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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.



Students gather around the rug at Wonder School Marfa Montessori.

Wonder School Marfa Montessori celebrates 4 years, hosts open house

When Wonder School Marfa opened its doors nearly four years ago in the fall of 2022, teacher Emily Steriti and parents hoped to fill a gap in the local education system. Though a few things have changed since the beginning, the microscool plans to continue offering Montessori education to the Marfa community for its fifth school year next fall.

Initially begun after Marfa ISD closed down the integrated Montessori pathway in the elementary school, Marfa parents reached out to Steriti—who had spearheaded the public Montessori program at Marfa schools and taught the ages 3-6 early childhood classroom—to propose an alternative learning environment for their children.

“So now I’m looking for a place where I can be my entire Montessori self, be supported, and help the people I love the most, which is the children,” Steriti told *Big Bend Sentinel* in the spring of 2022 as the framework of Wonder School took shape.

Then, as now, Wonder School

offers a full-day learning environment four days a week for children grades K-5, utilizing Montessori curriculum in a mixed-ages classroom “where education is reimagined and curiosity is fostered through the cultivation of mind, body, and spirit,” according to their mission statement. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, their aim has been to provide high-quality Montessori education at a low cost to families in Marfa and the surrounding communities.

Though some of the original students have aged out or moved away, the school has maintained a cohort of 8-10 students. The school currently has nine children who will be returning next fall and is accepting new students to join the classroom.

For families interested in learning more, Wonder School Marfa Montessori is holding an Open House at 110 W Washington St., Unit #1, in the Methodist Church on Friday, May 15, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Visit wonderschoolmarfa.org or email info@wonderschoolmarfa.org with any questions.

Water in the Desert 2026 materials online

Alpine

The recent Water in the Desert conference in Alpine brought together landowners, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders for important conversations about the future of water in West Texas. Hosted by the Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water, the conference highlighted both the challenges facing the region and the collaborative solutions taking shape across the Trans-Pecos.

Now, the ideas and insights shared during the conference are available online. Videos from every conference session, along with written session recaps and conference materials, are available free to the public on the institute’s website.

“From groundwater challenges to practical solutions, the discussions in Alpine made one thing clear: progress depends on shared knowledge and strong partner-

ships,” said Billy Tarrant, interim director of the Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water. “If you joined us, I hope you’ll revisit a few sessions. If you couldn’t attend, this is your chance to catch up.”

More than 350 landowners, scientists, groundwater conservation district leaders, legislators, judges, nonprofit partners and community members gathered at Sul Ross State University for Water in the Desert 2026 in February, the first major event hosted by the newly launched Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water. The strong turnout, up significantly from the inaugural 2024 conference, underscored both the urgency of water challenges in Far West Texas and the growing momentum behind a coordinated, science-driven response.

You can find the conference material here: meadowsresearchinstitute.sulross.edu/water-in-the-desert-2026



BRENDA LADD PHOTOGRAPHY

Louis Harveson, Billy Tarrant and Eric Meadows have been the guiding forces of the new Institute and the Water in the Desert conference.

Children’s book illustrator offers creative programs



Rachel Mas Davidson is the author of two children’s books, *I Love You Mucho, Mucho* and *The Helping Sweater*.

Fort Davis

A new exhibit on display at the Jeff Davis County Library in Fort Davis offers a sneak peek at what is in store when special guest artist, Rachel Mas Davidson will highlight her work on Tuesday, May 26. The selection of her framed art that is currently in the community space expresses the magic and joy of children’s books that the library showcases and is available for everyone to explore.

At 10 a.m., an “Improv Story Time” will provide a creative hour for children, inviting their partici-

pation in a group project to create an original story and sketch its main character together. Davidson will read one of her books and encourage innovation and spontaneous art for the children to enjoy during the session. All materials will be provided.

Afterwards at 1 p.m., “The Artist’s Life” will tell what it takes to become a professional artist and explain the process that her life followed after serving as an art teacher in public schools for 12 years. She will tell of her discovery of journaling and its evolution

into her creativity.

Davidson is the author of two children’s books, *I Love You Mucho, Mucho* and *The Helping Sweater*. She also is the illustrator of *Pocket Full of Sads*, *Littlest Food Critic*, *I Like Your Face* and *Teachers In the Wild*. A Cuban-American artist, Davidson has a B.F.A. from the Art Institute of Dallas and gives private art lessons when not illustrating books.

This is a free program sponsored by the Friends of the Library; for further details visit jeffdaviscountylibrary.ploud.net.

CLASSIFIEDS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit by El Paisano Beverage LLC d/b/a The Hotel Paisano, to be located at 207 N Highland Ave, Marfa, Presidio County, 79843. The Manager of said company is Railroad Dreamers LLC. The Managers of Railroad Dreamers LLC are Harrison King, Buck Buczkowski, and Lauren Werner King.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with Late Hours Certificate by Busted Bronc LLC, dba Busted Bronc to be located at 1401 E Santa Fe Ave, Presidio, Presidio County, TX 79845. Officer is Russell LaFave- member

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mandatory Language for Monitoring/ Reporting Violation Failure to Submit a Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR) MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR/CHLORINE

The SHAFTER MINE water system PWS ID 1890018 has violated the monitoring/reporting requirements set by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F. Public water systems are required

to properly disinfect water before distribution, maintain acceptable disinfection residuals within the distribution system, monitor the disinfectant residual at various locations throughout the distribution system, and report the results of that monitoring to the TCEQ on a quarterly basis.

Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water is safe from microbial contamination.

This/These violation(s) occurred in the monitoring period(s) 10-01-2025 - 12-31-2025

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

THE SHAFTER MINE HAS & CONTINUES TO SEEK TO RETAIN A LICENSED WATER OPERATOR TO RESUME ROUTINE SAMPLING, & RESUME THE OPERATION OF THE DISINFECTANT SYSTEM.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact TROY RINEHART at 907-723-7245.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a public hearing and regular meeting for June 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Casner room, City Hall, 113 S. Highland St., Marfa, Texas.

Proposed amendments to the City of Marfa Planning and Zoning Ordinance

02-04 for the purpose of combatting the housing affordability crisis and increasing housing opportunity as follows:

- Remove the mixed-use prohibition (Article 1, Section 5)
- Introduce elements of form-based area regulations for dwellings in districts other than the (R-1) Single Family Residential District (Articles 3 and 4)
- Relax street frontage requirements for dwellings in Commercial and Industrial districts (Article 4)
- Require all dwelling units to have one or more off-street parking spaces (Article 4).

Additional information concerning the above is available by calling the City of Marfa at (432)729-4315 or emailing Stephen (Chick) Rabourn at stephen.rabourn@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – SUNSHINE HOUSE, INC. (ALPINE, TX)
Sunshine House, Inc. is seeking a dynamic Executive Director to lead our senior center and Meals on Wheels program. This position focuses on fundraising, community engagement, and strategic leadership.

Full job description available at SunshineHouseAlpine.com. Submit resume and cover letter to Board President Katy Williams at kfw22yh@gmail.com.

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