week’s edition of *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

Presidio

The City of Presidio and Presidio ISD will hold a joint election. Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 24 through May 2 at the Activity Center, 1200 E. O'Reilly Street. Polling hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

The role of the mayor of Presidio is up for election, with incumbent John Ferguson and Angel Miguel Campos vying for the position. Two council member

seats will be up for election, with voters choosing up to two out of three candidates: incumbent Arian Velazquez-Ornelas, incumbent Nancy Arevalo, and Todd Beckett.

Presidio ISD School Board candidates are Brenda Witty, Jaime Sanchez, Steve “Nick” Alvarez, Carlos Reyna, Jessica Acevedo Nunez, Marco Lujan, Jeremy Velasquez and Perla Natividad.

Trustees are at-large and do not represent specific districts, meaning voters will choose four out of the eight candidates that appear on the ballot.

Brewster County

The City of Alpine and Alpine ISD will hold a joint election. Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 24 through May 2 in the City Council Chambers, 803 W. Holland Ave. Polling hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

The City of Alpine will have one race for the Ward 5 council member seat, for which incumbent Jerry Johnson, who passed away recently, and Rick Stephens both filed. The City of Alpine has stated that Johnson will remain on the ballot despite his passing, per state law — the Texas Election Code dictates that a candidate's name will appear on the ballot if they pass away on or after the second day before the filing deadline (in this case, February 17). If a deceased candidate is elected, a vacancy is created, and the council will appoint a successor.

Incumbent council members Judy Stokes, Ward 1, and Darin Nance, Ward 3, were unopposed candidates. They have already been declared elected and will not appear on the ballot.

The Alpine ISD School Board will have two seats up for election. Incumbent Joe Portillo, who represents District 2, filed for re-election and is unopposed, meaning he will be declared elected and will not appear on the ballot. The District 6 seat, currently held by Dr. Adrian Billings, will be a race between Billings, who filed for re-election, and new candidate Richard Portillo.

Presidio mourns

(Continued from page 1)

he’s been studying traffic patterns on the road. “We have a lot of blind curves and a lot of odd traffic — Solitaire homes, alfalfa trucks, transmigrantes,” he said. “We also have people coming from Midland-Odessa and from Chihuahua, and the driving habits of those communities are very, very different from ours.”

He cited the Texas Department of Transportation’s 67 Corridor Study, an exhaustive document compiled by the state agency over the years 2010 to 2018. The study revealed a higher crash rate in the 67 corridor than statewide averages. Crashes were clustered about 20 miles south of Marfa to 20 miles north of Presidio, where the road is windy and steep.

Portillo has since enlisted an informal focus group of representatives from local law enforcement, DPS,

and TxDOT. He’s hoping to get the attention of state lawmakers to help initiate projects that will make the road safer.

Presidio Mayor John Ferguson was on board, hoping to get the message out to visiting drivers that it’s important to drive the road carefully. He remembered a fatal crash about a year ago, where a driver from Chihuahua was killed on the highway on the way back from WalMart with mother’s day presents.

He’s hoping that Presidio can remain a welcoming place — while also ensuring the safety of everyone on the road. “You can’t blame people for wanting to go visit and come back and forth [across the border],” he said. “But everyone gets in a huge hurry and they take huge chances.”

License plate reader

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to the Department of Homeland Security’s fact sheet touting the technology, the technology “captures images of license plates and allows law enforcement agencies to identify and compare plates against those

of cars driven by people suspected of being involved in illegal activities.”

Carillo told The Sentinel the department is likely three to four months away from actually acquiring the automated reader.



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Candidate questionnaires

(Continued from page 1)

that you hope to advocate for on city council? I’m passionate about improving Marfa’s infrastructure. I strongly feel that local government’s role is to provide its community with a safe and healthy environment. To achieve these goals, we must continue to work on street improvements, upgrade water and wastewater facilities, and continuing to improve EMS and Marfa PD’s equipment and technology. I also plan on exploring the change from mechanical water meters to AMI meters. I strongly feel that this will improve meter reads and help with billing discrepancies. That said, the Marfa Nutrition Center is dear to me, and we must continue to fund their operations and make improvements where needed.

Constituents on both sides of the issue regarding short term rental regulations recently approached the council, if you are re-elected how do you plan to address short term rentals, if at all? STRs and housing are complex and important issues for our citizens, no matter where their views fall. Staff has been and will continue to look into the issue along with legal counsel. Since the legislature is in session right now, it’s best to wait and see the outcome of STR-related bills in both the House and Senate. Once those have been tackled, the City will have a clearer path about how to possibly address these issues.

In light of recent news about new development projects in and around Marfa, how do you think the city should be involved moving forward with future developments and growth? The city should continue to focus on improving our infrastructure. With any new developments inside the city, staff works closely with meeting the needs of developers. It has been an honor serving ALL citizens of the city of Marfa for the past fifteen years. With your continued support, I feel that we can tackle more pressing items to the city in the next two years. Once again, thank you for your continued support!

Marfa City Council Members

Incumbent Raul Lara

What qualifies you to serve on Marfa City Council? I’ve been on City Council since 2019 and was on the Marfa ISD school board as well. I’m a life-long Marfa resident. I’m deeply committed to the community and residents and want to continue my public service and helping Marfa continue to prosper.

What local issues are you passionate about that you hope to advocate for on city council? I love the people of Marfa and I want to make sure they have programs in place to help them at all stages of their lives. I’m especially passionate about the Nutrition Center and library. Both of these departments help some of our most special residents and I love the commitment of our staff. The library goes above and beyond to help kids find a love of reading and our nutrition program not only helps our seniors’ bodies but their minds and sprints as well.

Constituents on both sides of the issue regarding short term rental regulations recently approached the council, if you are re-elected how do you plan to address short term rentals, if at all? I think the most important aspect of this issue is education. While we’re aware that cities in other states have made moves to restrict STRs, that doesn’t help give us guidance since we’re bound by Texas laws. Staff has been looking into property rights vs regulation and what other cities of our type have done. However, with the legislature in session, we’re in a bit of a holding pattern and need to see what will come out of the House and Senate this summer. Once they adjourn, we’ll have a better idea of where we stand.

In light of recent news about new development projects in and around Marfa, how do you think the city should be involved moving forward with future developments and growth? Growth is inevitable and we work with developers to make sure that their project follows all city guidelines. City Administration and Public Utilities staff work with anyone who is developing a project in the city limits. They make sure all of our regulations are followed and check in on the progress regularly. So far, everyone has worked well together and I’m proud of the open line of communication staff has with the developers.

Travis Acreman

What qualifies you to serve on Marfa City Council? I live in Marfa, I love Marfa, and I am willing to take the position. Our city has occasionally had difficulty finding enough candidates to fill the Council, or convincing members to remain through an entire term. I realize that it may not be tremendous fun, but it is tremendously important. Every decision the City makes has an immediate impact on the daily lives of its residents. In that spirit, I am willing to serve as a competent and reasonable administrator of city government duties. I don’t have a pet cause and I am not running on any particular issue, other than residents of Marfa have the right to rely on thoughtful and measured local leaders who take their responsibilities seriously. I believe that I have good judgment and that I am fair. Those are the qualifications I bring to our voters.

What local issues are you passionate about that you hope to advocate for on city council? I like to think of myself as an aggressively boring candidate. The first priority of local government should be to do no harm. The City has limited resources, and the Council is responsible for stretching that limited pool as far as it can reach, providing the best services to the most people in an equitable a way as possible. As a council member, I would work with City staff to identify projects with the most potential to improve the lives of residents, starting with the fundamentals. Streets, sewers, and fire hydrants may not be glamorous, but they are foundational to life in

Marfa. The next Council should continue the necessary modernization works already underway, and accelerate them whenever possible. I would also look forward to partnering with local business leaders to encourage our economy to thrive even more. Working together, I believe we can identify new opportunities and efficient practices that would earn the community more value in exchange for the hospitality we provide, replenish the City coffers, and allow the Council to do more for more of its residents.

Constituents on both sides of the issue regarding short term rental regulations recently approached the council, if you are elected how do you plan to address short term rentals, if at all? Very little can change without an engaged community, so I appreciate everyone who came to City Council to make their voices heard. Their passion underlines the challenges we face with cost of living and housing availability. Understandably, everyone wants a piece of Marfa, but there is only so much Marfa to go around. This requires a delicate balancing act, encouraging the visitors that make our economy flourish, while respecting and empowering the people who live and work in Marfa and make our city so special in the first place. This should begin with advocacy at the State Legislature to reclaim more control at the local level. Until Marfa has the right to fully determine its own planning and licensing policies, the City risks becoming entangled in costly legal battles that are already being fought by larger cities with more resources. Until then, the City should pursue options that would open new housing opportunities that would not risk legal challenges. We might consider loosening restrictions on mixed-use and live-work planning within reasonable districts, and we should prioritize building a war chest dedicated to improved housing access. I have seen the community come together and support each other through difficult circumstances in the past. By putting people first and mobilizing all of the energy, creativity, and resourcefulness available in Marfa, I have full confidence that we can make it through this challenge as well.

In light of recent news about new development projects in and around Marfa, how do you think the city should be involved moving forward with future developments and growth? Change is inevitable. When so many people want to come to Marfa, they will find a way to do so. Recognizing this, the City should be focused on smart growth that welcomes our well-heeled visitors, while prioritizing the needs of the people who are here full-time. We need to work with the County to ensure that any new developments are fully sustainable in terms of our natural resources. We can’t control what we can’t measure, so we need to start by passing the water district proposition and give local authorities more tools to identify and address ongoing needs. This is especially important when considering the developments taking place outside of city limits. Unless the residents of those areas decide to petition for annexation, the City has no jurisdiction and can only advocate for responsible oversight from Presidio County. For projects proposed within city limits, the City should encourage or directly incentivize contributions back to the community. Affordable housing and improvements to shared space can be a key component of new developments, and the effects of new growth on existing infrastructure must be taken into account.

Mark Morrison — unopposed candidate, “declared elected” for 1 year term

What qualifies you to serve on Marfa City Council? I have been a small business owner for the last 20+ years in the healthcare field, and the residential construction field. I have been able to learn and navigate regulations, zoning, client expectations, and making and keeping budgets. I believe that having a varied work experience will be beneficial for learning about issues, examining and evaluating the facts at hand, and will help in making decisions that I hope will be in the best interests of our community.

What local issues are you passionate about that you hope to advocate for on city council? I will be advocating for improving our infrastructure, and keeping a responsible, balanced budget. Sure, there are flashier things to be passionate about, but we can’t ignore the day to day business of keeping a city running smoothly. I will be looking forward to learning as much as I can so that I can be a responsible and helpful council member.

Constituents on both sides of the issue regarding short term rental regulations recently approached the council, as a new council member how do you plan to address short term rentals, if at all? I’m not sure it is the responsibility of the city council to run headlong into rapid regulation of the Short Term Rental issue. I do believe that we should learn more about how different municipalities have been affected by STR’s, and what actions have been suggested / implemented. I also suggest that we learn as much as we can about Texas laws regarding STR’s, property owner rights, zoning regulations, and other legal aspects concerning this issue.

In light of recent news about new development projects in and around Marfa, how do you think the city should be involved moving forward with future developments and growth? I think the City should be involved in the growth and development issues within the city limits, enforcing existing zoning regulations consistently. We should also look to the future with our zoning regulations to anticipate needs for updating existing zoning and possibly enact new zoning regulations to help ensure an equitable environment for our community.

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Game room lobbyist organization offers to write Presidio’s game room ordinance

By SAM KARAS
sam@bigbendsentinel.com

PRESIDIO — At Tuesday night’s meeting, council members were slated to hear a second reading of the city’s new game room ordinance — but were left with more questions than answers after hearing a presentation from Robert Flores of the Texas Game Room Owners Association (TGROA), a nonprofit organization specializing in the issue.

Game rooms are a form of legal gambling in Texas — a state where gambling is illegal. Game rooms skirt the law by offering low or no cash prizes, commonly referred to as the “fuzzy animal exception” after the practice of offering small stuffed animals to winners. Its proponents say that game rooms simulate the fun of gambling without violating the law; detractors say they’re a magnet for violent crime, money laundering and other unsavory activity.

Presidians may be more familiar with game rooms elsewhere in the region — there are currently only two in town clustered along Highway 67. The establishments are popular in the Permian Basin, so much so that the City of Odessa recently voted to decline any game room permit renewal after December 2022 — essentially banning the businesses altogether.

Presidio city officials have been slow and deliberate in the drafting of their ordinance. City officials have stressed that they aren’t seeking to limit legal business — but aren’t currently collecting any revenue from game rooms other than utilities. “We’re poor and we need the money,” Councilmember Nancy Arevalo said at the last reading of the proposed ordinance.

Permit requirements would go into effect once the ordinance is officially passed — Presidio’s currently operating game rooms won’t be required to pay for permits retroactively.

The current draft of the ordinance assigns annual permitting fees to game room owners on a tiered scale based on the number of machines in their establishment.

Back in November — when the topic first came up at city council — City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez reached out to TGROA for advice after a tip from another small border town who had enlisted their services. He did not receive a response until the morning of Tuesday’s meeting but said he was still looking forward to their presentation.

TGROA drafts regulatory ordinances on the behalf of cities and offers game room operators legal counsel against the cities regulating them as well as advice for people “apprehensive” about investing in Texas game rooms. “We assist counties and cities with establishing sustainable state-of-the-art ordinances that have a positive community impact and our [sic] mutually beneficial [sic],” the organization’s website reads.

Flores began his presentation by explaining what the ideal “mutually beneficial” relationship between city and game room owner could look like. His group specializes in “charitable gaming” that encourages members to

invest back in their communities.

He told council that he would encourage Presidio’s game rooms to form a “coalition” of operators who would pool some of their profits into a collective 501c3 nonprofit to serve the greater good. “They could put shoes on the feet of children who have never worn shoes before,” he said.

If Presidio were to opt in, TGROA would draft their ordinance and then shoulder the responsibility of compliance inspections. In a small town where code enforcement officers are hard to come by, Flores felt that would be a helpful service. “Cities get into trouble when you don’t have compliance or enforcement officers who understand how these machines work,” he said.

City of Presidio Finance Specialist Malynda Richardson was curious to know how — if all of TGROA’s services to the city were free — how the organization stayed afloat. “How do you pay yourself?”

Flores explained that each game room owner would have to pay \$50 a machine quarterly for a compliance sticker. TGROA would be responsible for inspecting for noncompliance, and any penalties would go back to the city.

Flores also explained that as the game room industry grows, TGROA’s resources and clout could be beneficial to the city in navigating relationships between owners and the city. “We’re based out of Austin, we’re right across the street from the Capitol,” he said. “We have our own GPAC (general political action committee) to support state and local candidates who support our vision of charitable gaming.”

In private practice, Flores’ resume boasts eight years specializing in “game room law,” with \$2.5 million recovered by game room operators over the course of “wrongful raids.” Presentation materials provided to the city council say that he is “currently suing three counties for wrongful raids.”

Flores clarified to Marfa Public Radio that the organization itself does not provide legal assistance to game room operators, though some of its individual members do. “Texas Game Room Owners Association does not represent game room owners in litigation,” he said.

Councilmembers ultimately took no action — but were grateful for the food for thought. “I definitely want more education on this from someone who specializes in it,” said Mayor Pro Tempore John Razo.

Councilmember Joe Andy Mendoza agreed. “The first question that comes up when someone mentions game rooms — is it legal?” he said. “What we want to do is to ensure that we have a system and a process so that [owners] can do what they do and entertain for profit.”

Flor Montoya, Presidio game room owner, was also grateful for Flores’ perspective — she has been extremely active in public discussion about the new regulations, which she feels are an effort to push her out of town. “It hurts me to think about leaving my job,” she said. “It’d be like if I built my house and then somebody else came in and lived in it — for me, it’s really hard.”

AW 5-13
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 4.004, 4.005, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code
12/2021

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
(AVISO DE ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS)

To the registered voters of the County of PRESIDIO, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de PRESIDIO, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 5/16/23 for voting in a special election to elect:
PROPOSITION 1 / PROPOSICIÓN 1
(Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citados abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 5/16/23 para votar en la elección especial para elegir:

List Offices/Propositions/Measures on the ballot (Enumere los puestos/proposiciones/medidas oficiales en la boleta)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
<u>PROPOSITION 1 / PROPOSICIÓN 1</u>	
<u>SEE ANNEX</u>	

On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election.
(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde están inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación el Día de Elección) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
<u>MARFA CITY HALL CASINEROOM</u>	<u>1, 7</u>
<u>113 S. HIGHLAND, MARFA, TX</u>	
<u>PRESIDIO ACTIVITY CENTER</u>	<u>2, 3, 4, 5, 6</u>
<u>1400 E. O'REILLY, PRESIDIO, TX</u>	

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombrados abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place Include Name of Building and Address (Sitio principal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
<u>MARFA CITY HALL CASINEROOM</u>	<u>APRIL 24 - MAY 2, 2023</u>
<u>113 S. HIGHLAND, MARFA, TX</u>	<u>8AM - 5PM</u>

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
<u>PRESIDIO ACTIVITY CENTER</u>	<u>APRIL 24 - MAY 2, 2023</u>
<u>1400 E. O'REILLY, PRESIDIO, TX</u>	<u>8AM - 5PM</u>

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

PRESIDIO COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
Name of Early Voting Clerk
(Nombre del Secretario(a) de la Votación Adelantada)
PO BOX 769
Address (Dirección)
MARFA 79843
City (Ciudad) Zip Code (Código Postal)
432-729-4812
Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)
FLORE ZUBIA P CO. PRESIDIO, TX, US
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)
N/A
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario(a) de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABMs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

4/25/23
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Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
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4/25/23
(date)/(fecha)

Issued this 12th day of April, 20 23.
(day) (month) (year)

(Emitida este día (day) de (month) de 20 (year))

[Signature]
Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Dirigente que Preside)

ANNEX

PROPOSITION 1

Shall the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District instate its original jurisdiction to assess an ad valorem tax, as established in the district’s enabling act, so as to secure the dedicated revenue stream necessary to maintain local control and protection of the groundwater resources vital to the prosperity of the citizens, economy, and environment of Presidio County?

PROPOSICIÓN 1

¿Debe el Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District instituir su jurisdicción original para fijar un impuesto ad valorem, según lo establecido en la ley habilitadora del distrito, a fin de asegurar el flujo de ingresos dedicado necesario para mantener el control local y la protección de los recursos de aguas subterráneas vitales para la prosperidad de los ciudadanos, la economía y el medio ambiente del condado de Presidio?

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Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the good People of Presidio County,

On May 6 there is an election to continue funding the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. The water district is here, in part, to protect our groundwater. The district is charged by the state to insure conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and the prevention of waste.

I believe groundwater may be the most important issue we face in the not-too-distant future. We can't afford to lose the water district.

State statutes say the county can't continue to fund the water district; they must fund themselves through a tax. However, the county has agreed to a tax swap. The amount the water district collects will be taken from the county tax rate so there will NOT be a tax increase. Let me say that again: NO TAX increase, due to the water district having to change the way it is funded.

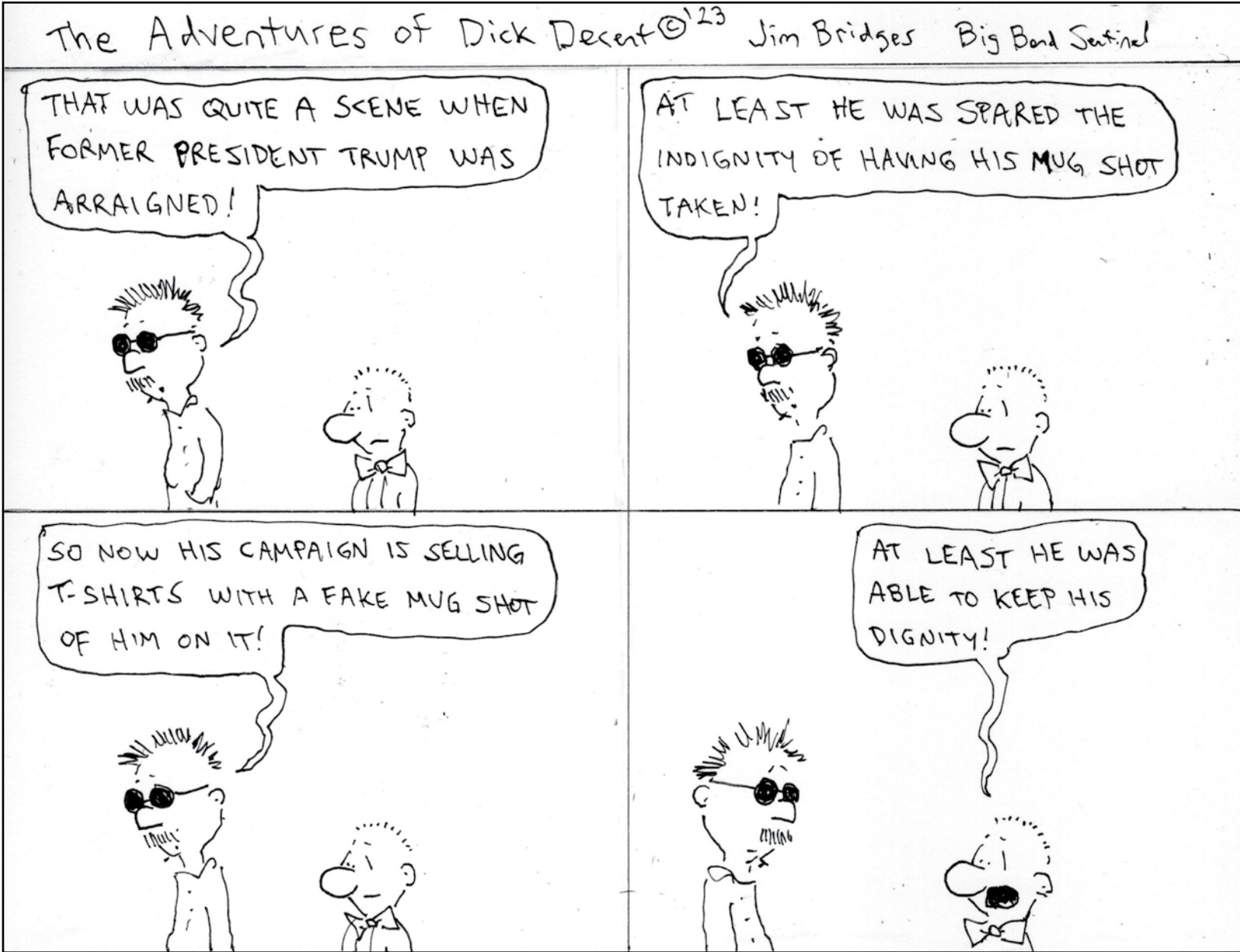
I ask you to vote yes for Proposition 1 on May 6.

Frank A. (Buddy) Knight
Former Presidio Co. Commissioner

We want to hear from YOU!

- Letters to the editor 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.
- Your letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. While opinions of all kinds are welcome, when it comes to claims of fact, we strive to only publish what is verifiable.
- We have limited staff capacity to fact check unsubstantiated claims, so letters that include those may be held or remain unpublished if information is not easily verifiable.
- We may reach out to ask questions and verify the identity of the sender. We do not run letters anonymously unless the sender is privately identified and has a reasonable claim to anonymity.
- We reserve the right to hold or refrain from publishing a letter for any reason and we thank you for always sharing your letters with us.

- The Big Bend Sentinel Editorial Staff



OUR WATER MATTERS

Vote “Yes” on Proposition 1

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

When it comes to groundwater, Texas law is unique. For over a century, the courts have repeatedly upheld what is known as the “Rule of Capture.” This legal doctrine essentially allows, with some limited exceptions, a landowner to pump as much groundwater as the landowner chooses without liability to neighbors whose wells go dry. But the Texas Legislature also gives local communities the option to form a groundwater conservation district to negotiate the fine line between competing groundwater users. These districts are the preferred means of groundwater management in Texas because they provide for local control by those most familiar with the resource and most affected by any regulation.

Groundwater districts are not distributed uniformly throughout the state. In fact, there are only about 100 such districts in all of Texas. Williamson County, north of Austin, has seen an explosion in growth in recent decades but has no groundwater district. As farmers operating for generations in the county have seen their wells dry up, they have had no recourse under the law and no groundwater district to fight for their interests.

The Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District was formed in direct response to the City of El Paso’s purchase of Antelope Valley in the north of Presidio County back in 1992 as a future source of water for its municipal users. Because El Paso would be able to pump and export as much water as it chose under the Rule of Capture, local leaders and landowners consulted with their state representative to gain the protections that only a groundwater district can provide.

Most well owners are exempt from regulation by a groundwater district. But large commercial users and exporters must apply for an operating permit from the local groundwater district. The permitting process often requires the applicant to prove that their well can produce the volume of water they want without negative impacts on neighbors. Permits can also include conditions that require a reduction in pumping if neighboring wells start to go down. Districts can also install equipment in nearby wells to

monitor impacts on the aquifer and take any necessary action.

Districts are created through what is known as “enabling legislation,” which is a law that the Legislature must pass to define how a district will be governed and funded. Presidio County’s enabling legislation was passed in 1993 and stated that the district would have the power to tax. But when the voters were asked to approve the creation of the district in 1999, the ballot did not include any taxing language. Instead, the commissioners simply funded the district out of the county’s budget over the next couple of decades. But it was recently determined that this arrangement is not legal because it violates the district’s enabling legislation.

In order to bring the groundwater district into compliance with the law without raising property taxes, the Presidio County commissioners and the groundwater district entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement that provides for a “tax-rate swap.” This means that the county will lower its tax rate to offset the groundwater district’s tax rate so no one’s taxes will go up as a result of Proposition 1.

The work of the groundwater district is essential to understanding the health of the aquifers that sustain us. The monitoring and data collection activities of most districts are funded through tax-payer dollars. But Presidio County’s district has been very successful in obtaining funding through grants and partnerships so that we can continue to operate on a very conservative budget. In fact, dollar for dollar, the district generates more value for taxpayers than any other taxing entity, and our grant-writing efforts and strategic partnerships will ensure that it stays that way.

Proposition 1 seeks to direct a portion of the taxes you’re already paying to the county and shift it to directly fund the groundwater district. The taxing authority granted under Proposition 1 is required by law. If the voters do not approve Proposition 1, the groundwater district and all of the work it is doing will disappear. Groundwater in Presidio County would then be governed exclusively by the Rule of Capture.

Individuals can often feel powerless in the face of the overwhelming challenges of modern life. But Proposition 1 is a concrete step that every voter can take. It gives our community the best shot possible at protecting our groundwater and ensuring a prosperous future.

Early voting is April 24 through May 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Election Day is Saturday, May 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vote at the PAC in Presidio and the Casner Room in Marfa.

Visit pcuwcd.org to learn more.

Trey Gerfers is a San Antonio native and serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. He is also chairman of the Presidio County Water Infrastructure Steering Committee and president of the Marfa Parks and Recreation Board. Trey has lived in Marfa since 2013.



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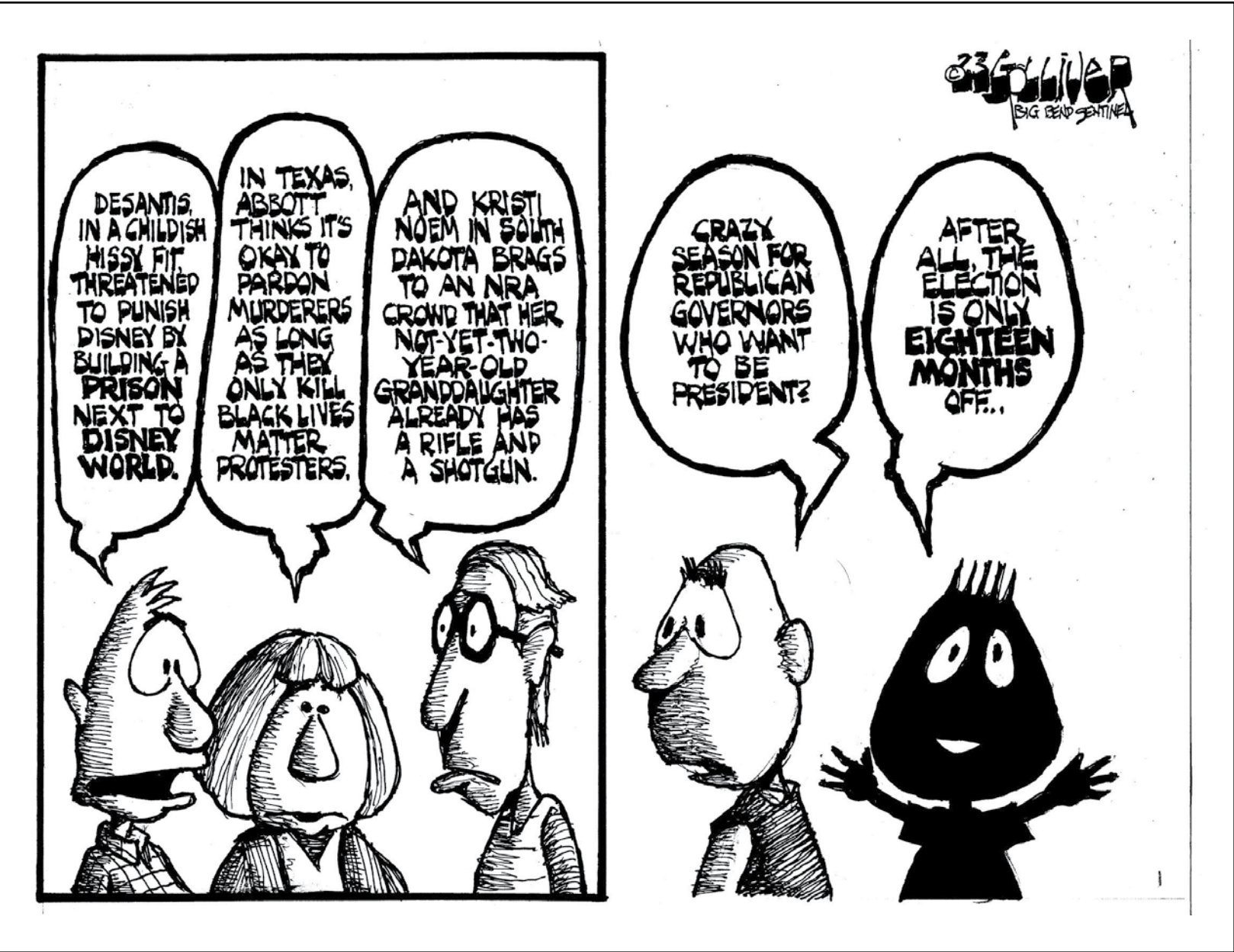
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TEXTURE PRESIDIO

Charlie Cecil

Photo and Text by HANNAH GENTILES

Texture Presidio uses the art of photography and storytelling to explore and highlight the textures and tales that make Presidio County and the surrounding desert landscape both beautifully ordinary and unique.

While Charlie Cecil’s youth lacked many of the quintessential aspects one might equate with a “happy childhood,” he always found refuge in Presidio, Texas. At an early age, Charlie entered a dance between being raised by his maternal grandmother in Coleman, Texas, a small town outside of Abilene, and his paternal grandparents along the border in Presidio.

Charlie’s father, a young oil field driller, was killed by a drunk driver when Charlie was merely two years old. In the aftermath, Charlie’s mom, Carolene, never recovered, resulting in years of substance dependency and a lifelong struggle to find her footing. This resulted in Charlie being placed in the legal care of his collective grandparents. Except for a first-grade year in Presidio, he would spend his remaining school years in Coleman. Come summertime, he’d head south to the CC Ranch, his grandparents’ home outside of Presidio — a season Charlie would look forward to every year.

While life in Coleman was brimming with physical and emotional toil, his summers in Presidio involved a hearty dose of care. His grandparents in Presidio, Charlie and Carol, while by no means affluent, provided Charlie with a wealth of experiences and richness in freedom, adventure, good food and space to evolve. As an only child, he spent much time alone exploring the property, fishing on the Rio, or hunting with Grandpa Charlie. He has fond memories of jumping in the back of the truck of Beto Marquez, a family friend and helpful ranch hand — heading with Beto’s family to swim in Shafter or The Three Palms Inn or staying at the Marquez’s ranch in Mexico just across the river. In those days, it wasn’t uncommon to make the trip back and forth across the border several times a week. Charlie notes it was much easier then.

Charlie’s grandparents bought the CC Ranch in 1979. They rented section 2, land along the river known as the Arenosa Campground in The Big Bend Ranch State Park. Grandpa Charlie would bring clients and friends down to the river from the Permian Basin, where he ran his business. They set up a self-sustainable camp with a garden. The heat would get so high they would often sleep on top of the trailer at night, with only the vibrant stars above them.

During Charlie’s first-grade year in Presidio, another boy challenged him to a “rock fight.” As he describes how he and the other boy squared off, he shares the irony that as an only child on the ranch, he spent many hours perfecting his rock-throwing skills. He bent down, running his fingers through the rocky dirt to select the best stone to throw down into the cottonwoods as a demonstration. While Charlie is fond of the view that looks out onto the Rio Grande, his favorite scene is on the opposite side of the property, looking down into a sea of cottonwood trees at the bottom of the ridge.

Charlie attributes his ability to think ahead and fully grasp that his actions have consequences to the many times he got himself into sticky situations on the ranch and the sheer amount of time he had with his thoughts. The skills and lessons learned at the farm would stay with him well into adulthood.

That said, Charlie did not follow in the footsteps of his father or grandfathers, who all worked various jobs in the oil field industry. Unexpectedly, Charlie found himself in medical school. His journey to becoming a urology specialist was a complex one.

Charlie spent his early twenties being “a bit rudderless,” as he describes it. He struggled to get through school and found himself unsure of what path to take, trying on a few different hats for size along the way and not without success. During this time, Charlie’s mom sent him this advice in the form of a letter: “Stop with these get-rich-quick schemes and finish your degree,” adding her desire to have done so in her own life. These words were hard to hear from her, given her life choices and the many ways those choices had affected Charlie. However, he got more serious about his studies with the encouragement of his grandfather, who, though he often did not agree with Charlie’s mom, urged him to heed her advice. This was a first for Charlie.

Charlie excelled in medical school, motivated by a desire to help people and a way to break the cycle of struggle in his family. After an impactful encounter with a doctor comforting a friend hospitalized after a series of seizures, Charlie knew instantly and finally that was the path he wanted to take. It is evident in talking to Charlie that while he carries with him much gratitude for parts of his childhood, he is deeply motivated not to let the individual challenging pieces of his story define him or determine his family’s future. His efforts to do so come from a place of understanding and respect for the individual characters of his personal story — which is no easy task.

Charlie’s greatest delight is sharing the ranch with his wife, Lauren, and



Charlie Cecil

their three girls — Channing, Reagan and Holland. Despite working very hard in his professional life in Abilene, Presidio will forever be where Charlie and his family return; it is simply his favorite place.

Charlie renamed the ranch after his grandparents passed from the CC Ranch to the Rio Bravo Ranch. Since buying his first car after high school, Charlie has visited the Rio Bravo Ranch at least once every six weeks.

Charlie proposed to Lauren on one of the hills overlooking the Rio Grande. With a ring placed on the fence post, he declared, “I want you to be my wife.” Charlie tells me, “Lauren jokes that the way I phrased it, she didn’t think she had a choice!” He confesses he might need some assistance in the charm department, similar to his Grandpa Charlie and his father.

The support that exists between Charlie and Lauren is worth envying. Asking Charlie what Lauren thought about his many career switches early on, he answered with certainty, “That’s how I knew I was gonna marry her; Lauren has had my back since I worked at Pizza Hut.”

Charlie continues his grandfather’s passion and love for the area and his excitement for sharing the region with others. Over the years, he has introduced Presidio and the Big Bend region to countless others, including by offering stays at La Centinela, the gorgeous adobe home on a more recently acquired part of the Rio Bravo Ranch.

Spending an evening on the back porch of La Centinela as the vibrant West Texas sun sets, looking across into Mexico, is simply magical. While the Cecils enjoy their time at La Centinela, they aim to use the vacation rental to draw more people to their beloved Presidio. Despite the true luxury of the home — a two-bed/two-bath cozy space complete with all the amenities your heart could desire — most of the Cecil clan’s time on the ranch is spent outside. When the house is rented (often) during their visits down south, they stay in the tiny one-room building down the hill, sleeping on cots or out under the stars. Before enclosing Charlie’s grandma’s former canning shed, the Cecil family would camp out there. This crew is not afraid of getting dirty and sleeping under the stars. Most trips back to the ranch involve much of both.

La Centinela and the land it was on joined Team Cecil in 2021. As they began much-needed renovations, turning the home into a vacation rental and continuing to develop their existing campground and jeep rental business, they became exposed to the dismissive attitude towards Presidio as simply a “pass through” on the way to the Big Bend parks. Charlie notes how even as a boy, he idolized the stunning adobe structure sitting on the hill adjacent to his grandparents’ land.

“The irony has been that Presidio has excellent services, great restaurants and a burgeoning entrepreneurial flair ... we are firm believers in the ‘rising tides lift all ships’ philosophy,” said Charlie. “We are bringing events to the ranch that directly benefit the city, from increased traffic in hotels, local vacation rentals and restaurants and service providers. We hope to continue expanding our partnerships with local and regional businesses, outfitters and community stakeholders in efforts consistent with the mission to make Presidio more than just a pass-through. This is also personal; I want to

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- April 18 at 8 pm- **Owls to Ocotillo: Nature Needs Darkness** - Kaylee French, The Nature Conservancy
- April 19 at 4pm - **Preserving the Big Bend Region’s Night Skies** - Stephen Hummel, McDonald Observatory
- April 20 at 8 pm- **Blackness, Bright Lights, and Big Cities** - Dr. Celeste Henery, The University of Texas at Austin
- April 21 at 8 pm- **Indigenous Astronomies of the Big Bend and Beyond** - Marc Molina, The University of Texas at El Paso
- April 22 at 8 pm - **Archeoastronomy and Rock Art as Sacred Space in the Black Hills** - Roger Boren, Center for Big Bend Studies, Benny & Gena Roberts

mcdonaldobservatory.org/dark-sky-week

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expose people to the town and region that helped make me. Presidio is a living, breathing metaphor for resilience, and I love it.”

Up on the hill, with the sun setting across the Rio Grande and the sound of Charlie’s daughters playing in the background at La Centinela, Charlie points out the final resting place for his mother and both of his paternal grandparents. Charlie’s connection to this land reverberates into every corner of the property. Each and every new venture and planned event are just tools to better share his favorite place with all of us.

“I believe Presidio is an amazing place with an amazing history that remains mostly undiscovered,” he said “It is the gateway to the wildest parts of Texas, and more than an art gallery and hotel, it is a living, breathing frontera Far West Texas experience. Presidio is unbelievably safe and welcoming. Presidio is the ying to Marfa’s yang, a known birthplace of West Texas/Northern Mexico civilization. It is frankly underappreciated for what it offers from both a cultural experience and a present-day throwback experience for what Far West Texas used to be.”

The last thing I ask Charlie is to share with me a favorite memory of his involving the ranch and watching his girls get to experience the same land that helped shape him.

“We have had many adventurous times at the ranch, but my favorite moments are when we can allow the girls to feel that wild freedom that comes from similarly roaming the property to what I experienced as a kid,” he responded. “Their experience is different, but there is no imitable analog for developing the feelings/skills of independent thought, self-reliance and discretion than being on one’s own decision-maker, left to make mistakes (some quite painful), fall, scrape your knee, cry with no one around enough to realize the futility in feeling sorry for yourself. We want them to be tough in a throwback way, self-reliant in my family’s way, and compassionate in the way of their mother, learning to see the world in a tint that we are so fortunate to expose them to — they have seen poverty and great human beings of little means that would split their last apple with them. And to see color, race and socioeconomic disparity in the context of humanity in those conditions. When I was a kid, my mom was disabled with lupus; we lived on a workers’ comp check that totaled \$6,188 per year, yet she made sure we adopted a ‘less fortunate’ family from our church at Christmas time. It was beautifully ironic, given our lack of financial means. We can never exactly replicate that for my children, but we want to give them every opportunity to have their souls scrubbed by the dusty roads of South Presidio County and Rio Bravo Ranch.”

Find out how to book your own experience at the Rio Bravo Ranch and La Centinela on their website: www.riobravoranchtx.com

Hannah Gentiles is a photographer and trained social worker who has lived in Presidio County since 2015. She currently runs “Texture Presidio,” a photo essay-based storytelling project, and splits her time between Marfa and Presidio. To find out more about Texture Presidio and her photography, visit www.hannahgentiles.com/texturepresidio or [ig:texturepresidio](https://www.instagram.com/texturepresidio)



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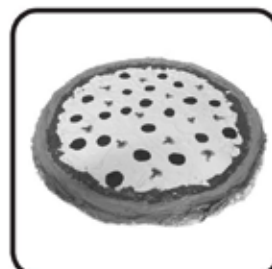
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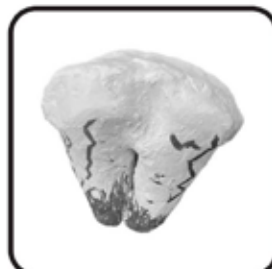


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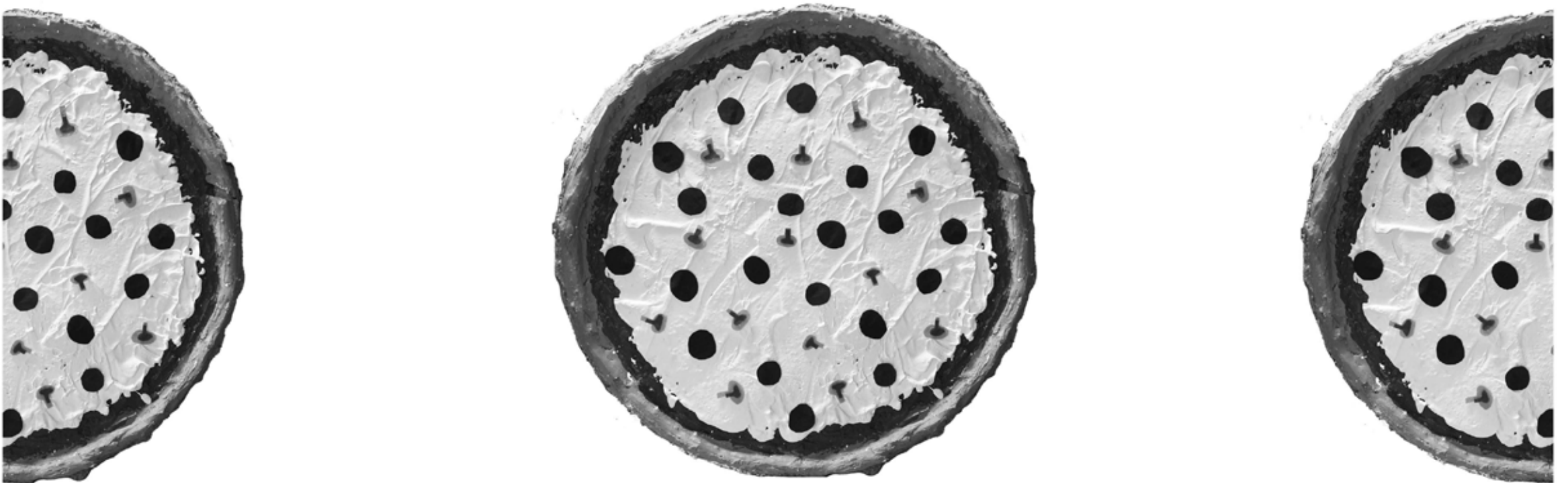
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Chinati's educational and public programming is supported with generous grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, The Brown Foundation, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, The Hearst Foundations, Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation, Rosenthal Family Foundation, Warren Skaaren Charitable Trust, Tillapaugh Public History Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation, and Susan Vaughan Foundation. Many thanks to Marfa ISD art instructor, Adele Powers, Camp Bosworth, the Wrong Store, the Marfa Book Co., and the Marfa High School art students.

Community

Blackwell block party celebrates borderlands culture, National Historic Site designation

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — A lively block party centered around regional music, food and education will take place this weekend from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, on the grounds of the Blackwell School and Blackwell Park, 501 South Abbott Street.

The community festival is free, family-friendly and open to all. “It’s just going to be a really momentous occasion for everyone,” said Daniel Hernandez, board member of the Blackwell School Alliance, and Blackwell descendant. “We want Marfa and all of our surrounding communities to come out and celebrate this really special time with us.”

The Blackwell School, which served as a segregated school for Mexican American students from 1909 to 1965, was officially designated as a National Historic Site when President Joe Biden signed the Blackwell School National Historic Site Act into law this past fall — signaling a new chapter for the site after decades of advocacy and prompting the block party celebration.

“I think the Blackwell block party for us is partly the homecoming, for folks that have been involved in these efforts for a long time, whether near or far, giving them an opportunity to come together in community to celebrate this really big milestone,” said Hernandez. “I think it’s also another step in catalyzing what is going to be next for the Blackwell

School Alliance.”

The alliance — which originally formed around 16 years ago and remains the school’s primary caretaker — is strategizing next steps as the site transitions from operating as a locally-run museum to a federal-run historic site. The transfer of the property, which is owned by Marfa Independent School District, to the National Park Service, is still ongoing, said Hernandez, but they were hopeful some National Park representatives would be present for the block party and will continue to have a positive presence in the community.

“We’re really excited for them to start making a presence in the community and for folks to be familiar with the brown hat and the brown uniforms and seeing those folks in town more often,” said Hernandez.

Borderland music by Mariachi Santa Cruz will kick off the event at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. — tacos with a toppings bar, agua frescas and more. Marfa ISD’s Ballet Folklórico will perform at 12:30 p.m. along with a speaking program featuring special guests. Music, museum talks and loteria will round out the afternoon from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Children’s activities will take place throughout the event from noon to 4 p.m. in the park.

For more information, visit theblackwellschool.org/2023-blackwell-block-party

The Chinati Foundation announces appointment of two new trustees

MARFA — This week, The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati announced the appointment of two new trustees to its board: Miguel Fernandez and Franck Giraud.

“Miguel and Franck are accomplished business leaders and dedicated philanthropists. Their vision and expertise will be vital as we focus on Chinati’s future,” said Mack Fowler, chair, and Annabelle Selldorf, co-chair, of the Board of Trustees at Chinati. “We are delighted to welcome these incoming members to the board and look forward to collaborating with them, alongside Chinati’s other wonderful trustees and our new director, Caitlin Murray, to guide the organization during this exciting new chapter in its history.”

Miguel Fernandez is a business and community leader active in both the United States and Mexico. He serves as CEO of Flō Networks, a leading provider of digital infrastructure solutions he co-founded in 2001. He is also a co-founder of Saba Investments, a regional technology fund; Stanton Hospitality, an El Paso–based hospitality group; and Sotoak Realty, a real estate company focused on developing downtown El Paso.

A native of the Paso del Norte region, Fernandez is involved with many community groups and nonprofit organizations. He was instrumental in the movement to establish a children’s museum in El Paso. He is a member of Borderplex Alliance, an El Paso–based binational economic development organization. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Managers of the University Medical Center of El Paso, the primary teaching institution for Texas Tech University’s Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in El Paso.

Franck Giraud is an influential member of the global arts community. Giraud has a long history of engagement with contemporary art. He previously served as the chairman of Giraud, Pissarro, Ségolot, also known as GPS Partners, an art advisory firm with offices in New York and Paris. Prior to joining GPS Partners, he was international director of 19th- and 20th-century art at Christie’s.

Giraud divides his time between Italy and the United States. He has been a consistent supporter of Chinati since 1997, when he made his first visit. His support has contributed to a number of project-based initiatives at the museum.



Courtesy of BBCCA

Our Lady of the Dark Sky by artist Julie Speed. The nun holds a white crowned sparrow during its migration as the profile of the McDonald Observatory and the dark skies are featured in the background. Posters of Our Lady of the Dark Sky are on sale through May 7, benefitting the Big Bend Conservation Alliance’s light swap program.

Big Bend Conservation Alliance launches Serious Starlight fundraiser

BIG BEND — The Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCCA) launched a dark skies fundraiser this week with the help of Marfa-based artist Julie Speed.

A series of posters designed by Speed, T-shirts featuring Speed’s artwork and more are available through May 7 at seriousstarlight.org. A limited edition print, Starboard, is also available through Fort Davis’ Webb Gallery, and WRONG Marfa will have a stock of posters available in their gallery as well.

All proceeds go to BBCCA’s Serious Starlight program, which swaps lights in the Big Bend with dark sky compliant fixtures, helping preserve the night skies in one of the darkest regions of the world.

“My new side project is a couple of Dark Sky nuns,” said Speed. The project is a spinoff of her Purgatory of Nuns series. One of the new works, *Our Lady of the Dark Sky*, offers protection against night blindness, tech zombification and city lights. It is one of several works available on signed posters helping raise funds for Serious Starlight. “This one was already Notre Dame du Refuge, so it wasn’t a far reach to make her a dark sky refuge protector,” she said.

As part of the Serious Starlight program, BBCCA works to shield lights with fixtures that point light down at the ground rather than up into the sky. Over the past two years, since the program’s beginning, the organization has replaced all the municipal lights in Presidio, bringing street lights in the town to 100% compliance, and has replaced 40% of the older mercury vapor lights in Marfa that are eligible for the program. Next steps include replacing approximately 250 noncompliant street lights in Alpine and working with more than 100 residents throughout the tri-county area that have signed up to swap out their old mercury vapor lights — fixtures that emit some of the worst light pollution in the region.

The fundraiser coincides with International Dark Sky Week and the first anniversary of the International Big Bend Dark Sky Reserve, a designation given to the region by the International Dark-Sky Association, making the Big Bend the largest “Dark Sky Reserve” in the world, protecting major wildlife habitats and migration corridors in Far West Texas and Northern Mexico.

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In collaboration between Marfa ISD and Chinati, student artists reimagine everyday objects

MARFA — It’s a shopping spectacular! It’s also an art show!

The artists of Marfa High School invite all to enjoy *Storehorns*, an art installation of their work that doubles as a shopping experience. The project is set for 6-8 p.m., April 26, at the Marfa Book Company, 300 S. Kelly.

Storehorns is a collaboration between the Chinati Foundation’s education team and MISD art teacher Adele Powers. “Each spring we work together on a project that involves all Ms. Powers’ art students,” said Michael Roch, Chinati’s education director. “The idea behind *Storehorns* is an exploration into everyday objects. These artworks are familiar and identifiable, yet they don’t serve their original function. A phone sculpture isn’t a phone, but it looks like a phone. Though it doesn’t work like a phone, its representation can still hold the essence of the original. Or it can be something else.”

Students initiated the project with a trip to Chinati, where they considered Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg’s large-scale horseshoe sculpture, “Monument to the Last Horse.” They likewise visited the magical studio of local artist Camp Bosworth, whose oversized objects gave students many ideas for their own work. Back at school, they launched into work, mixing plaster, cutting felt and fabric, slathering paint onto surfaces, hot gluing, sewing and mark-making in a gentle mayhem that went on for a month.

What emerged were sculptures of mundane objects that were anything but mundane. Often, the scale of these objects became warped. Often, they were funny. Aundrea Garcia took her peanut allergy to task by creating a giant felt jar of Jif. Billie Joe Armstrong’s guitar was transformed into a pillow by Piper Donaldson. Out of plaster came boxing gloves and a bacon-chicken-cheese-and-ranch Subway sandwich. A gargantuan pepperoni pizza took shape from felt and plaster. Alex Luna’s cake, made from chicken wire and plaster, was decorated with spackle he piped on and cherries formed from air-dried clay. “I really enjoyed seeing everyone else’s creation being made, created out of nothing, and having their own separate things to be proud of,” he said.

Plus, it was just fun.

“This project was a joy,” said Chinati lead educator Molly Bondy. “Every year I’m blown away by our students’ innovation, risk taking and artistic voice. Their personalities shined through, from wry humor to the love between friends.”

“There was not a day where the students didn’t make me laugh,” added Angela Pastor, the education team’s intern who assisted in the classroom. “It was fun to guide students, but it was even more rewarding to see them



Photo by Chinati Education

Vincenzo Quintana, junior, models his plaster boxing glove.

get things done on their own and with the help of each other.”

The work can be yours. Each of the sculptures is for sale at the one-night-only event, hosted at the Marfa Book Company. Bookstores, after all, provide books for sale, but also offer people a place to think and wonder and share ideas, according to Marfa Book Company’s owner, Tim Johnson. “*Storehorns* inspires the same questions and pleasures for me,” he said. “Whose art is this? Does it belong to the artist who made it? Or the person who buys it? Or does it belong to the person who sees it and remembers it?”

Clearly, there’s lots to ponder in this art-show-meets-commercial-venture. Good thing there will be hotdogs — real hotdogs — available to everyone at the event, and which are free and are not for sale. Lemonade too!

All sales go directly to the students — cash preferred, Venmo available.



Photo by Chinati Education

Aundrea Garcia, senior, holds up her Jif peanut butter jar made from felt and Polyfill stuffing.



Photo by Chinati Education

Katana Melendez, sophomore, smoothing out plaster on her platypus sculpture.



Photo by Chinati Education

Dustin Martinez, junior, applies paint to his tooth sculpture.

To our big-hearted friends in Marfa who helped make our wedding celebration a cosmic experience! You welcomed our family into yours, and for that we're forever grateful. Especially:

- Dylan McShan + Jackson + Amin at Easy Wind Catering for keeping us well-fed
- Laura McShan, our priceless coordinator & Master of Spirits
- Amanda, our tireless bartender
- Sara Goodleaf + Benny at Marfa Wine Co. for the liquid love
- Chef Alex, Jules + the amazing staff at Cochineal
- DJ Julie B at Marfa Public Radio for kicking us off
- Molly Ferguson & Mariachi Santa Cruz for beautiful music + leading our parade
- B. + Ruben at Skora for the lovely custom coasters
- Paul at Moonlight Gemstones for stunning wedding gifts
- Katie Betsill for the beautiful flowers
- Natania for the incredible massages
- Jacqueline at Mira for the world's best facial
- Shannon at Baked Marfa for the killer key lime pies
- Faith and her green thumb at Cactus Liquors
- Rob Crowley for supplying us with places to gather 'round
- DJ Mike for keeping us dancing
- Katie at Communitie for turning our guests into cowboys and cowgirls
- Sal at Raba Marfa for last-minute decorations
- Kathryn + the staff at Bohemio for giving our wedding a home
- Melissa at Marfa Realty Co. for the gorgeous Marfa-style shelter for our guests
- The wonderful and helpful ladies at the Dollar General
- The staff at The Sentinel for keeping us caffeinated
- and Jessica Lutz for capturing it all through your excellent eye

Marfa has always been our home away from home. We love y'all and we'll be back soon! –Paula & Todd



photos by Jessica Lutz

not flowers

By Mo Eldridge

On April 15, local artist Mo Eldridge's premiere solo exhibition, *Not Flowers*, ended its run at Do Right Hall. The show opened with a set of sound performances held on March 3 and 4. During the openings, Eldridge read a lyrical essay they wrote to accompany the visual pieces, which combine fabric, wooden frames, and shifting light to create the impression of flower-like objects which the viewer is invited to interpret for themselves — in light of Eldrige's "not." The lyrical essay is printed in full below. A conversation with the artist will be available online only.

i remember dying and i remember waking up.

i wanted to tell you something quietly . a whisper what may be lost in silence though . i forgot already .

reflections on reflecting . the morning waking after . life leaving body . how fear leaves the body . unable to move . but here right smiling for a choice chanced temporarily temporal tempting . the substance the waking from the not

window light frame tension pulled object held the body within

there are personal patterns it seems people play out everyday like what is internally spoken in checking a reflection . look into gaze inward . rarely these simple gestures are not spoken but shared . days sequence rituals around one another .

one hand struggled to hold and i cared not for anything just the curiosity . the sequence of movements when revisited so tender and childlike a discovery .

this is a morning i woke with not fear
and the following fears reflecting on not

i saw something lost that i thought was needed and if slowing the gestural response of greeting this loss. it was in wonder and it was light and it was accepting a possible not need something that was always thought to be .

the light slotted between blinds all tan all plastic . i have been here before but not exactly . a nozzle arm without any explanation a slow pulse of waking . sounds from different devices . beeping . a styrofoam glass of water not moving . i find my reflection in .

attempting to stand up but slowly the feeling of release . release as in a door knob very gently closed to keep everyone who possibly would know not knowing and nothing will be lost in its silence .

the beeps of the machines surrounding becoming symphonies . the symphonies repeat . for a moment i close one eye the only eye i am able to see out of and try to recall this voice i would hear as a child .

i wanted to tell you something quietly . a whisper what may be lost in silence though . how not fear is prominent in moments we should feel fear the most . fear leaves the body and we observe from outside ourselves . i forgot already .

blowing bubbles beside a body of water in an empty space . blowing they emerge in multitudes flowing forth and giggling in awe stomping little feet commanding to share . look at what we have created together observed together .

someone looks at me and says i do not want easy i want chill
someone looks at me and says have your freedom and eat it too
someone looks at me and says today is the best day until 2morrow
someone looks at me and says only in silence
someone looks at me and says never too much
someone looks at me and says i only want you to feel safe
someone looks at me and says i support you in doing what you need
someone looks at me and says only if you want
someone looks at me and says together
someone looks at me and says we are grieving
someone looks at me and says we are dancing at different times
someone looks at me and says you forgot to clock out
someone looks at me and says i know we are ok
someone looks at me and says i want to love in the forever way
someone looks at me and says no rules
someone looks at me and says no
someone looks at me and says honorable friend
someone looks at me and says today
someone looks at me and says tomorrow
someone looks at me and says i dont know
someone looks at me and says i tried
someone looks at me and says thank you
someone looks at me and says run
someone looks at me and says you will be better before you know
someone looks at me and says growth
someone looks at me and says will you go with me
someone looks at me and says this time will always be different
someone looks at me and says this time slower

someone looks at me and says flower
someone looks at me and says no you are not

alone on this morning that may never have been a morning depending on your definition of morning but my definition of morning is less about a designation of time within a day but simply the moments upon waking and night the unconscious falling of resting in abandonment.

it was possible that night had been vast in days and dilemma . and memory lapsed sequencing . but this was of no matter and the no matter is of importance in understanding the why in not

there is a ridge in nevada where if you walk through the snow up through trees moist soil and layers of ice looking over at a large body of water there is a rock under a tree and if you stand beside that rock or even you can climb on top of the rock and stand with your hand outstretched with sunflower seeds little chickadees will come and perch on your hand and take one and look at you and turn their little heads in wonder and then fly away . they will do this in succession one after another taking turns . only occasionally two at a time . their wings making a fast lapping of water and wind against edges of earth . their toes gently curl across edges of skin and they take with acknowledgment . what is outstretched . the slightest gentlest touch across skin reminds me of this .

a trick i have always wondered when hearing the word not in memory . conversing many times in attempt to share vulnerability i will make a claim completely trusting . and i am greeted by another who says not immediately . trusting the word in front of me . i begin questioning

but what about the safety found in the position of not . i look at the painting of a flower and say i am safely assured that something inside me can be effected by the lines and curves . the gradient of colors forming pedals and if only to imagine collapsing with in such a flower . attempting at all odds to bury deep and forth . following a desire to be but face first forming with in .

the day is hot and pressed firm against a popsicle slowly losing form sticky and stumbling in a multitude of directions winced eyes remembering lines fixed from either side and pursed the sides of the mouth forming a smile not seen but felt . the tinge of strain underneath at the very base where force rarely felt begins to tickle and sticky drip touches stick a hand holding . this popsicle is not a flower .

georgia o'keefe paints not vaginas . she insisted despite interpreting as so by many her paintings were never intended to be sensual . she spent much time claiming not .

opened eyes in a room the others licking lightly and some vigorously no one noticing the not way of doing such a delicious task . i suppose to find such sweetness sticky and dripping as bees land in the crease of the flowers straining and suckling .

i do believe there is a moment that everyone witnesses the ones whose hands held our baby body be driven by the desire for right . approval in shades depending and limited upon exchange from the moment of forming security in the cradle of. then the following moment an understanding that there possibly is not right or wrong . dictated by series of exchanges . so in listening to others expansion of not i wonder if marking time and growth by our understanding that things that have been named for us our whole lives may just be not . this i do believe similar to how we never forget the voice of the ones who whispered in our ears upon these first cradlings . it is scientific that our own voice mimics these in the most unconscious moments . it is historic that our own voice mimics these in the most unconscious moments .

i have a speech impediment for twenty minutes upon waking most mornings if not all . i am only aware when being pointed out by another person . a reflection we peer between . the sensation of my tongue remains very large until .

on this particular day though when waking no needing to speak just feeling . i understood almost immediately i was not able to stand . but i was able to wiggle my toes . which was one of the greatest feelings in the world . they were there despite not being able to feel anything between their movement . a promise .

a yo-yo has four parts: outer and inner plastic halves an axle and a string . a yo-yo functions on two properties friction and rotational inertia .

a promise i said when ever you are ready i will help . but i am only able to help you until you want to help yourself . without the you of needing and wanting and the other forming around it is a sphere closing in on itself . but together lines emerge .

when someone enters the room on this morning i do try and explain the symphonies and proclaim joy at my toes wiggling with promise . the symphonies always reduced to synesthesia .which i swallowed as a not . until looking up the definition .

synesthesia is when you hear music but you see shapes . or a word or a name and you instantly see color . this i always understood as a relation to color . i had experienced once when i worked at a cash register following the weeks after a car drove through an intersection colliding into me and someone i wanted to walk across the street with . i rolled over the car and landed on my back and that began the series of customers at the register having a sort of color glow around them when i heard their voice . sometimes this glow would make me feel sick and i would hide behind the register pretending no one must have noticed . when i tried to describe this sensation of color upon speaking to various customers people said the word aura . and i swallowed a not.

upon waking without fear my eyes fixated on the blinds in the room and i immediately averted my gaze to the upper right corner of the blinds . a square a frame and the slots releasing light and the light shifting beyond my

eyes . this was my reference point for promise . as i have lived through this before . i thought about a time i was unable to move . frozen from standing and lifting the weight of my body but fixated on the corner of the blinds . i lived through this too . the first time i was not alone . i was not responding . i was not in love . someone distant and unfamiliar whispered into my ears and i swallowed a not.

when someone enters the room on this morning i ask if i am still _____ and the woman says you are not _____.

thats when as before i try and explain the symphonies and proclaim joy at my toes wiggling with promise . what is it to respond to someone naming with a not . i am confused with no desire for much knowing just relief in knowing . i was given another chance . i was not _____ and my toes wiggled . and i remembered the place in the room that provides hope . and i was surrounded by beautiful symphonies that were not colors and were not shapes but had weight and were moving and quite possibly if caught in the right light bubbles .

idleness :: def. not in active use.

anne boyer writes an essay on no. and writes an essay on not writing. no :: not any. not. not at all; to no extent.

the beginning of her essay: history is full of people who just didn't. they said no thank you, turned away, ran away to the desert, stood on the streets in rags, lived in barrels, burned down their own houses, walked barefoot through town, killed their rapists, pushed away dinner, meditated into the light .

her essay titled no is written on refusals . i think of people who refuse fear . who experience moments of not . and in what moments we are given permission to not or just can not . who is able to not . and who must live with .

a decade after i first heard spoken aloud but never knew where they came from . i run across a list of questions . by bhanu kapil . interrogation of strangers . one of which . describe a morning you woke without fear? i then being reminded of past internal interrogations . my reflection . i revisit a thick text on the language of emotions . i hand my friend the book referencing a chapter on anger . if what is written touches something true then every emotion has something helpful to communicate . anger is saying no

on the morning i woke with no fear

begins with what i was waking from

no words to describe exactly the sensation waking up out of that maybe other world but i want to tell you two things . i have always wanted to jump into a swimming pool of jello . and the other is i held someone i loves hand while she left this one . and she couldnt speak but she mouthed the words . and she looked straight in front of her and with all her strength tried to lean forward towards some sort of light . and i understood it to be a light although there was not really a light . her hand went cold in mine .

it is possible that a light at the end of the tunnel . flowers & honey . are all cliché markers for meaning .

but shared we understand cliché . why i understand the sensation waking up from and into the morning of not fear . was floating in a yellow white substance permeably permeating between . like an arm floating so lightly on the surface of water . could pull off or submerge into . but this was enveloping with tender sensation not sure whether i would submerge or be pulled . and i begged a council in front of me the living and those who passed

who were the council . they were all mothers . mine they must be as they came forth and it was unclear but also a knowing just as about 1% of our vision is in focus. we fill in much of what we see .

i begged for one more chance and made amends in the same breath . i was greeted with humility .

my mother had this dream when she was a child and then again when i was born and again later at a time i can not remember . where she would wake up and go into the living room of her childhood home and there was a circle of seven women . with an empty seat it was never clear what happened in the dream .

but as i am told zeus stepped in and transformed the seven sisters into doves because they were being desired .

i often wonder where all the fire flies went . and why they seemed to have silent wings . still it is a mystery to me the substance of their glow and i have preferred to not know .

there is a room in my childhood that haunts me . with stacks of news papers and magazines . years of junk mail . and through the stacks at the back of the room . an old man sits on a twin bed above him towards the ceiling a little window where he pulls the string of the blinds and looks up at the corner where the string winds around an axle .

i was greeted with humility .

and the symphonies continued and whenever i saw someone i asked

am i still _____ & she said no honey you are not.

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Sports Updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

Regional Track Bound

The Marfa Shorthorns have 10 athletes heading to the regional track meet in San Angelo, Texas, next week. The team had a great showing at the Rankin area meet with the following athletes putting forth a tremendous performance.

Girls:

Ummi Chanez - 3200 1st place, 1600 1st place, 4x400 2nd place

Ava Flores - 4x100 4th place, 4x200 1st place, 4x400 2nd place

Maryfer Martinez - 4x100 4th place, 4x200 1st place

Raven Martinez - 4x100 4th place, 4x200 1st place

Lesly Torres Triple - Jump 4th place, 100m 3rd place, 4x100 4th place, 4x200 3rd place

Emily Hernandez - 4x400 2nd place

Aundrea Garcia - 800m 2nd place, 4x400 2nd place

Fernanda Rivera - 100m hurdles 3rd place

Boys:

Derick Campos - 400m dash 4th place

Nathan Peña - shot put 4th place

Marfa Softball is playoff bound!

The Marfa Lady Shorthorns will enter the UIL State Playoffs next week as they take on Santa Anna High School in Ozona, Texas, for the bi-district playoff game. The game is set for 4:30 p.m.

Girls Regional Golf Tournament Results

The girls golf team advanced to the regional tournament this week with the group going in as the 2023 district champions after last week's district tournament. The team was led by senior Alexis Gonzales (district champion and 2022 state qualifier) and teammates Loretta Rivera, Maryfer Martinez, Raven Martinez and Ava Flores. After the two-day tournament, the team ended with a total team score of 465 in round 1 and 456 in round 2. Head Coach Curtis Pittman stated the team saw several girls hit personal best scores at regionals, which is a good sign heading into next year.

(Boys' results were still pending — their tournament was Tuesday and Wednesday)



Courtesy of MISD Athletics

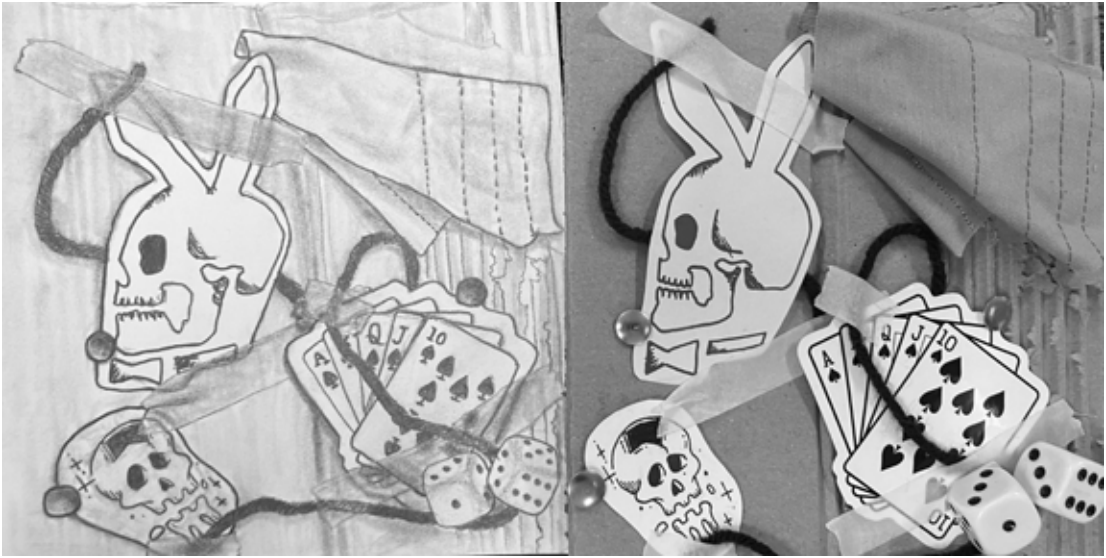
High school boys regional qualifiers Nathan Pena, Diego Jurado, Esdras Flores, Zach Wilson and Marco Ruiz.



Courtesy of MISD Athletics

High school girls regional qualifiers Raven Martinez, Maryfer Martinez, Alexis Gonzales, Loretta Rivers and Ava Flores.

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Francisco Rosas
10th Grade
Pencil on left, Collage on right

© MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ©

APR	Thu, Apr 20	Fri, Apr 21	Mon, Apr 24	Tue, Apr 25	Wed, Apr 26
BREAKFAST	PANCAKE WRAP, YOGURT	CINNAMON ROLL, SAUSAGE	PANCAKES, BACON	BREAKFAST COMBO	CEREAL, TOAST
LUNCH Menu courtesy of  Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	PIZZA, BABY CARROTS, SAVORY GREEN BEANS, FRESH APPLE SLICES, COOKIE	WALKING TACO, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, CORN, PEACHES	COUNTRY FRIED STEAK, BAKED FRIES, GREEN BEANS, ROLL, STRAWBERRY CUP	CHICKEN FAJITAS, BEANS, BABY CARROTS, SALSA, HOT CINNAMON APPLES, SHERBET	CHICKEN ALFREDO, BREAD STICK, GARDEN SALAD, FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS, PEACHES

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MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

THU, APR 20: Spring Sports Pictures: HS Golf, JH & HS Track, HS Softball
FRI, APR 21: Varsity Softball, TBD
MON, APR 24: Mons vs Daughters Softball Games, JH vs Moms 5:30pm, V vs Moms 6:30pm



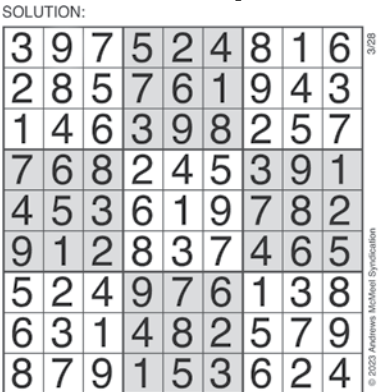
Sudoku & Crossword puzzles:

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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



Solution from last week's puzzle:



Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 17, 2023

ACROSS

- 1 Many college degs.
4 Like sharp TVs
9 Healthier orange juice option
13 ___-Seltzer
15 Maine town spelled with three O's
16 Grew older
17 *Got home, in a way
18 One chasing sweet success?
20 Skewered foods: Var.
22 Hydrox cookie knockoffs
23 Feels fine
24 Finally get to
28 Web portal since 1995
30 * ___ deck (pool's place on a cruise ship)
33 Former White House chief of staff spelled with three U's
34 He's a jerk
35 *Ashen
37 Sticky black stuff
38 Wt./ht.
39 Bergen whose father left \$10,000 to his dummy
40 Score 100% on
41 Super long time
42 Gay icon
43 Lansbury
Untruth

- 44 Valhalla's location
46 Raiding the cookie jar, e.g.
48 Quality (hotel chain)
49 Final part of a vacation
51 Dumb-founded
53 Traditional Muslim covering
55 What life might give you
58 Crossword solver's asset
62 Second or meter
63 Wrinkle remover
64 Bogs down
65 Trigonometric function
66 Fix, as a broken heart
67 Four lead-in?
68 Gentle touch

DOWN

- 1 Soak up rays
2 Spaghetti ___ putta-nesca
3 *Some boot attachments at Aspen (In this answer, note letters 4-6)
4 *Short distance (letters 7-9)
5 Savings plan initials
6 "Go right ahead!"
7 Between, in Bordeaux
8 *Crime lab scientist (letters 8-10)

- 9 California-inspired clothing brand
10 Disgusted reaction
11 Levi's rival
12 Adobe file format
14 Commotions
19 "Hey, man!"
21 Landlocked S. Amer. land
25 "Stop complaining!" ... and a hint to the words hidden in the starred clues' answers
26 Caffeinated painkiller brand
27 Deep soup bowl
28 Fictional lawyer Ally
29 Triangular Indian appetizer

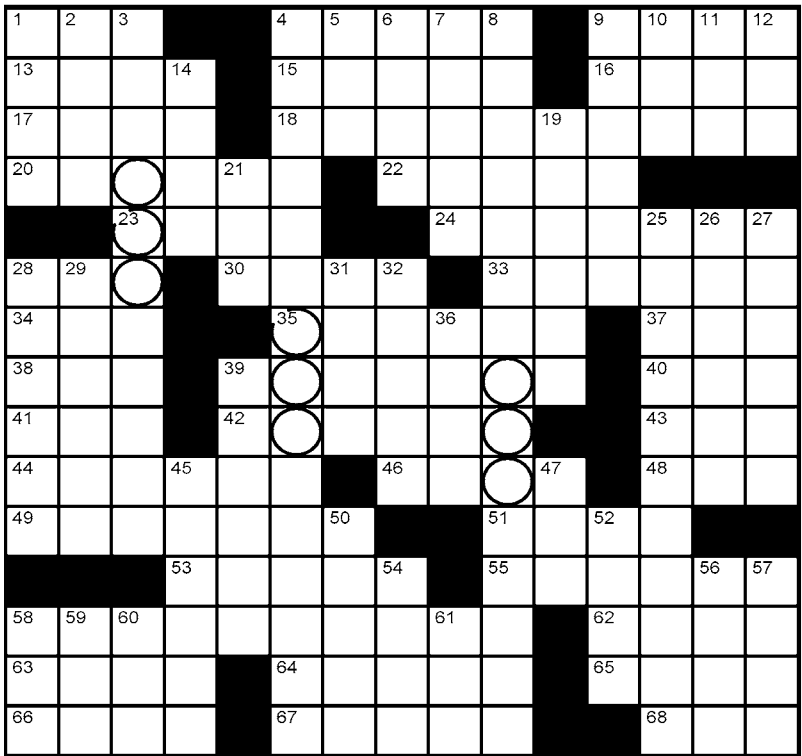
- 31 Mild swear word
32 Bygone
36 Disney girl hidden in "soliloquy"
39 "Up" rapper whose name was inspired by a rum brand
45 Readily accessible
47 Have a mortgage, say
50 New Haven student
52 Birds with undeveloped wings
54 Lisa Simpson's brother
56 Totenberg on NPR
57 Dance part
58 Energy
59 Profitable mineral
60 Bamboozle
61 Co-op that sells tents

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



4/16 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

Covered Up by Karen Steinberg and Paul Steinberg



Big Bend Ranch State Park hosts centennial event

BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK — This year marks the 100th anniversary of Texas State Parks, and Big Bend Ranch State Park is hosting an “airstrip astronomy” event to celebrate the centennial from 6:30 to 10 p.m. this Saturday, April 22.

The event will take place at the Saucedo Airstip, located 1.5 miles east of the Saucedo Ranger Station off of Main Park Road. The regular fee for day passes to the park will also be waived on Saturday.

The event will include stargazing with telescopes, a review of the basics of astrophotography, and astronomy-based oral history. Attendees should bring their own blankets, chairs and flashlights — though only red lights will be permitted once stargazing has begun.

“It is going to be an evening of galactic proportions,” said Park Ranger Layla Spurlock. “The evening will consist of a Star Party, programs on Dark Sky ecology, and the opportunity to view the night sky through telescopes.”

“Big Bend Ranch State Park offers some of the darkest skies in the country. The event gives our visitors the unique opportunity to see the Milky Way and countless stars that they may not be able to see at home,” she added.

Limited camping at the airstrip is available, by reservation only, call (432) 229-3613 or email regina.lillibridge@tpwd.texas.gov for details.

For more information, visit tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/fort-leaton/airstrip-astronomy

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Fri
Apr
21

Dark Skies Art Show Reception
5:30pm at the Gallery On The Square, 115 W Holland Ave in Alpine

Art celebrating and respresenting the Dark Skies of the Big Bend region is the show at Gallery on the Square 4/20 - 6/8. A reception with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks will be held on Friday, April 21st, at 5:30pm. All art will be available for purchase during the reception and through June 8.

Spirits of the West Wine & Beef Festival
4/21 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm and 4/22 from 10:00am - 7:00pm at 6th Street in Downtown Alpine

The Best Fest in the West, ultimate weekend celebrating wine makers, distillers, and brew masters, together with top Wet Texas beef producers and chefs. Tickets: \$15 GA / \$35 Premium. More info at <https://www.spiritsfestwtx.com/>

Moondaddy & Zanya at Planet Marfa
7:00pm at 200 S Abbot St in Marfa

Come hear some live music!

Sat
Apr
22

Wonder School Marfa Litter Walk
9:00am - 11:00am at Wonder School, 118 W Washington St in Marfa

Celebrate Earth Day! Water, hand sanitizer, gloves and bags provided!

Earth Day 2023 on Murphy Street
10:00am - 1:00pm at 105 E Murphy St in Alpine

Come out and celebrate Earth Day! There will be Educational Booths, Kids Activities, Mural Painting, Bouncy Castle, Plant Sale, Popcorn, Snow Cones, and Recycling Tote Giveaway! Presented by City of Alpine & Keep Alpine beautiful. Free Event!

Blackwell Block Party
11:00am - 4:00pm at The Blackwell School, 501 S Abbot St in Marfa

Join us for a free, family-friendly festival celebrating the rich culture and heritage of Marfa and the borderlands, and honoring the designation of the Blackwell School National Historic Site. Schoolhouse art by Cimi Alvarado. Everyone is invited. Everyone is welcome. Learn more about the Blackwell Block Party and the history of the Blackwell School at www.theblackwellschool.org

Doug Moreland & Friends Barn Dance, Crawfish Boil!
6:00pm - 10:00pm at the Kelly Pavilion in Fort Davis

Family friendly! Donation required for entry.

Airstrip Astronomy
6:00pm - 10:30pm at Big Bend Ranch Airstrip

Join us for an exciting night of stargazing, astrophotography and astronomy-based oral history at the Saucedo Airstrip! You will view the night sky with your eyes, through the lens of telescopes with amateur astronomers, and learn the basics of night sky photography, all accompanied by a narrative transporting you through space and time! Limited camping on the airstrip is available by reservation only! More info at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/fort-leaton/airstrip-astronomy>

Sun
Apr
23

Bi-National Earth Day Ride: Presidio - Ojinaga
Take off at 9:00am from Presidio Pour-Over Coffee Co in Presidio

First ever group bike ride to Mexico. You'll need a passport or border-crossing card. 6-Mile round trip with stops at: Museo Regional Ojinaga & Presidio Municipal. Free event!

Presented by



Wed
Apr
26

Storehorns presented by The Marfa High School Art Class, The Chinati Foundation & Marfa Book Co.
6:00pm - 8:00pm Marfa Book Co. 300 S Kelly St in Marfa

This one-time art installation doubles as a shopping experience. Hot dogs, drinks, fantastic art and more! Open to all. All sales go directly to the students.

Ongoing
Weekly
Events &
Classes

Free Meditation Classes for Local Law Enforcement, City, County, and Healthcare Workers
Thursday at 5:30pm at Marfa Public Library

Big Sky Yoga
Monday: Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Hatha at 9:00am
Wednesday: Restorative at 3:00pm; Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Thursday: Yin Yoga at 6:00pm
Friday: Breathwork at 9:00am; Vinyasa & Core at 12:00pm
Saturday: Vinyasa at 10:00am

New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Step it Up (Step Aerobics)
Tuesday at 6:00pm, Thursday at 9:00am & Saturday at 9:00am @ Big Sky Yoga

All fitness levels welcome. New location: 105 E Oak #4 (in the ally behind the Wrong Store)

Free Zumba Classes
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Free Meditation Classes
Tuesday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Life Drawing with Model
Tuesday from 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Talent Studios in Alpine

Join this vibrant artist community, make new friends and hone your drawing skills. Reserve your easel by texting 206.619.4699

Baby & Toddler Storytime
Wednesday at 11:00am at Marfa Public Library

AA (online & sometimes in-person)
Saturday at 12:00pm at <https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2> & in-person at Marfa Public Library

Saturday Farmer's Market
Saturdays at 9:30am at the pavillion behind he Visitors Center in Marfa

The Alpine Farmers Market
Saturday at 9:00am on historic Murphy Street in Alpine

Note: Schedules are subject to change. Please call or visit business websites to confirm that event is happening.

Have an upcoming or weekly event?
Please submit a two sentence maximum description of your weekly event including who, what, when, and where by Tuesday at 10 am to ads@bigbendsentinel.com

OBITUARIES



Balderrama

Natalia F. Balderrama passed from this life to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday evening, April 8, 2023, at the young age of 97. She was born in Mogollon, New Mexico, to the late Ruben P. and Eloisa (Ayon) Fuentes. She married Monico B. Balderrama in Shafter, Texas, on May 7, 1944. They had six children and enjoyed over 42 years together before he passed away September 2, 1986. During their marriage, they spent time in Shafter, Del Rio and Marfa. They were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa.

Beloved by all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Natalia was the best mother of all. She knew how to make the best food for the soul when all would visit her in Marfa. She was a woman of love, compassion and grace mixed with a little fire and could be a little bit feisty. Any of her kids and grandkids could have a good laugh with her. She loved her husband with all her heart, and after his passing her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids became the center of her world, second to the Lord. Natalia was a faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ and passed that on to her family. She loved music, especially the songs the love of her life, Monico, played for her. Natalia especially loved the Marfa Lights Festival and looked forward to all her family visiting during this time. She spent most of her years in Marfa as a caregiver to the elderly and provided such loving care to her patients. Everyone in Marfa loved her. As years passed and she could no longer physically attend church, she enjoyed watching Mass and would spend her days and nights praying fiercely in the spirit for her loved ones. She also enjoyed cooking shows and playing dominoes. Her favorite color was yellow.

In addition to her parents and loving husband, Monico, she was preceded to Heaven by her son, Ruben Patrick Balderrama; three siblings: Thomas Fuentes, Nicolas Fuentes and Esperanza Lujan; great-grandson, Jacob Anthony Florez; grandson-in-law, David Trudell; and brother-in-law, Jimmy Guerrero.

Those left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy include children: Mary Helen (Nena) Valles and husband Rick of Jal, New Mexico; Raul Balderrama and wife Julie of Kermit, Texas; Gloria Balderrama and husband Manuel Abila of Odessa, Texas; Edmundo Balderrama and wife Yolanda of Monahans, Texas; and Nora Ann Heidelberg and husband Jerry of Hobbs, New Mexico; brother Hector Molina; sister Mary Alarcon; grandchildren Michelle Gonzales, Michael Gonzales and wife Sonya, Sheryl Balderrama, Janette "Jetsy" Balderrama and wife Maggie, Monica Norina Nunez, Amanda Nunez-Florez, Ida Trudell-Balderrama and partner Michelle, Jolene Santos and husband Marlo, Joe Abel Lujan and wife Jenna, Audria Lujan, Joann Moore and husband Kyle; and great-grandchildren Aaron Nathaniel Florez, Adrian Noel Florez, Natalia Gonzales and husband Daniel, Jennifer Gonzales, Asia Love Lujan, Ethan Saiz, Isabel Trudell, Abby Trudell, Aidan Santos, Ella Rose Santos, Olivia Lujan, Natalie Lujan and Amelia Lujan.

Arrangements were entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel. Visitation was held at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rosary was recited Sunday evening at 7 p.m. in Odessa at Acres West.

Funeral was Monday, April 17, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa, Texas, with a Rosary beginning at 1 p.m. and Mass of Christian burial following right after. Burial followed at Merced Cemetery. Pallbearers include: Michael Gonzales, Jetsy Balderrama, Joe Abel Lujan, Aaron Florez, Adrian Florez and Ethan Saiz.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at: www.acreswestfuneral.com

In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor can be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church of Marfa or Kingdom Church in Odessa.

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The City of Marfa is hiring part-time, temporary
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For information visit <https://cityofmarfa.com/jobs>
or contact Mandy Roane at 432.295.3323
or mroane@cityofmarfa.com.

Deadline to apply is April 28, 2023.

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mcdonaldobservatory.org/jobs

McDonald Observatory is part of The University of Texas at Austin.
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Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including
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Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the
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**Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or fax
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S. Hwy 17, Fort Davis or call 682.647.1214 ext. 469 for more
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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.



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR REAPPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE ALPINE, TEXAS

The current term of the office of U.S. Magistrate Judge David B. Fannin is due to expire
on November 9, 2023. The U.S. District Court is required by law to establish a panel of
citizens to consider the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Fannin to a new eight-
year term.

Comments are invited from members of the bar and the public as to whether U.S.
Magistrate Judge Fannin should be recommended by the panel for reappointment by
the Court.

A full public notice is posted on our web site at: <https://www.txwd.uscourts.gov/>

Comments must be received no later than May 5, 2023.

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Notices will soon be mailed to taxpayers whose value increased
from 2022 to 2023. While many owners feel that the values of
property have decreased due to the Covid epidemic, the data
throughout Texas does not support a decrease. Record interest
rates and people moving to Texas from other states have driven up
the demand for all types of housing. Unfortunately, the Appraisal
District must keep pace with the increases in order for local
schools to receive full funding and to comply
with equal and uniform taxation.

Property owners should review their notice of value. This year,
the notice focuses on value only. The often-incorrect tax estimates
have been removed and the information will be sent later for
those comparisons along with the meeting dates and times of local
tax units to set their budgets. A postcard will be mailed to you with
this information in August. This is a statewide
change by the 2019 Legislature.

When the taxpayer looks at the value proposed by the appraisal
district, they should ask themselves if their property would likely
sell for that amount. If not, they should file a protest on the form
that will be enclosed. The deadline for filing is 30 days from the
date of the notice mailing. They will receive a call from the local
appraisal district to discuss the value informally or they may
be scheduled for an in-person meeting. If the taxpayer is not
agreeable after the sharing of data between the appraisal district
and them, then they have a right to appeal to the Appraisal Review
Board (ARB), a group of local citizens who live in the appraisal
district and have been appointed by the local Appraisal District
Board of Directors. They will listen to the evidence provided by
both parties and make a decision based on the preponderance of
the evidence presented. The taxpayer may appeal the findings of
the ARB to District Court or arbitration.

The issues that may be protested include:

The appraised or market value of the property
Unequal appraisal of the owner's property
Inclusion of the property on the appraisal records
Denial of a partial exemption such as a homestead
exemption
Determination that agricultural or timberland designation
has been denied
Determination that agricultural of timberland has had a
change of use and is subject to a rollback tax
Identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the
property is located
Determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the
property
Any other action of the appraisal district office or the ARB
that adversely affects the owner

The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property
owner written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing.
The law contains specific timelines and procedures for both the
property owner and the ARB through the
appraisal protest process.

Copies are available from **PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 879 107 E. TEXAS ST, MARFA TX 79843**, on our website
or from the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division website
at comptroller.texas.gov/property-tax/.

Additional local information can be obtained by contacting
PRESIDIO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT (432)729-3431

FOR SALE

MOVING SALE

High end furniture sale! China cabinet, dining table
with four chairs and a leaf, entertainment center,
dresser, computer desk all at great prices
and seller is open to offers.

If interested, call 432-294-1264.

FOR SALE

Home at 217 E TX St, Marfa, TX.
\$250,000

Buyer pays closing costs and taxes.

For more information call 432-295-2878

The City of Marfa is accepting proposals for a flooring project at
the Marfa and Presidio County Museum.

Project specifications are available online
at <https://cityofmarfa.com/rfps>.

**Sealed bids are due at City Hall (113 S. Highland Ave.) no later
than May 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. CST.**

The City of Marfa is accepting quotes for a full-roof replacement
at the Marfa and Presidio County Museum.

For more information, contact City Manager Mandy Roane at
432.295.3323 or mroane@cityofmarfa.com.

Deadline for quotes is April 28, 2023.

**The CITY OF MARFA will be accepting SEALED BIDS for the purchase
of SURPLUS VEHICLES until 3:00 PM Friday, May 5, 2023 at which
time they will be opened at MARFA CITY HALL located at 113 S.
Highland Ave. by the City Manager and/or designated staff. Any
proposals received after the deadline shall be returned unopened.
Proposals submitted via faxes or email will not be accepted.**

A complete bid packet can be picked up at MARFA CIY HALL located
at 113 S. Highland Ave. or at the City of Marfa's website, www.cityofmarfa.com. Complete packet must be submitted and shall
be addressed to Mandy Roane, City Manager and clearly marked
"SEALED BID-SURPLUS VEHICLES 2023."

The City of Marfa reserves the right to postpone,
to accept or to reject any or all proposals or to waive any
informalities in the process.

**Please direct questions to Mandy Roane,
City Manager at 432.295.3323.**

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF MARFA 2023-2024 TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Marfa is giving notice of the City's intent to submit
Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant
application (s) for a Community Development Fund grant request
of \$500,000 for street improvements in the City of Marfa. The
application is available for review from April 21, 2023, to April 26,
2023 at the Marfa City Hall during regular business hours.

AVISO PUBLICO LA CIUDAD DE MARFA 2023-2024 BLOQUE DE DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO GRANT DE TEXAS

La ciudad de Marfa está dando aviso de la intención de la
ciudad de presentar la solicitud de subvención del Programa de
Subvenciones del Bloque de Desarrollo Comunitario de Texas para
una solicitud de subvención del Fondo de Desarrollo Comunitario
de \$500,000 para el mejoramientos a las carreteras y calles en la
Ciudad de Marfa. La solicitud está disponible para su revisión en
el Ayuntamiento de Marfa durante el horario comercial regular de
abril 21, 2023 hasta abril 26, 2023.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY

Judge Jose Portillo:

(432) 729-4452

CITY OF MARFA

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Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

BREWSTER COUNTY

Judge Greg Henington:

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Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:

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Email: mayor.eaves@ci.alpine.tx.us

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Judge Curtis Evans: (432) 426-3968

FEDERAL:

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn:
(202) 224-2934 (D.C. office)

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz:
(202) 224-5922 (D.C. office)



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