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

3D-printed homes slated for new El Cosmico grounds open for reservation

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — El Cosmico announced last week that the reservation waitlist for its selection of 3D-printed houses, planned for the outer edge of the hotel's upcoming Antelope Hills property, is now open, with homes available for purchase starting at $900,000.

The "Sunday Homes," designed and constructed in partnership with architecture firm BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group and 3D-printing start-up ICON, are made up of connected circular modules, creating "a unique, cloud-like floorplan from the sum of the combined circles," per the reservations website. The available homes will consist of three floorplans — two, three and four-bedrooms ranging in size from 1,500 to 2,400 square feet.

A total of 30 to 40 homes will be constructed on the site, said El Cosmico founder Liz Lambert. Though the homes start in price at a baseline of $900,000, Lambert said the full spectrum of prices had not yet been determined.

"We're still determining what the price range will be, but prices will be based on the number of bedrooms, their location and any upgrades people may want to select," said Lambert. "As we move forward with the project, we'll share more information about pricing."

The homes are just one component of a larger plan to relocate the El Cosmico hotel and campground to a sprawling 61 acres off Antelope Hills Road, tripling the size of the grounds and roughly doubling its guest capacity. The new resort will include around 120 units for hotel guests, a restaurant, an infinity pool and a bathhouse — amenities that would be available for local use. The new site will also serve as the location for El Cosmico's annual Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love.

Since the ambitious project's announcement in early March, reactions among Antelope Hills property owners has been mixed — while some have expressed enthusiasm or ambivalence, others have expressed apprehension over the development's potential impacts on their quality of life, with impacts to the water supply, noise and traffic chief among their concerns. A newly-formed neighborhood group plans to bring their concerns to

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Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Marfa High School student artists walk through STOREHORNS, a collaborative exhibition and art sale held at the Marfa Book Co. last week. READ MORE ON PAGE 6.

Workforce Solutions Borderplex initiates development of 10 home day cares in Presidio County

By MARY CANTRELL
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — In response to the continual lack of regional childcare options, Workforce Solutions Borderplex, a nonprofit organization, is launching an initiative to jumpstart 10 new home-based day cares in Presidio County.

Marisela Correa, director of family services with WSB, said the local need for more home-based day cares is apparent when considering there are no childcare facilities in Marfa and the one day care currently operating in Presidio has very limited capacity.

"We are looking at how we can develop that area [and] be that support system, because we know there's a need and then there's also lack of infrastructure to create a childcare center," said Correa.

WSB received funding in the form of a community benefit grant from CEI Capital Management LLC, which it will use to hire an outreach specialist to help recruit home day care providers, as well as provide start-up costs and assistance to those new businesses.

Correa said in addition to addressing the need for childcare, the project's goal is also to bolster the local workforce by providing jobs in the form of home day care operators and more.

"This would also help our businesses in the community because in order to retain or obtain employees, they themselves are looking at, 'Well, I need childcare,'" said Correa.

For those already taking care of one to two children of their relatives or friends, Correa said setting up a home day care can be a way to formalize, scale-up and profit off of services that in some cases are already being provided.

WSB will work with the Rio Grande Council of Governments to hire a local outreach specialist to help individuals explore what it would take to get their homes established as licensed day care facilities. The outreach specialist — a short-term role hopefully performed by a local, said Correa — will also connect potential home day care providers to resources such as consultations where they can learn about requirements, funding opportunities and more.

Monetary support for these new businesses may include covering fees relating to licensing, rezoning, gas inspections and background checks — which will be required for anyone that lives

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Request for revised Solitaire deeds highlights issues at Industrial Park

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — At a meeting on April 20, H. Cowan, a contractor for Solitaire Homes, approached the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) Board about obtaining revised deeds to the company's land in Presidio Industrial Park.

A recent survey of Solitaire's land in the Industrial Park revealed that the land's original survey had been inaccurate, bolstering the allegations of now-resigned PMDD leaders that deeds attached to the land contained long-festering errors that needed correcting. Now, Cowan was requesting a revised, accurate deed — one which also reflected the park's current ownership. Paperwork still lists a defunct organization that hasn't existed since 2013.

Controversy over the state of the Presidio Industrial Park led to the resignation of two former board leaders months prior. Former Executive Director and Board President Jeran Stephens and Terry Bishop wrote a searing letter about corruption within the city of Presidio, including "potentially illegal real estate transactions" and "incorrect titles and deeds" in the Industrial Park dating back to 2012.

Despite the shakeup in board leadership that now leaves PMDD without an executive director, Cowan was instructed by Presidio City Council to make his case before the development district.

At press time, Cowan hadn't received the revised deeds he requested.

Nancy Arevalo — a longtime PMDD member who was appointed the new board president at April's meeting — confirmed that it "appears the property was given to Solitaire," in line with Stephens' understanding of the matter.

Arevalo said that she had reached out to the original surveyor of the property but hadn't yet heard back. Despite the widespread confusion about the history of Solitaire's chunk of the Industrial Park, she was hoping everything would be settled promptly. "I have no problem signing the new warranty deed for Mr. Cowan," she wrote in an email to *The Presidio International*. "But the board wants to do their own homework first."

Presidio Industrial Park: history and current controversies

The Industrial Park is a 140-acre patch of partially-developed land just west of Presidio

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26 years later, new book revisits the Republic of Texas Standoff

By SAM KARAS
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FORT DAVIS — Twenty-six years ago this week, all eyes were on Fort Davis as hundreds of law enforcement officers, neighbors and journalists descended on the sleepy mountain town. Richard McLaren — leader of the Republic of Texas secessionist movement — was holed up with his followers in a trailer in the Davis Mountains Resort (DMR), in what they felt was a noble show of force against an impostor government.

As a younger man, McLaren became enamored with the legends of the historical Republic of Texas, populated by figures like Davy Crockett, Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston. He became convinced that Texas was illegally annexed in 1845, and that leadership of the contemporary state of Texas had no real authority.

The standoff got its start long before the gunfire in what *The Big Bend Sentinel* described as "a paper war." McLaren quickly figured out how to use the legal system to stir chaos — he used adverse possession laws to challenge the titles of landowners in the DMR, gradually amassing 900 acres by searching county records for erroneous or nonexistent documentation.

He also started filing liens — some against combative neighbors in the DMR, but also against business, churches, politicians and banks. Just before the standoff, he was under warrant for these fraudulent documents.

On April 27, 1997, Joe Rowe — a DMR resident — called the sheriff on three people poking around an abandoned structure near his property. Sheriff Steve Bailey "detained without incident" Robert Scheidt, McLaren's "Captain of the Guard," according to that week's *Big Bend Sentinel*.

McLaren then sent reinforcements to the home of Joe and M.A. Rowe, claiming that the Rowes were enemy spies. Shots were fired, and Rowe was injured in the shoulder. The Rowes were held hostage in their own home — sparking what's now known as the Republic of Texas Standoff.

The Republic of Texas kept the world updated via the internet — which in 1997 was an unusual way to broadcast information. "Joe Rowe and Sheriff Bailey may go down in history as having inadvertently set off the liberation of America from New World Order tyranny for a personal vendetta," McLaren wrote on April 29, 1997.

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Local General Election is this Saturday, May 6

By MARY CANTRELL
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PRESIDIO COUNTY — Citizens will have a chance to elect local city council and school board members, and decide whether or not to fund the county's groundwater conservation district, in the General Election this Saturday, May 6.

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Residents of precincts 1 and 7 will be required to vote at Marfa City Hall in the Casner Room, while residents of precincts 2-6 will vote at the Presidio Activity Center.

The Big Bend Sentinel will post General Election results as soon as they become available on Saturday evening on our website, bigbendsentinel.com, and on all social media platforms, @ bigbendsentinel.

Early voting ran from April 24 through May 2. So far, voter turnout in the City of Marfa election was 225 individuals, or 15 percent of the voters registered within the city. The City of Presidio saw 280 voters. The county saw a total of 508 voters decide on Proposition 1, the groundwater conservation district ballot item.

Proposition 1 — Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District

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. To ensure citizens will not be impacted by an increase in taxes, the district has entered into an agreement with the county to lower their tax rate, offsetting a potential new tax. 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.

City of Marfa

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 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 Salgado 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.

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Home day cares

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in the home that will serve as a day care. Recruits will also be made aware of WSB's facilities in Presidio and Alpine, which offer resume writing and other job services.

Though neighboring Brewster County has a growing number of childcare options — a couple of existing home day cares, and a Montessori school in Alpine, plus Alpine ISD's new initiative to create a day care with the school to the tune of $500,000 in funding from WSB and the Texas Workforce Commission — Presidio County remains in dire need of the services said Correa, and home day cares seem to be a viable option.

"We thought, well, maybe if we get some registered homes — they're smaller, [with a] smaller amount of children that they accept, but they might be spread out throughout the county and might be able to support that need," said Correa.

The program is loosely set up in two phases, explained Correa. Phase one will focus on locating potential home day care operators, ideally by the end of September 2023, while phase two will involve education on childcare regulations and getting locations up and running with necessary licensing and fees.

"I know we say 10, but if we're successful with one or two, then hopefully more come on board," she added.

Once home day cares are set up, she said, WSB can support them further financially with supplies, materials and equipment. Day cares that enter into contracts with WSB may also receive subsidies provided by the nonprofit — money provided to parents to offset the daily fee of childcare.

Rates differ for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, ranging from $22 to $24, and are higher for day cares that participate in Texas Rising Star, a quality rating improvement program, ranging from $26 to $30 per day.

There are a number of technical and legal distinctions among home day cares, which potential operators will have to familiarize themselves with — for example, registered and licensed homes are not one in the same. Both are limited to 12 children under the age of 14, but registered homes can only host six children, then an additional six for afterschool programs. Licensed homes, meanwhile, can host 12 at any one time. And infants count as two children, due to the level of care required.

Home day cares are also subject to routine health and safety inspections, which are made available to the public. Still, despite the legal and technical hoops, Correa argued it was a feasible way to make a living and an opportunity to become an entrepreneur with relatively low overhead costs, given the cost-effectiveness of running a business out of one's home. And one thing was guaranteed, said Correa — a customer base.

"It is a business no matter how you look at it," said Correa. "It's not a new thing. It's not a fad that comes and goes. There's always a need as parents in the community have children."

Presidio parent Diana Aguirre Armendáriz, who has a 4 year old and a 3-month old, affirmed that more day care services are needed in the border town. Armendáriz is the main caregiver for her children, having been unsuccessful in getting them into the Presidio Coalition for Children day care in Presidio, which is located on the school district's grounds.

The facility, which opened in 2018, can accommodate up to 150 students but currently only serves 12 due to staffing shortages. The facility is working to improve operations after pandemic closures, but still has a long waitlist, which frustrates parents like Armendáriz, who said she doesn't understand why childcare in the area is so limited.

"Why wasn't the opening of a day care in Presidio data-based, getting an average of the demand and [in this way] meeting the needs of the population?" said Armendáriz. "Since it's a rural area with not many residents, it could have been better thought out."

Armendáriz said if a legitimate, certified home day care provider, or providers, in Presidio existed, she would consider sending her children there — that, in turn, would help her go back to work.

Marfa parent Yasmine Guevara, whose 6-year-old son attends Marfa Elementary, said she too would consider a home day care if it was properly credentialed.

The Marfa ISD School Board's decision to switch to a four-day instructional week for the 2023-2024 school year, with students having Fridays off, is concerning for Guevara. While she supports the initiative — enacted by the school board to give teachers more time to prepare for instruction, prevent burnout and attract more hires to the district — her limited childcare options are troublesome. Her main method of childcare is relying on family members, she said. But her grandmother, the only caretaker available on Fridays, often has other out-of-town family obligations and doctor's appointments, meaning Guevara could be left with no one to turn to.

"This is a concern for me because if she is not able to watch my son, that would mean that I would have to take the day off of work to care for him since there are no other childcare resources in town," said Guevara.

As a single parent who works full time and is also enrolled in courses at Sul Ross State University, the lack of local childcare has been stressful for her and her family, she said. Guevara advocated for affordable childcare for families of all sizes, and for more general spaces for children to go in town, similar to a boys and girls club.

"Not only because the school is switching to a four-day work week, but for the children to have a place during the summer to spend their time while parents are working," said Guevara.

Correa said discussions with local school districts like Marfa and Fort Davis ISDs regarding the establishment of school-district supported day care facilities were still ongoing. Alpine ISD's new day care initiative — which would include day care over the summer months — has also made progress as of late, said Correa, having hired a day care director, assistant director and more.

"I think a lot of the school districts around the area are looking to see what Alpine is doing and how that is working out," said Correa.

As for the possibility of 10 new home day cares in Presidio County, Correa said taking care of young children and being a part of their growth was a rewarding experience and they were hopeful they would attract interested parties.

"They are teachers of early education," said Correa. "The little ones that are developing and are going to be heading to school to have an opportunity to be able to be part of that child's development."

Solitaire deeds

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on FM170. The land was purchased by the PMDD's predecessor organization, the Development Corporation of Presidio (DCOP), in 1999 with the goal of attracting businesses — the complex is currently home to Solitaire Homes and the Presidio International Dragstrip.

DCOP was folded over into PMDD by the state Legislature in 2013 after the city failed to fund the organization for the second year in a row. By reincorporating as a development district instead of a development organization, PMDD leadership would receive their tax funds directly from the state instead of waiting for the city to apportion their fair share.

The Industrial Park is still legally owned by DCOP, despite having been defunct since 2013.

Former PMDD Executive Director Jeran Stephens had long had concerns about the legal and financial history of the land. "There's a few clerical errors, if you will, on the surveys," she told her board at a meeting in February of 2022.

Stephens also worried that — if the issues of Industrial Park ownership and land transfer weren't settled — the city could lose the land. "These issues are serious and there is a possibility that the entire Industrial Park ownership will soon revert to the state of Texas," she wrote in her resignation letter.

About a year later, Stephens' fears over surveys, at least, were proven right. Solitaire Homes was recently purchased by Cavco Industries, which requested a survey of their new slice of the Industrial Park. Their survey revealed a discrepancy of about an acre from the original survey, requiring rewritten deeds detailing the transfer of the land to Solitaire's parent company, Elliot Manufactured Homes.

Stephens had hoped to one day turn the Industrial Park into a foreign trade zone (FTZ) to bolster Presidio's growing international trade. An FTZ helps manufacturers selling goods between countries to skirt import taxes. "Within FTZs, company goods can be unloaded, manufactured, reassembled, tested, sampled, processed, repackaged and re-exported without the intervention of U.S. customs authorities," explains a pamphlet from the Office of the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism initiative.

Ringing in at 34, Texas has the most FTZs of any state. Along the U.S.-Mexico border, El Paso, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Starr County, McAllen, Weslaco and Brownsville boast their own — Presidio is a rare exception.

County Judge Joe Portillo has recently taken up the FTZ mantle, with an initiative to create a self-governing port authority in Presidio that would help fund its creation. "I want to leave some money for [the port authority] to look at new projects," he explained at a commissioners court meeting on March 8.

Those goals are still far-off — for now, city officials are only beginning to untangle the land's past.

Soltaire's history with the park

Solitaire was the first company to lease the land and served as a test case for how to draw even more companies to set up shop in Presidio. Cowan — who brought Solitaire to Presidio after scouting the border for a favorable place to set up shop — signed a lease with the city in 2009. Their 17-acre chunk of the Industrial Park was — at that time — undeveloped.

Solitaire's Presidio operation is an example of the *maquilado*r, or twin-plant concept. The company's main plant is in Ojinaga — on a plot of land acquired before they set up shop in Presidio. The land in the Presidio Industrial Park is a staging area for materials and finished homes that haven't yet reached their destinations.

DCOP and Solitaire set up an unconventional leasing agreement: for the first two years, Solitaire would pay $1 while the "tenant develop[ed] the premises into a support site serving the tenant's Ojinaga, Chihuahua factory." When the clock struck year three of the leasing agreement, DCOP could charge a monthly rent of $5,000 if Solitaire was unable to provide stable employment to area residents.

The lease stipulates that Solitaire would be able to lease the land for free if they were able to provide 10 full-time jobs to employees in their Presidio office and 150 full-time jobs to employees at their Ojinaga factory.

Cowan said that Stephens had long accused him of getting land for free in a series of "potentially illegal real estate transactions that directly benefited previous board members," as she spelled out in her resignation letter.

He insists that it was simply a mutually-beneficial business transaction. "The bargaining chip was land," he told *The Presidio International*.

Between years two and eight of the leasing agreement, Solitaire could purchase the land outright for a price that would depreciate every year until the value reached $25,000. After year eight of fulfilling their agreement, Solitaire could purchase the land for $1.

Cowan said that those stipulations were a bargain struck between his company and PMDD to protect the company's investment in the land. "We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on [improving] the land, and a million dollars or so on buildings," he said. "We said, 'Well, let's mitigate our risk for losing everything should that happen along the way.'"

Stephens was also concerned that Cowan's leadership on the PMDD Board compromised the ethics of the land deal — he joined just after PMDD was formed by the state Legislature, and resigned just after the deeds were formally transferred to Solitaire.

Cowan said that his resignation from the board had nothing to do with the land deal, and instead with another festering issue in Presidio politics: the establishment of a transmigrante route through town.

The deeds were signed at the end of November 2018. Through 2019 and 2020, the city was consumed by controversy over the possible arrival of *transmigrante*s — merchants towing used cars, appliances and other goods through Mexico to Central America.

As cartel violence raised safety concerns at Los Indios — formerly the only port authorized for transmigrante traffic — rumors swirled that Mexican officials would be rerouting the program through Ojinaga. The Mexican government officially announced the switch in January 2021.

Throughout the discussion, city officials pitched PMDD land in the Industrial Park as a potential staging area for the transmigrantes. Cowan — anticipating the present-day sprawling lots marked by man-camps and food trucks — was concerned about how transmigrante traffic could clog up the highway he needed to run his business.

Cowan routinely attended city meetings to lambast the idea of designating the lots within the Industrial Park — and ultimately resigned his post in protest. "I resigned from the board because I felt a coming conflict of interest," he said.

Recently, while awaiting the revised deed, Cowan said he felt that ultimately — despite ongoing investigation into his business' transactions with the City of Presidio — Solitaire was there to stay. "No one else has ever done anything out there to create employment except for us," he said.

El Cosmico

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Lambert and maintain a dialogue with the hotelier as the project moves forward.

As for the homes slated to line the property's outskirts, Lambert has said that the idea is, in part, for those homes to become part of the rental pool, providing alternatives to Airbnbs and relieving some of the demand for short-term rental properties in town. The homes will be managed by El Cosmico.

Still, it is too early to say how many of the homes will become part of the El Cosmico rental pool, and how many may, potentially, be full-time residences, said Lambert.

The question of whether interested buyers plan to use the homes as a primary residence is among those asked of applicants in a brief questionnaire — other questions include whether the applicant has ever been to Marfa, and whether the applicant is a broker or working with a broker.

Lambert clarified that those questions will not be used to make determinations about one's position on the waitlist, but rather to customize the process of matching applicants to homes.

"Responses to the questionnaire won't determine who can purchase a Sunday Home," said Lambert. "They will mostly be used to match the specific characteristics of each home with their future owners."

El Cosmico and partners plan to break ground on the project in early 2024.

Local General Election

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For the 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. For the other seat, Mark Morrison is running unopposed, and so 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.

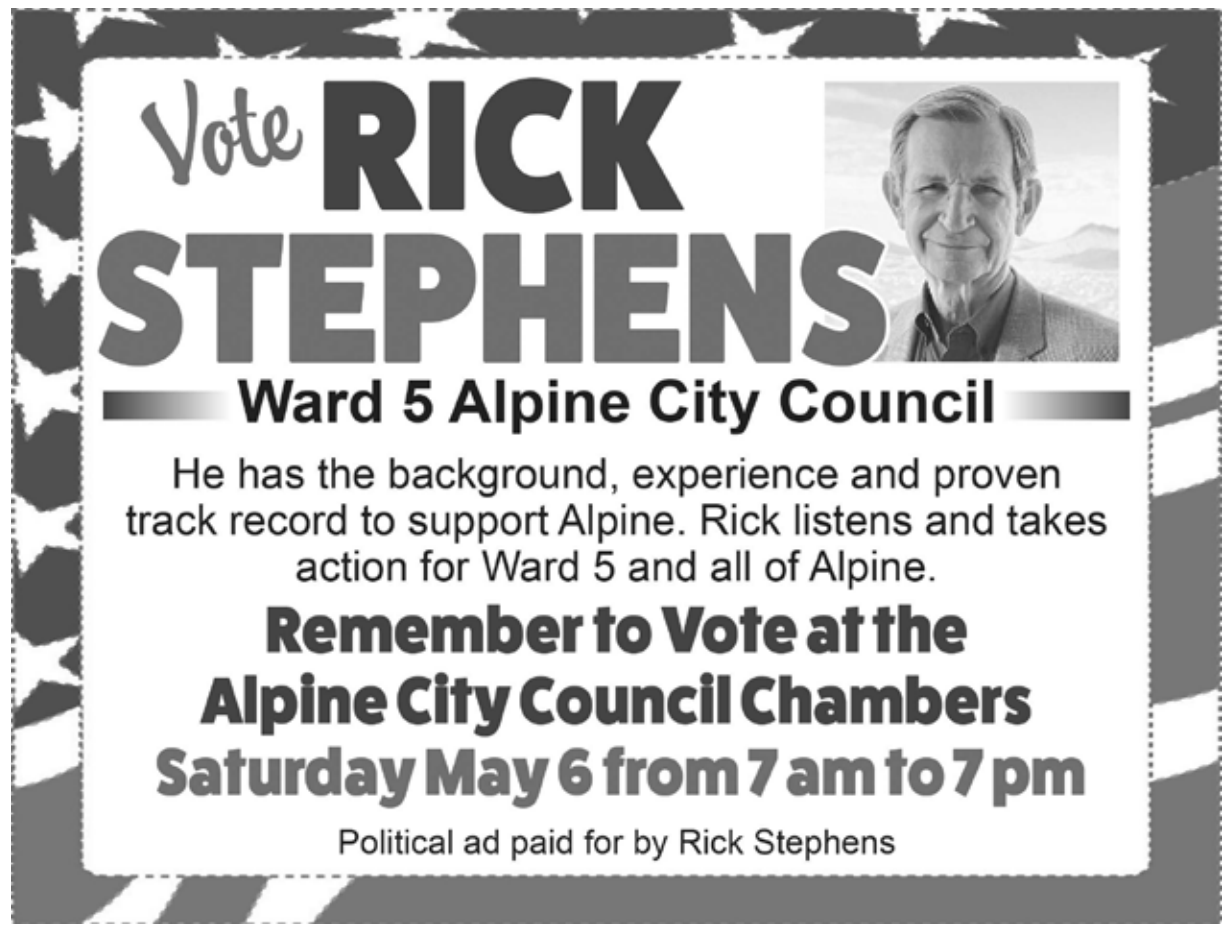
City of Presidio and Presidio ISD

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 "Nicky" 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.





Presidio celebrates former Animal Control Officer Sergio Carrasco

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — On April 14, longtime Presidio Animal Control Sergio Carrasco clocked in for his last day after seven years of working for the city. To celebrate, a pair of animal rescue nonprofits helped him wrap up upgrades to the shelter in order to mark a fresh start for the facility and threw a going-away bash in his honor.

In his seven-year career at the shelter, Carrasco rescued hundreds of animals. He joined forces with Terlingua-based rescue The Underground Dog in 2019 — which helped find homes for 531 of the dogs Carrasco picked up from South Presidio County.

When Carrasco was hired, the Presidio Animal Shelter euthanized 75% of the dogs that came through its doors. Under his management, that number dwindled down to practically zero.

Carrasco still keeps tabs on a few of the animals he helped find homes for. One in particular — a battle-scarred pitbull he later named Canelo — still tugs at his heartstrings.

"Initially, when he got [to the shelter], it looked like he had been in dogfights," he said. "The pictures of Canelo now with his owner — it's great seeing that."

He's always had a soft spot for the underdogs — no pun intended. "I'm partial to pitbulls," he said of the blocky, widely misunderstood breed. "All the pitbulls we've gotten here at the shelter in Presidio have been really, really nice dogs."

Most of his by-the-book responsibilities include trapping and releasing pest animals, responding to animal hoarding situations and taking in surrenders at the shelter. Helping find homes for needy animals requires time and commitment that go beyond the typical duties of an animal control officer.

Carrasco was willing to go the extra mile. In addition to his regular job duties, he provided potential pets with vaccinations, forwarded pictures of candidates to rescue organizations and conducted initial behavioral assessments to get a sense of each pup's personality.

Typically, those responsibilities would fall to professionals and volunteers involved with animal rescue organizations — people like Heather Hall of The Underground Dog.

Hall and Carrasco came together in late 2019 to help find loving homes for Presidio's stray and surrendered dogs. Hall recognized the dire need: typically, there are between two and five adoptions a year directly out of the Presidio shelter, which sees dozens of animals come through its doors every month.

It turned out that Carrasco had a particular knack for reading dogs. His trick was to ignore the dog's initial reaction to being caught — many shelter animals arrive scared and confused. After allowing them a few days to get used to his presence, he'd offer treats and monitor their next moves. "I'd wait for them to come to me," he explained.

His patience yielded invaluable data that helped match shelter dogs with their ideal forever homes. "Usually my interpretation of how the dog's going to turn out has been spot on," he said.

Hall and Carrasco were in near-constant communication for years. The morning of Carrasco's going-away party, Hall got a notification on her phone that she was almost out of memory.

She broke down the data: her text thread with Sergio was a whopping 18 gigabytes, over half of her phone's storage. "I went ahead and deleted my text thread with my husband — I couldn't delete the one with Sergio," she joked to the crowd at Sergio's going away.

The two exchanged pictures of dogs, vaccination records and behavioral assessments in order to start matching dogs with homes. Many of the Presidio shelter dogs ended up in Portland, where a sister organization called One Tail at a Time helped identify potential adopters.

In April, the One Tail at a Time team flew to El Paso and spent four days in Presidio at the Three Palms Inn. With Hall's and Carrasco's help, the volunteers helped set up a grooming station, poured concrete in the fenced-in play area and replaced rusty wire in each kennel.

The upgrades to the shelter were much-needed after years of neglect, but Hall hoped the volunteers' efforts were just the tip of the iceberg. There were other changes the city could make to help its animal control officers, too.

For one: Carrasco consistently visited the shelter on the weekends to provide clean food and water and clean up kennels. The city did not pay for him to come in on weekends; those hours were purely on a volunteer basis.

Hall hoped that the city might provide a part-time weekend employee to come in for an hour or two on Saturdays and Sundays. "It's not reasonable to ask someone to work seven days a week," she said. "The dogs aren't happy — they're going 48 hours without somebody to say hello to them, to clean up their kennels."

The weekend gap also made it difficult to rehabilitate sick pups. "You can't give antibiotics Monday through Friday and then take the weekend off," she explained.

Since resigning from the city, Carrasco has relocated to the Permian Basin to seek work in the oilfields. After years working low-paying jobs in the tri-county — at the tomato farms, at the Presidio County Jail — he decided to roll the dice.

He didn't have prior experience in animal control before he applied for the job in Presidio. "I thought it was something I might enjoy — and for the most part, I did. It was just that the pay wasn't very good," he said.

Despite the many obstacles he faced, Hall was forever moved by Carrasco's talent for caring for animals. "You walk into a typical shelter and you hear a lot of barking, you feel really sad for the dogs," she said. "Sergio's shelter was like summer camp — I called it Camp Sergio."

Carrasco denied that he had any special gift. "I guess it feels normal to me that we should be a little more considerate," he said. "For dogs, I'll do just about anything that I can."

Republic of Texas Standoff

(Continued from page 1)

The Rowes were not the only locals who felt victimized. The May 1, 1997 Big Bend Sentinel spoke to Jan Harkey, a Marfa ISD teacher who was barred from leaving her home in the DMR by law enforcement as the standoff wore on. "I feel very violated," she said. "We were literally hostages in our own home."

The McLarens were arrested and brought to the Presidio County Jail on May 4. They had ultimately surrendered under pressure from their families — and after making Captain Barry Caver of the Texas Rangers sign an "international agreement and terms of ceasefire," which they said gave the Republic of Texas "legal recognition." (Law enforcement disagreed.)

On May 5, the standoff claimed its lone casualty: Mike Matson, a Republic of Texas member who refused to surrender, was shot and killed by law enforcement.

That same day, Evelyn McLaren stood before the U.S. Magistrate Court for her indictment. She was charged with 23 counts involving fraud against the federal government and several businesses and financial institutions — including $1.8 in "bogus warrants."

The *Sul Ross Skyline* reported that the family members who had pleaded with the McLarens to surrender did not come to the Big Bend in support. "The small courtroom was packed with reporters but two seats remained empty throughout the hearing," they wrote. "Those had been reserved for Mrs. McLaren's two daughters, but they never appeared."

Letters to the editor trickled into *The Sentinel* newspaper office, many of them invoking the Siege of Waco standoff between the Branch Davidians and Texas state law enforcement barely a year prior. "[McLaren] saw what happened at Waco, at Ruby Ridge, in Oklahoma City … he just wants to be recognized," wrote Abe Castilo of Marathon. "That's all he wants."

Malcolm Tweedy of Fort Davis also implored readers to "consider the lessons of Waco" after it was discovered that the McLarens had been stockpiling weapons at their compound. "Was this simply wisdom or just good luck that a possible firefight was avoided?"

Last weekend, the Museum of the Big Bend hosted a standoff reunion of sorts featuring former Texas Rangers Joe Malone and David Duncan, alongside Republic of Texas hostage Joe Rowe. Author Donna Marie Miller — author of Texas Secessionists Standoff, a new book on the subject — hosted the discussion.

Miller's previous work includes *The Broken Spoke: Austin's Legendary Honky-Tonk*. She sat down with The Big Bend Sentinel to talk about her writing and her new book. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

How did writing about the Broken Spoke lead you to writing about the Republic of Texas?

I was at a book signing at the Broken Spoke in 2017 and this woman — a very demure, very tiny woman — named Molly McKnight came up to me with this giant envelope of news clippings and she said, "I know what your next story is." We had lunch the next day, and she introduced me to Jo Ann Turner, who was the secretary for the Republic of Texas militia in 1997, when they had a standoff with 300 law enforcement officers in the Davis Mountains.

I started interviewing Jo Ann once a week in my house. After a while, I realized this was more than a book about Jo Ann Turner — this was a book about the standoff. There had been some articles written [about it], but it had been 20 years and nothing had really been written. The next thing I knew, I had a longer list of people to interview and it just went on and on.

I flew to Amarillo in 2018 and interviewed Richard McLaren, the self-proclaimed ambassador of the Republic of Texas, in prison, behind plexiglass. He had a guard with him, he had been in isolation for 20 plus years — he was harmless, but he was just as delusional as the day is long.

Can you give me the Spark Notes version of how the Republic of Texas came to be?

All of his life [McLaren] had read all the myths about Texas and began to think of himself as an expert — he aligned himself with some of his mythological heroes.

He wanted to be a hero and bring Texas back to the people who believe that in 1845 Texas was illegally annexed, that there was not enough of a quorum to make it a state in the Union.

He always discounted the fact that Texas joined the Confederacy during the Civil War. Once the North won, the Texas v. White Supreme Court ruling stated that it was illegal to secede. They never considered that, they just relied on the history of the annexation, so all bets were off.

[In the early 1990s] he decided to begin to squat, if you will, up in the Davis Mountains. He worked these really weird odd jobs in restaurants and kitchens, he worked in a winery for a while. Everybody got to know him as this guy who was a master of none, you know — he just wanted to do whatever he could to earn a living.

He had this little tiny shanty with a trailer attached that he called his embassy. His group of friends would go up to his land that he had [acquired] without any money, just by squatting and using adverse possession laws — those laws are still in effect in Texas.

[Adverse possession laws] were designed to help colonize Texas before it became a nation — and before it became a United States state. But he really took advantage, and he earned a bad name for himself among the people up there in the DMR and he was always fighting with the local community.

He set up his own set of books at the Jeff Davis Courthouse and created this group of what he considered legal representatives. People started filing with him at the courthouse for legal residency, for marriages, for births, for landholdings, for car titles — you name it. That angered people even more.

Then his little group of friends started bringing their guns and cannons and all kinds of things on the weekends and practicing little military maneuvers on this land.

How was he figuring out how all this works legally?

He had spent a lot of time in the Jeff Davis County Courthouse. If the land has not been developed, and it's just sitting there, you can squat on it. If you develop it and no one objects, you can go ahead and file claim on that. He knew just enough to do what he wanted to do. He was the perfect long con.

He was so good at his talk that he was convincing people who were really wanting someone to solve all their problems — like Jo Ann [Turner]. Jo Ann wanted a miracle.

[The Republic of Texas was] getting a list of possible foreclosures in Austin and Travis County. They would mail these postcards with the official Republican Texas seal on them, saying if you're about to lose your home, give us a call.

That postcard came at the moment that Joanne feared the worst was going to happen — that she was going to lose her home. So she immediately called the number.

[The McLarens] left with the promise that they were going to help her keep everything in the home. After they left, the title company, the Travis County Constable and some moving vans arrived and they just cleared out all of her stuff, everything except a few jewelry items and Joanne's clothes.

Do you feel like in the popular imagination there are any misconceptions about this event? Or has it mostly been forgotten?

It certainly has not been forgotten by people who are directly affected: the homeowners in the DMR, the volunteers that answered the call when Joe [Rowe] was shot, the 300 law enforcement officers who arrived on the scene, the FBI agent who was a consultant, any surviving members of the Republic of Texas militia.

It's been 26 years this April 27. And it was lost in history because it was successful: only one person died as opposed to 75 people at the 51 day standoff in Waco.

Because only a few chapters have been written in a few news articles on the anniversaries, I felt like a whole book needed to be written.

Have you seen any fallout from the standoff in today's politics?

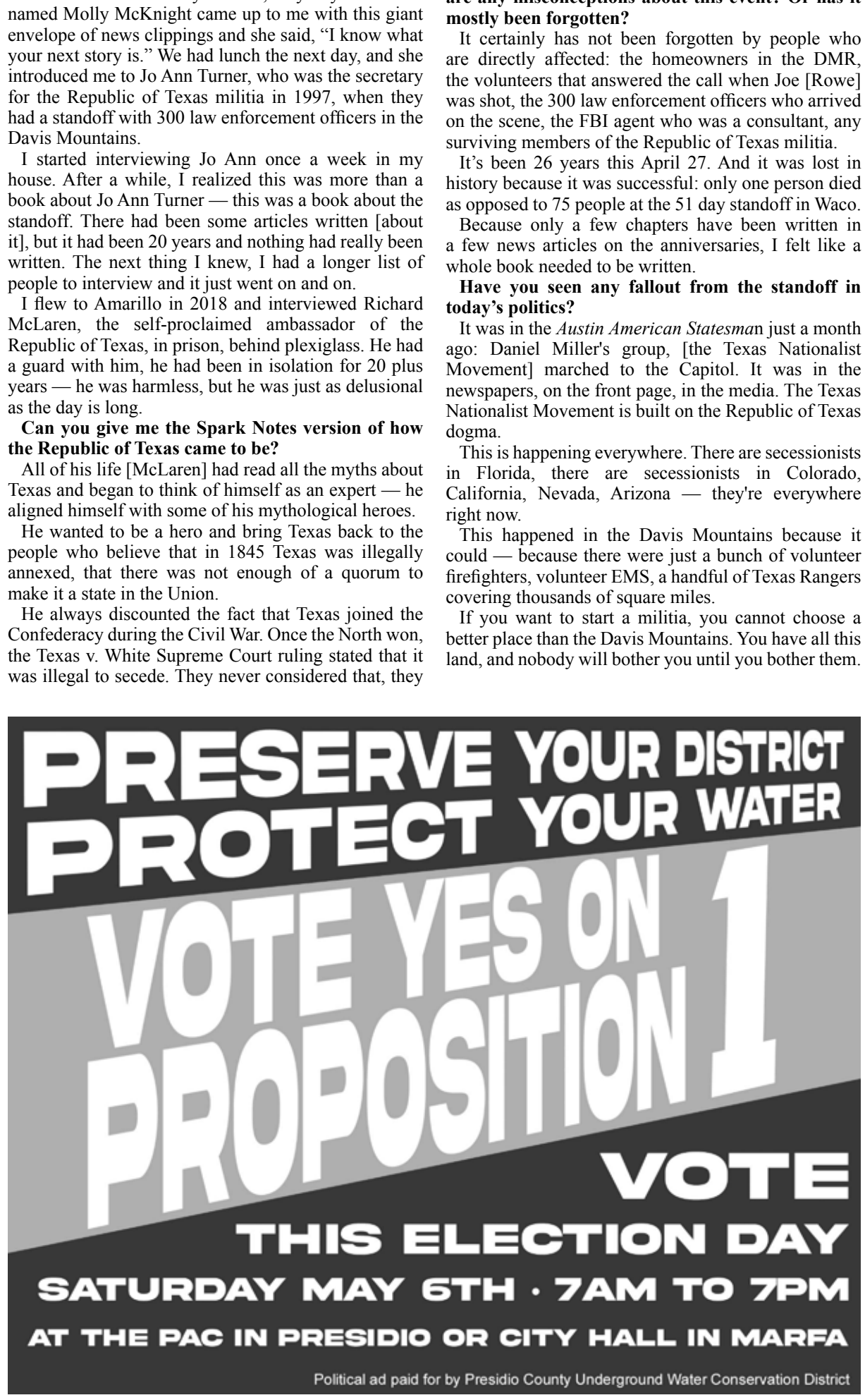
It was in the *Austin American Statesma*n just a month ago: Daniel Miller's group, [the Texas Nationalist Movement] marched to the Capitol. It was in the newspapers, on the front page, in the media. The Texas Nationalist Movement is built on the Republic of Texas dogma.

This is happening everywhere. There are secessionists in Florida, there are secessionists in Colorado, California, Nevada, Arizona — they're everywhere right now.

This happened in the Davis Mountains because it could — because there were just a bunch of volunteer firefighters, volunteer EMS, a handful of Texas Rangers covering thousands of square miles.

If you want to start a militia, you cannot choose a better place than the Davis Mountains. You have all this land, and nobody will bother you until you bother them.





Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Everything in the desert depends upon a sustainable water source, and the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (PCUWCD) provides to all of us the information we need to best maintain that valuable resource. The PCUWCD helps landowners to understand how best to utilize our water in order to maintain it now and for generations to come. My family has ranched in Presidio County for almost 85 years. I recently participated in a groundwater survey project conducted by the PCUWCD on my ranch in Presidio County. The results of the survey allowed me to understand the health and sustainability of the aquifer that underlies my ranch. In Presidio County we are fortunate to presently have adequate underground water to draw from. We must preserve that water and the water district. I urge everyone to vote FOR Proposition 1 on May 6.

Ira Y. Blanton Jr.
Peñitas Springs Ranch
Presidio County

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Editor,

Shaping the future of Alpine

As we welcome summer and outdoor activities, it is the perfect time for residents to get involved and engage in our city. The season provides a unique opportunity to make a positive impact, from participating in local events to exercising our right to vote. At City Hall there are two elections being held. One for the Ward 5 council position and one for Alpine ISD School Board. Remember, voting is a vital component of a healthy democracy and directly impacts the quality of life in our city. Election Day is Saturday, May 6.

Here's how you can make the most of this summer while contributing to the improvement of Alpine:

1. Attend local events: Summer is filled with community events, such as the farmers market, outdoor theater, concerts, festivals and art exhibits, just to name a few. Attending these events not only enriches your summer experience but also helps support local businesses and fosters a sense of community. Keep an eye out for events where you can learn more about local issues and meet with your elected county and city officials.
2. Volunteer: Summer is an excellent time to volunteer your time and skills to support the city and local organizations. From helping at the museum, the Sunshine House, the family crisis center, the animal shelter and humane society to joining one of the local nonprofits, there are countless ways to make a positive impact. Volunteering not only improves our city, but also provides a sense of accomplishment and pride in your civic contributions.
3. Engage with local government: Make it a point to attend city council meetings, town hall discussions, budget workshops, which are coming up quickly, and other government events throughout the summer and beyond. By actively participating in local decision-making processes, you can help shape the policies and initiatives that directly affect our day-to-day lives.
4. Practice environmental stewardship: Summertime activities can generate additional waste and pollution. Be a responsible citizen by recycling, conserving water and properly disposing of waste. Participate in our community cleanup events. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. Let's work together to keep Alpine beautiful.
5. Stay informed and share information: Keep up-to-date with local news and issues by following our city website and social media, listening to the radio, reading the newspaper and attending community meetings. Share important information with your family, friends and neighbors to keep them informed as well.
6. Support local businesses: Summer is an excellent time to explore your community and patronize local businesses. Supporting small businesses helps create a thriving local economy and can also lead to stronger connections within the community.
7. Encourage others to get involved: Inspire your friends, family and neighbors to join you in civic activities this summer. Share information about local events and the election, invite them to volunteer with you, and foster open conversations about the importance of being an active community member.

By taking an active role in your community this summer, you not only enhance your own experience but also contribute to a more vibrant and thriving Alpine. Embrace the spirit of civic responsibility, participate in the democratic process, and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in the place we call home, our Alpine. Your voice and actions matter — and together, we can shape the future of our city.

Mayor Catherine Eaves
Alpine

• • •

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***



Dear Editor,

Sometimes we all need a hero.

In the disastrous and final breakdown of my van, which was loaded to the roof with hay, horse feed, dog food and baskets of miscellaneous weird stuff that I might need, I had two heroes — actually, three.

AAA Plus failed me completely. I was in an area where I had no cell phone service, and after using a passing friend's phone for my initial call, I discovered that AAA insisted on a call back number. Impossible.

As the sun was going down, a very professional and kind female Alpine police officer stopped to check on me. At that time, I was doing fine, just anxious to get home.

Then, the sun went down and the temperature dropped. I could only make emergency calls, so I asked 911 to call AAA and speed them up. I was getting very cold.

Later, one of my heroes, Deputy Sheriff Aaron Zwahr, stopped and urged me to sit in his warm cruiser and wait. Eventually, he helped me by calling ALL the tow companies. AAA Plus said they could not tow my vehicle until Monday, and this disaster happened Friday at about 5:45 p.m. What was I paying AAA for?

So, Deputy Sheriff Zwahr made a plan to meet the wonderful Jeff Davis County sheriff, C.W. Stephens, at the county line to shuttle me home. It was now about 2 a.m., and I walked through my gate to the greeting of my horse at 3 a.m. Home safe.

Thank you to these fine sheriffs who helped this stressed-out, freezing woman get back to my animals who could not understand where I was.

"To protect and serve" is truly what these great officers do.

Marjie Erkkila
Fort Davis

• • •

To the Voters of Presidio County,

On May 6, 2023, there will be an election on Proposition 1. This will take some of the taxes you are already paying to the county and dedicate them directly to funding the groundwater district, so in effect there will be no tax increase to the taxpayers of Presidio County. The authority to tax is required by the law that created the groundwater district. If the voters do not approve Proposition 1, the groundwater district will disappear along with all the protections only a groundwater district can provide. This would leave the citizens of Presidio County exposed to real risks because of the Rule of Capture in Texas. The most important vote is to vote YES.

Water is becoming a big problem not only nationwide but worldwide. There are big cities in the U.S. that are running out of water, and eventually this problem is coming to small communities, and it is coming. I am a board member of the Pecos County Groundwater Conservation District and have been since it was created 20 years ago. It has been a very busy place for the government of Pecos County. We get people from all walks of life, it affects everybody one way or another, and the district does a great job of solving problems that are fair for everybody. Vote YES on Proposition 1.

Sincerely,

M. R. Gonzalez
Fort Stockton
El Grande Ranch
Presidio County

• • •

Dear Editor,

Many thanks to all the Marfa Museum Thrift Store visitors who purchased raffle tickets in support of the Marfa and Presidio County Museum. Heather Rickleff of Alpine was the lucky winner of the quilt raffle. Robbie Fellows, longtime Marfa resident, lovingly made the hand-stitched, washable quilt and donated it to the thrift store to be raffled off to benefit the Marfa and Presidio County Museum. The winning ticket was drawn at Blackwell School's block party. The raffle garnered $326 for the museum.

Sincerely,

Marfa and Presidio County Board of Directors

• • •

Editor,

The Z. H. Canyon Limited Partnership, known since 1925 as the C.E. Miller Ranch, owns and ranches land in northwest Presidio County. I am a partner and manager of the ranch.

I support Proposition 1 in the May 6, 2023, Presidio County election that will allow the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District to levy ad valorem taxes to provide for operations of the Underground Water Conservation District.

I believe that the local district, with local Presidio County directors, is much preferable to the alternative of oversight and management of our water by state agencies.

There is much to be learned about our Presidio County underground water resources, and the revenue from Proposition 1 will support the gathering and compilation of data necessary for the successful management of those resources.

Water is vital to Presidio County. I urge you to support Proposition 1.

Thanks,

Albert W. Miller

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OUR WATER MATTERS

Election Day is this Saturday, May 6

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

As you consider whether or not to vote in favor of Proposition 1 this Election Day, here are few things for you to consider.

As one of only 40 data providers to the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network of the United States Geological Survey, your groundwater district here in Presidio County is eligible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to advance our understanding of the health of our aquifers. The Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District recently applied for $160,000 in grant funding from the USGS with a 25% match requirement. Instead of going to the taxpayers of Presidio County to raise the matching funds, your groundwater district secured an invitation to submit a proposal for the funds to the Horizon Foundation.

But your groundwater district also went a step further. After learning that the USGS would not fund Presidio County's full proposal to expand the current data-collection network from 7 wells to 25 wells throughout the county, your groundwater district submitted an addendum to its proposal to the Horizon Foundation, asking for additional funding to implement the entire project as originally envisioned. Not only did the Horizon Foundation agree to guarantee the additional funding in the amount of $49,000 per year for two years, it also expressed interest in providing future funding to enhance data collection in neighboring Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Culberson counties.

Your groundwater district is also collaborating with the data team of the Texas Water Development Board to assume the monitoring of several wells throughout the county that the TWDB is already measuring annually. With the funding described above, your groundwater district will equip these wells with monitoring equipment to collect water-level data on a daily basis. This data will provide your groundwater district and data experts at the TWDB with a more granular picture to build accurate models of our aquifers and gain a clearer understanding of how much groundwater our aquifers can sustainably produce.

Your groundwater district is also partnering with Dixon Water Foundation, Rio Grande Joint Venture and Borderlands Research Institute to advance a watershed-wide restoration effort called the Alamito Creek Conservation Initiative. This initiative seeks to work with willing landowners to restore the Alamito Creek watershed so that it can better perform its role as a major source of aquifer recharge in our region. Increased aquifer recharge means higher groundwater levels. Since landowners are vested with property rights in all of the water under their land, elevated groundwater levels actually increase the value of a landowner's property. These sorts of approaches could provide a model for other parts of the desert southwest as we grapple with the challenges posed by hotter, longer dry seasons and shorter, drier wet seasons.

Your groundwater district is governed by a committed board composed of Republicans and Democrats, from different walks of life that represent a variety of perspectives within our county. Your groundwater district is served by an energetic staff that includes one the region's most respected water experts. And your groundwater district is one of the most successful districts in the whole state when it comes to obtaining the funding necessary to meet its obligations under the law at comparatively little cost to Presidio County's taxpayers.

With the population of Texas projected to double by 2040 and the noticeable changes in the stability of our climate, it is these sorts of partnerships and approaches that provide the best path forward to ensure the protection of our groundwater resources. From a strategic perspective, your groundwater district is taking the necessary steps to ensure the future prosperity of Presidio County. From an economic perspective, your groundwater district is generating more value, dollar for dollar, than any other taxing entity in the region.

Proposition 1 seeks to direct a portion of the taxes you're already paying to the county and dedicate those dollars 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.

So, as you consider whether to support Proposition 1 this coming Saturday, please give some thought not only to the strategic and economic benefits that your groundwater district provides, but also to what you will lose if Proposition 1 fails.

Election Day is Saturday, May 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can vote at the PAC in Presidio or at City Hall 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.



Robert Motherwell: Pure Painting

June 4–September 17

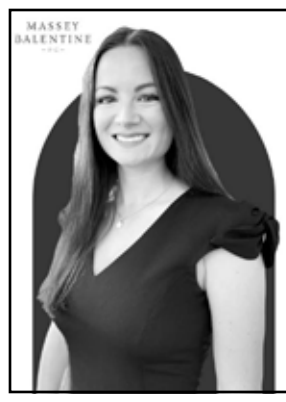
Robert Motherwell: Pure Painting features a selection of visually compelling works chosen from throughout the artist's lengthy and influential career. Beginning with the abstracted-figurative works that dominated Motherwell's first decade of painting as he emerged in the New York art world in the early 1940s, the exhibition highlights the subsequent key series that defined his oeuvre, offering new insights into his evolution as an artist. Although he was equally proficient as a collagist, a printmaker, and a draftsman, it is Motherwell's expansive sense of painting that this retrospective explores.

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Above: *Elegy to the Spanish Republic*, ca. 1962/1982. Magna and acrylic on canvas. 72 x 96 inches. Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Museum purchase, The Friends of Art Endowment Fund. Acquired in 1993. © 2023 Dedalus Foundation, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photograph by Kevin Todora

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Visitor Center, Bookstore, and Outdoor Viewing: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Full Collection Tour at 9:15 A.M.
lasts 4½ hours plus a 2-hour lunch break

Selections Tour at 9:45 A.M. and 1:45 P.M.
lasts 3 hours and covers 2 miles of walking

Open Viewing of the Artillery Sheds from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dan Flavin's *untitled (Marfa project)* and the Special Exhibition Gallery with installations of work by John Chamberlain and Sarah Crowner from 2 to 5 P.M.

Tickets are required.
Reservations are encouraged and capacity is limited.

For tickets and tour information, visit chinati.org.


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Community

Marfa ISD and Chinati collaboration connects students to local art community

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — *STOREHORNS*, a whimsical one-night-only art exhibition featuring sculptural works by Marfa ISD students in collaboration with the Chinati Foundation Education Department, connected emerging artists to the Marfa community — who, in this case, were also their collectors.

Last week's event, inspired by Claes Oldenburg's 1961 exhibition *The Store*, was staged at the Marfa Book Co. Students waved a generic red and white "SALE" advertisement on the main street, ushering in viewers, and distributed fliers.

After passing through a crowd of students and locals lingering outside of the building, gallery goers were greeted by pops of color and friendly, imaginative shapes — a blue plaster platypus with a neon orange bill, the height of a bedside table, acted as the show's ambassador.

Tucked away to the left was the main indoor gallery space, cluttered with people and the students' creations that effectively played with scale and material. A 3-foot-tall plaster lighter with fiery felt flames sat atop a shelf next to a tiny red wooden truck. A felt goldfish donning a cowboy hat hung from the ceiling, casting a shadow onto the white wall. Purchases were marked with stickers, and almost all the work was sold.

STOREHORNS was the result of an annual four- to six-week-long classroom project between Chinati's education team and Adele Powers' art students, though this marks the first time the work was for sale — ranging in price from around $50 to $200. Proceeds will fund a field trip to an entertainment center with laser tag, movies and bowling a few hours away.

Senior Janelly Pereira, who sculpted a larger-than-life molcajete for the show, said she "enjoyed seeing everyone's works" and "eating free hotdogs."

Sophomores Ash Marquez and Memo Guardiola said they weren't anticipating that their artworks would sell, but they were glad they did.

"I didn't think someone would buy a plaster telephone made by a teenager," said Marquez. "But it was really fun to socialize with all the folks at the opening."

"I had a great time working with Chinati too," Guardiola added.

Student Andres Solis echoed Guardiola's appreciation for the Chinati Education team — Michael Roch, Molly Bondy and Angela Pastor — and said he had fun mingling with fellow *STOREHORNS* attendees.

"It was such a good event. I met a lot of cool people — someone from California, someone who lives in Chile," said Solis.

While some students stuck more closely to the store prompt, reimaging everyday objects, others leapt out of the bounds of the project perimeters — the show's centerpiece, for example, was a green dinosaur in a tophat, not something you'd necessarily expect to find on the shelves at Dollar General.

Solis' sculptural offering — a plaster bathtub paired with pink hair dryer — had a dark, satirical take on a traditional electrocution warning label. "Do it if you want to, we don't care," it read. Solis, upon opening night when the tub didn't attract a buyer, said the object was "too good to sell," though Bondy reported a collector called the following day to secure Solis' sardonic take on self-destruction.

Wry humor was on display with another sculpture, a humongous felt JIF peanut butter jar, whose creator, Aundrea Garcia, has a peanut allergy. Bondy, education and intern programs manager with Chinati's education department, said the annual project typically revolves around utilizing materials less accessible to students: in this year's case, plaster of paris.

Students were instructed to explore the concept of objects, she explained: what constitutes them, reimaging size and texture. "Wacky Tea" by Juan Bautista envisioned an off-kilter, rather than traditional, serving vessel, for example.

"With that teapot, rather than it being this really refined porcelain-looking object, it ended up being more expressive," said Bondy.

Pastor, an intern with Chinati Education, said working side by side with students in the classroom allowed her to observe their collaborative nature. They helped one another problem solve, finish their projects on time, and showed overall support for one another, she said.

"Everyone had their individual objects, but it was very much a collective piece. Nothing could have happened if it wasn't for them working with each other," said Pastor.

Bondy and Pastor said they were thrilled with the sizable turnout from the Marfa community who showed up to champion local art students and *STOREHORNS*.

"As soon as the doors opened, we had people coming in, buying work," said Bondy. "The collectors were so excited. It was really great to see someone's face light up over an object that just really spoke to them, like the big nail polish."

One of the highlights of the evening for Bondy was the moment where a giant bag of Hot Cheetos with tubular chips tumbling out of the bag sold. The artist, Amber Hinojos, came in from outside to give the collector, Ross Cashiola, a handshake. She then told Bondy, "We need music to celebrate," and instructed her to play "Baby" by Justin Bieber.

"Then there was like a small dance party with Ross and Miss Powers and a couple of students. It was really joyful," said Bondy.

Seeing the conservations which took place between Marfa community members and Marfa ISD students, who may not interact with each other in their day-to-day lives, was refreshing and important, said Bondy and Pastor.

"Not only was the community learning who these students were, but the students were also expressing their way of making or that passion they have for that item — just conversations that need to happen," said Pastor.

"It was really nice to see the collectors really treat the students like serious artists," Bondy added. "Marfa is this art town, and I think it's so important for students to feel like they're part of that."



Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Marfa High School students gathered outside Marfa Book Co.



Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Senior Janelly Pereira posing with her molcajete.



Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Sophomores Andres Solis and Tenessa Hinojos Levya hugging.



Photo courtesy of Chinati Education

Senior Alexis Gonzalez posing with her dog and bowl-of-spaghetti dog bed.

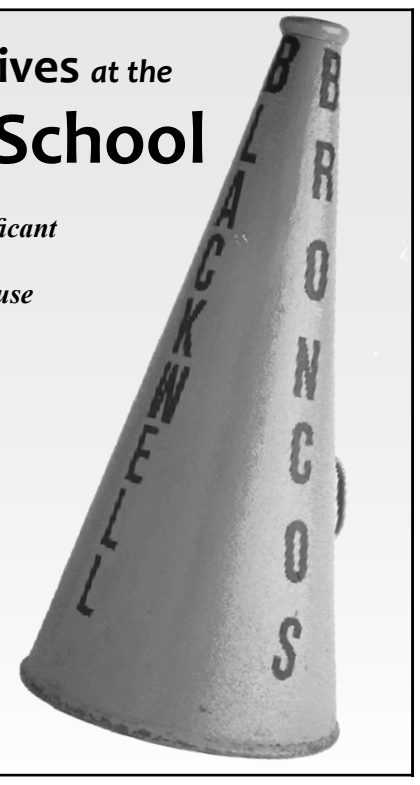


Marfa History Lives *at the*
Blackwell School

preserving a nationally significant historically segregated Mexican American schoolhouse

Museum Open
Saturdays & Sundays
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

from the stop light,
two blocks west and
three blocks south
Marfa, Texas
theblackwellschool.org



BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

Marfa ISD Senior Alex Luna attends state VASE in San Marcos last weekend.



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

Students enjoy the San Marcos River. From left, Juan Bautista, Victoria Torres, Alex Luna and Aubrie Aguilar.



Photo courtesy of Adele Powers

From left, Alex Luna, Aubrie Aguilar, Victoria Torres, Juan Bautista and Adele Powers.

Marfa ISD students travel to state art competition in San Marcos

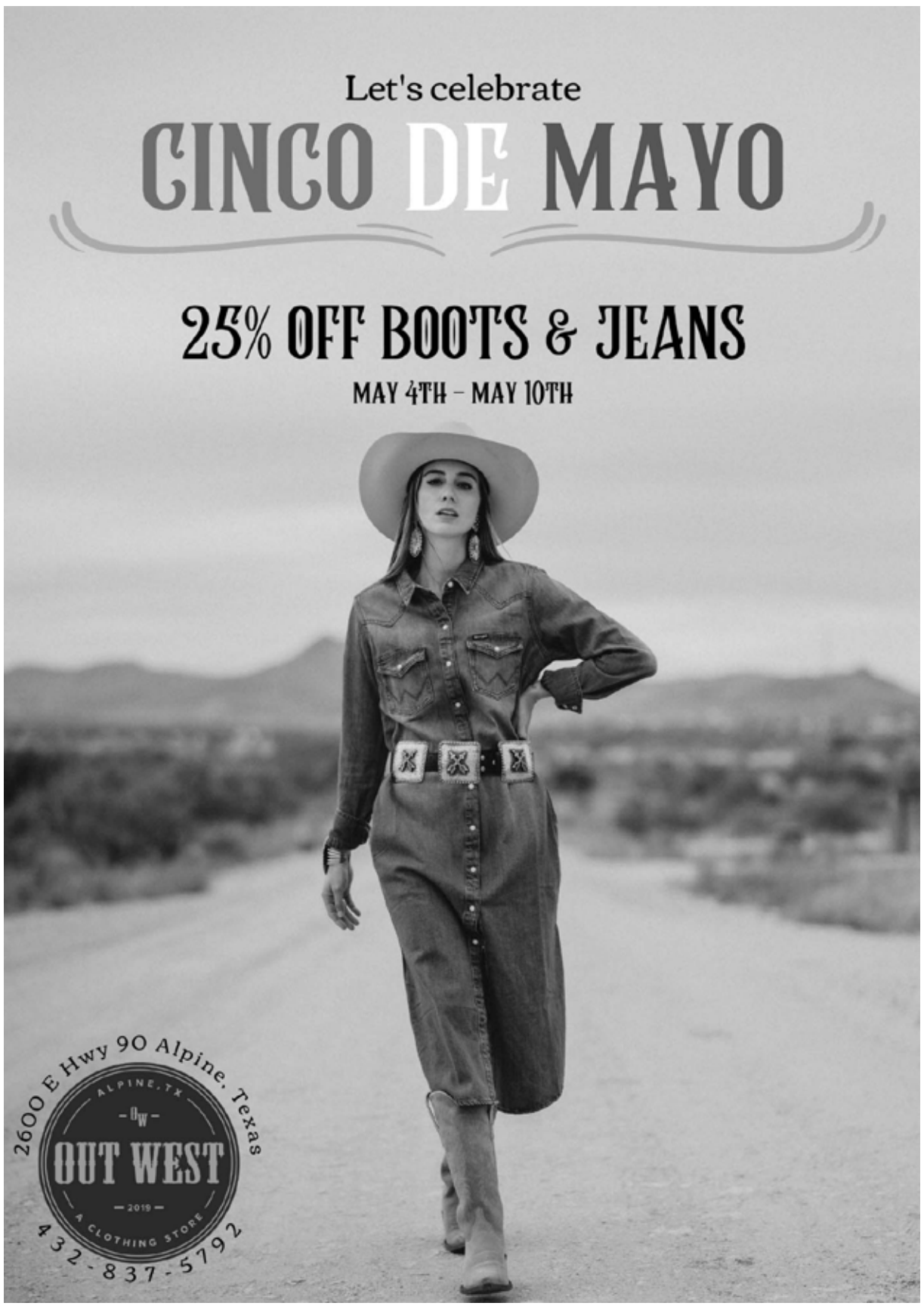
SAN MARCOS — On Friday, four Marfa seniors piled into a Suburban to head to State VASE (Visual Art Scholastic Event) in San Marcos, Texas. Alex Luna, the advancing artist, chose three friends to accompany him on the trip. That night, the students and Ms. Adele Powers checked into the hotel and headed to the outlet mall after dinner on the river.

On Saturday, Luna, Juan Bautista, Aubrie Aguilar, Tori Torres and Powers went to San Marcos High School to see all the works that advanced to State VASE displayed in the school's gyms. The effect was overwhelming: of the 32,000 artworks submitted to regional VASE competitions throughout Texas, only 2,000 advanced, putting Alex's work in the top 6% of all artwork made by high schoolers throughout the state.

The Marfa students and Powers wandered through the makeshift galleries in awe, frequently taking pictures and expressing delight after finding Alex's drawing, entitled "Adrift in Mental Space," a pink and blue Prismacolor self portrait.

That afternoon, the group continued to make the most of San Marcos: going on a glass-bottom boat tour and seeing the aquarium at Texas State's The Meadows Center, eating barbecue, taking a dip in the river and braving a few rapids in inner tubes.

On Sunday, the ride back to Marfa was mostly silent — the students slept, exhausted, as Ms. Powers drove them back home.





Sports Updates from MISD athletic director

By LINDA OJEDA

MARFA — Freshman Ava Flores led the Lady Shorthorns over Santa Anna (12-8) with a lead off homerun in the bi-district game (her first career home run) and an ERA of 2 from the pitcher's plate. Marfa battled back and forth with their opponent, but ultimately put them away in the fifth inning with three runs scored.

The Lady Horns now face Eula Saturday at Ratliff Permian field at 12 p.m. in Odessa.

Ummi Chanez qualified for the state track meet in the 1600m run (gold medal) and 3200m run (silver medal) at the regional meet.



Photo courtesy of MISD Athletics

Lady Shorthorns Softball team.



Photo by Mandy Roane

Presidio County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Dina Jo Marquez swore in Marfa Police Department officers in a ceremony last week. Gilberto Carrillo was sworn in as the new chief of police and Nichole Fuentes was sworn in as the new lieutenant. Victor Lopez, the department's newest officer, was also sworn in.



SENTINEL SATURDAYS

MAY 6, 7PM - LATE

• • • • •

SPECIALTY SEASONAL COCKTAILS

209 W EL PASO ST • MARFA, TX 79843

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Aubrie Aguilar
12th Grade
"Water Lilies"

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.

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 1, 2023

ACROSS
1 Cover for a Lab ... or a lab technician
5 Speedy
10 Tolkien villains
14 She sings "The Next Right Thing" in "Frozen II"
15 "The Jetsons" son
16 Expression that Santa discourages
17 "Put away your toys"?
19 Big brass instrument
20 Nerves of ___
21 "___ glad to see you!"
22 Indian instrument
23 Gluttony, e.g.
24 "Don't refuse to eat it until you've tried a bite"?
26 Take a quick snooze
29 Cancels, as a check
30 GI entertainers
31 Q and A?
35 "Garbage goes *in* the trash can"?
41 Like Rachel's hairstyle on "Friends"
42 Dubai's home, for short
43 Soft candy
45 Fish-eating hawk
48 "If you keep sucking your thumb, you'll gross out your friends"?
52 "___ you OK?"
53 Skate park bars
54 Savings option: Abbr.
55 Like the Battle of Midway
58 "How sweet it ___ be loved by you"
59 "Ask permission before grabbing something"?
61 Taiwanese laptop brand
62 Sports stadium
63 Refer to
64 Looking promising
65 Space ___ (flaky person)
66 Important stretches

DOWN
1 Items tossed at a graduation
2 "I'm handling this!"
3 Relative who's up a tree?
4 Adopt, as a stray
5 One curl or press
6 Edgar ___ Poe
7 Top-notch
8 Type of bond in chemistry
9 Change the color of
10 "The doctrine, or belief, that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly," per Ambrose Bierce
11 Defeated big-time
12 Prized cigars
13 ___ menu (Windows feature)
18 Forearm bone
22 Camping treat
25 Go too far with
26 Snip
27 Trainer of Pikachu
28 Game participant
32 Baaing mama
33 Paving gunk
34 Sheridan of "X-Men" films
36 Stars and Stripes
37 They may be garnished but not eaten
38 Parting words in Paris
39 "Insecure" actress Issa
40 Esc or T
43 Train wreck
44 Brings together
46 Performed karaoke
47 Move like a proud pony
48 ___ Tuck
49 Headwear for a princess
50 Miffed
51 "Common Sense" author, 1776
56 Flour used in naan
57 Directors Spike and Ang
59 Middle of a simple game?
60 D.C. athlete

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

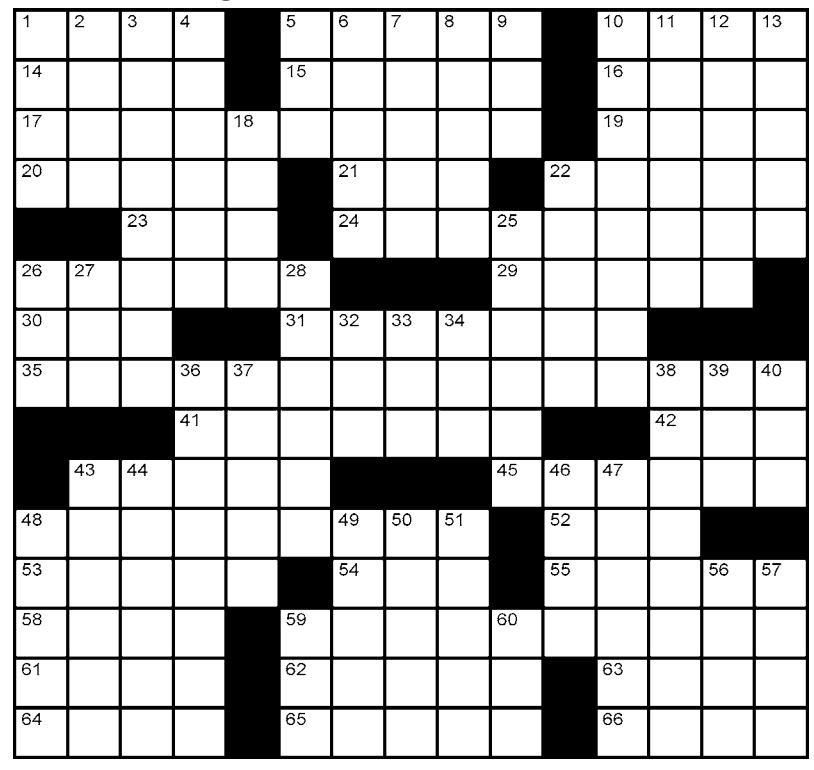
T	S	E	L	I	O	T		E	T	H	A	N		
S	E	M	I	P	R	O		P	R	U	N	E	D	
U	N	I	C	O	R	N	F	O	U	N	D	E	R	
N	O	S	E				C	C	E	D		D	O	E
A	R	S		W	I	T	C	H	D	O	C	T	O	R
M	I	I		A	R	I					L	O	P	S
I	T	O		D	U	K	E		G	O	O			
	A	N	G	E	L	I	N	V	E	S	T	O	R	
			A	R	E		D	O	N	T		H	A	M
U	S	S	R					L	I	E		D	N	A
G	H	O	S	T	W	R	I	T	E	R		E	A	R
H	A	N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

4/30 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, May 4	Fri, May 5	Mon, May 8	Tue, May 9	Wed, May 10
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST SANDWICH	FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE	BREAKFAST COOKIE,YOGURT	BREAKFAST BURRITO, HASH BROWN	WAFFLES, SAUSAGE
LUNCH Menu courtesy of PORTER'S SINCE 1945 Celebrating 70+ years of serving our customers. 432-729-4375 www.myporters.net	HAMBURGER/ CHEESEBURGER, CHIPS, TOMATO CUP, GARDEN SALAD, PEARS	PHILLY CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH, CORN, CUCUMBERS, ROSY APPLESAUCE, COOKIE	BREADED DRUMSTICK, BISCUIT, BROCCOLI, TOMATO CUP, FRESH FRUIT	WALKING TACO, BEANS, FRESH VEGGIE CUP, CHILLED PINEAPPLE, COOKIE	LASAGNA, BREADSTICKS, BROCCOLI, CINNAMON APPLE SAUCE

5/1 **Kidding Around** *by Lance Enfinger and Jeff Chen*



CELEBRATION LIQUOR MARFA
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Fri - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
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Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
432-729-4682 • Alpine

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councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Post Office Box 787
432-729-4315 / fax 432-729-3158

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@altamarfa for updates

MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR

SAT, MAY 6: HS Softball vs Eula at Odessa, 12:00pm
SAT, MAY 6: JH Tennis - District at Fort Davis



Photo courtesy of Friends of the Library

In celebration of National Library Week and National Poetry Month, the Friends of Jeff Davis County Library sponsored a tea program last week. Presented by Elaine Harmon, attendees listened to and shared an array of poetry throughout history while enjoying a variety of teas and sweets.

WEDDING



Allison & Francis

Trey Allison and Taylor Francis met in the fall of 2010 in Spanish class at the University of Texas at Austin. It was love at first sight, and this weekend they are making their love official by celebrating their matrimony in Marfa, Texas.

Taylor is the daughter of Heather (Bradley) Francis of Alpine, Texas, and Phil and Nancy Francis of Temple, Texas. She is also the granddaughter of George Bradley and Kendall and Robert Burling of Alpine and Larry and Shirley Francis of Temple. Both George Bradley and Kendall Burling were teachers, professors and administrators in the Alpine and Presidio regions in the K-12 education system and at Sul Ross State University. Trey is the son of Amy Allison of Alpine and Jim Allison of Del Rio, Texas. He is also the grandson of James "Butch" and Dot Crawford of Alpine and James and Natalie Allison from Del Rio. James "Butch" Crawford was a principal, coach and teacher in the Alpine and El Paso regions. Both Taylor and Trey's parents met during their time at SRSU (Go Lobos!).

Trey graduated from Marfa High School in 2006 and received a BA in government from the University of Texas at Austin. After his Longhorn stint, he studied nuclear engineering at Texas A&M. Taylor graduated from Rogers High School in 2009 and received a BS in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. They now reside in Austin, Texas, with their dog (Kafka) and cat (Maynard) and spend their days renovating their 1940s home and working in the Austin tech scene.

Trey and Taylor will become Mr. and Mrs. Allison on May 6, 2023, surrounded by their friends and family at the Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa, Texas.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

For a complete listing of Marfa Invitational-adjacent arts events and more, see special Arts section.

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Thu May 4

Marfa Invitational
5/4- 5/7 at Saint George Hall in Marfa
Marfa Invitational provides an unparalleled platform for viewing and experiencing today's foremost considered and consequential Visionaries. From Contemporary Art and Design to avant-garde Film and Fashion. Welcoming Art patrons and visitors from around the globe to experience a truly unique and singular aesthetic and conceptual immerision that is Marfa Invitational. Please see the special Arts section for more information.

Power Forms by Natalie Rae Good Opening Reception
4:00pm - 6:00pm at Cobra Rock, 211 S Dean St in Marfa
Natalie Rae Good's ceramic compositions address the complicated nature of possession and power. Join us for the opening reception of Power Forms, Thursday, May 4th from 4pm to 6pm at Cobra Rock.

Fri May 5

***stone circle* Full Moon Activation**
9:02 pm in Marfa
"stone circle" is a large-scale outdoor sculpture from Haroon Mirza. Inspired by ancient megaliths, this solar-powered sculpture is open to the public in the high desert grasslands just east of Marfa. Each full moon, the piece comes to life through sound and light, playing an electronic sound composition translated from energy generated by the sun. More info at www.ballroommarfa.org/stone-circle/

Sat May 6

Downtown Hoedown Street Festival
12:00pm - 7:00pm at 100 N 5th St in Alpine
A family friendly fun afternoon, of music activities and food!

Curator Walkthrough at Ballroom Marfa
12:00pm - 1:00pm at in Marfa
Karina Salcido on Laura Aguilar

Martha Invitational
5/6 1:00pm - 4:00pm and 5/7 1:00pm - 3:00pm at 105 E Oak St in Marfa
Paintings by three Marfa artists: Leslie Wilkes, Diana Simard, Martha Hughes.

Beth Lee at Marfa Spirit Co.
2:00pm - 4:00pm at 320 W El Paso St in Marfa
Beth Lee plays the tasting room!

Poletown Pizza Pop-up at Marfa Spirit Co.
2:00pm - sold out at 320 W El Paso St in Marfa
Come get a pie while the last!

Coyote West Vintage Pop-up at Marfa Spirit Co.
All day 5/6 & 7 at 320 W El Paso St in Marfa

***Ecstatic Land* Film Screening Series**
6:00pm - 10:00pm at Ballroom Marfa
Plus lighting of Nancy Holt's "Starfire" in Ballroom's Courtyard

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 6:30pm 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 Marfa National Bank parking lot (5/6 only) 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

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Classifieds & public notices

JOBS

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LOOKING FOR A CNA, CMA, RN & LVN

Please call Sarah at 432-837-4812 for more information.

Applications may be picked up at 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy Alpine, TX 79830 or call (432) 837-4555.

Please call first before arrival.

Family Health Service of Alpine • 1605 N. FT. Davis Hwy

VILLAGE FARMS - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - FAST TRACK TO MANAGEMENT

Village Farms is seeking a detailed oriented individual to join our team as Shipping/Receiving Clerk for our Marfa 2 location.

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties.

Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred.

Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the first 6 months of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or fax resume to (432)375-6241. Applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.

EMPLEO OPORTUNIDAD

Ayude a crear las tan necesitadas guarderías en el hogar en Presidio y Marfa como contratista Especialista en Relaciones con la Comunidad Rural del Condado de Presidio con Workforce Solutions Borderplex y el Consejo de Gobiernos del Río Grande.

Este es un puesto a tiempo parcial por horas a $17 por hora, al iniciarse la Carta de Acuerdo (Letter of Agreement) y hasta el 30 de septiembre de 2023, con la posibilidad de renovar anualmente si hay fondos disponibles.

Especialista en Relaciones con la Comunidad Rural reclutará en parte y apoyará hasta 10 proveedores de cuidado de niños en el hogar en el Condado de Presidio y les ayudará a obtener la licencia y a registrarse.

Para solicitar el puesto y para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con:
Ivette Alvarado, Especialista en Proyectos II, Workforce Solutions Borderplex
915-887-2223 / ivette.alvarado@borderplexjobs.com

The Rio Grande Council of Governments

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS BORDERPLEX

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Help create much-needed home daycare in Presidio and Marfa as a Presidio County Rural Community Outreach Specialist contractor with Workforce Solutions Borderplex and the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

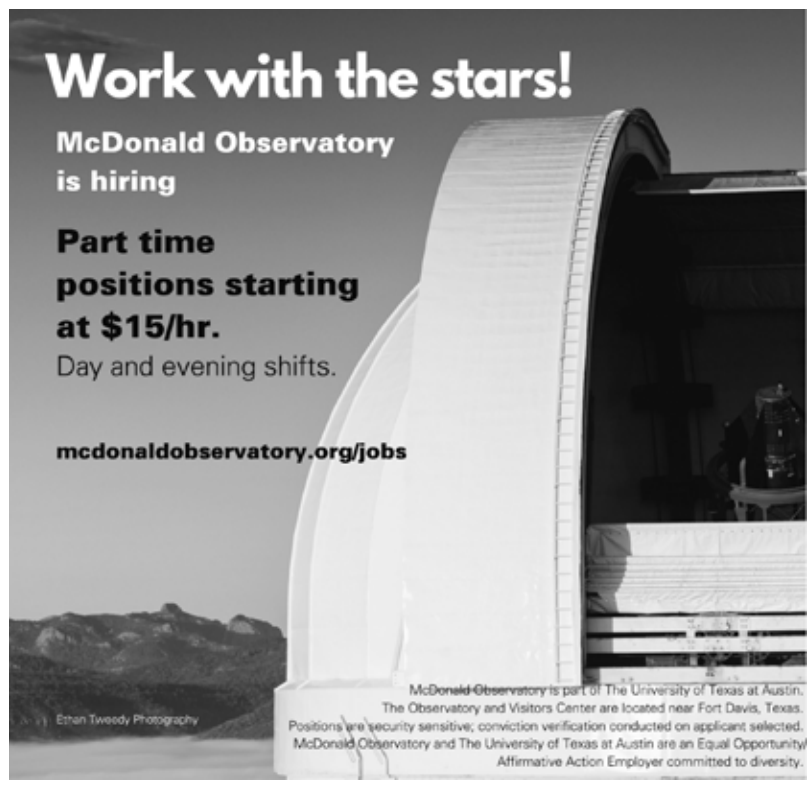
This is an hourly-basis part-time position at $17 per hour, upon initiation of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) through September 30, 2023, with the ability to renew annually if funds are available.

The Rural Community Outreach Specialist in part will recruit and support up to 10 home-based childcare providers in Presidio County and help them become licensed and registered.

To apply and for more information, please contact:
Ivette Alvarado, Project Specialist II, Workforce Solutions Borderplex
915-887- 2223 / ivette.alvarado@borderplexjobs.com

The Rio Grande Council of Governments

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS BORDERPLEX



NOW HIRING

Village Farms

Human Resources/Admin Assistant- performs a range of administrative and clerical tasks to support management and the HR department.

Key Skill & Competencies

- Organization & planning
- Work management & prioritizing
- Verbal/written communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Reliability & Flexibility
- Strong MS Office skills
- Teamwork
- Bilingual (Spanish) is a must
- 2 yrs. relevant experience required

Full-time position with great benefits package which includes; paid vacation, health, vision, dental, life and STD insurance & 401k retirement plan

Submit resumes to aanderson@villagefarms.com applications @ Village Farms Security Stations 3 miles N. Hwy 17, Marfa or 3 miles S. Hwy 17, Fort Davis or call 682.647.1214 ext. 469 for more information.

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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.

NOTICE

MARFA ISD has a vacancy on the School Board This vacancy for the unexpired term will be filled at a Regular meeting on May 15, 2023, at 6pm. Interested in serving on the board? Please review the qualifications and submit a letter in writing to Teresa Nunez, board president, expressing your interest in serving on the board. This letter must be received at the Superintendent's office no later than 3:30 pm on Friday, May 12, 2023. . You may wish to attend the meeting on May 15, 2023 in case the board decides to interview you.

Qualifications to be a Board Member: To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, the office of Board member, a person must:

1. Be a United States citizen.
2. Be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable.
3. Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be: Totally mental incapacitated and the person's mental capacity has not subsequently been completely restored by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction; or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote and person's guardianship has not been modified to include the right to vote or the person's mental capacity has not been completely restored by a subsequent final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction.
4. Have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. Atty. Gen. Op. LO 96-114 (1996).
5. Be a resident of Texas and the District for the period of time described at CANDIDATE'S RESIDENCY TERM (This is a resident of the state of Texas for the past 12 months, a resident of the Marfa ISD six months).
6. A qualified voter SUBMIT LETTER TO: Teresa Nunez Marfa ISD Board of Trustees P.O. Box T Marfa, TX 79843

A bill to create the Presidio International Port Authority District is being filed in the Texas Legislature. The District will work to upgrade, enhance, and improve the International Port of Presidio. Ad Paid for by Presidio County.

Nominations for voting membership Region E
Far West Texas Water Planning Group

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group is seeking nominations to fill three voting positions on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

The positions are as follows:

Water Districts – Term expires December 2026

River Authorities – Term expires December 2025

Electric Generating Utilities – Term expires December 2025

Economic Development – Term expires December 2026

Tourism

Conditions of Membership: To be eligible for voting membership in the Planning Group, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

Nominations (Nomination letter and a Résumé or biography of the nominee are required) must be received by May 30, 2023, addressed to: Annette Gutierrez Administrative Officer Far West Texas Water Planning Group 8037 Lockheed Drive, Suite 100 El Paso, Texas 79925

Or By email to: annetteg@riocog.org

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

PRESIDIO COUNTY
Judge Jose Portillo:
(432) 729-4452

Presidio Mayor John Ferguson:
City Hall: (432) 229-3517
Email: jferguson@presidiotx.us

CITY OF MARFA
Manny Baeza, City of Marfa Mayor
mayor@cityofmarfa.com
(432) 295-0048
Irma Salgado, Mayor Pro Tem
councilmembersalgado@cityofmarfa.com
Mark Cash
councilmembercash@cityofmarfa.com
Raúl Lara
councilmemberlara@cityofmarfa.com
Eddie Pallarez
councilmemberpallarez@cityofmarfa.com

BREWSTER COUNTY
Judge Greg Henington:
(432) 837-2412

Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:
City Hall: (432) 837-3301
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:
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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit (BG) by Glitch Marfa LLC, to be located at 108 E El Paso Street, Marfa, Presidio County, Texas. The officer of said limited liability company is OXALIS DAO LLC.

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welcome
One + all
to
marfa
invitational

As we look forward with utmost enthusiasm and excitement to welcoming all to Marfa Invitational 2023, I am reminded of the reflective words spoken by the inimitable Suzanne Deal Booth at this past Spring's Marfa Invitational 'Visionaries Dinner' - honoring Her, Lake | Flato, and Cynthia Rowley: "Each edition of Marfa Invitational is a revelation". As noted by Oxford, 'the disclosure of divine or sacred reality or purpose to humanity'.

Indeed, revelation awaits. With the belief in the power of Art to bring people together, fostering communication and understanding. Deepening our relationship to and with Art, the landscape which surrounds us, and each other. Heightening the 'human experience', and our interaction with the surrounding world.

Bringing Marfa Invitational friends and familia, new and old, from around the globe, to celebrate all that is Marfa Invitational. Together, amongst the ethereal light and expansive space of the Far West Texas Chihuahuan High Desert, and historied backdrop of Marfa. Joining today's foremost Artists, visionaries and changemakers, cultural luminaries and contemporary arbiters- in celebration, and revelation. Connected by a like spirit and ethos, shining ever brite.

It is with great pleasure, I welcome ALL to Marfa Invitational 2023, and the extraordinary journey which lies ahead.

Michael Phelan, Founder Marfa Invitational

2023

Arts

Marfa Invitational returns for 4th annual art fair as construction of exhibition space nears

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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Staff photo by Mary Cantrell

Last year's Marfa Invitational art fair at Saint George Hall. The annual event takes place again this weekend.

MARFA — The Fourth Annual Marfa Invitational, a contemporary art fair that brings artists and gallerists from across the globe to showcase their work in the remote arts destination, will kick off on Thursday — as founder Michael Phelan's pledge to bring a permanent outpost for his foundation to the outskirts of town comes closer to fruition.

The spring festival's lineup from the nonprofit Marfa Invitational Foundation includes New York Magazine art critic Jerry Saltz as featured speaker, a screening of art world documentary *The Art of Making It*, and the host of visiting exhibitors who will be on display at St. George Hall throughout the four-day event — all of which will be open to the public.

VIP ticket holders will have access to exclusive cocktail receptions, dinners, artist talks and private home exhibitions. VIP tickets are $600 for visitors and $300 for tri-county residents.

The Marfa Invitational held its inaugural fair in 2019, and ever since has welcomed guests to Marfa from around the country and as far as Berlin and Hong Kong, said Phelan, "filling the town to capacity." The fair was canceled twice in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic but returned in 2021 with a robust crowd. The influx of visitors fills the town's hotels and short-term rentals for the weekend, as local shops see an uptick in business.

Phelan said he sees the unifying power of art as central to the "ethos" of the returning festival.

"The overarching ethos of this year's edition is the spirit of collaboration and the belief in the power of art to bring people together, fostering communication and understanding," said Phelan. "Or as the Hindi proverb goes: 'One and one make eleven.' Meaning of course, 'Unity is strength.'"

Beyond the annual fanfair, this year's festival signals a significant step towards Phelan's more permanent vision — to construct a physical destination for the foundation at the edge of town on Hwy 90 and Golf Course Road, which will host artists in residence and host exhibitions and performances year-round.

Phelan first announced his plan to construct a home for the foundation in Marfa in 2021, as he prepared to host the Invitational's second-ever festival. At the time, he told the *New York Times*, construction on the site was expected to wrap up that fall and open its doors shortly thereafter.

But supply chain delays had stalled the project's construction, Phelan told *The Big Bend Sentinel* last year, as the project still had yet to commence. The Marfa Invitational was hoping to receive construction materials by the fall of 2022, he said.

Now, it seems work on the site will soon be underway. In an email to *The Sentinel*, Phelan said that construction on the anticipated "Exhibition Pavilion" is expected to begin this year, with a small, ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony intersecting with this year's fair.

The campus is being funded by unnamed donors, and the foundation's programming will be funded by state and national grant money and by an upcoming "capital campaign," said Phelan.

Though Phelan has previously said that the space would be funded by the Invitational's "VIP Benefit Program" of earnings from VIP ticket sales — as the foundation's website and ticket portal has stated — the foundation has now pivoted to using those funds to cover the cost of hosting the actual event.

"The Benefit Program allows/provides for all exhibitions and events (this year- Jerry Saltz and The Art of Making It) to be Free of Charge to the Public," wrote Phelan in an email.

The cost of running the fair was so high, VIP ticket sales were used to cover those operational expenses, explained Melissa Bent, Phalen's wife and co-organizer, who characterized the annual fair as a teaser of sorts for the upcoming foundation space.

"It was a wash, but it basically proved that people would come — people would want to spend time here, and as a little microcosm for what the foundation would be, which would be like a yearly ongoing program," she said.

The campus site currently serves as an outdoor sculpture grounds, now home to the works of artists Polly Borland, Szabolcs Bozó and Myles Nurse.

A full list of exhibitors can be found at https://www.marfainvitational.com/invitational.

A schedule of events is included below:

IN CONVERSATION: JERRY SALTZ
Saint George Hall | Judd Tables
Friday, May 5
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MARFA INVITATIONAL PREMIERE
THE ART OF MAKING IT
Crowley Theater
Saturday, May 6
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Nino Mier Gallery | LA, NYC, Brussels, and Marfa
Solo Exhibition of Andrea Heimer at Mier's Marfa Gallery:
Friday, May 5
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Nino Mier | Marfa
218 Highland St
Marfa, TX 79843

Exhibition Hours at St. George Hall are Friday, May 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Image courtesy of Wischful Thinking Productions

Artist Gisela McDaniel as seen in Kelcey Edwards' documentary, "The Art of Making It."



Image courtesy of Wischful Thinking Productions

Artist Chris Watts as seen in Kelcey Edwards' documentary, "The Art of Making It."

Documentary 'The Art of Making It' reveals how far the art world has strayed from the artist

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — "The Art of Making It," a documentary which chronicles the journeys of a handful of emerging artists and critiques aspects of the contemporary art world, will be shown from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Crowley Theater as part of the Marfa Invitational.

The event is open to the public, and an additional screening may still be announced. The hour and a half-long film, released in 2021, was shown at South by Southwest this year and is available to rent on most streaming platforms. The director, Kelcey Edwards, and producer, Debi Wisch, will be in attendance at the film's first Marfa screening, though no formal Q&A is planned.

The Art of Making It travels to Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Detroit and New York. Both the film's topics and interview subjects span the scope of the contemporary art scene, from artist and professor Charles Gains' take on art and academia, to art dealer Stefan Simchowitz's radical approach to the traditional art market.

Critics Jerry Saltz and Dave Hickey, Hilda Lynn Helphenstein — the woman behind the well-known Jerry Gagosian meme account — representatives of the Institute of American Indian Arts, and PACE Gallery owner Marc Glimcher also make appearances in the film.

The documentary runs the gamut from statistics on how little the U.S. government invests in the arts compared to other developed nations to personal stories of emerging artists looking to break into the industry in major metropolitan areas.

"This is meant to be an American story in terms of how things work in our culture, in our society," said Director Kelcey Edwards in an interview with *The Big Bend Sentinel*. "It's our government, our art market, our artists."

Edwards has a strong background in the arts, predating even her own experience of running a gallery in East Austin for many years. She grew up visiting artists' studios with her father, who was a curator at the San Antonio Museum of Art throughout the '90s. Prior to filming, she had contemplated the documentary's themes for many years, she said.

Edwards shared commonalities with the young artists featured in her film — she attended a university to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree, only to graduate saddled with student loan debt, move to New York City to try and make it as an artist and see peers succeed in the highly-competitive arts industry, many times due to their higher socioeconomic status.

The director, now in her forties, recently began contemplating the early challenges she faced in her field of documentary filmmaking while opening a reboot of her Austin gallery in New York.

"I found myself speaking with young artists, and it brought it all back, what it was like to be coming out of graduate programs and trying to make a name for yourself," said Edwards.

She figured being a young artist today must be "exponentially harder" than it was just a couple decades ago, due to education and costs of living increases, along with other factors.

"There seems to be fewer opportunities. It seems more competitive. I just wondered how that was playing out," said Edwards.

In contrast to the film's backdrop of systemic issues plaguing the arts industry — including the disproportionate power of art dealers and its popularity contest nature — viewers also gain intimate access to the thoughts and experiences of talented young artists, including Chris Watts, as they navigate their careers.

Watts, who was kicked out of the MFA program at Yale University, creates a body of work driven by unjust police shootings of Black Americans. Another artist, Gisela McDaniel, preserves her subject's survival stories through oral histories and seeks to empower them through her paintings.

Edwards said that in setting out to make the film, she wanted to explore the barriers to entry for artists that differed from her own. In addition to regional, gender and racial diversity — diversity often absent from the art world, she noted — the film also focuses on artists' varying mediums and mindsets.

"On the one hand, [the film] was a kind of love letter to these artists and their work and their journey coming from a place of respect and care and concern," said Edwards. "On the other side of it, I wanted to evaluate and critique systems that can be exploitative, oppressive and favor the wealthy and the privileged."

Themes of gentrification, technology, capitalism and international borders are explored throughout the documentary. In many cases, Edwards details how today's contemporary artists are tackling societal issues through their work — the Indigenous artist collective Postcommodity is featured for their project seeking to connect a highly militarized area of the border between Arizona and Mexico with giant balloons, for example.

Edwards said she strove to create an honest portrayal of the complicated art industry, which she, and many of the film's interview subjects, argued needed more frank discussion and transparency regarding equity moving forward.

"[I also wanted to] shine a light on the people within that system that worry about it and care about it and want to evolve it because the art world consists of many, many people," said Edwards.

Edwards found her documentary subjects were relieved to be speaking about the industry's struggles, and a tone of reflection present throughout the film was further underscored by changes to art viewing, societal interaction and discussions around racial equality brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement.

In featuring the variety of people involved in the art world and its myriad issues, Edwards said she hoped to attract all viewers, including those who may not be deeply entrenched in the arts scene, to illuminate the vital role artists play in our society.

"The place to start, for me, was to put a human face on it and to tell a human story," said Edwards. "And to remind the general public that the art world is not just con artists and art as a luxury good, but actually makers that are talking about some of the most difficult issues of our time through work that is really made heroically and selflessly without any guarantee of return."

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Diego Rodriguez-Warner's 'Sharp Pause' premieres May 6 at RULE Gallery

MARFA — RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Sharp Pause*, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Diego Rodriguez-Warner at our Marfa, Texas, location. A public reception will be held Saturday, May 6, from 6-8 p.m. with the artist in attendance. The show will be on view from May 6 through July 15, 2023. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

In the past decade, Rodriguez-Warner has garnered acclaim for his richly complex figurative paintings that lean on drawing and printmaking at their core. His characteristic works unify flatly painted acrylics and wood carving into single compositions that probe a trompe l'oeil aesthetic that simulates animation. The depicted figures appear disjunctive and entangled in motion and thought, assuming multiple subjectivities while disrupting any legible readings of their bodies. The seductive scenes in the resulting paintings compel viewers into uncomfortable involvement, analysis, and reflection on a society of competing narratives tearing at the seams, simultaneously coming together and at risk of falling apart.

Rodriguez-Warner has ruminated on the histories of art and canonization, the residual effects of colonialism and its violence, and modernity through the inquiry of screen culture. Recently, the artist has turned to "make the paintings quieter, but just as sharp." The paintings in Sharp Pause feature seated or reclining nudes in nebulous, artificial spaces attempting to find ease or repose. By combining, reshaping and energizing the relaxed bodies, the traditionally passive figures acquire newfound agency while thwarting any voyeuristic interpretations. Their flattened miens and twisted limbs interrupt the viewers' desire for straightforward answers, their beauty and material mastery imbued with something more confrontational and disconcerting.

Diego Rodriguez-Warner (b. 1986; Managua, Nicaragua) lives and works in Denver, Colorado. In 2008, he studied under Cuban Minister for Fine Arts Lesbia Vent Dumois in Havana, and in 2009 he earned a BA from Hampshire College, followed by an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2013. Additionally, he is recipient of fellowships from both Toby Devan Lewis (2013) and Joan Mitchell (2020). Rodriguez-Warner has exhibited internationally and nationally in Berlin, Denver, Havana, Los Angeles, New York City, Marfa, and Miami, among others. His work was featured at, and acquired by, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. He is represented in public and private collections around the world and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at major museums including the Washington Pavilion, South Dakota; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; the Museo De Las Americas, Denver; and the Gallery of Contemporary Art, Colorado Springs.

Joe Davis' found-wire art on display at Marfa Studio of Arts Gallery

MARFA — Old rusty twisted wire is everywhere in West Texas. It blends so seamlessly with the environment few people even notice it. Years ago, artist Joe Davis found his medium to draw inspiration for the beautiful and fascinating exhibition of works at the Marfa Studio of Arts Gallery.

With reverence to the original twisted, tangled shapes and rusted surfaces, he has used these wire fragments in many different media, including sculptural objects, screen prints, felt panels and drawings. For him there seems to be a limitless supply of Marfa wire and limitless ways to bring them to life again.

This fascination with discarded, rusty wire in Marfa began several years ago. The distorted, flattened-out material was first pinned to the walls of his Marfa studio. Interesting arrangements started to form, but it took several years before he could figure out how to express the personality of this wire in different ways. Eventually, drawings of it became his primary outlet of expression.

Some compositions are formal. He thinks of them as portraits, where either single or multiple pieces of mangled wire are centered on the page with generous white space surrounding the drawing. Another approach positions pieces of wire scattered randomly across the paper, often bleeding off the page.

This unusual art material is also used to create three-dimensional objects and wall installations. This is a way of showing off the wire in its actual, raw state. Though not perfect, it attains a certain status when displayed on a wall or pedestal.

He has been attracted to the material's simple beauty but has always been curious about its original purpose. His goal with using wire as a medium was to elevate what most people see as trash to what he sees as beauty displayed at eye level. The discarded and ignored can become a thing of beauty. Davis doesn't think of it as recycling when he draws it on paper or hangs it on a wall. Rather, it's as if it has been manufactured for the purpose of display and enjoyment. Simple. Just a thing of beauty to admire. So, the work of Marfa wire is not done. It is incomplete at least and just beginning to reveal its purpose at best.



Courtesy of the artist

A found-wire drawing by Joe Davis.

Joe Davis is a graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He founded and operated Street Level Studio, a graphic design firm just outside of Chicago, for over three decades. During some of that time he and his wife operated a contemporary art gallery and have been avid art collectors forever. Now retired, he has returned to his love of making art. They have owned a house in Marfa for 15 years and on frequent trips to Marfa have collected discarded wire found around town.

Davis' work can be seen at the Marfa Studio of Arts, 106 E. San Antonio St. The show runs through June 10, 2023.



Photo courtesy of Martha Hughes

Local artists Leslie Wilkes, Martha Hughes and Diana Simard will host the inaugural "Martha Invitational" open studio event this weekend.

'Martha Invitational': Three local artists spoof popular art affair

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

MARFA — Local artists Leslie Wilkes, Diana Simard and Martha Hughes will host an exhibition of original paintings this weekend titled *Martha Invitational*, a play on the annual Marfa Invitational art fair that will be occurring simultaneously.

The trio of local artists will host visitors from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 6, and from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at Hughes' studio, 105 E Oak St., located on the west side of the Marfa Country Clinic.

Free "V.I.P." tickets, in the form of circular stickers that act as badges — a tongue-and-cheek reference to the Invitational's $600 VIP program — will also be available.

"The VIP pass comes with absolutely no benefits. No cocktail parties, no dinners, nothing," Hughes laughed.

Hughes, Simard and Wilkes, three Marfa-based artists who regularly get together to talk art and gossip over a glass of wine, conceptualized the event as more than just a fun, lighthearted spoof — it's also an opportunity to show their most recent work as visitors flock to Marfa for the fair showcasing primarily out-of-town gallerists.

"It's an opportunity for locals and visitors to view and collect art that is being made right now by artists who are living and working full time in Marfa," said Simard.

Works by each artist hang on Hughes' studio walls — canvases, flat files, boxes and jars of brushes have been pushed to the side to allow for a flow of visitors into the intimate space.

Wilkes will show two guache works that reflect her years-long practice of playing with patterns and color, as well as a brand new 6-by-6-foot oil painting.

"This is a trend her work is going [towards], where she's getting paler and more interesting surface texture," said Hughes. "She wanted a chance to get [the painting] out of her studio and get it on another wall so she could look at it and get some responses."

Hughes will be showing a number of works from her Scenes series, which she describes as depicting "starkly beautiful spaces that evoke uneasy loneliness or peaceful solitude."

In the paintings, which are dominated by sharp colors and angles, armchairs act as stand-ins for human subjects, their orientations on the canvas evoking various feelings. In the background of one work, a chair located between a doorway appears to surveille a chair facing the viewer.

"Some of these recent ones are just playing with colors and spaces," said Hughes. "They're ambiguous spaces, and they're also little psychodramas."

Simard's meticulously painted oil-on-wood works range in size and are mostly based on photographs she has taken of places around Marfa. The paintings, glimpses of life in Marfa, display "fine brushwork" and "lovely surface texture," according to Hughes.

"Most of them are Marfa scenes, and they're very quotidian," said Hughes. "It's not the iconic Marfa with the water tower. It's usually just scenes you would see if you walked around town — everyday scenes."

All works will be for sale and the artists are looking forward to the inaugural Martha Invitational, said Hughes.

"It'll just be fun to see everybody, see friends and family and maybe a few people from out of town," said Hughes, who added, with a laugh: "It just takes a few minutes — it's very small."

For more information, follow @martha_hughes, @lesliewilkes and @diana_simard on Instagram.







Mateo and Malinda Galindo premiere ¿Tierra y Qué? Gallery

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Curators and husband-and-wife duo Mateo and Malinda Galindo have premiered a new gallery space titled ¿Tierra y Qué?, currently showcasing a lineup largely made up of Indigenous artists and interrogating humans' relationship to the land they occupy.

Though the gallery hosted a soft opening on April 22, another opening will take place this Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. at 310 West San Antonio Street. The gallery will also be open for viewing on Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

The new gallery was born out of the couple's desire to launch their own space, which will host a revolving door of artists and performers and also sell the displayed work to collectors.

"We'd been working with institutions and within a fellowship, so working within spaces that were already established, and we wanted to start something new and try selling work as well, which is something we've never done," said Mateo, a sound artist as well as curator.

Mateo hails from Carlsbad, New Mexico — a stone's throw from the Big Bend, by Far West Texas standards — but has family roots in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Presidio's sister city across the border. He and Malinda made the trek to Marfa in 2020, when he was exploring his family history in the region. A few years later, Malinda would be offered the role of associate director of development at The Chinati Foundation, prompting the couple to move to Marfa from New York City.

Mateo and Malinda had already established a curatorial platform, Atomic Culture, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and saw the launching of their Marfa space as a continuation of that venture. In fact, many of the artists currently on display in the Marfa gallery are those they had pre-existing relationships with thanks to Atomic Culture.

"We felt their work would look really great here and be really strong here," said Mateo.

Artists currently on view in the space include Andre Janacua, Livia Corona Benjamin, Suzanne Kite, Steven Yazzie, and Nathan Young. The space is filled almost exclusively with visual works, a departure from the couple's previous curatorial venture, which consisted mostly of "performance and time-based" art, said Malinda.

There is one piece at the gallery by Steven Yazzie along that vein — a very real-seeming real estate sign outside the building advertising "Gold King & Associates," prompting interested parties to call a number to inquire about the presumably for-sale property. Callers will be met not with an eager real estate agent but with a voice recording about land use, colonization, and environmental concerns stemming from overdevelopment. At the end of the message, callers have the option of leaving a message, which will be archived and become part of the work.

But other works hang from or lean against the walls, as do the broadcloth works of Nathan Young and the vinyl lanyard and bead compositions from Andrew Janacua. Pieces from Livia Corona Benjamin's *Infinite Rewrite* series show unique renderings of the conoidal grain silos once constructed in rural Mexico to support independent farming communities, many of which now sit abandoned, "rising from the landscape like the silent architectural patrimony of a now archaic-seeming socialism that only a few decades ago had promised so much," per Benjamin's artist statement on the pieces.

Suzanne Kite's works of computerized embroidery are examples of her work in the intersection of Lakota philosophy, technology and artificial intelligence. One piece contains conductive thread embroidered into black leather — the thread isn't hooked up to anything, representing the Lakota concept of "the potential for transformation or the potential for nonhuman interiority," said Kite.

The concepts present in her work are an extension of her academic field of study, on which she recently finished her dissertation, explained Kite.

"In Lakota philosophy, there are really clear concepts of how we can have relationships with nonhuman beings, and a lot of them are stones," she said. "My research applies the processes of making relationships with stones to the potential for future relationships with materials that are in AI or that are in computational systems. So I think thinking about computational systems is just melted stones."

Kite and her fellow artists haven't yet been able to make it to Marfa to view the gallery — travel logistics make it difficult to get everyone in one place, explained the Galindos — but the couple hopes artists on display in the space will be able to make the trip in the future.

The Galindos plan on hosting three shows a year in the space — the next will take place over the summer, then another will take place in the fall until the end of the year. As for the space itself, they hope to turn the currently vacant rear of the gallery into a studio.



Photo courtesy of Glitch Marfa

Glitch Marfa will host two new generative art exhibitions and a community open house this weekend.

Glitch Gallery opens two new generative art exhibitions

MARFA — Glitch Gallery, a local "analog space" dedicated to showcasing "digital art objects," which opened in November of 2022, will hold two new exhibitions during the weekend of the Marfa Invitational.

Located at 108 East El Paso Street, the space will be open from May 4-7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On view will be *An Invitation to Generative Ar*t as well as a new series titled *Every 30 Day*s.

An Invitation to Generative Art invites guests to learn more about the prominent generative artists Tyler Hobbs, Emily Xie and Matt DesLauriers. The works on display, from Art Blocks founder Erik Calderon's personal collection, invite the viewer to explore the richness and variety of the new medium of on-chain generative art.

"Fidenza" by Hobbs exemplifies the variety of what the artist himself dubs "longform" generative art. The project's 1,000 works demonstrate the versatility that a single "flow field" algorithm is capable of in terms of scale, organization, texture and color combination. As Hobbs notes, in a successful algorithm, every work will "have something new about it, a little surprise that teaches you more about what is possible."

"Memories of Qilin" by Xie showcases the potential of algorithms to unite visual elements from diverse traditions towards a novel constellation. Drawing from classical Chinese brushwork and ukiyo-e woodblock prints, Xie's work evokes mythological imagery and explores the fluidity of movement inherent in traditional East Asian art — as well as generative art's capacity to emulate analogue media.

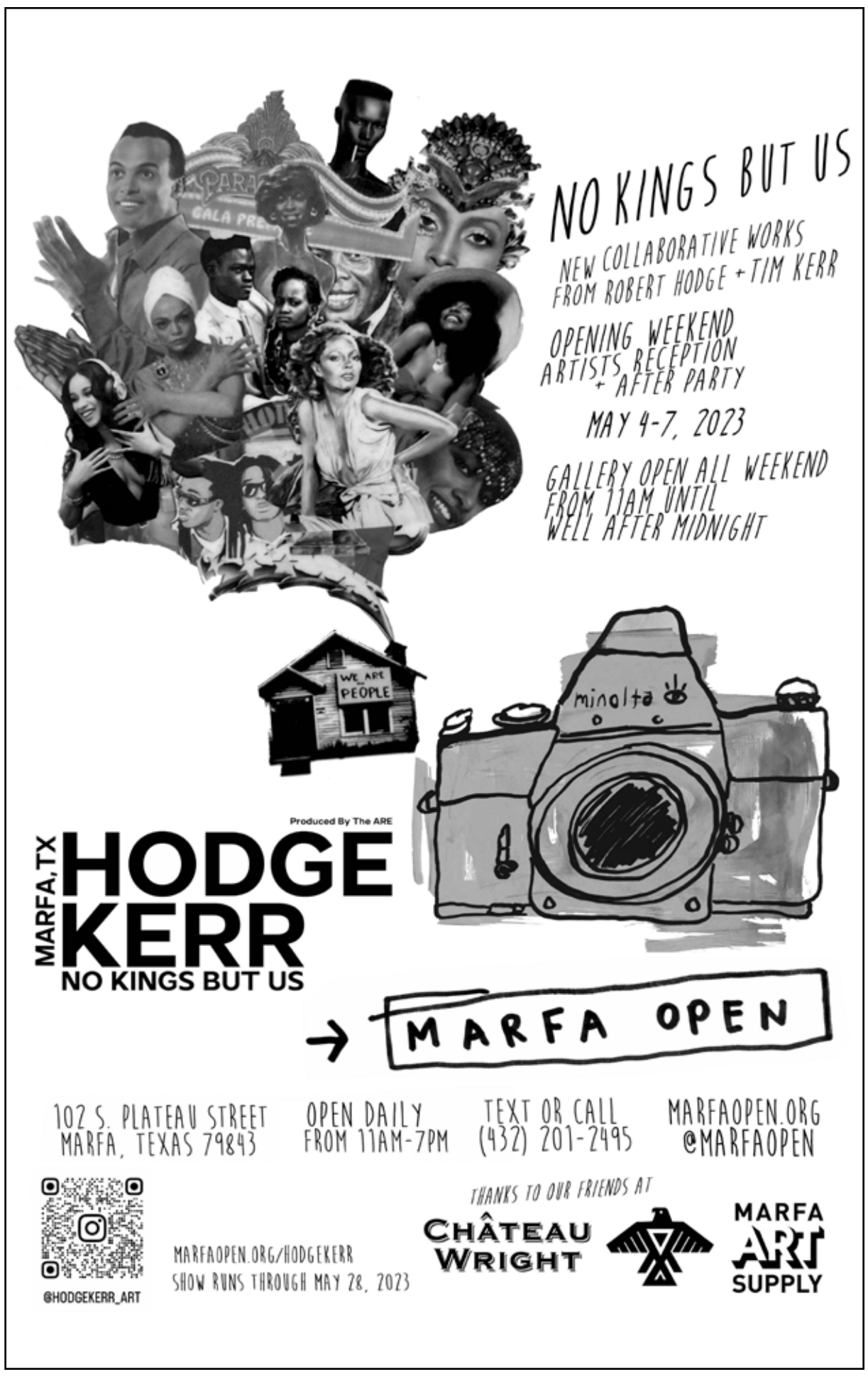
DesLauriers' "Meridians" explores the concept of generative space, constructing stratified landforms through small, meticulously placed strokes of color. By positioning each token as a coordinate within a multidimensional generative space, "Meridians" emphasizes the vast array of aesthetic forms that can emerge from a set of elementary rules. As a result of their affinity with natural structures, the compositions appear to inhabit a space between abstraction and figuration.

Also on view will be *Every 30 Days*, or *E30D*, the first in a series of month-long exhibitions featuring a single, culturally significant, digital artwork — on view in the window of the gallery in Marfa, Texas, and simultaneously over a digital livestream. Throughout the month of May, "Right-click and Save As guy" by artist XCOPY will be on display as well.

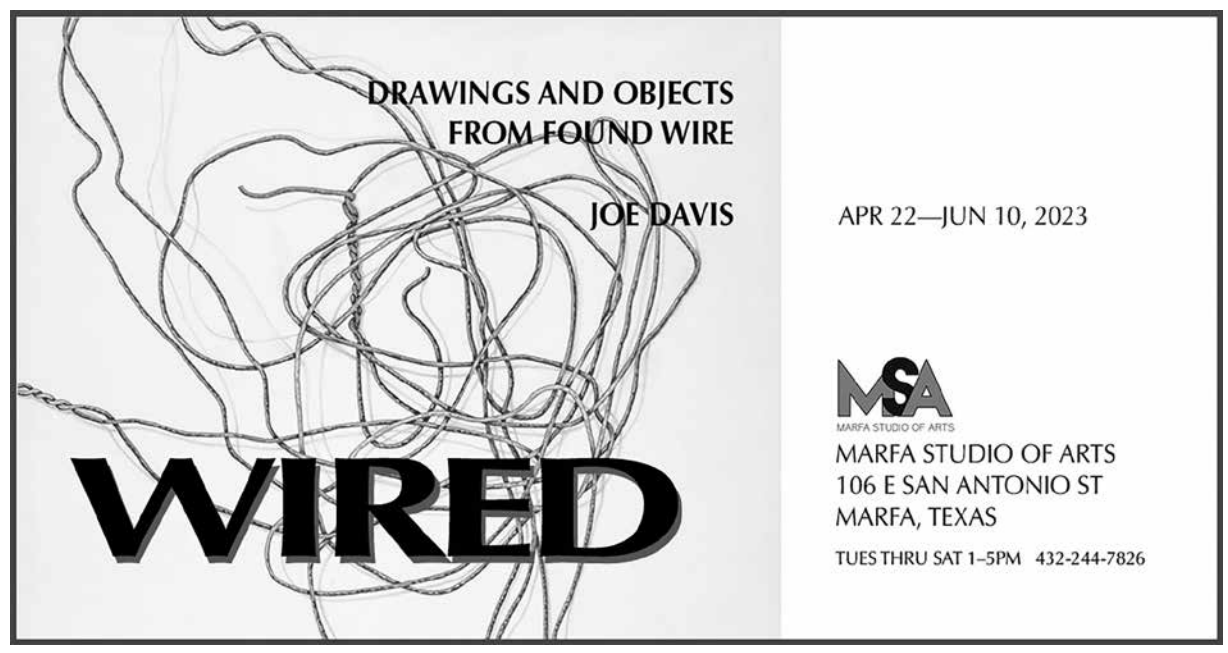
Like few other works, "Right-click and Save As guy" captures an antiquated prejudice against digital art objects — computer files anyone can "own" by saving them with a mouse click. The work represented a shift toward what the world deemed previously impossible — the ability to imbue a digital object with scarcity.

Each artist, work, and collector is carefully selected by the Glitch team of curators. Accompanying each *E30D* exhibition is a longform essay, and a digital poster that references the essay, artist, object, and collector. There will only be a maximum of 1,000 digital posters available for purchase during each exhibition.

For more information, visit glitchmarfa.com







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Hetzler Marfa presents 'Indoor Paintings' by artist Grace Weaver

MARFA — Hetzler Marfa is pleased to announce *Indoor Paintings*, a solo exhibition of works by Grace Weaver (b. 1989, Vermont) made during a residency in Marfa, Texas.

The exhibition will be on view starting May 4, with an opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m., and run through December 10. The gallery is located at 1976 Antelope Hills Road.

The exhibition includes a presentation of oil on canvas works in the main gallery and Weaver's largest works on paper to date in the artist studio.

Presenting a new body of work, this exhibition sees Weaver's iconic characters lounge in domestic environments. By bringing the figures into the private realm, the artist examines the spectrum of emotions that can arise when alone. Weaver's larger than life figures possess a sense of ambiguity, their expressions unintelligible, evoking feelings spanning self-reflection to procrastination, relaxation to anxiety. Marking a continuum in the artist's practice, Weaver probes the habits, yearnings and intuitions of daily life. While these moments are ostensibly mundane, and the domestic space often overlooked, Weaver's paintings posit the value of these fleeting, un-monumental occurrences, and the potential of a finite space as a stage for a rich gamut of emotions.

Observed from an aerial perspective, quotidian objects of domesticity — phones, Doritos, a laptop, Gatorade bottles and chargers — are scattered across the scene, morphing at times into extensions of the character's exaggerated limbs. Creating a swirling sense of space that the artist refers to as centrifugal, the *Indoor Paintings* map the tension of incorporating 21st century ephemera — junk food, fast fashion and technology — into painting, a strain which also plays across the palette. Bringing together bubble gum pink, dirty white, ochre and cornflower blue, the colors are nearly naturalistic but skew towards the synthetic, highlighting the artificiality of the paintings themselves whilst emphasizing their construction. Characters peer into laptops and phone screens, a contemporary mise en abyme.

In many of the works, body and object are superimposed over a gridded background, granting an architectural sense of structure in earthy red, acid yellow and chalky black. Alluding to Günther Förg's and Edvard Munch's painterly topographies, these formations capture the paraphernalia surrounding the figure, showing the layered approach of the painted surface. In other settings, the figures recline over brushy concrete gray backgrounds. Weaver coats the canvas in layers of oil paint, an additive process whereby paint is applied wet-into-wet. This application exposes their process, and the gesture of her painterly practice — marks and omissions remain, rendered by the gestural swoop of a brush and in textural spikes of paint.

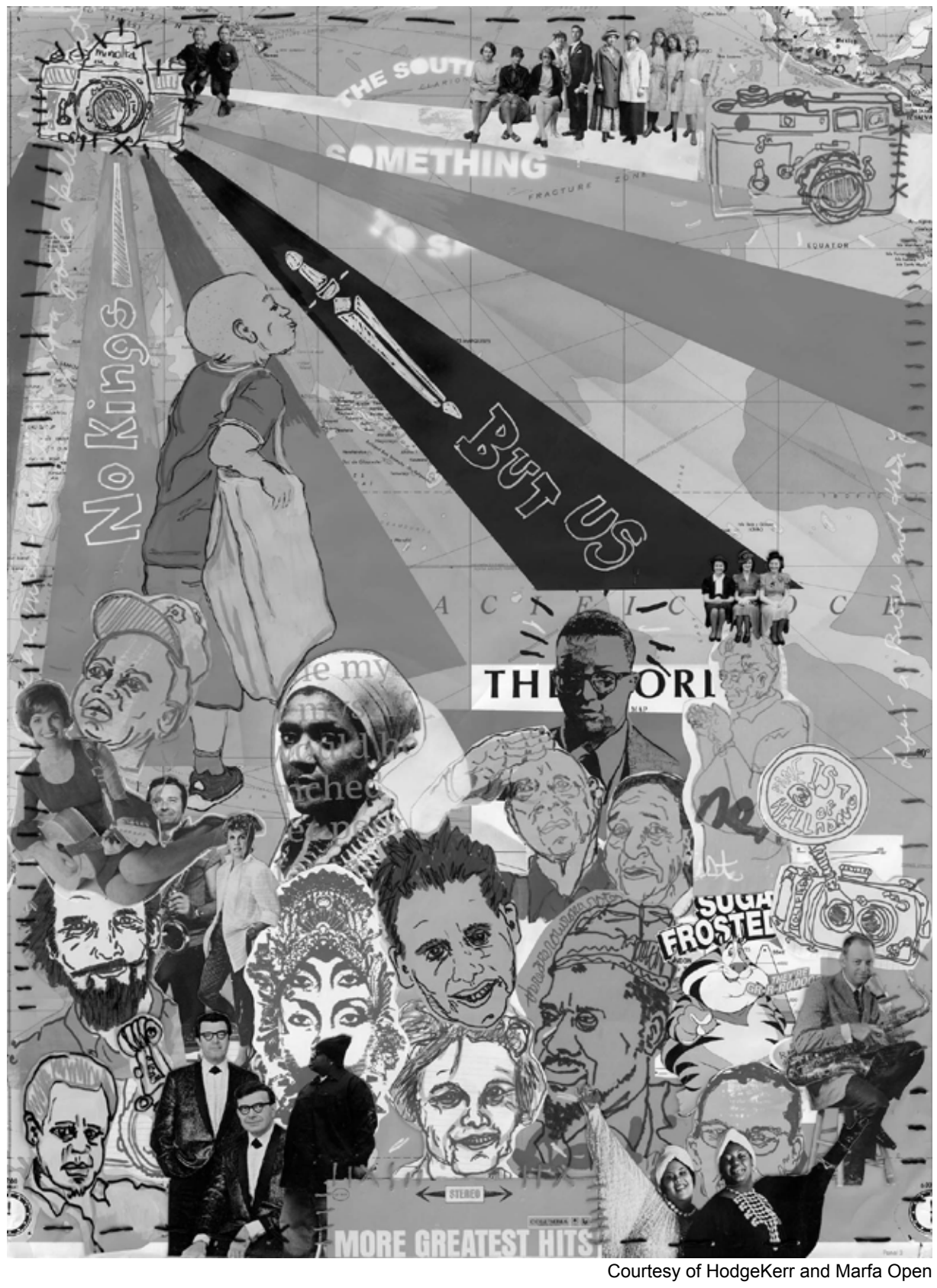
Toggling between phone, laptop, television and book, the characters, seemingly unencumbered by gravity, reflect the spiraling sense of distraction and absorption in a highly splintered world, presenting a synchronicity between subject and execution.

For more information, visit https://www.maxhetzler.com/



Photo by Eric P.S. Degenhardt

Paintings by artist Grace Weaver will open this week at Hetzler Marfa.



Courtesy of HodgeKerr and Marfa Open

HodgeKerr, "No Kings But Us," mixed media collaboration, 2023.

'No Kings But Us' to open at Marfa Open

MARFA — *No Kings But Us* by HodgeKerr is a collaboration between Robert Hodge (Houston) and Tim Kerr (Austin). Individually, their work is steeped in the rich history between music and pop culture, and they also share a deep interest in racial equality and human rights. Hodge and Kerr have long admired one another, from color palette to messaging to medium, and they have come together to entwine their creative vision.

The large scale artworks in the Marfa Open show are a collaboration by the artists from different generations, with different urban stories, but with a common power and force of color and expression. Music, history, humanity, politics, energy and color clash and harmonize on the 12 large canvases. Both artists also have a room to show their individual art style. There will be a celebration of late nights at the gallery with music and sponsorship from Red Bull, Chateau Wright, and Marfa Art Supply creative stations as another collaborative part of the show.

Hodge brings his signature collage work using screen print and record covers with stencil and stitching that creates sumptuous layers and gritty textures. His influences range from African American history, narrowing to the historical 3rd Ward of Houston, sweeping across the jazz landscape to dwell in southern hip hop culture.

Kerr brings his singular portraits, political messaging and vibrant colors. Also influenced by his own musical history and his iconic voice in the early days of INDY and DIY, to the blues, free jazz and the sounds of Irish folk music. His great affection for sharing messages from historical voices, from Rosa Parks to John Coltrane to the multitudes in between, appears in almost every piece.

This collaboration rocks with color. Musical voices are lavishly layered in historical context. The chemistry between Robert Hodge and Tim Kerr glimmers on the canvas, creating a visible synergy far beyond the sum of its parts.

The show opens at Marfa Open at 7 p.m. on Thursday with the opening running through the weekend.

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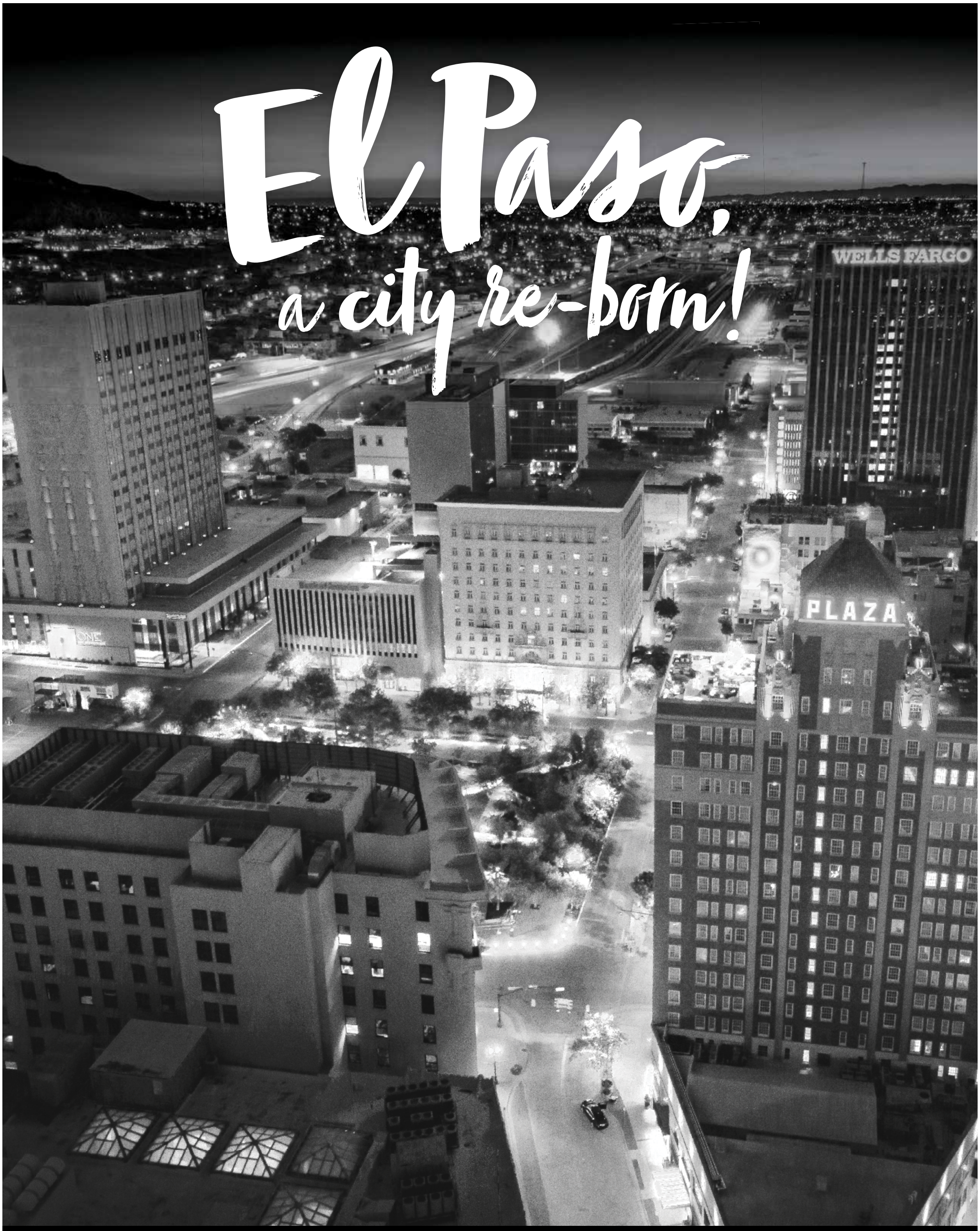


Nothing compares to what's next.

In 2023, I'm delighted to commemorate a decade of serving Marfa, alongside a year of collaboration with Kuper Sotheby's International Realty.

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Krissy Teegerstrom's 'Exquisite Self' exhibition on display at Wrong Marfa

MARFA — Artist Krissy Teegerstrom starts with the question, "What does it mean for the self to be exquisite?" She answers that question in an exhibition of one-of-a-kind, never to be duplicated, wearable capes at Wrong Marfa. All capes are made from secondhand materials.

"As a child I was conditioned to feel unworthy of care and attention. I grew up in a house marred by addiction and undiagnosed mental illness and suffered neglect and emotional abuse throughout my formative years. In my post-traumatic growth, I have begun to build self worth for the first time in my life. The opposite of neglect is to be nurtured and to be seen. For someone who was left alone and ignored as a child, I am continually asking myself what it means to create art which draws attention to myself," says Teegerstrom.

A cape, she says, surrounds a body, rendering it both obscured and hypervisible. Whether worn or viewed as a standalone art object, each of the capes is meant to envelop the wearer in luminous, reflective and sumptuous fabrics to impart the feeling of being exquisite.

All capes are made from secondhand materials. According to Teegerstrom nothing is disposable. In her practice she uses secondhand materials, from the fabrics to her tools, including a 1948 Singer Featherweight sewing machine. Discovering these materials is a deliberate process which informs the final designs. Also, this is a way for her to express her devotion to conserving the environment, a value that is sacred to her.

Teegerstrom hopes viewers will see what she calls their true selves — the precious primordial essence that existed before experiences of doubts, drama, dreamkillers, hardship, tragedy, abuse or any manner of heavy weather — that which is exquisite.

Exquisite Self runs through May. There will be an artist's reception on Thursday, May 4, 4-6 pm. at Wrong, 110 N. Highland Ave. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Photo by George Brainard

Monstera cape by artist Krissy Teegerstrom.



Photo by George Brainard

Trueheart cape by artist Krissy Teegerstrom.



Photo by Krissy Teegerstrom

First Place cape by artist Krissy Teegerstrom.

Marfa Realty

Welcomes All Artists, Gallerists, Collectors, Patrons and Guests to Marfa Invitational 2023

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RULE

Diego Rodriguez Warner
Sharp Pause

May 6 – July 15

Exhibition Reception
Saturday, May 6, 6–8 pm
artist in attendance

RULE Gallery
204 E. San Antonio St
Wed-Sat 11a-5pm
rulegallery.com / @rulegallery



Jett's Grill
At the Historic Hotel Paisano

Happy Hour 2-6, Friday and Saturday
Dinner Service 5-10, Friday and Saturday
Bar Service 2-11, Friday and Saturday

Cinco de Mayo

Friday, May 5th
Drink Specials 2-11
Cinco de Mayo Buffet beginning at 5 p.m.

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Paintings by Kandice Pierce

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9-8

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8-8

Sunday
8-6



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The Big Bend Sentinel guide to Marfa Invitational Weekend: Local exhibitions, pop-ups and more

BALLROOM MARFA
108 E San Antonio St.
BALLROOM MARFA this weekend celebrates the closing of Ecstatic Land with a series of events. The exhibition will be on view Thursday, May 4, through Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibition brings together a multigenerational group of artists whose works explore the intersecting vitalities of the land and self. In his solo exhibition, Kenneth Tam unearths forgotten histories in order to reimagine our own identities and to question dominant myths that shape and govern our bodies.

A "stone circle" full moon activation will take place Friday, May 5, at 9:02 p.m.

A curator walkthrough with Karina Salcido on artist Laura Aguilar will take place Saturday, May 6, from noon to 1 p.m.

An Ecstatic Land screening series and lighting of Nancy Holt's "Starfire" will take place Saturday, May 6, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Cobra Rock
211 S. Dean St.
Power Forms by Natalie Rae Good, opening reception May 4, 4 to 6 p.m. Natalie Rae Good's ceramic compositions address the complicated nature of possession and power.

exhibitions2d
In Marfa since 2003. Open by advance appointment. To schedule a visit send an Instagram message to @ exhibitions2d or email x2dmarfa@gmail.com.email.

Friends of the Ruidosa Church
Do Right Hall, 108 W. Dallas St.
Join the Friends of the Ruidosa Church for the closing show of Latido de Luz by Chihuahuan artist Miguel Valverde, Thursday, May 4, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The exhibition features a giant illuminated heart that was hung in the Ruidosa Church last fall, along with several paintings by Valverde. Sales from the heart go to the church restoration. There will be free drinks, and the artist will be present for the May 4 event. Additional open hours will take place May 5 and 6. Follow @ruidosachurch on Instagram for more information.

Gerald Peters Contemporary
220 Highland St, Marfa, TX 79843 at the entrance to the Crowley Theater
A pop-up from Gerald Peters Contemporary from May 4–7, showcasing the work of Texas Native Elizabeth Hohimer.

Gli+ch Marfa
108 E El Paso St.
Drinks, burritos, couches and chairs will be available for a relaxed happy hour event at one of Marfa's two digital arts spaces on Saturday, May 6, 3 to 6 p.m. On view throughout the weekend, May 4–7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will be An Invitation to Generative Art, an exhibition featuring the work of three prominent generative artists of our time and new series, Every 30 Days. For more information, follow @GlitchMarfa on Instagram.

Hetzler Marfa
1976 Antelope Hills Road
Hetzler Marfa presents Indoor Paintings, a solo exhibition of works by Grace Weaver made during a residency in Marfa, Texas, including both oil on canvas works and Weaver's largest works on paper to date. The exhibition will be on view starting May 4, with an opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m., and run through December 10.

Julie Speed Open Studio
520 W. Catherine St., next door to The Chinati Foundation
Visit the working arts studio of local Marfa artist Julie Speed, who will have a number of new works on view Thursday, May 4, through Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, follow @ speedstudiomarfa on Instagram.

Laszlo Thorsen-Nagel Open Studio
103 W Texas St.
Open studio hours for artist Laszlo Thorsen-Nagel will take place Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, noon to 3 p.m. Raised in Bavaria, Germany, surrounded with paintings and sculpture by his father Daniel Nagel and grandfather Hans Nagel, Laszlo Thorsen-Nagel was taken by their abstract modernist aesthetic. As an adult this influence led Thorsen-Nagel to strive to develop his own minimal language through painting. Thorsen-Nagel utilizes the ancient techniques of sumi-e brush strokes on paper, canvas and clay. He works to generate light through ink transparency and opacity, line density and space. For more information, call 347-880-2798 or visit laszlothorsennagel.com

MAINTENANT Open Hours
Antelope Hills, Marfa
Open Hours at MAINTENANT will take place Saturday, May 6, 6 to 8:30 p.m. MAINTENANT is an art space with the intention of sharing the work and thoughts of artists, musicians, writers, furniture makers, designers and all types of creatives. Le Garage is the latest addition to the project, dedicated to exhibiting and selling the work of a selection of artists currently living and working in Marfa. For information and directions follow @MaintenantMarfa on Instagram.

Marfa Open Arts
102 S. Plateau St.
No Kings But Us, a collaboration between artists Robert Hodge and Tim Kerr, will open May 4–7.

Marfa Studio of Arts Gallery
106 E. San Antonio St.
Artist Joe Davis' found-wire art will be on display Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Martha Invitational
105 E. Oak St.
A tongue-in-cheek spin on the Marfa Invitational featuring paintings from local artists Leslie Wilkes, Diana Simard and Martha Hughes. Saturday, May 6, 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 7, 1 to 3 p.m.

RULE Gallery
204 E. San Antonio St.
RULE Gallery is pleased to present Sharp Pause, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Diego Rodriguez-Warner. A public reception will be held Saturday, May 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. with the artist in attendance. The show will be on view from May 6 through July 15. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Studios at Crowley Theater
98 S. Austin St., across from The Sentinel
The first exhibition ever to be held in the newly-constructed Studios at Saint George, Texas artist and curator Christopher Blay presents The Splavce Program, an inaugural "UN-Fair," that centers around the concept of combining a slave and spaceship to explore both the past and future of the Black community through an Afro-futurist and sci-fi lens.

Blay will host an opening reception from 2 to 5 p.m. May 4, and the show will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. May 5 through May 6. A 30-foot vessel, three large paintings and cyanotypes will be featured.

¿Tierra y Qué? Gallery
310 West San Antonio Street
A new gallery space from Mateo and Malinda Galindo featuring works from artists Andre Janacua, Livia Corona Benjamin, Suzanne Kite, Steven Yazzie and Nathan Young.

Opening Saturday, May 6, 2 to 5 p.m. Gallery hours Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday 2 to 6 p.m., Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

VELDT MARFA
119 Highland St.
Contemporary art gallery VELDT Marfa presents a reception for PEACEMAKERS, an exhibition of new works by artists LeAna Clifton, Sara S'Jegers and Guy Sealy, to take place Friday, May 5, 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, follow @veldtgallery on Instagram.

Wrong Gallery
110 N. Highland Ave.
With EXQUISITE SELF, artist Krissy Teegerstrom starts with the question, "What does it mean for the self to be exquisite?" and seeks to answer it with a series of wearable capes made from secondhand materials. Artist's reception on Thursday, May 4, 4 to 6 pm. at Wrong, 110 N. Highland Ave.

FOOD AND RETAIL POP UPS

Big Sky Yoga Pop-Up: Prosecco & Popcorn
105 Oak Street (alley behind the Wrong store / the old Mira Marfa space)
Jenny Laird (Traffic Safety), Jessica Lutz (Desert Veil) and Willy Wear are introducing new collections/ ready-to-wear projects for Spring-Summer 2023, plus a couple of New York designers in the mix. Friday 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday noon to 3 p.m. and Sunday noon to 2 p.m.

Line Thai Food Truck
220 W San Antonio St.
Local food truck Line Thai serves authentic Thai food and many more Thai dishes, including vegetarian, gluten-free options. Pad Thai, drunken noodles, red curry or stir-fried dish. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday

Little Juice Pop-Up
105 S Highland Ave., HEY I LIKE IT HERE, located inside of the Hotel Saint George
A variety of fresh cold pressed juices available for purchase 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, May 5.

Mother Mary's Spiritual Goods
903 W San Antonio St.
Tarot Readings will be available 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, May 4, through Saturday, May 6

Vintage Pop-Up with Decades Inc. + Cultus Artem
105 S Highland Ave., HEY I LIKE IT HERE, located inside of the Hotel Saint George
May 4–7 with preview shopping from 6 to 8 p.m. May 4



MARFA INVITATIONAL 2023 \\
ARTISTS + GALLERISTS

CINDY PHENIX
NINO MIER GALLERY | LA + BRUSSELS + NYC + MARFA
CHANG YA CHIN + ASIF HOQUE
HALF GALLERY | NYC + LA
MARK WHALEN
OVER THE INFLUENCE | HONG KONG + LA + BANGKOK + PARIS
SZABOLCS BOZÓ
CARL KOSTYÁL | LONDON + STOCKHOLM
PETER HALLEY
BALDWIN GALLERY | ASPEN
HEATHER DAY
THE PIT | LA + PALM SPRINGS
KOICHI SATO
BILL BRADY GALLERY | MIAMI
SAMANTHA ROSENWALD + OLIVIER SOUFFRANT
ROOM 57 GALLERY | NYC
JONATHAN CASELLA
F2T GALLERY | MILAN
UFO907
LORIN GALLERY | LA

MARFA INVITATIONAL 2023 \\
EXHIBITIONS

SAINT GEORGE HALL
113 E El Paso Street

THURDAY, MAY 4
Vernissage // VIP Preview
6 PM - 8 PM
(VIP Ticket required.)

FRIDAY, MAY 5
10 AM - 5 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 6
10 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 7
10 AM - 1 PM

* Please Note: Viewing Hours Friday through Sunday are Free of Charge to the public.

IN CONVERSATION \\
JERRY SALTZ

FRIDAY, MAY 05 | 11 AM - 1 PM
Saint George Hall | Outdoor Judd Tables
113 E El Paso St

MARFA INVITATIONAL is beyond thrilled and most honored to welcome our favorite Pulitzer Prize Recipient + Bestselling Author. Cultural luminary and contemporary arbiter. The inimitable **Jerry Saltz.**

Veteran New York art critic Jerry Saltz joins Marfa Invitational to offer his latest take on the state of the art world. Saltz is senior art critic for *New York* magazine and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2018. His winning article, 'My Life as a Failed Artist,' is a candid essay about his unsuccessful art career, the disappointment that came with it, and how it ultimately turned him into a critic. Saltz is known for his forthright insight into galleries, museums, and artworks and has been a pioneer among his peers in the adoption of social media as a platform for criticism in the twenty-first century.





MI PREMIERE \\
'THE ART OF MAKING IT'
Introduction by Producer Debi Wish

SATURDAY MAY 06 | 3 PM - 5 PM
Crowley Theater
98 S Austin Street

MARFA INVITATIONAL + WISCHFUL THINKING PRODUCTIONS
Is beyond thrilled to welcome all to the Marfa Invitational Premiere of **'The Art of Making It'.** Screening at the iconic **Crowley Theater.**

Following a talented group of emerging artists at defining points in their careers, The Art of Making It (2021), directed by Kelcey Edwards, is a feature-length documentary filled with intimate interviews with key Art world figures. Including Anne Pasternak, Dave Hickey, Michael Govan, Lisa Corinne Davis, Andrea Bowers, Helen Molesworth, and Jerry Saltz.

Called "one of the most majestic and unexpected films about the secret life of art" by Pulitzer Prize winner Jerry Saltz, 'The Art of Making It' received the 2022 Audience Award at SXSW; and Best Documentary at The Offshore Film Festival.

'MONUMENTS' \\
Outdoor Sculpture Section

SUNDAY MAY 07 | Open All day for viewing
Marfa Invitational Foundation
135 Golf Course Road

POLLY BORLAND
SZABOLCS BOZÓ
MYLES NURSE

Installed amongst Marfa Invitational Foundation sculpture grounds- 'Monuments' comprises today's foremost considered and consequential Contemporary Artist's large-scale site-specific outdoor works; situated on the high plains of the Far West Texas Chihuahuan High Desert. Transporting viewer and audience 'In Real Life'. Where one's 'human experience'- physical, intellectual, and emotional - is fluid and ever-expansive. Echoing the light and space of the high plains of the Chihuahuan Desert, while reflecting the spirit and ethos of Marfa and far West Texas. Providing context for the Art exhibited, while establishing a 'space' and atmosphere conducive to viewing and experiencing Art amongst the expansive landscape and historical backdrop of Marfa.

