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by order of Presidio County

Council talks city manager, police pay, El Cosmico, MAC pool

By Mary Cantrell
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MARFA — Marfa City Council members met Tuesday to discuss next steps regarding the vacant city manager position, raising police officer pay, the El Cosmico expansion project and the reopening of the Marfa Activities Center (MAC) pool for the summer months.

Mayor Manny Baeza, Mayor Pro Tem Raul Lara and council members Mark Morrison and Mark Cash were present. Council members Travis Acreman and Eddie Pallarez were absent. Council voted to approve a two-month leave of absence for Pallarez, who will miss four consecutive meetings because his wife is hiking the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage through Spain.

City manager

Council discussed next steps for filling the city manager position, which was left vacant in mid-April after the firing of Andrea Walter, who spent just over a month in the role.

They tabled an item “regarding an ordinance updating the name reference of City Manager back to City Administrator” due to pending correspondence from their attorney. Under state law the City of Marfa is a Type A General Law city, which may operate under a council/mayor form of government or a city manager form of government. In Marfa, the city manager, previously called the city administrator, has generally operated under the guidance and instruction of the mayor and city council, rather than acted as the city’s chief executive officer.

Baeza alluded to some confusion between Walter and the city regarding the hierarchy, stating there was a need to set the record straight about Marfa’s form of government. “We’re planning on doing this just so that way there’s no confusion going forward because we are not a city manager type of government,” Baeza said.

Council voted to advertise the city administrator job opening for 45 days in local postings and on the Texas Municipal League website. City Secretary Kelly Perez will once again serve as interim city manager in the meantime, per Baeza’s request, and will receive a stipend for doing so. “Light a candle people,” Lara said of the city administrator search.

Marfa Police Department pay

The issue of pay for Marfa Police Department officers was hashed out in executive session, a private portion of the meeting the public is not privy to. According to the agenda, Lieutenant Nichole Fuentes, as well as officers Ian Martinez, Emmanuel Garcia and Jose Perez

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Staff photo by Rob D’Amico

Porvenir Massacre descendant Amanda Shields (second from left) and former Presidio County Judge Monroe Elms (right) testified before Judge Eduardo Gamboa (second from right) on Monday. Gamboa issued delayed certificates of death for the victims of the massacre, 107 years after the fact.

‘Monsters walk among us’: After years-long struggle, judge grants Porvenir death certificates

By Sam Karas
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MARFA — History was made in Presidio County on Monday after visiting Judge Eduardo Gamboa of El Paso approved delayed death certificates for 14 men who were murdered in a small border village over a hundred years ago. The judge’s decision came after years-long efforts by the descendants of the Porvenir Massacre to obtain official death certificates for their relatives, in hopes of bringing some closure to a particularly dark chapter of state history.

On the night of January 28, 1918,

a posse of ranchers and lawmen — including members of the Texas Rangers and the United States Cavalry — traveled to the remote village of Porvenir, upstream from Candelaria. They rounded up 15 Mexican American men and boys and shot them at close range.

The massacre is widely regarded as a form of Anglo retribution for a raid on the Brite Ranch just a few weeks prior that left three dead. It didn’t matter that none of the men at Porvenir were involved in the raid — in that way, it echoed other incidents of racially-motivated mob violence along the border in Texas in the 1910s, where white property owners

and lawmen lashed out against their Mexican neighbors for no reason other than that they shared the same skin color as notorious bandits like Chico Cano.

Judge Gamboa said that the darkest parts of human nature were on display that cold winter night 107 years ago. “Monsters walk among us,” he said.

Over the past decade, the descendants of the Porvenir Massacre have banded together to advocate for justice. Building on the efforts of José Canales — the only Mexican American in the Texas Legislature at the time of the killings — they pushed for broader recognition and education of widespread racial

violence in Texas during the Mexican Revolution.

An official Texas Historical Commission marker was unveiled in time for the massacre’s centennial in 2018, and a PBS documentary debuted the following year. Historical and archaeological investigations continue — in 2022, a paper potentially implicating the U.S. Army was published as the result of a privately-funded archaeological dig.

Behind the scenes, family members were pushing for the county to finally issue official death certificates to those killed in the massacre. They believed that it was a small but

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City pledges to address long-known zero-read water meters

By Rob D’Amico
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MARFA — After a City Council member alleged water meter issues and the departure of former City Manager Andrea Walter were linked, city officials have vowed to address an extensive list of meters that are designated as zero-read — meaning that they do not record consumption for a variety of reasons.

Councilmember Travis Acreman wrote a letter to the editor in the April 24 Big Bend Sentinel stating Walter was terminated for being a “whistle blower” for bringing to light inaction on a long-known list of zero-read

meters.

As is common in most cities, many residents questioned the accuracy of their usage readings, and thus, their bills. Acreman said in a later follow-up call, with some constituents even raising questions about some Marfa residents getting free water. “I’ve had people from the community come to me in the past, before this came to light, saying that they had suspicions about the bills they were receiving, [they] weren’t tracking, they were irregular, unpredictable, in ways that didn’t make sense,” Acreman said.

Utilities Director Chuck Salgado acknowledged the ongoing problem in an April 24 council meeting but

denied bias, stating that the city treats all utilities customers the same. In a May 1 letter to the editor, Mayor Manny Baeza said that “Walter’s separation was a joint decision between her and the city council,” which was backed up by the other council members, though she was technically fired and did not resign.

Last Thursday, *The Sentinel* obtained a copy of the zero-read meter list from the city, which shows 260 utility accounts — about 10% of the 2,000-plus residential and commercial utility accounts — with zero-read meters so far in 2025. The list dates back to 2020, with around 200 to 250 accounts listed each year.

City Secretary Kelly Perez and Salgado, in a phone interview Tuesday, went into greater detail about the issue and pledged that the city will work to define why residences and businesses were on the list.

Perez said the obstacle to determining why meters are zero-read is a lack of information in the utility records. She said officials are working to note the reason for zero-reads so that the list can be informative instead of igniting controversy.

The list *The Sentinel* received was

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Commissioners talk support for ranchers during exceptional drought

By Sam Karas
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MARFA — At Wednesday morning’s meeting, the Presidio County Commissioners Court discussed how best to express support for local farmers and ranchers during the ongoing drought. A trend of dry conditions has persisted for five years, earning a classification of “exceptional” — the most dire category — from the United States Drought Monitor.

The commissioners heard a presentation from Esteban Mesa of the Presidio County Farm Agency.

Mesa had recently met with tri-county judges Curtis Evans (Jeff Davis), Joe Portillo (Presidio) and Greg Hennington (Brewster) in the interest of putting some kind of emergency declaration but found that all three counties were already covered by drought declaration issued by Governor Greg Abbott.

The team discovered that the number of cattle in the three counties dropped by 60% since 2008. Portillo told the court Wednesday morning that he’d recently talked to a ranch foreman who reported that he was down to two-thirds of his original herd — and will have to liquidate

the rest if there is no rain over the summer.

Mesa explained that even a wet summer is unlikely to reverse the counties’ drought designations. Getting back on track would require a long-term trend in the opposite direction. “The worst thing is that it takes multiple consecutive years of normal rainfall pattern to have an effect,” he explained.

While folks in the agricultural industry have been feeling the pinch for years, folks in towns and cities could also start seeing an impact. “It’s eventually going to affect our groundwater supply, which is going

to impact everyone in the county,” Mesa said.

Mesa planned to meet with local producers later this week to discuss the issue and gather feedback, and County Attorney Blair Park drafted a judge’s order to be signed by Portillo. The issue will be presented again at the next commissioners meeting in Presidio later this month.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Deirdre Hisler thought that it was an important conversation worth extending. “This is just about showing a record of support to our producers and our ranchers, and I think it’s important that we do that,” she said.

Delayed 2022-23 school accountability ratings released

By Mary Cantrell
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TRI-COUNTY — School accountability ratings from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the 2022-23 school year were finally released late last month, resulting in an overall increase of D and F ratings across the state. While it is nuanced, Big Bend area districts generally either maintained their ratings or saw lower scores.

The ratings were delayed due to a lawsuit between the TEA and over 100 school districts across the state, who opposed changes to the A-F accountability rating system announced in 2023. Another similar ongoing lawsuit is preventing the release of 2023-24 ratings. This school year’s ratings, for 2024-25, are scheduled to be released in August.

The ratings are largely driven by State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test scores and also take into account College Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) and graduation rates for older students.

The A-F accountability system was established in 2017, but scheduled ratings have been irregular for the past five years due to lawsuits and the COVID-19 pandemic. The last ratings to be released were for the 2021-22 school year. In order to provide an “apples to apples” comparison in light of accountability system adjustments, the TEA provided districts with a “What If” score for the 2021-22 school year, which applies the same standards as the newly-revamped 2022-23 rating system.

A quick look at the districts across the Big Bend region reveals how varied results can be.

Alpine, Marfa and Valentine school districts saw rating declines compared to both their actual 2021-22 ratings and their What If ratings. Presidio and San Vicente school districts saw no changes, maintaining B and A ratings respectively across the board.

Fort Davis ISD received a B rating for 2022-23, the same as their 2021-22 rating, but received a C What If rating. Terlingua CSD received a D rating, down from a 2021-22 C rating, but remained stagnant if considering their D What If rating. Marathon ISD, interestingly, received a B rating, down from a 2021-22 A rating, with a D What If rating.

Alpine ISD received a C rating, down from a 2021-22 B rating, as well as a B What If rating; Marfa ISD received a D rating, down from a 2021-22 B rating, or C What If rating. Districts with higher percentages of low income students — 52.3% for Alpine ISD and 48.5% for Marfa ISD — were more likely to receive a D or F rating compared to wealthier school districts.

While conservative leaders, and Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, have argued that the A-F rating system gives parents a clear view of school performance, its opponents often counter that ratings are politically motivated, a way to undermine public education to pass school vouchers and overemphasize the STAAR test, which reflects student performance on one day of the year. Alpine ISD Superintendent Michelle Rinehart said her district’s ratings were down like many across the state, with some education leaders — including those involved in the lawsuits — arguing it was unfair for the TEA to retroactively change scoring after the year had concluded.

“A quarter of all districts in Texas were moved from B ratings down to C, D, F ratings overnight, despite many of those districts actually doing better on the STAAR tests,” Rinehart

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TEA ratings

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said. “This seems to be a state initiative to label more districts as failing, even if they’ve actually improved their performance from the year before.”

Alpine middle and high schools received a B rating while Alpine Elementary received an F rating. Marfa ISD, while it maintains two campuses, was evaluated as a singular K-12 school.

Alpine High School (AHS) dropped four percentage points in the new ratings due to CCMR evaluation changes, Rinehart said, which required a significant increase in the number of students meeting CCMR criteria for the school to receive an A rating. “That bar was moved from 60% of students obtaining CCMR points to be an A up to [88%] in one year. That’s where the decrease on the AHS side of things came from,” she said.

The Alpine Elementary rating is based solely on STAAR test results for third- and fourth-graders — younger students do not take the test — and, in some categories, only fourth-graders are evaluated, meaning that the entire school’s accountability rating relies on those two grade levels.

Even with those caveats, Rinehart said the district’s goal moving forward is clear. “We want each of our campuses to be an A-rated campus, and we want to be an A-rated district,” she said.

She said for the past two years the district has been working to improve its STAAR scores and is “heading in the right direction.” Since the 2022-23 school year the district has adopted a coherent K-5 curriculum, which was previously lacking, Rinehart said, that has improved student outcomes.

2022-23 ratings also reflected major changes to the STAAR test, including all tests moving online and the addition of an essay component for third through high school grades that accounts for 20% of their total Reading Language Arts (RLA) scores. Rinehart said Alpine ISD saw lower scores

due to the new essay component, and teachers have since been working to better prepare students for those prompts.

“What are the strategies we can teach our kids so that when they see that big blank box on an essay question they have a really strong strategy — whether they’re in high school or third grade — about how to craft a well-thought-out essay response as part of that online test,” Rinehart said.

Alpine ISD is also focusing on student growth, she said, a metric that compares student STAAR scores year after year that informs both TEA accountability ratings and the Teacher Incentive Allotment program — an initiative to provide raises to teachers who prove merit through a test score-based system. A tri-district initiative between Marfa, Alpine and Marathon ISDs to expand Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for high school students, which will launch next year, should also help raise CCMR scores for all participating districts.

Marfa ISD Interim Superintendent Arturo Alferez said his district is also working to improve CCMR outcomes — trying to ramp up the number of students participating in dual credit courses and earning associate degrees. He said the district’s goal is to have every eligible student enrolled in a career technical course. Marfa ISD currently only offers welding, but may soon have access to Alpine ISD’s certified nursing assistant program or other opportunities through the CTE partnership.

He said Marfa ISD teachers recently underwent training from the Region 18 Education Service Center relating to accountability and student academic growth and are focusing on improving STAAR scores in math and reading. “Moving forward, we know what the rating criteria is, now let’s focus on getting students from approaching [grade level], to a master’s [grade level]

and meets grade level,” Alferez said.

This year, Marfa ISD received a \$140,000 Strong Foundations Planning Grant from the state to improve its math curriculum. Next year, the district will receive a \$400,000 implementation grant from the same program.

Alferez said he is encouraging Marfa teachers to focus on the 2021-22 What If score of a C, rather than the 2021-22 actual score of a B, because it better reflects the new metrics TEA is using that generated the 2022-23 D rating.

“I wish we would have gone to C, versus the B, because when talking to the staff that is alarming when you drop two grade levels,” Alferez said. “Like I told our staff, these ratings are two years old. We can’t go back and try to adjust to what happened two years ago, the only thing we can do is be proactive as to where we want to improve.”

While there are several bills currently moving through the Texas Legislature that propose further changes to the education accountability rating system, Rinehart said Alpine ISD remains primarily focused on funding inequities. While school vouchers have become law, a school funding bill “hasn’t come anywhere near the governor’s desk,” she said.

“The intricacies of what the solutions look like for the accountability system legislation, we’re open to those,” Rinehart said. “But we think it’s short-sighted for a legislator to just be focused on those parts of the system without also looking at: how are we going to adequately fund public schools, particularly rural public schools, so that they’re equipped to make the kind of gains that we want in our communities?”

TEA Accountability Ratings and more data for each school district is available online at [TXSchools.gov](https://www.txschools.gov).

Porvenir

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important gesture toward righting the wrongs of the past and offering dignity to the deceased. “Everybody has a death certificate when they die,” explained Amanda Shields, granddaughter of Manuel Morales, at Monday’s proceedings.

Issuing a death certificate more than a century after the fact turned out to be a far from straightforward process. Form VS-128, or a “Court-Ordered Delayed Certificate of Death,” is a rarely-used piece of paperwork that is typically administered when a funeral home fails to complete required records. In 2019, former Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara approved a form

VS-128 for Porvenir victim Longino Flores, but later claimed that she had made a mistake and rejected the application for Morales’s certificate.

Gamboa decided that there would be no more mistakes going forward — he was brought in to serve as judge because of his expertise in probate matters — and extended his condolences to the families. “It doesn’t fix what happened, but at least it was recognized by the state,” he said.

Shields was joined on the floor of the courtroom by former Presidio County Judge Monroe Elms, a descendant of Harry Warren — Porvenir’s Anglo

schoolteacher at the time of the massacre. Thanks to Warren’s extensive documentation of the aftermath of the killings, Rep. Canales and others were able to shed light on the issue of anti-Mexican violence in Texas.

Elms said that the Porvenir Massacre was a tragic example of the consequences of racism against Mexican Americans and Indigenous people in Presidio County — echoes of which still persist to this day. “One thing we know about history — if we don’t stand up and take action, history can repeat itself,” he said. “We have to go forward and be a better country.”

Attention Presidio County property owners

From the Presidio County Appraisal District

Notices will soon be mailed to taxpayers whose value increased from 2024 to 2025. While many owners feel that the values of property have decreased due to the COVID epidemic, the data throughout Texas does not support a decrease. Record interest rates and people moving to Texas from other states have driven up the demand for all types of housing. Unfortunately, the appraisal district must keep pace with the increases in order for local schools to receive full funding and to comply with equal and uniform taxation.

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

When the taxpayer looks at the value proposed by the appraisal district, they should ask themselves if their property would likely sell for that amount. If

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

The issues that may be protested include:

- The appraised or market value of the property
- Unequal appraisal of the owner’s property
- Inclusion of the property on the appraisal records
- Denial of a partial exemption such as a homestead exemption
- Determination that agricultural or timberland designation has been denied

- Determination that agricultural of timberland has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax
- Identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the property is located
- Determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property
- Any other action of the appraisal district office or the ARB that adversely affects the owner

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

Copies are available from Presidio CAD, 107 E. Texas St., Marfa, Texas, on our website or from the Comptroller’s Property Tax Assistance Division website at comptroller.texas.gov/property-tax/

Additional local information can be obtained by contacting Presidio CAD 107 E. Texas St, Marfa, Texas.

POSTERS

RICHARD PRINCE

17 May – 07 December 2025

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Eleven paintings by Pat Meckfessel inspired by visits to World War I battlefields: Verdun and the Somme

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Water meter

(Continued from page 1)

redacted to only show the names of commercial properties since state law mandates that residential users’ utility records, the vast majority on the list, are not public. However, *The Sentinel* used another source to reveal those names, which will not be published to protect their privacy under law.

A review of the records and phone calls to account holders revealed several reasons for the zero-reads. One explanation became clear — houses using private wells for water. These residents, and possibly commercial users, maintain a utility account and are billed the standard service fee of \$17.64 for using less than 2,000 gallons per month. Since no water is flowing through the meters, they read zero usage. “We’ve historically gone off of how the water department just knows whose house is whose and who has a well and who doesn’t. . . . They could tell you right off the top of their head, ‘Oh, this one has a well,’” Perez said.

Perez and Salgado also walked through other possible causes for a meter appearing on the list: multiple meters at one site with only one used; broken meters not recording usage; or buried and inaccessible meters.

Two residents that appeared on the list told *The Sentinel* they are certain that they are using more than 2,000 gallons per month and don’t have wells — leaving them wondering if their meters are broken or whether they aren’t being read each

month. Salgado said the city is not currently using averaging, a method used in the past in Marfa when meters are not accessible for some reason and customers were billed on their history of past usage. (Some cities in the state use this method but still eventually get readings to correct any billing errors.)

Perez said that even with all the explanations offered for zero-read meters, there are still customers on the list who are using city water but only paying the minimum and getting free water if they use over 2,000 gallons. She said the city will eventually categorize which meters are truly broken and which just aren’t accessible, and customers with zero-read meters should be prepared for their bills to increase when they are billed for the actual water they use, not just the minimum charge.

Perez and Salgado noted an issue with the zero-read list — it still shows meters that have actually already been repaired. Some of the residences and businesses were listed every year from 2020 to date. Others, however, only showed up for a year or two, indicating those meters may have been fixed.

An answer to the problem is smart meters, which record water usage and transmit it back to the city with no human readers needed. City officials have expressed enthusiasm for the idea in the past, but with a price tag of \$800,000 for a total

overhaul of all meters, they have not moved forward with any purchases. But it is unclear why at least some smart meters were not explicitly budgeted for this year if the mayor and city staff were aware of the lengthy dead meter list. The City of Alpine recently approved a pilot project for 50 smart meters to evaluate their effectiveness and possible enhanced revenue.

At Tuesday’s City Council meeting, the mayor spoke on related issues. Baeza said during his mayor’s report that he met with accountants, and the city will be moving forward with new policies and procedures regarding when meters are read and when bills are sent. “We are going to have a timeline of, okay, you have to have their meters read by this day, bills have to go out by this day,” he said. Accountants will come in June to train city staff on the procedures.

Salgado said even standard meters are expensive, often hard to obtain on the market and take resources to install — all of which also leads to more meters being on the zero-read list.

Baeza told the council that the city received 24 new meters last week, which should be installed by the end of this week. “I’m going to speak with Chuck and see how many more we can purchase and have changed out, so we can get a hold of these meters that are no longer working or buried that they need to find,” he said.

City Council

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were involved. Council approved a motion to increase peace officer pay, beginning on May 20, in order to match the pay of surrounding law enforcement agencies of similar size and based on a payscale for beginner, intermediate and master officers provided by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Police Chief Gilberto Carrillo told *The Big Bend Sentinel* raises will apply to MPD officers excluding him and Lt. Fuentes. He said MPD’s starting pay was \$3 to \$5 below other area agencies' starting pay, which is why they pursued raising rates. “We couldn’t compete,” he said. “Additionally, the cost of living and lack of available housing in Marfa caused bigger issues for us when offering such a low rate.”

El Cosmico expansion

The El Cosmico relocation and expansion project, a 2023-announced plan that involves developing 61 acres in the Antelope Hills area of East Marfa, was

also discussed in executive session. El Cosmico and the city have been in talks regarding extending water and sewer services to the site for some time. The city is legally required to extend services because the property is located within their “certificate of conscience and necessity,” a Public Utilities Commission designation.

El Cosmico has agreed to foot the bill for the water and wastewater extension. City officials have stated that their primary concern is ensuring the extension does not overtax existing systems city residents rely on, leading them to have a water and wastewater feasibility study done.

Council voted to approve a motion allowing El Cosmico to engage a utilities surveyor of their choice, as long as it is also approved by the city’s engineer, with El Cosmico to pay for the entirety of the survey and the city’s engineering fees relating to the project moving forward.

MAC pool

Council voted to approve the same hours of operation and admission prices as last year for the MAC pool this summer. The pool could open as early as the first week of June if the city receives and can train enough lifeguards in time. Lifeguards must be 16 years or older and pass a swimming test. Standard job applications for the role can be found on the city’s website. Perez encouraged anyone who is interested to call or come by City Hall, or reach out to her.

The pool will be open from Wednesday to Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Daily fees are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 18, and \$1 for seniors 65 and older. Season passes are \$75 for adults, \$35 for children under 18 and seniors, and \$100 for families (up to five members). Private event requests will be assessed on an as-needed basis.

Newly improved Indian Lodge and Blackbear Restaurant reopen to the public

FORT DAVIS — The Indian Lodge and Blackbear Restaurant at the Davis Mountains State Park have reopened after a two-year-plus closure for renovations. Facilities shut down in January 2023 to undergo \$3.5 million worth of upgrades made possible by a legislative appropriation from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department capital repair program.

Work included beautification of the historic lodge, from new landscaping to repainted furniture, in addition to new doors and windows throughout the property. A new central air conditioner, courtyard irrigation system and resurfaced pool were also included in the upgrades. The restaurant received new kitchen equipment and lighting.

The original lodge structure was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), with the pool, meeting room and additional guest rooms being established in the 1960s.

While the Indian Lodge gift shop and restaurant have officially reopened, overnight stays will not begin until June 1 due to a scheduled water system update in mid-May. The Blackbear Restaurant is now serving buffet style breakfast and lunch Thursday through Monday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a brief closure between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Weekly menus will be posted on the park’s Facebook page. For more information, contact the Indian Lodge front office at 432-426-3254.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Bend National Park superintendent retiring

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — Big Bend National Park Superintendent Anjna O’Connor is retiring after 35 years of federal service and one year in the top office at Panther Junction. Rick Gupman, deputy superintendent, will be serving as acting superintendent until the position is permanently filled, representatives for the park told *The Big Bend Sentinel*.

O’Connor came to the park with a background serving with the Army Corps of Engineers. It was a relatively unusual path to a position typically served by career naturalists, but she served through a season of change and transition for the the park, leading a staff of nearly 100 through the lead-up to a major construction project in the Chisos Basin and a wave of layoffs ordered by Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.

Getting the opportunity to move back to West Texas with her husband was a welcome shift. “It was just a great opportunity to get back to natural resource management,” she told Marfa Public Radio last year.

Mobile Comunidad shuts down most programs after financial meltdown
FORT DAVIS — Board members for the nonprofit Mobile Comunidad

have halted several of its programs after they discovered the organization was broke and had no way to pay its employees for past work, according to Board President Todd Jagger. He penned a letter to the editor (page 4) on the nonprofits status.

Jagger said the organization — which provides free lunches to Fort Davis ISD students — will continue with its school lunch program but has halted its hospitality academy and restaurant/lodge, with employees left unpaid for at least a month’s worth of work.

Jagger said the nonprofit was not properly informed of the financial situation by its executive director, Jeanine Southerland, and after she retired, the board discovered a bank account with \$32. (Southerland, initially under the byline Jeanine Bishop, wrote several articles in the past year for The Big Bend Sentinel.)

“It is particularly heartbreaking and angering about the staff,” Jagger wrote in his letter. “These are our friends and neighbors, hourly wage workers who did nothing but show up day after day with a smile for all and working hard at their jobs. That’s wrong on every level. Getting them paid is our priority, and we have applied for grant funding to do so, but that funding is not assured.”

Southerland could not be immediately reached for comment, but she previously defended her work at the nonprofit and said the board was well aware of its financial situation. Expected grant revenue could have kept Mobile Comunidad afloat and pay employees, she said.

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The emperor's new scans: Richard Prince's ‘Posters’ in Marfa

By LG Williams
For The Big Bend Sentinel

With the twilight of Bruce Nauman — who defined American conceptual rigor for nearly three decades — the mantle now falls to Richard Prince and Paul McCarthy. One on the East Coast, the other on the West, they are the reigning artists of our age.

Prince's latest exhibition, Posters, arrives in Marfa at an odd moment in his career: months after his high-profile copyright controversies over his New Portraits series — in which he appropriated Instagram photographs without permission and faced legal consequences — and just shy of his 76th birthday. Now, with Posters, he appears in West Texas with a body of work that is a startling spectacle to say the least.

At Hetzler | Marfa, Prince reportedly exhibits large-scale canvases and works on paper sourced from the back pages of 1960s and '70s counterculture magazines. Anti-war slogans, psychedelic pin-ups, surrealist erotica, and garage-sale graphics are taped off, blown up, and reframed as painting. A request for further clarification from the gallery went unanswered. In the end, this art critic was left staring at an image of an image, passed off as a painting, with no clarification offered — a strange task, reviewing an appropriation from a digital approximation of another apparent digital appropriation.

So here I am, writing about art I haven't seen, which will be viewed by people looking at things equally unseen — but supposedly was actually seen by thousands at the time. Then Prince comes along, and well ... The perfect Prince scenario, isn't it? In fact, one of the images from the press release appears to show the scanner bed still at the bottom of the image. Prince DIY?

Untitled (2016), one of the more riotous works in the show, exemplifies Prince's talent for re-examining throwaway imagery from the past and present. A blown-up facsimile of a mail-order poster titled She

P674 SHE COMES IN COLORS
21x36 Only 1.98



P347 COME TOGETHER
14x9 on board Only 2.98

Richard Prince, “Untitled,” 2016 inkjet on canvas, 95 x 93 1/4 in

Comes in Colors (with a second, Come Together, advertised just below), the piece turns low-grade pulp erotica into a monumental object of ... ummm ... I'm not exactly certain. But the pixelated double-take does curdle if you look long and hard enough: What Prince is apparently repurposing is no longer 21 x 36 inches. It is no longer \$1.98. She is no longer coming — she's long gone. The couple are no longer together either — if they ever were the following day — and, as far as wood, well, the price of a piece of board is no longer a buck. "Things have changed," as Bob Dylan says.

Prince has earned his place in the canon, not because he repeats himself endlessly like most of his peers, but because he has the rare ability to work with the age — to grasp and go with the flow. What Prince and McCarthy also share is a refusal to retreat from difficulty. Moreover, like Picasso in his heyday, Prince and McCarthy are perhaps the greatest living contemporary art historians of our age. One would only wish that fixed-critics like Hal Foster could summon the same backbone. Watching them reflect upon art on YouTube should be mandatory for any

aspirational artist or art enthusiast.

We all need to thank Prince too for his Twitter/X and Instagram accounts, which in their active times were a sight to behold. Indeed, Prince's recent book, New Paintings, 2022 Fulton Ryder, is perhaps the most forward-thinking, candid and critically astute art or art history book of the 21st century. A must have! Wow now baby! Besides, it answers one of contemporary art's most pressing and enduring questions of the past three or four decades — the one first posed by the Guerrilla Girls back in 1989: Do women have to be naked to exhibit in an art gallery? According to all the evidence provided by Prince's beautiful book, the answer is right in plain sight: Sure, why not?

Heck, the art made by most of Prince's gorgeous and vibrant alternative “art” influencers is just as good — in many cases much better — than the safe, stale, early-mid-late-career race and gender work currently being cycled through white-walled mausoleums by legacy dealers pretending it's progress.

Richard Prince's Posters runs May 17 through December 7 at Hetzler | Marfa, 1976 Antelope Hills Road. Hours are Thursday through Sunday noon to 6 p.m. and by appointment. An opening will be held on Saturday, May 17, from 5 to 7 p.m.

LG Williams is a Los Angeles-based artist who has held positions including Endowed University Instructor at the Academy of Art University, Robert Hughes Distinguished Visual Artist-in-Residence at The Lodge in Hollywood, California, and Emmy Hennings Distinguished Professor at D(D).DDDD University. Williams has exhibited his work in various national and international venues, including the Internet Pavilion of La Biennale di Venezia. His art has been featured in prominent publications such as Artforum, The New York Times, Times Literary Supplement, The Guardian, Japan Times, Los Angeles Times, La Stampa, Bookforum, Purple Diary, Mousse Magazine, and The Brooklyn Rail, among others.

CORRECTIONS: A May 8 story, "Power lights up the rodeo arena, but the facilities still need care — and new kids," stated that TxDOT would be responsible for maintaining the entrance road to El Cosmico. Should it be realized, El Cosmico would be responsible for maintaining the entrance road. TxDOT is accountable for improvements on the adjacent Golf Course Road, to which County Commissioner Deirdre Hisler was speaking.

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AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thur May 15

Crafts & Drafts
4pm - 8pm at Alcove Social
\$1 off all Craft & Draft beers from 4pm-8pm.

Calamity Creek
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Calamity Creek play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Art Lovers Book Club
4pm - 5pm at MAINTENANT
The Pursuit of Art: Travels, Encounters and Revelations by Martin Gayford.

Marfa Distribution Day
4pm - 6pm at Marfa Food Pantry

Sun May 18

Open Mic On The Patio
4pm - 6pm at Alcove Social
Alcove Social hosts Open Mic every Sunday afternoon at 4pm on the patio! Come play or just sit back and enjoy the music.

UFO Contact Tour
7pm - 10pm at Marfa Lights Viewing Area
A few miles east of Marfa, we're going to meditate, reach out to the Marfa Lights, and invite them to come and join us!

Fri May 16

Jake Esparza
7pm - 9pm at Alcove Social
Alcove Social on Friday, May 16th, from 7-9 PM for a live performance by the talented Jake Esparza.

Ross Fleming
7pm - 9pm at The Ritchey
Come watch Ross Fleming play at The Ritchey, no cover!

Texas Hold 'Em Tournament
6pm - 9pm at Magical Warehouse
Rio Raton Cardroom is hosting a Poker Tournament to benefit the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend! Join the fun Friday, May 16th, 7pm. Buy-in is \$25.00.

Magic The Gathering
6pm - 9pm at Magical Warehouse
Magical Warehouse is hosting weekly Magic the Gathering games.

Sat May 17

DDUST: Small things add up to something significant
2pm at Art Blocks Gallery
Digital artist Jiwa completes his artist residency with a presentation titled "Small Things Add Up to Something Significant", open to the public this Saturday. Artist talk at 2:30pm

Community Tree Planting
9am - 12pm at Alpine Public Library
Community Tree Planting Event for the Patty Manning Pollinator Garden at the Alpine Public Library.

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Free Zumba Classes
Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Marfa Public Library

Yin Yoga
Tuesdays at 12pm at Marfa Public Library

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

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

AA (in-person)
Monday & Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Alpine Farmers Market
Saturday at 9:00am - 12:00pm at Alpine Visitor Center

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

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LG Williams, Stack #193, 2025, Dimensions and Materials Variable, Private Collection: Carré d'Or - Monte Carlo, Monaco

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Opinion

To the Editor:

Thank you for mentioning us in last week's Sentinel — writing about the proposed cuts in federal funding to public radio stations, including Marfa Public Radio.

I'm writing as the interim executive director of Marfa Public Radio.

For the average public radio station, the federal funding is less than 10% of the budget. We're not an average station — we get about 30% of our funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (which starts out from federal appropriations) — \$470,000 in 2025 out of a total budget just over \$1.4 million). We also receive a discount for the national programming we use, a recognition by both the funders and the program providers of the importance of making sure Americans have access to this service. While this makes it possible for us to provide the service, the loss of the federal support will be very difficult to sustain.

We will do everything we can to fill the gap, and do what we can with what remains. I have no doubt that the rest of public radio will do the same.

You (Sentinel readers) can help through your financial support, and also by contacting your representatives. Call or write them to say why the service is important to you. If you do, say you are against Rescission (of already appropriated funds) and for continued federal appropriations, which makes this lifeline service to this area possible.

You can find much more at <https://protectmypublicmedia.org/> — Protect my Public Media is a clearinghouse of information and ways to weigh in about federal support for public radio and television.

Tom Livingston
Interim Executive Director
Marfa Public Radio

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A message to our community

From the Board of Directors of Mobile Comunidad:

It's no secret in our community that something has gone wrong at Mobile Comunidad. But despite the problems, MC has continued, and will continue to fulfill our mission of serving hot, healthy lunches to FDISD school children.

The board hasn't made any public statements yet because, truthfully, we're still piecing together exactly what happened. But this community deserves to know what's going on, and we will be open and honest about it.

Yes, MC is in a financial crisis. Under the prior management, key obligations were not met, including rent and unpaid staff. The café and lodge were taken back by the landlords. MC was left with \$32 in the bank, a mountain of bills, and no way to bring in income other than donations. We found ourselves in a deep, deep financial hole without a ladder.

It is particularly heartbreaking and angering about the staff. These are our friends and neighbors, hourly wage workers who did nothing but show up day after day with a smile for all and working hard at their jobs. That's wrong on every level. Getting them paid is our priority, and we have applied for grant funding to do so, but that funding is not assured.

This board takes full responsibility for being slow to act on the warning signs, being too trusting, and not intervening sooner. But when action was clear, action was taken. These were hard lessons to learn, and we learned them. We've already put strict financial controls in place and taken other steps to stabilize the organization and prevent this from happening again.

While we're working to fully understand how things went off track, what matters most is keeping our commitment to feeding the school kids. We've served over 13,000 healthy meals to FDISD students. About 90 percent of elementary kids count on us for lunch. This is in the county with the highest rate of school-age child poverty in Texas, and one of the highest in the country. What we do is important. Hunger should never be part of a child's school day.

And this community has shown they believe in what we're doing. The

County and Volunteer Fire Department have let us use the fire station kitchen to prepare school lunches through the end of the school year. The state health inspector got us lined out on using it properly. The West Texas Food Bank has provided food. Bencomo's Motorport donated new tires for the lunch truck, and Higginbotham's filled its propane tanks. Citizens and funders have encouraged us to keep going, and that's exactly what we're doing.

Some of you have already donated, and we're deeply grateful. We do need more donations, and we want to assure you that your donation will be used responsibly, with full transparency and accountability. If you tell us how you want your donation to be used, that's what we'll do. No amount is too small. And if you don't trust us yet, that's okay. You can donate to the West Texas Food Bank and include a note that it's for Mobile Comunidad's food.

There's also been some confusion in the community about whether Mobile Comunidad is connected with the Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County. We're not. MC and the Food Pantry are two completely separate nonprofits. We've supported each other's work, but we've always had separate staff, boards, and finances. The problems at Mobile Comunidad are ours alone and must not reflect on the Food Pantry and the good work they're doing.

As bad as things might be right now, we see opportunity. We can embrace what's possible when a community comes together around its children. With your support, we will be stronger, more accountable, and better able to serve Fort Davis for years to come. We're not just rebuilding, we are creating the organization our community deserves. And honestly, that's exciting.

For questions or follow-up, contact Todd Jagger, Board President & Treasurer, Mobile Comunidad, todd@mobilecomunidad.org.

If you'd like to support our recovery and help sustain the school lunch program, you can scan this code or visit these links to donate. <https://bit.ly/donate-to-mc> and <https://bit.ly/donate-to-wtxfb>

Chinati is an art foundation
created by Donald Judd and
opened to the public in 1986.

Chinati is open Wednesday through
Sunday. Office hours and guided
tour times are seasonal. For details
and reservations, please come to
the Visitor Center (1 Cavalry Row)
or go to chinati.org/visit.

Free entrance is available for residents
of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.



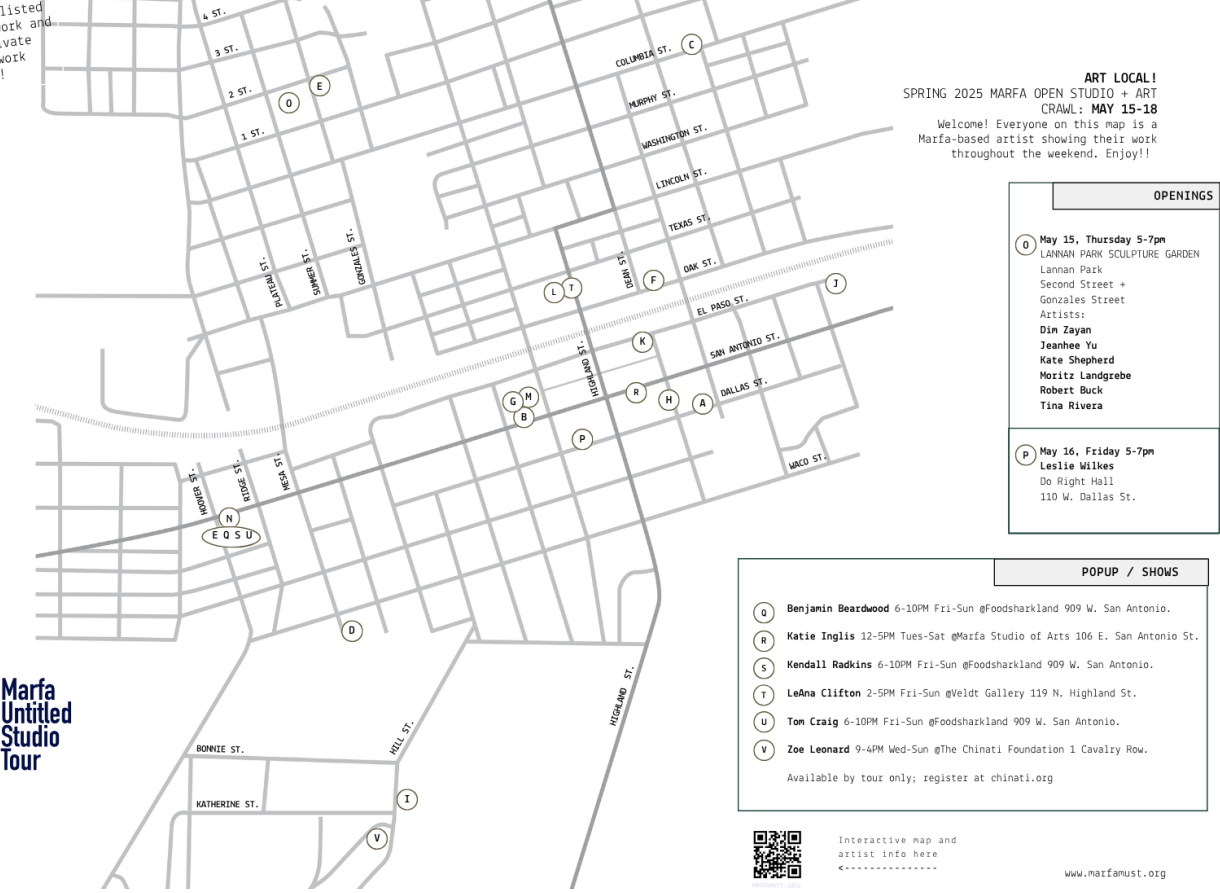
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Marfa United Studio Tour (MUST) is back for more showings

Meet the Artist behind the Art. Select artists listed below are opening their studio to share their work and process with you. These are personal, often private spaces-so it's a rare chance to see where the work happens and what inspires it. Go to the source!

ARTIST OPEN STUDIOS	
MAY 16 FRIDAY	
A	TEAN GOEWING* 10AM 205 E. Dallas St. (The Luneyard)
B	MILES GLYNN* 12PM 208 W. El Paso St. #3
C	DARLENE MARWITZ 2PM 405 E. Columbia St.
D	CODY BARBER* 4PM 410 S. Hecia St.
E	ADAM BOK* 6PM 400 W. Second St. (The Done)
MAY 17 SATURDAY	
F	KATIE INGLIS 10AM 203 E. Oak St. (Enter through alley)
G	MELIX BENTON & FRANCIS BENTON 12PM 208 W. El Paso St. #6
H	LOGAN CALBECK* 2PM 211 S. Dean St.(Cobra Rock)
I	JULIE SPEED 4PM 520 Katherine St. (Next to Chinati)
MAY 18 SUNDAY	
J	VALERIE ARBER 10AM 501 E. El Paso
K	ROBERT ARBER* 12PM 128 E. El Paso St. (Arber & Son)
L	GUY SEALEY* 2PM 119 N. Highland St.
M	DIM ZAVAN* 4PM 208 W. El Paso St. #2
N	WAYNE PEACOCK* 6PM 409 W. San Antonio St.
* Additional hours available. Contact artist for details.	



From MUST
This season we are introducing a new format for our open studio program to showcase our local artists. Each artist has a dedicated window of time with the intention to bring a more focused attention to the studio host and to offer an easier navigation for the visitors. Also, this setup allows our artists to go to each other's open studio. We discovered that there were some artists who have known about an artist but have not yet met in person.

We believe that this new format allows for more freedom to meet other artists and show up for support as to cultivate friends with each other.
We also will hold our second sculpture garden at Lannan Park in Marfa with an opening party. There will be poetry reading, music, sound scapes and refreshing beverages. Come meet the local artists, see and hear their art, and drink it all in on Thursday, May 15, 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday Market moves to Cactus Food Court and Flea Market

From the Marfa Saturday Market

MARFA — The Marfa Saturday Market announces an exciting new collaboration with the Cactus Food Court and Flea Market. Starting Saturday morning, May 17, there will be an all-day Saturday Market at Cactus Liquors every week.
The Farmers Market will set up at 10 a.m. with the fresh produce, foods and goods well known for our regular market. Your favorite growers will be back with Bob Schwab, Greg and Eleanor Taylor, Jill Miller and more to be announced.
Around noon the market will transition to the Cactus Liquors Food Court and Flea, opening at 12 p.m. and running to 5 p.m. and offering a variety of local

chefs cooking up their lunch side-hustle like tacos, roasted elote, popsicles and more to come.
For the flea market side of it, folks will be vending anything from objects they're ready to part with, to handmade wares, art, used clothing, etc.
One Tail at a Time (OTAT) will have puppies and dogs ready to adopt, and Cactus will have free tastings of natural wines and other fine spirits.
Please join us for this fun community collaboration that will bring Marfa more variety of foods and goods created by your neighbors. Cactus Liquors is located at 405 South Highland Ave.

Come worship with us



First United Methodist Church

*Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.*
Isaiah 41:10

Sundays 9 am
Pastor Stephen White
110 W Washington Steet
Marfa 432-729-4534

Please
recycle
this
paper

DRAWING OF THE WEEK



Jade Martinez
6th grade - Chalk

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.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

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

☺ MARFA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU ☺

MAY	Thu, May 15	Fri, May 16	Mon, May 19	Tue, May 20	Wed, May 21
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST PARFAIT, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	STRUDEL, CHEESE STICKS, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	NO SCHOOL	FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK	POWER BREAKFAST, JUICE, FRUIT, MILK
LUNCH	BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS, CHIPS, CELERY, CARROTS, MIXED FRUIT	STEAK FINGERS, GRAVY, ROLL, GREEN BEANS, CORN, PEACHES	NO SCHOOL	BURGER CHOICE, POTATOES, TOMATO CUP, FRUIT	PB&J CHEESE STICKS, CARROTS, TOMATOES, APPLE SLICED, DESSERT

Good Guad <i>Some dirt to sleep on</i> guad.co	Astrology Readings <i>book online at:</i> www.MarfaTarot.com	YOUR AD HERE! ONLY \$10 / WEEK Contact ads@bigbendsentinel.com	PRESCRIPTION SHOP MARFA <i>A full-service pharmacy. Now accepting many insurance plans for service while you wait.</i> 105 East Oak Street, next to Marfa Country Clinic 432.729.4244 rxshopmarfa@gmail.com
ALTA MARFA WINERY Texas Wine & Food Friday - Sunday 5:00pm - 10:00pm 120 N Austin St. instagram: @altamarfa for updates	 MARFA SHORTHORNS SPORTS CALENDAR NO SPORTS EVENTS THIS WEEK		

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 4, 2025

ACROSS 1 At a loss for words 11 "In a way" 14 "With luck, it'll happen" 15 Certain car roof 17 They ebb and flow 18 "Star Trek" lieutenant 19 Spirited school get-togethers? 20 Foot or mile 21 HS diploma equivalent 22 Give off 24 _____ Rabbit (folktale character) 26 Combustible building 30 Top part of a parka 31 Straight shots? 32 Trains for a marathon 33 Pokes 34 12-month period 35 Appalachian music genre 37 "You're a _____" ("Thanks, sweetie") 38 Jupiter or Neptune, e.g. 39 _____chef 40 Hand treatment, informally 41 Pull 42 Electric fan noise 44 Hot places to chill 51 Form a metalworking union?	 52 NBA Hall-of-Famer whose first name rhymes with "pearl" 53 Like all public transit in Luxembourg, minus first class on trains 54 Boxer's injury, perhaps 55 Tax form fig. 56 Basic book DOWN 1 Sticky substance 2 _____upon a time ... 3 Alert that your TV dinner has been sufficiently microwaved 4 "Souvenir" from surgery 5 Got by all right 6 One of two for a reindeer 7 Car seat user 8 _____Lee, blind winner of "America's Got Talent" 9 Heaviest fencing sword 10 Basbousa and bananas Foster, for two 11 "That outfit looks nice" 12 Acrobatic video compilations 13 Colorful Hindu festival	 16 "____ that down!" (exasperated parent's cry) 23 Passable at best 24 Airline credit card enticement 25 Floral White House area 26 Finish, as a cupcake 27 Some birth control devices, for short 28 Shriveling Asian sea 29 Mini-golf standard 30 Dance with Kahiko and 'Auna varieties 31 Actress Kelly Marie _____ 32 Supreme Court inits. from 1993-2020 33 "Thank the Lord" 36 _____and tonic 37 Target for a canine's canines 39 It comes before the fall 41 Like a chatterbox 42 Org. with a panda logo 43 Pronoun on a certain towel 45 Gold-medal long jumper 46 _____Davis-Woodhall 47 Actress Kendrick of "Pitch Perfect" 48 Walked (on) 49 A kinky one doesn't work well 50 Prophet
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	I	T	A	B	E	T	S	P	E	S	T	O			
I	M	E	S	S	E	D	U	P	U	S	M	A	P		
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			O	R	D		T	U	R	R	E	T	S		
I	V	E	S	E	E	N	E	N	O	U	G	H			
M	A	Y		S	N	A	R	K		B	O	T	C		
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5/3 © 2025 Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

5/4 **Themeless Sunday 132 by Adrian Johnson**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13		
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17											18				
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42	43					44	45	46				47	48	49	50
51						52									
53						54									
	55					56									

FOR SALE - 900 & 902 West El Paso

Price reduced on two (2) adobe homes on two lots in west central Marfa. Nicely updated main home with new paint, flooring, fixtures, lighting and windows. The other home is an older adobe and is structurally sound but has not been occupied in many years. This property offers many options. Motivated seller. Buyer's agents welcome. Asking \$225,000

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Judd Foundation

Experience Donald Judd's art as installed within his former living and working spaces in downtown Marfa. These spaces, including his libraries and studios, consider his ideas for the permanent installation of art within historic buildings.

Judd Foundation is open Tuesday through Sunday and offers two distinct guided visits. Please visit our office, 104 South Highland Avenue, or website for the current schedule.

For more information and to book reservations please visit juddfoundation.org or call 432 729 4406.

Free for residents of Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties.

JUDD

OBITUARIES



Reyes

Nelda L. Reyes, a devoted mother and vibrant spirit, peacefully left this world on May 11, 2025, at the age of 66 in Fort Stockton, Texas. Born on March 12, 1959, in Alpine, Texas, Nelda was a lifelong resident of Brewster County, where she touched the lives of many through her warmth, kindness, and zest for life.

A proud graduate of Alpine High School, Nelda's spirit shone brightly during her school years. She was actively involved in sports and the

school band, showcasing her love for music and athleticism. Those who knew her would often speak of her infectious joy for life, as she reveled in singing and dancing — activities that brought her immense happiness and were always shared with her loved ones.

Nelda's role as a devoted mother was central to her identity. She cherished her children fiercely, and her legacy will live on through their lives. Dwayne Kristopher Reyes (Candes), Wesley Ryan

Reyes II (Patsy), Kaila De'Lon Martinez (Pedro), K'Lan Kelsey Reyes (Maggie), and Destinee Rae Kellam (Henry) were fortunate to have a mother whose love knew no bounds. Her nurturing spirit and unwavering support provided them with the foundation they needed to thrive.

Beyond her immediate family, Nelda was surrounded by the love of her mother, Maria E. Melgoza; sisters, Pamela Melgoza and Ruth Macias (Joe); her 17 grandchildren;

and numerous nieces and nephews, who witnessed the light that Nelda brought into the world. Though her heart grieved the loss of her beloved husband, Andres Reyes Jr., and her son, Wesley Ryan Reyes I, Nelda found solace in her faith, which she cherished deeply.

The void left by the passing of her father, Ruben D. Melgoza, was a testament to her strength and resilience as she navigated life with grace and positivity. Nelda lived her life filled with laughter

and a passion for making beautiful memories with those she held dear.

As we remember Nelda L. Reyes, it is her love of life, her spirit of joy, and her devotion to family that will forever resonate in our hearts. She will be dearly missed, yet her legacy will continue through the laughter and happiness she instilled in her children and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Rest in peace, dear Nelda, until we meet again.



Ishmael

deeply devout Christian, she openly shared her love for the Lord in “praise” songs that she joyfully wrote and sang. She was a published author of poems and spiritual essays encouraging everyone to love and care for each other.

Miriam was born in St. Philips Parish, Barbados, West Indies, on November 21, 1935, to Ione Albertha (née Squires) and Timothy Gladstone Ishmael, the third of nine children. She was raised in a Christian home with regular church attendance and adherence to Biblical principles. She recalled her mother as a kind, loving and caring woman, and a wonderful cook. Christmas was always special. Her minister father worked as a tailor; he was a disciplinarian with a sense of humor. She had vocal and speech

issues as a child but loved drawing and writing. She completed high school and trained as a dressmaker, demonstrating creative skills and designs in wedding attire and apparel.

Miriam will be remembered dearly and lovingly missed by everyone who was fortunate to meet her and could call her friend or neighbor. She was kind, caring, compassionate and outspoken. Her abiding faith and love of Jesus Chris carried her through to the end of life. She loved to shop and cook “Bajan” dishes, after spending the day shopping in Alpine happily greeting everyone she knew. She was a member of Terlingua Bible Church with Pastor Jerry and Donna Enmon.

She made a lifelong friend, Ruth James, an educator from the Commonwealth of Dominica, with

whom she shared a deep bond and religious faith while also gaining an extended family. Mrs. James encouraged her further educational pursuits and medical care for Miriam’s vocal problems, which were addressed in Manchester, England, where she also became certified in midwifery. She subsequently moved to Toronto, Canada, where three of her younger sisters and older brother lived, to continue her studies obtaining a nursing degree, a BSN from Geo Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology. Miriam made many friends in Canada and became a citizen, but the cold Canadian winters led to emigration to the United States via St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Thereafter, she moved to West Texas, worked as a licensed registered nurse

in several cities, sought permanent U.S. residency and eventually became a U.S. citizen. During the period of “Y2K” she retired and settled in Terlingua. Miriam was enthralled by the majestic beauty around her; she bought a piano and took the moniker “Desert Lady vowing to never leave,” always basking in the companionship of her various cats.

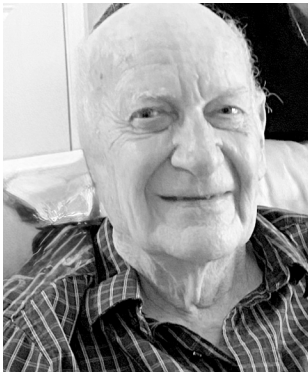
She was preceded in death by her parents, Ione and Timothy Ishmael; her brother Wilbert (Barbara) Ishmael; sisters Vernita (Rueben) Briggs, Cicely and Sheila Ishmael.

She is survived by her brother Charles (Patricia) Ishmael; her sisters Marguerite (Carlton) Howell, Jean and Patricia Ishmael in Canada and Barbados; nieces Grace Sandiford, Sharon Howel; and nephews Ronald

Ishmael, Rueben Briggs Jr. and Adrian Howell. Also, her extended family, the James’ including Anne (Harold) Piper; Meldora (Keith) Beckwith; her goddaughter, Julia; Priscilla; Melvin; Henrison; Adelbert; Orville; and Duane James.

Visitation with family viewing will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Grace Christian Fellowship, 801 E. Brown Ave Alpine, Texas, with the funeral service to start at noon and burial to follow at Holy Angels Cemetery. A memorial service will be held the following day at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Terlingua Bible Church in Terlingua, Texas.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine, Texas.



Watkins

Wellness in Kemp, Texas, where he had resided for the past two-and-a-half years.

Born on August 6, 1938, in Monahans, Texas, John was the son of C.E. and Martha Watkins. He graduated from Monahans High School in 1956 and went on to attend Tarleton State University and Texas Tech University. John proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Peggy Duncan, mother of his daughters Kim and Dee; his second wife, Glen Richburg Bromley, whom he married on November 23, 1978; his parents, C.E. and Martha Watkins; three

brothers; three sisters; stepson Bill; and stepdaughter Elizabeth. John is survived by his daughters Kim and Dee, stepson Ed, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

From 1969 to 1985, John owned and operated the Hut Drive Inn in Alpine, Texas. In 1980, he and Glen opened Alpine’s first art gallery, sharing their love of art with the community. He was a proud member of American Legion Post #79 in Alpine and a Master Mason of AF & AM Frontier Lodge No. 766.

A graveside service will be held at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine, Texas on Friday, May 16, 2025, at noon. All who knew and loved John are warmly invited to attend.



Galindo

It is with profound grief and sadness that we announce the death of our mother, **Elisa Garcia Galindo**, on October 4, 2024, in San Marcos, Texas. She was 100 years old. Our mother was born to Emiliano Garcia

and Dolores Quintela on September 27, 1924, in Marfa, Texas. She was a graduate of Marfa High School. She married Israel Galindo and was the mother of six children: Israel Jr., Eloy, Nora, Dora, Oscar and Helen. After Oscar graduated from high school, she went to work for the food stamp program. She then became a foster mother for nine years, caring for children who needed a home. At 59 years old, she went back to school, graduating from Sul Ross State University's nursing program in 1983. She then worked for home health care agencies and nursing homes in El Paso and Dallas for almost a decade.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Emiliano and Dolores Garcia; her brothers, Sam and Frank;

her sister, Minnie; her husband, Israel; her son Israel Jr.; her granddaughter Casey; her grandson Cid Galindo; and her great-grandson Joey.

She is survived by her children Eloy Galindo, and wife, Lorena, of El Paso, Texas; Nora Gold and husband, Joseph, of San Diego, California; Dora Galindo of Grand Prairie, Texas; Oscar and wife, Jeannette, of Tyrone, Georgia; and Helen Sotelo and husband, Jesus Noel Sotelo. She leaves behind 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. She wished to be buried with her mother in Marfa's Merced Cemetery. Graveside services will be held on May 17, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Funeral services were handled by Legends Funeral Home, San Marcos, Texas.

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ART NOTES

Jiwa completes artist in residency with Saturday Art Blocks reception

MARFA — Digital artist Jiwa completes his artist residency at Art Blocks gallery with a presentation titled, "Small Things Add Up to Something Significant," open to the public this Saturday.

Jiwa's residency project, DDUST, presents dust as pixels, where minimalism inspires maximalism in a rocky desert setting. DDUST is a personal collage of Jiwa's experiences in Marfa and West Texas. A reception will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m, drinks

provided, and the talk starts at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17th. DDUST can be viewed following the talk for a limited time at Art Blocks gallery — 109 W. San Antonio Street.

Meckfessel’s Greasewood exhibit explores impressions from WWI battlefields

MARFA — The Greasewood Gallery at the Hotel Paisano will be presenting 11 paintings by Marfa resident Pat Meckfessel in a show entitled 11•4•11/11, running from May 16 – June 22.

The exhibition title references the date and hour of the World War I Armistice and conveys impressions formed during a personal visit in 2022 to the battlefields of Verdun and the Somme.

Once stark scenes of savagery, the battlefields are now mostly farms and meadows, interlaced with ruins of forts and trenches. Nevertheless, a consciousness of what happened there infuses everything. This series of paintings reflects the artist’s search for a deeper understanding of the First World War, combining her research, her firsthand perception, and her surprise at finding beauty in what is inherently haunting.

The opening reception is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 16.

D.U.S.T. – A gathering in the desert Memorial Day weekend

LOBO — D.U.S.T. is a gathering of humans in appreciation of nature, the arts, live music, and community — set out in the beautiful desert wasteland of Lobo Flats, about nine miles from the old Lobo Ghost Town. D.U.S.T. is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 23 to 26, with camping Friday to Monday and music Friday through Sunday, starting around dusk.

There will be live music and performances, artworks and installations (including sound and video), and access to Matthew Gray’s large-scale outdoor sculptures a couple of miles down the road.

Campers and daytime visitors should bring whatever they need: food, water and a chair. We’ll have grills going and a very basic outdoor kitchen set up. Sharing food and drink is lovely (and encouraged), but not required.

What’s offered: a place to camp, see some art, hear some music, and enjoy the raw wonder of this place. Yes, there is shade.

Inspired by gatherings at the old Lobo ghost town from 2001 to 2023, Wini Hulton-Chan and Adam Bork hope to bring people together in the Desolate Unique Solitary Terrain (D.U.S.T.) of Lobo Flats to enjoy art, music, camping and good company.

For anyone wanting to show art or perform, space and time are still available. Contact Wini or Adam at dustlobo@gmail.com.

Finalized music schedule and art map will be posted on the website a few days prior. For directions, an art map, and the music schedule, visit dustlobo.com Instagram: @dustlobo.

Food pantry’s Fresh Produce Match Challenge raises over \$45,000

FORT DAVIS — A community-wide fundraising effort led by the Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County has exceeded expectations, bringing in more than \$46,000 to support access to fresh fruits and vegetables for local families.

The pantry’s Fresh Produce Match Challenge, launched earlier this spring, promised to double every dollar donated up to \$20,000, thanks to a matching gift from the Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation of Dallas. Local donors rose to the occasion and then some, contributing over \$26,000 to the campaign.

“This is a wonderful example of neighbors showing up for neighbors,” said Vicki Gibson, executive director of the Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County. “We’re thrilled and grateful to see our community come together like this.”

The \$46,000 total will help the pantry provide fresh produce year-round to nearly 250 households across

Jeff Davis County. In a rural area where access to healthy food is limited and grocery costs are high, fresh produce is often the first thing to go from the family budget. The funds raised will ensure that items like apples, oranges, leafy greens, squash and root vegetables remain available to those who need them most.

Board members and staff emphasized that this effort goes beyond numbers. “When people donate to the pantry, they’re putting food on the table and reminding others that they matter,” said Chuck Hummel, food pantry board president.

The Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County serves residents through twice-monthly distributions, home deliveries, and special programs focused on children and seniors. The organization has seen rising demand in recent years, particularly for fresh, healthy options.

More information about the pantry’s programs is on their website: foodpantry-jdc.org

Marfa Public radio names new executive director

From Marfa Public Radio

MARFA — Marfa Public Radio announced last week that Anne Pitts Marozas has been named the next executive director of Marfa Public Radio.

Pitts Marozas steps into this role following the remarkable tenure of Elise Pepple, whose eight years of leadership transformed Marfa Public Radio into a nationally recognized force in independent journalism, storytelling and local culture. Pitts Marozas reflects:

“It’s an incredible honor to inherit and deepen the meaningful work Elise led over the past eight years,” she said. “She cultivated a station that’s deeply rooted in the people, places, and stories that make this region so special. I’m excited to carry that legacy forward and help shape the station’s next chapter.”

Pitts Marozas brings nearly two decades of experience leading mission-driven organizations focused on community connection, philanthropy and civic engagement. As executive director of the Levitt Shell in Memphis, she transformed a historic amphitheater into a vibrant gathering place for shared experience through music. At City Leadership, she led equity-focused initiatives and advised the launch of a new community radio station — an experience that deepened her belief in the power of local media to reflect, connect and serve the full spectrum of a community’s voices. Pitts Marozas and her husband, Michael Marozas, have made Marfa their full-time home; he is the founder of the Marfa Yacht Club, a unique space for Airstream enthusiasts.

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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

LET’S DESIGN OUR FUTURE PARKS

The Marfa Parks & Recreation Board is seeking community input on improvements to Sunset Park and Coffield Park

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

DATE

MAY 28, 2025

TIME

4:30PM–6:30PM

LOCATION

MARFA PUBLIC LIBRARY
COURTYARD OPEN HOUSE!

GET INVOLVED

- This is a come-and-go event open to all ages, English and Spanish translation will be available
- Come share your ideas, priorities, and hopes for these public spaces
- Your input and feedback will help guide the vision and design of these two parks



HOSTED BY

Circle V Marfa Parks & Recreation
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

432-244-8343
432-729-4315

TALLER COMUNITARIO

¡DISEÑEMOS NUESTROS FUTUROS PARQUES!

La Junta de Parques y Recreación de Marfa está buscando la opinión de la comunidad para mejorar Sunset Park y Coffield Park.

¡QUEREMOS ESCUCHARTE!

FECHA

28 DE MAYO 2025

HORA

4:30 PM–6:30 PM

LUGAR

BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA DE MARFA
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PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

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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.

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Más información disponible en: <https://chinati.org/jobs/>



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marfa Parks and Recreation Development Corporation will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Marfa Public Library Courtyard, to take public comments on the proposed Coffield Park and Sunset Park Professional Landscape Architecture Design Improvement Project.

The public is invited to attend and participate.

The City of Marfa is hiring for part-time **Lifeguards for the Summer!**

- Must be at least 16 yrs old.
- **MUST** be able to pass the lifeguard test.
- Training and Certification will be held May 31 – June 2.
- City will pay for & provide transportation for all lifeguard training.

For more information, please call City Hall @ 432-729-4315

Applications deadline is Friday, May 23, 2025.



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- Must be at least 16 yrs old
- Must be willing and able to work outside

2 positions available in the Streets/Recycling Department
1 position available in the Water/Sewer Department

Contact City Hall for more information or for an application. 432-729-4315

Deadline for applications is Friday, May 30, 2025



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