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

Limpia Crossing residents take steps towards fire station establishment

By MARY CANTRELL
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JEFF DAVIS COUNTY — Residents of Limpia Crossing, a subdivision in the Davis Mountains with around 110 homes located near McDonald Observatory, made strides towards the establishment of their own fire station this week when their efforts won the approval of Jeff Davis County commissioners.

A handful of residents addressed commissioners at a meeting Tuesday, and many more sat in the courthouse meeting room to show their support for the fire safety measure. While commissioners gave the proposal the green light to move forward, whether the site will act as a substation for the Fort Davis Volunteer Fire Department or operate as its own entity remains to be seen.

The county's existing emergency services, which include the Davis Mountains Resort, Cherry Creek and Valentine volunteer fire departments, are, in part, supported by an emergency services district (ESD) which is funded by a percentage of sales tax.

Lonnie Hebert, a member of the Fort Davis Volunteer Fire Department and Limpia Crossing resident helping spearhead the new station, said response times to the subdivision in the event of a fire were inadequate. The Solar Park Fire, which occurred in the area this spring, did not destroy any structures nor breach the subdivision but was a little too close for comfort, said Hebert.

"My main concern is structure support," said Hebert. "Grass fires you can pretty much deal with and hold them at bay, but a structure fire if [it takes] 30, 45 minutes to get a truck there, you don't have a house."

Limpia Crossing resident Kay Nehring saw the Solar Park Fire blaze from her front porch and agreed current response times to the remote locale were lacking.

"We're a long ways away from fire help," said Nehring. "We're a community, so we need to act like a community. We need to take care of our own."

The area has grown significantly over the years, said residents, and the absence of a nearby fire station contributes to high homeowner insurance rates. Hebert has had the idea to create a separate Limpia Crossing fire station for years and recently brought the idea to the local Homeowner's Association to get the ball rolling.

Land large enough for a three-bay building has been donated by a neighborhood resident, said Hebert, and property owners have

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Photo by David Keller

Field crew surveying a dense sheet midden on hands and knees. From left: Brian Dailey, Lisa Weingarten, Chris Smith, John Moretti, Warren Kinney.

'They were us': An oral history of the Big Bend National Park archaeological survey

By SAM KARAS
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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — In June, local archaeologists and history buffs celebrated the online publication of a massive archaeological survey of Big Bend National Park. The nearly thousand-page report — *A Sampling of Archaeological Resources in Big Bend National Park, Texas* — provides a blueprint for future researchers to dig even deeper into the region's past.

Eight years of formal field work went into the publication — and many more in the unglamorous process of grant writing, data analysis and editing. Dozens of people contributed writing, data analysis and digging skills to complete the monumental project.

An archaeological survey's primary focus is scouting and recording sites rather than exhaustively investigating and excavating one location. The collected data helps give researchers an idea of what traces of human history might be found in a given area and records significant sites for future investigation.

The survey required archaeologists to closely examine roughly 62,000 acres, or 8% of the massive park. The survey represents the largest survey of its kind in the state — and possibly the largest ever conducted in the National Park Service.

The resulting document has much to teach us about the lives of Indigenous people in the Big Bend over the past 11,000 years: what they ate, where they lived, how they adapted to a constantly shifting environment.

The Big Bend Sentinel spoke to archeologists who brought the Big Bend survey to life. What follows is an oral history of the project's beginnings, trials, triumphs and key findings.

The survey's beginnings: "A million dollar project"

Contrary to romantic depictions of archaeologists in pop culture, much of their work is bureaucratic. If a government entity wants to build on public land, an archaeologist must first scan the area to make sure they're not bulldozing through a significant piece of history.

Big Bend National Park had seen relatively few archaeological projects over the years, in part due to its establishing legislation. The park was set aside for its natural history and "recreational potential" — it was never intended to be a park focused on historical investigation

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Presidio Municipal Development District votes to fund geothermal energy feasibility study

By SAM KARAS
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PRESIDIO — Last Wednesday, the Presidio Municipal Development District (PMDD) voted to allocate $15,000 for a feasibility study for a potential geothermal energy plant in South Presidio County. Though it remains to be seen whether that study will lead to a full-fledged drilling operation in Presidio, the vote marked significant interest from district leaders in bringing the technology to the region.

Trey Gerfers — who serves in several leadership roles in the county, including as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District — first brought the proposal to the Presidio County Commissioners Court in June, and was present at last week's PMDD meeting to champion the idea before the economic development group (Gerfers also penned a column in this week's *Big Bend Sentinel* on the merits of harnessing geothermal energy). Gerfers said he believes the technology would be a boon to the local economy and would provide a self-sustaining energy source.

"The benefits could be having energy infrastructure that the county could tax, that could be a good revenue source, jobs, cheap electricity, and more business opportunities, more development opportunities," said Gerfers to board members.

"Imagine the statewide grid failure — that wouldn't affect us," he continued. "We'd have our own electricity source."

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology will use PMDD's $15,000 to conduct the study led by Dr. Ken Wisian, who attended last week's meeting remotely to give a presentation about the potential benefits of bringing geothermal energy production to Presidio. Wisian is a lead author on a report called *The Future of Geothermal in Texas: The Coming Century of Growth & Prosperity in the Lone Star State*.

The report explains that geothermal energy production harnesses heat under the earth's surface to generate electricity. The earth's core is as hot as the temperature of the sun — drilling just a few kilometers into the ground can yield water hot enough to produce electricity.

In a geothermal plant, hot water is pumped from below the ground to the surface, where it becomes steam. The steam spins a turbine

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Local teen to host reproductive rights march a year after the overturn of Roe v. Wade

By MARY CANTRELL
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MARFA — A year after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the federally-protected right to an abortion, local teenager Louise Culbertson is planning a march for reproductive rights to take place this month. At a Marfa City Council meeting this week, council members and the chief of police greenlit the assistance of intermittent traffic control from officers for the event.

Culbertson held a similar event last year, in collaboration with the Big Bend Reproductive Coalition (BBRC), and said the need to speak out against increased governmental control over reproductive health remained.

"I think even though it has been a year since Roe v. Wade was overturned, it's still important to keep on marching, keep on acting, because this hasn't gone away yet," said Culbertson. "And I'm not going to stop until it does go away."

Over the past year, abortion issues have continued to make headlines in the state of Texas as the effects of changing laws — including a trigger law banning nearly all abortions with few exceptions — reverberate. BBRC has held fundraisers, distributed contraception, and plans to launch a program to help provide financial support for women seeking abortions to travel out of state.

This month's demonstration, which Culbertson refers to as a "post-Roe action" march, will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 24, beginning with speeches at The Sentinel coffee shop and concluding with a peaceful march to the Presidio County Courthouse. Last year's event saw around 75 attendees.

The speaking program will include Culbertson, Marfa resident Calletana Vargas and potentially a member of the BBRC, said Culbertson, who is encouraging local residents to show up for the event and make protest signs.

"I think it's important because we don't have many protests here and much activism. It's good to get people out, remind them that they can make a difference with [their] actions other than voting," said Culbertson.

Culbertson's Marfa march is one of five she is organizing across the state in late July, with others taking place in Houston, Austin, Dallas and El Paso.

For more information, follow @act_for_your_rights on Instagram

Sheriff's Office requests $420,000 in state funds to increase patrols, bolster jail security

By ALLEGRA HOBBS
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MARFA — Presidio County Commissioners on Wednesday morning approved an application from the Sheriff's Office for over $420,000 in border security funds from the state for the upcoming fiscal year — grant money that, if awarded, will go towards increasing the office's presence in the county and bolstering security at the county jail.

The application will allow the agency to vie for more cash through Operation Lone Star, Governor Greg Abbott's initiative to ramp up law enforcement along the Texas-Mexico border by funneling billions of dollars in state funds and tens of thousands of personnel into border counties. The Presidio County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a total of $1,456,333 via the program across the previous two fiscal years, not all of which has been expended.

The office is currently staffed by Sheriff Danny Dominguez, six full-time deputies and two grant-funded deputies paid for by federal program Operation Stonegarden.

But the agency remains underfunded and understaffed, according to a grant application prepared by the office, which argues that additional manpower and equipment is needed to shore up against border crossings and border-related crime.

"Logistics, equipment, and a low number of personnel are constant obstacles when it comes to patrolling the most remote areas of our county," reads the application.

The agency is requesting a total of $420,454.46 for fiscal year 2024, $87,360 of which would go towards salaries for two additional deputies. The agency argues that additional funding will allow for "enhanced coverage of all routes of transportation leading to, from, and away from the border," plus coverage of main highways, including 67, 169, 90, 170 and 2810. The agency also plans to increase its presence along the border. These patrols are to be carried out in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Most of the remaining funds requested, meanwhile, are earmarked for the county jail in Marfa. The grant application paints a bleak picture of the 112-bed facility, which it says is operating at a limited capacity due to a COVID-era mandate to maintain quarantine space. Dangerous inmates, outdated medical equipment and a lack of robust security are taxing the space's limited staff, says the agency.

The application references a "near riot" at the facility in August of 2021, which it says was "incited by violent inmates with gang affiliations."

The Sheriff's Office is requesting funds to pay for medical equipment to treat inmates and jail employees, citing the considerable distance from the nearest hospital in the remote region. It is also requesting $130,000 for a full-body scanner in order to screen inmates, who are currently either screened via pat-down searches or strip searches, and $100,957 for a mail scanner in order to screen incoming mail for contraband.

The mail scanner would allow

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The West Texan Media Group, LLC

Archaeological survey

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and interpretation.

This survey represented decades of archaeology for archaeology's sake, putting human history and inquiry at the forefront, rather than septic tanks or power lines.

That's not to say that the project wasn't without its boxes to check and paperwork to shuffle — the research would help the park stay in compliance with shifting legislation requiring cataloging and inventorying cultural resources.

In 1973, Robert Mallouf — who would later become the architect of the survey project — conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, motivating him to continue digging into the area's rich human past.

When he was tapped as the state archaeologist in 1981, the wheels of what would eventually become the survey started turning.

Around the same time, archaeologist Tom Alex moved to the park to be closer to his future wife, Betty, who worked as a biologist. Alex initially took any job he could get — at first, pumping gas at Panther Junction.

He didn't pump gas for long. For the rest of his working life, he would lead investigations into the area's cultural resources and serve as a liaison between the park and its associated Indigenous tribes.

Alex and Mallouf picked up where earlier Big Bend projects had left off. Mallouf worked personally with J. Charles Kelley, considered by many the grandfather of Big Bend archaeology; Alex started digging into the work of T.N. Campbell, who had conducted an archaeological survey in the 1960s.

Campbell left behind aerial imagery to help guide researchers — but the images weren't sufficient to identify the locations of every site. The Alexes hiked over 10,000 miles together to recover the locations of sites from these early projects and to scout for new ones.

Mallouf resigned his post in Austin in 1995 and moved to Alpine to oversee the Center for Big Bend Studies, recruiting future Center leader Andy Cloud to come out west with him. The funding and enthusiasm Mallouf was able to generate manifested a dream he and his colleagues had been talking about for over a decade.

The project would eventually run in two phases, one from 1995 to 1998, and another session led by David Keller from 2005 to 2008. Keller would eventually be lead author, but over the two sessions, numerous archaeologists would hop on board, lending their skills and perspectives to the landmark study.

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TOM ALEX: In 1983 I met Bob [Mallouf] and started to have this discussion about an archaeological study in the park. Over the next few years, we talked about it, we wrangled it over copious quantities of beverages. And we knew pretty much what we wanted to do and how we wanted to approach it.

Big Bend is 1,252 square miles and there's absolutely no way you're going to be able to survey every square foot of this park. No park has ever been able to meet that standard, except for maybe the really small parks.

We had to come up with a way of sampling areas — in other words, we had to classify the landscape of the park into categories. We could see that there were significant differences in the types of sites that occur within variations of the landscape. And it's a complex landscape.

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ROBERT MALLOUF: We started for real in 1996. Earl [Elam, founder of the Center for Big Bend Studies], decided to retire. He contacted me and knew how much I loved this country out here. And I said, "You know what? I'm too damn close to the Capitol building."

I brought the project with me. It was a million dollar project — a major project, especially back then.

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ANDREA OHL: When the park project started up, I started begging for a position. At the time they really didn't hire women. I kept asking Bob [Mallouf], and he invited me to come out; I was trying to prove myself.

I was going to meet him [at the site]; he told me how to get there. I had a little two-wheel-drive pickup. I was about halfway there when I got hung up in an arroyo. I was just mortified.

So I hiked about two-and-a-half miles to camp, and I left a note on the Jeep saying, 'Help!' Then I walked two-and-a-half miles back to my vehicle and waited. Two young guys who were on the crew came, and they dug me out.

By the time Bob was there, I was already at the site like nothing had ever happened. I went around hiking with them and had a great time.

It turned out we had an April blizzard. I didn't want to quit. Me and another guy were the last ones to quit after we couldn't see the ground anymore.

When we got back to camp Bob asked my crew chief if he thought I could do the job, and my crew chief said, absolutely, hire her. Then he asked me when I could start.

That was thrilling. I love the park — I've always loved the park and being paid to hike around it was my wildest dream.

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RM: After we had run for about five years, the National Park Service told us they were out of funding, and they shelved us for another five years.

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DAVID KELLER: When the money came back [in 2005], Bob and Andy were completely wrapped up in other projects. Bob just asked me, "Do you want to run this project?" It was a no-brainer.

I didn't know what I was getting into at all. I didn't know the magnitude of it. I did not realize that I was about to go survey 30,000 acres intensively — multiple crews, sometimes hiking 7 or 8 kilometers in to even start the survey, then hiking back out.

It really was the highlight of my life.

Shovel bums

Recording, cataloging and describing each site was a game of speed and endurance. Data was generated for the survey over the course of 490 days in the field, yielding 1,462 previously-unknown sites, 2,365 artifacts and 17,000 photographs.

Over the course of the survey, the researchers honed a system to narrow down locations for field work. That system was initially designed to cover the park's many ecosystems and eventually became more granular, focusing instead on the surface of the ground the researchers would be scanning.

As a result, archaeologists in the field had to be ready for anything: windswept cliffs, sun-baked badlands, buggy afternoons by the side of the river.

Living in the field for such long spurts of time tested even the toughest crewmembers acquainted with the outdoors. "Enduring extremes of triple-digit heat, blinding sunlight, dust storms, flash floods, rattlesnakes, scorpions, Africanized honeybees, cone-nosed beetles, and a vast array of wicked vegetation, crews were often pressed to the limits of endurance," Keller wrote in the survey's introduction. "Sometimes a little beyond."

These experiences taught the researchers a lot about each other — and the lives of the ancient people they were studying.

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BETTY ALEX: There's [prehistoric] campsites everywhere that to people today wouldn't seem very comfortable. But the people who lived here knew how to live here. They knew how to make it work.

When people go out to buy a piece of property, there's always something they want — a great view, maybe they want to be secluded. Everybody has their idea of where they want to live. These folks' reasons were very practical.

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DAVID KELLER: I felt like I was gone from home as much as I was home. There were ten days and four days off — ten is about the max you can do without going crazy. On the four days off I had time to book it back to Alpine, download the data, finish up any last minute notes, organize the artifacts, go shopping, load the truck and drive back down to the park.

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ANDY CLOUD: Occasionally, we did get support from the park. They'd have their mules bring water to us. That did help, but we did mostly have to go out and get our own water.

There was one time we were backpacking into the Deadhorse [Mountains]. They don't get that name for no reason. The first two days I had to have the crew out there not supervised by me. They were going through the water. So we had to go out and haul these five gallon containers — I said, "No more of that!"

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RICHARD WALTER: You'd learn the meaning of wet wipes, man.

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ANDREA OHL: When I first went out I was wearing sneakers, because I didn't know I was going to be hired. And of course my shoes wore out and my soles came off.

We were fairly close to camp, so I asked Andy if I could go back and change. He said no — he was tough on me. So I took tape and taped my soles on, and of course the tape wore out.

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AC: If we'd hiked in everyday, we wouldn't have gotten to experience so much of the daily stuff out there. You can put yourself in the shoes [of the people who lived there]. You try to get in their heads: what were they thinking? Why did they do that?

It's something I try to promote in my crews as much as possible because I'm old school. Let's go camping.

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AO: It's kind of a social experiment. You're just throwing random people together and living and working intensively together. You really become like a family. At first, they have certain habits that irritate you. And you think, "Oh, how am I going to stand them?" But you love them because they're your family.

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AC: One day my friend Mark Yuhas hiked in with a backpack of cold beer. Still cold! My crew thought he was a god.

The cathedral

Loose cattle, floods and temperamental weather can all impact sites, but the most direct threats to the integrity of sites are visitation by people who do not understand — or disregard — their importance.

The survey team had to weigh the impact of two very different interests: teaching the public and protecting the integrity of fragile sites dating back thousands of years. The publication offers a mix of both, explaining the features and importance of some of the park's most significant finds without leaving them vulnerable to vandalism and looting.

That debate has become even more heated in the field in the wake of recent incidents at the park. In December 2021, the park put out a call for information that could lead to the arrest of individuals involved in vandalizing a rock art panel at Indian Head — a site estimated to be 3,000 to 5,000 years old.

The incident was just the latest in a string of over 50 instances of vandalism to archaeological sites since 2015. As visitation to Big Bend balloons, the survey's architects were torn between wanting to inform the public about the history of their public lands and wanting to preserve these sites for research and study.

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WARREN KINNEY: The only thing left behind by some of these cultures is busted and burnt rock. That's the only way they can speak to us.

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DAVID KELLER: I think some of these people are



Photo by Mark Denton, Texas Historical Commission

Bob Mallouf, in his role as state archaeologist, works to recover one of two severely eroded sites after Big Bend National Park requested his assistance.

probably not malicious. They're probably just being thoughtless.

Here's an example: we're recording a site on a little pediment above the river and some park visitors get out. They're wearing their graduation robes and they're taking pictures.

Then suddenly we look over there and the people are picking up big rocks and lobbing them off the edge [into the water]. And we knew there was a site there because we'd been there already.

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TOM ALEX: One of the things I do is park orientation for new employees. For part of that training, I take them out to Indian Head. But before I go, I hand out this little piece of paper that says, "Etiquette."

If we could go into a cathedral and take your camera and take photographs of all of the statues and all of the images that are hanging on the wall, would you walk up to the altar and move things around? Would you pocket the candlesticks and take them home with you? Would you stand up on top of the altar and take a selfie? If you do that kind of thing, you don't belong on this site.

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BA: The archaeologist is the one who's always getting the questions — have you ever seen a place like this?

Probably several dozen times, Tom and I would look at each other and say, "Well, we could tell you. We could give you pretty good directions. But then we'd have to kill you."

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WK: Tom and Betty actually told us to say that we were working on a biology study. We were on a site once and some tourists came by and they came up and asked what we were doing, so we said, "Oh, a biology study." They said, "Well, we were just wondering because you're on an archaeological site."

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DK: There are sites I don't want anyone going to — I don't even want other archaeologists going there. These sites are so fragile that even human footsteps can accelerate erosion.

On one of these sites, I got the crew to huddle up. I said, "Look, guys — I want you to tiptoe around the site. I do not want you to move a single rock. If you accidentally move it with your toe, you reach down, pick it up, put it back."

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TA: A site is like a history book. Archaeologists can walk out on a site, look at it and read the story of this rock, this feature, what was going on there. That site tells a story of how people used that part of the landscape.

Whenever tourists go out there and they take away artifacts, it's like ripping a page or two out of the book. The story is missing. If they pick up stuff and move it around on the site, it's like taking pages out of the book and throwing them on the floor.

"What keeps me digging"

The first people of the Big Bend were nomadic. Whatever survives of their cultures is set in stone: various types of points for hunting and procuring food and places to cook it.

That's not to say that everything the survey team found was purely practical. Jewelry and other decorative items adorn the report's pages; new rock art sites were found and documented.

Perhaps the survey's most expectation-defying finds fall in the category of "special use features" — a catch-all term for anything beyond domestic or subsistence-based tasks. Many of these are believed to have spiritual or ritual purposes.

A number of "special use features" described in the report are categorized as petroforms — essentially, arrangements of rock. Some form patterns on the ground; others are stacked to take the shape of animals.

The study of petroforms in the Big Bend kicked off with the discovery of a feature called the "Spider," found in the days when the idea of the survey project was starting to be the subject of late-night discussions among the region's experts.

The site's name takes after its weblike shape. It's believed to be a medicine wheel, a type of petroform bearing spiritual significance to northern Plains tribes clustered around the U.S.-Canada border. "To have such features this far south invites many questions, few of which we can answer," the report reads.

The Spider taught the survey's researchers how to see. Expecting the unexpected, they were able to scan the ground in a new way — uncovering an additional aspect of the region's Indigenous past.

Many of the questions raised by these discoveries may never be answered. If you ask the survey's participants, maybe they don't need to be.

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TOM ALEX: The way we found [the Spider] was through a search and rescue. There were two of us — Ranger Kathy Hambly and I were spotters. The pilot flew back and forth over the area where this girl was missing.

I didn't think about it. When we were there, we were looking for a lost person. When we got back to the office, my boss asked, "So, did you find the Spider?" And Kathy said, "Well — I did notice something."

So we retraced the flight and flew over that spot. I looked down and — holy s—!

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ANDY CLOUD: We were mapping out the site on the solstice and a little whirlwind came and took our papers. Then an intense rainstorm came up and just pounded us — I remember getting in my tent and I remember sitting on my pad and water just flowing in. It felt like the gods.

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DAVID KELLER: There's a lot of boredom and a lot of tedium, days and whole sessions where we were surveying blocks with these nondescript sites with single features and nothing else. There's a lot of those moments.

One day Warren and I were walking around trying to determine the site boundaries and we suddenly started seeing a line of rocks. By the time we got to the top of this thing, we noticed that you connected to another arm that's snaked off the hill on the other side.

And we realized — this is a huge f–king petroform!

Once we did start finding [petroforms], we trained our eyes to see them. We started seeing them a lot and realized that other archaeologists all these years had been walking right over them.

We found medicine wheels, we found effigies. We found abstract petroforms, which were a surprise. They were unknown to us.

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ANDREA OHL: We really didn't have any idea of their spiritual life, and we rarely found anything that would give us any indication.

One of the things that we did notice in looking at their artifacts was that they had artistic talents. You could tell by the way they worked stone to bring out the beauty of the stone, not just to make it a surface piece. You just knew that they took great pride in their work.

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BETTY ALEX: You look at some of the things they left behind and they were very sophisticated. They were us. I mean, it hasn't been that long — the human race has not evolved that much in the past 20,000 years. They were us. They had the same hopes, the same dreams, the same wishes — they just didn't grow up in the world we grew up in.

It's humbling when you find something. You become humbled that whoever made this and whoever shot this and lost it — it's been here this whole time. A piece of that person is still here.

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DAVID KELLER: When I was out in the field it was almost all I thought about — what their lives were like. It was a constant fantasy. What I would give to be a part of it for just five minutes.

The artifacts that we're finding are such a small fragment of their complete material culture. We're getting a very narrow picture of their lives. Trying to fill in the rest in your imagination is quite a task.

The one thing that struck us all uniformly is that this was a hardscrabble f — king life. I don't think any of us envied it.

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THE BIG BEND SENTINEL: Does that ever bother you all — how much we don't know and how much we'll never know?

RICHARD WALTER: No, it excites me.

WARREN KINNEY: It's what keeps me digging.

A link to the full survey can be found at https://pubs.nps.gov/Default.aspx?DocID=1883183 .

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Geothermal energy

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connected to a generator that produces electricity. Once the steam has passed through the turbine, it is funneled into a cooling tower that helps it condense into water once again — so that the cycle can begin again.

In comparison to other forms of sustainable energy, geothermal energy has a much higher "capacity factor," meaning the percentage of the time a plant is producing energy while it's operating. Geothermal energy has about double the capacity factor of wind energy and quadruple the amount of solar energy.

Wisian and his co-authors are firm believers in the technology. "The amount of heat energy beneath our feet is estimated to be many thousands of times larger than what we would need to power not only Texas, but the world," the report reads.

Though Wisian had also presented before the Presidio County Commissioners Court, he decided to also approach PMDD because he felt the area had the best potential for the project. "We will survey the whole county, but the reconnaissance I've done already strongly shows that the heat gets a lot better the closer you go to the river," he said.

He described a number of perks to installing the infrastructure: many Texans are nervous about the future of the state's energy grid as record temps tax a system that left thousands without power during a winter storm in 2021. The City of Presidio could supply its own power — and have plenty to spare.

City Administrator Pablo Rodriguez was excited about introducing another industry to the area — one that could potentially be the first of its kind in Texas. "Our friends to the north in the Permian Basin have oil underneath their feet," he said. "We do have a solar plant here, but other than that we don't offer a lot as far as producing electricity."

Wisian explained that a potential difficulty in scouting South Presidio County for geothermal power is that the area's wells are relatively shallow. However, geothermal energy could potentially be harnessed at 6.5 kilometers — a standard measurement for the depth of oil and gas wells.

PMDD ultimately decided to commit $15,000 toward a feasibility study to help determine if Presidio County is ripe for a geothermal plant. Wisian cautioned that the study was an important first step, but wasn't a promise of things to come. Ultimately, if the study results are positive and Presidio elects to move forward with a prospective project, it will have to issue a request for proposals seeking companies interested in bringing the technology to the city.

The new frontier of energy technology currently fuels just 0.5% of the country's power grid, explained Wisian. "It's a necessary step," he said of the survey. "But it doesn't guarantee that someone's going to dance with you."

Board Member Liz Rohana was still excited about the potential for Presidio County to be on the cutting edge in sustainable energy. "I feel like we have to take a chance to make something bigger-scale happen here," she said. "I do look at this as an opportunity in so many ways."

Limpia Crossing

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volunteered to host water tanks on their properties. While it will be an expensive undertaking, its advocates say a bonafide fire station is sorely needed in the area and could be paid for with grants and contributions from the ESD.

"It should have a brush truck or two brush trucks that carry 500 gallons of water," said Hebert. "It needs to be a functioning fire station. Not just a pickup truck with a 100 gallon tank in the back of it."

Nehring, for her part, is working with others to establish a board to oversee the initiative and plans to spread the word regarding the need for volunteers and more within the subdivision. She said the remoteness Limpia Crossing residents enjoy can also pose a danger, and she hopes the community can band together to make the fire station a reality.

"If you've got a building, then you start having a community," said Nehring.

Per recommendations from the county commissioners, including current Fire Chief Roy Hurley, Limpia Crossing residents will now make a presentation to the ESD board and meet with the Fort Davis Volunteer Fire Department to assess options.

Judge Curtis Evans threw his support behind the Limpia Crossing fire station project, stating that the response time from town was "considerable" and the potential structure, in addition to on the ground assistance, would also help area homeowners with insurance rates.

"I am in support of another fire station," said Evans. "This would also help with their ISO [fire] ratings for insurance, that helps that community lower the insurance cost to their homes. That is one important thing we can help out [on] other than the actual fire."



Staff photo by Allegra Hobbs

Limpia Crossing homeowners are advocating for the creation of a new fire station for their remote subdivision, which lies within the Davis Mountains and is half an hour away from emergency responders.

Sheriff's Office

(Continued from page 1)

jail staff to scan for illicit drugs including fentanyl and suboxone, a medication used to treat opioid addiction, says the application. (The application states that jail staff are at high risk because these drugs can be absorbed through the skin upon contact — an oft-repeated but debunked myth). As it stands, mail is exclusively examined by hand upon entering the jail. Increased security would allow the facility to house more inmates, the agency says. In addition to state prisoners, the jail has been housing federal inmates since late 2022.

Changes to some state immigration laws have led to an uptick in arrests on state charges — prior to September 2021, proof of money changing hands was required in order for state law enforcement to charge someone with human smuggling. With that proof no longer needed, it has become easier to arrest suspects on state charges. At the same time, Abbott upgraded all smuggling charges to felonies.

In light of these changes, the Brewster County Sheriff's Department last year applied for $5.9 million through Operation Lone Star to double the capacity of its 55-person jail. That application was ultimately rejected due to lack of state funding.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION/POSTING – Divorce (no children) TRC 109, 114 & FC 6.409,

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Cause No. 8227

TO: NATALIA DOMINGUEZ MODESTO, Respondent(s): GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of RUBEN HERNANDEZ petitioner, was filed in the 394TH District Court of PRESIDIO COUNTY, Texas on the 13TH day of JUNE 2023, against NATALIA DOMINGUEZ MODESTO, Respondent)s), numbered 8227 and entitled "In the Matter of the Marriage of RUBEN HERNANDEZ and NATALIA DOMINGUEZ MODESTO.

"The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree, including but not limited to dissolving the marriage, providing for the division of property, which will be binding on you."

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at PRESIDIO DISTRICT CLERKS OFFICE Texas this the 7TH day of July 2023.

PRESIDIO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 789
MARFA, TEXAS 79843
432-729-3857.

Atty. For Petitioner or Petitioner
_____
_____
_____

Clerk of the Court:
Florcita Zubia
_____
Presidio District Clerks Office, County, Texas
By _____ Deputy

**strike if all person(s) to be serve are known*

NOTE: ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE

OFFICER'S RETURN

Came to hand the____ day of _____ 20___ at _____ o'clock ___m and executed by delivering this citation to _____ a newspaper published in the county of _____, State of Texas to be published one time. Said publication was made respectively on the _____ day of _____ 20____. A print copy thereon will be returned to the clerk of this court and attached hereto.

RETURN BY POSTING***: May be posted ONLY where NO PC relationship exists, see FC6.409(d)***
Came to hand the ___ day of _____ 20__ at _____o'clock ___M and executed on the ___ day of _____ 20___, by posting a copy of the within citation for 7 days, exclusive of the day of posting, before the return day hereof, at the County Courthouse door of _____ County, Texas or at the place in or near the said courthouse where public notice customarily are posted.

Fee .....$_____
Printer.....$_____

_____ Sheriff/ District Clerk
_____County, Texas

By_____ Deputy

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Opinion

OUR WATER MATTERS

Geothermal energy in Presidio County

By TREY GERFERS
tgerfers@pcuwcd.org

Conventional geothermal energy is found in the form of steam and very hot water beneath the earth's surface at depths of several feet to a few miles. These reservoirs of liquid heat can be tapped and brought to the surface to turn turbines and generate electricity. Conventional geothermal energy has long been restricted to places like Iceland, Japan, and the Western United States, where the steam is released at the surface naturally or with minor enhancements. But recent advances in drilling and recovery techniques pioneered for unconventional oil and gas extraction are paving the way to a future of unconventional geothermal energy production.

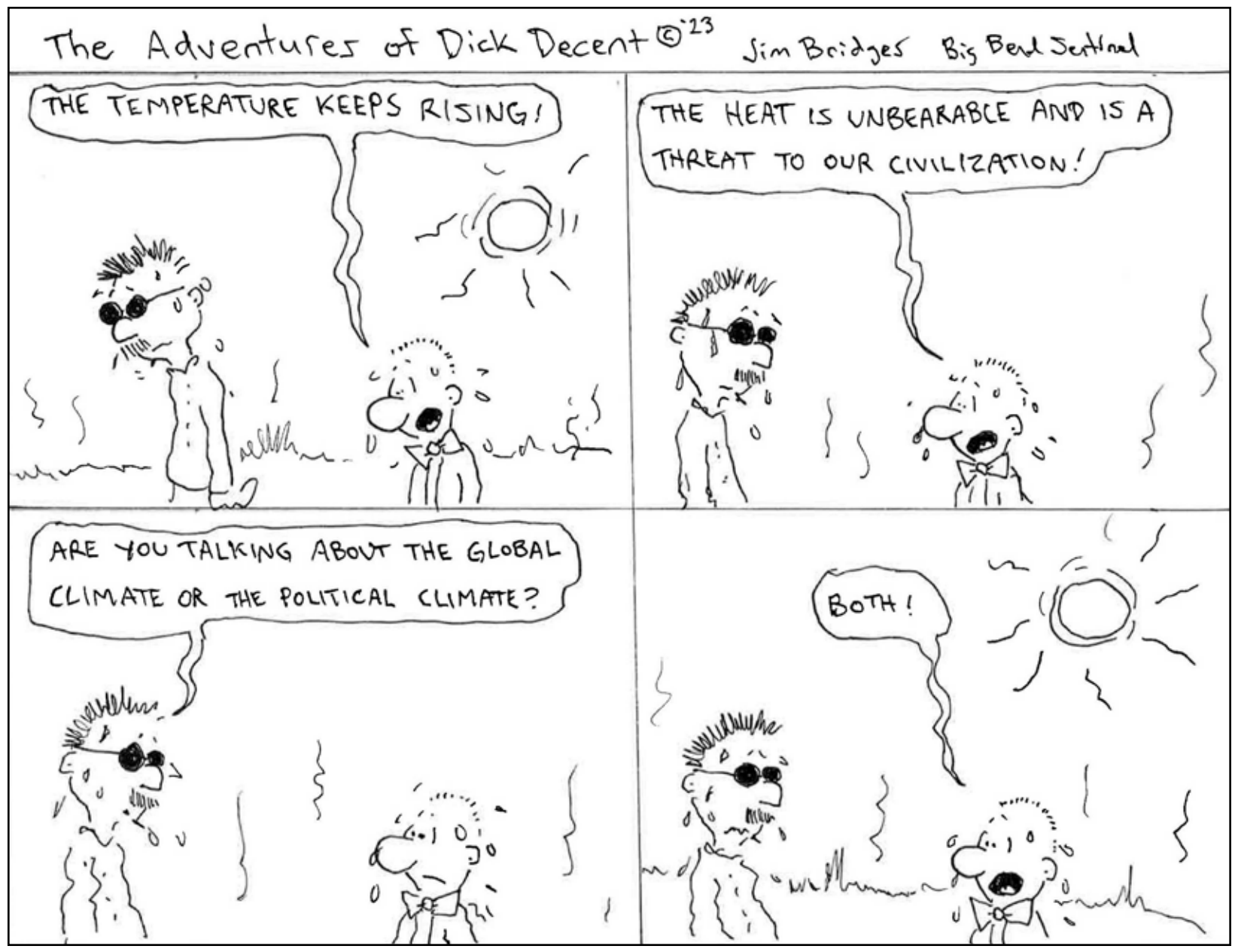
In a recent report funded by the Mitchell Foundation and the Educational Foundation of America titled "The Future of Geothermal in Texas - Contemporary Prospects and Perspectives," some 24 scientists, engineers and experts, many from the oil and gas industry, make the case for a bold new approach to geothermal. Among several techniques, the report describes the use of novel drilling methods to access hot rock deep in the earth's subsurface to create a closed loop, through which a liquid (such as water or an engineered fluid) is then "pumped into the subsurface from the surface, picks up heat from the surrounding formation through conduction, and is then returned to the surface, bringing with it heat from the formation." This heat reaches the surface in the form of steam that can drive turbines and generate electricity. The steam condenses at the top of the system, where it is collected and pumped back into the subsurface to repeat the process again.

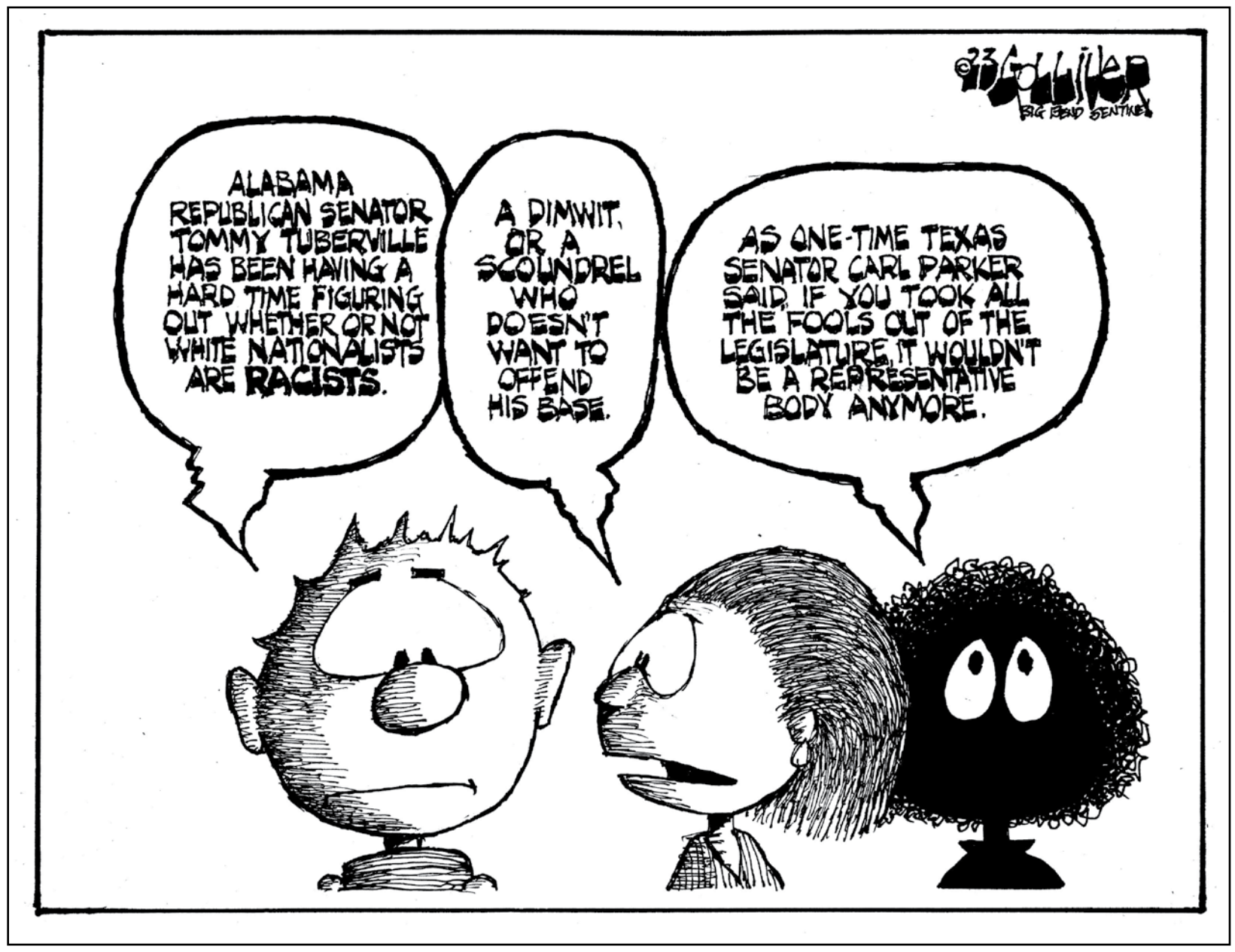
Geothermal energy is renewable because its heat will be continuously replenished by the earth's core for billions of years to come. Geothermal is clean because it emits no greenhouse gasses. Geothermal could also provide the missing link in the chain of renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar. We currently rely on high-emission fuels, like coal and natural gas, to cover our baseload electricity needs when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing. But geothermal could provide the baseload power necessary to keep our electricity grid running when these intermittent resources are offline. Geothermal baseload could significantly cut our electricity-related emissions and finally bring about a meaningful reduction in greenhouse gases to address climate uncertainty.

Dr. Ken Wisian, associate director of the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) at UT-Austin, recently presented to the Presidio County Commissioners Court. Dr. Wisian is one of the authors of the "Future of Geothermal in Texas" and an expert on geothermal potential in Texas. According to Wisian, geothermal systems are not cheap (around $10 to $30 million) and the cost greatly depends on the depths where the hot rock is to be found. Although "the available data are noisy," he says, "Presidio County checks all the boxes" for the development of a geothermal electricity plant if an analysis conducted by his team can better pinpoint where the potential lies "mostly along the Rio Grande River." As a low-income border county, Presidio is also well positioned to take advantage of funding from the North American Development Bank, the Department of Energy, and programs under the Inflation Reduction Act, among others, that could make the county's geothermal potential more attractive to outside investors and "spur economic development," says Wisian.

Economic development is what most interests Liz Rohana of the Presidio Municipal Development District, whose mission is "to establish economic growth in/for the City of Presidio and South Presidio County … and to develop regional infrastructure." After seeing Dr. Wisian's presentation at Commissioners Court, Rohana sought to get PMDD involved and invited Dr. Wisian to present to the PMDD board, where he cautioned that "there are no promises," but the data indicate that the potential is there. Following a lengthy discussion, the PMDD voted unanimously to provide $15,000 to fund an analysis by BEG. The study will likely be completed by early 2024. If the findings are favorable, then funding and investment can be sought to develop our geothermal resources. "What's exciting about the geothermal venture," says Rohana, "is that it's being presented in a transparent and promising way involving the input of all PMDD board members and community representatives and leaders."

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





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Reservations are encouraged
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For details and reservations, please
come to the Chinati Visitor Center
at 1 Cavalry Row or go to
chinati.org

Community

Artist Evan Horn explores Texas rivers with hand-harvested clay sculptures

By MARY CANTRELL
mkcantrell@bigbendsentinel.com

TERLINGUA — Austin-based artist Evan Horn is featuring the Big Bend in his ongoing *Texas River*s sculpture series in which he gathers natural clay from river beds, including the Rio Grande, to form organically-shaped, site-specific works.

"I had this idea during quarantine when the art supply stores closed, and I was forced to come up with my own materials," said Horn. "You realize if you go on a walk, clay is everywhere. It's absurd to be limited by what a store has to offer you."

Horn was born in El Paso, has lived in New Mexico and across Texas, and now works and fires his ceramic pieces from his home studio in Austin. His work is shown locally at Garza Marfa.

In addition to the Rio Grande, Horn is sourcing clay from Barton Creek as well as the Colorado, Pedernales and Pecos rivers. Acknowledging he may be breaking the rules by absconding from river beds with a backpack-full of clay, Horn said his excursions collecting the fine-grained soil have informed his work and help him feel part of a natural process.

"I traditionally have thought of sculpture and ceramics as being an art medium, but then when you get out there, you're just working with the ground, the earth," said Horn. "It feels less like art to me and more like a conversation, play, discussion, or just a collaboration with the land and sites specifically."

Horn's Rio Grande River objects are the first in the *Texas Rivers* series, originally conceived of in August 2021 during an artist residency he attended at the Willow House in Terlingua, a 12-unit, 250 acre "desert retreat." He returned this month to "capture the sculptures in [their] native light and terrain" by photographing them in Chihuahuan Desert environs.

"It makes sense to me to bring this work that feels very wild and yet refined — elegant to a degree — back out into this landscape that is decidedly wild and untamed," said Horn.

"The land re-formed and re-presented in this way is interesting to me," he added.

Horn's small-scale works are hand built using a method called slab construction and, for the most part, maintain their natural color and texture, free from glazes and patterns. Horn said the Rio Grande-sourced clay, which has yielded a terra cotta-look, was pretty effortless to work with, requiring little as far as the amending process goes.

"The clay there is just perfect. It's flawless. It's been, like, filtered for thousands of miles, and it's just ready to use," said Horn.

The practice of harvesting clay from the local environment for the formation of ceramics dates back thousands of years, appearing in cultures throughout the world. The medium holds a rich history in the Southwest particularly, where Indigenous, most notably Puebloan, cultures became known for their skill and innovation with the material.

Horn said the clays he has collected vary in quality, including plasticity, in part dictating the design process. "The [types of clay] that have greater plasticity, I can push the material further, so you may get more of these curvilinear, organic shapes," he explains.

Horns plans to include some of his river clay sculptures in an upcoming show at Northern Southern gallery in Austin, and will continue on with the discovery phase of the project, ideally showing the work in an exhibition in 2024.

Lately, the artist finds himself returning to the relationship between "ceramicists" who produce "fine art" and "potters" who produce "functional objects," he said, as well as the fundamental concept of "the vessel," which he has strived to stretch the material beyond, yet still references, even if in inverted forms.

"It would be foolish to try to move away from the vessel as a ceramicist, I think, but a few years ago, I really did, I went more towards sculpture and less about the functional aspect of ceramics," said Horn. "But what's curious is that I find the vessel showing up again, even in these abstract works."

"I feel like I'm both a potter and a ceramicist and neither," Horn added. "Also [I'm] just a person with curiosity and a big backpack that can load it full of clay."

For more information, visit evanhorn.com



Photo by Evan Horn

Austin-based sculptor Evan Horn's works are crafted out of harvested Rio Grande River clay.





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

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Dancing with the Big Bend Stars raises over $9,000 for Alpine Public Library

ALPINE — Beloved fundraising event "Dancing with the Big Bend Stars" last week brought in a grand total of $9,317.15 for the Alpine Public Library.

Formerly known as "Dancing with Alpine's Stars," the event this year expanded to include talent from across the region, who competed at the Granada Theater to raise money for the local library. Attendees chipped in $5 to vote for their favorite contestants.

Competitors included Las Adelitas, Zumba of Alpine Public Library, Nora Hubbard and Matheo Karleen, Kiwanis Low Steppers, Greg and Valynda Henington, Rick Ruiz and Carmelita Jiménez, and Rubbie Ortiz Domínguez.

The winners across three categories are as follows:

Overall Winner (total votes, including votes cast before the event): Kiwanis Low Steppers

Event Night Winner (total votes cast during the event): Norah Hubbard and Matheo Karleen

Dancers' Choice (votes cast only by the competing dancers): Norah Hubbard and Matheo Karleen



Photo by David Kowal

Folklórico dance group Las Adelitas were among the stars to perform at Dancing with the Big Bend Stars, a fundraising event for the Alpine Public Library.



Photo by David Kowal

The Alpine Public Library's Zumba class took to the dance floor at Dancing with the Big Bend Stars.

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.

7/3

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution from last week's puzzle:

SOLUTION:

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

6/26

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg July 10, 2023

ACROSS
1 Doggie
6 Memorable time
9 Corner office figure
13 Currently functioning
14 T. follower
15 "Yep"
17 Pay earned after taxes (Note the last 4 letters of this answer + ...)
19 Grammy winner Ross (... the first 4 of this one)
20 Golden Globe winner Mineo
21 Word after "baking" or "cream"
22 Does a postal worker's job
23 Chief Norse god
25 On-ramp sign
28 Light touch
29 Language of World War II "code talkers" (Last 2 letters + ...)
31 Heater fuel (... first 3)
34 Mysterious Himalayan beast
35 Footwear without laces
36 Radius neighbor
39 Close tightly
40 Former NPR auto advice program
43 Indian flatbread
46 Simple and unsophisticated (Last 3 letters + ...)
47 Backs of boats (... first 4)
49 Home plate official
50 Japanese "picture character"
52 ___ & Buster's
53 Tiny amount
56 Type of list
58 Pullup muscle, briefly
59 Actress Green of "The Goonies" (Last 2 letters + ...)
60 Spouse, humorously (... first 2)
62 "Thou shalt not ___"
63 Lion's refuge
64 Contradict
65 Wimbledon telecaster
66 Oral specialist: Abbr.
67 Relief on a hot day

DOWN
1 Attaches, as a brooch
2 Vitamin brand since 1940
3 Last longer than
4 "___: Vegas" (TV show)
5 Female chickens
6 Undermine
7 Comments
8 Lumberjack's tool: Var.
9 Future flowers
10 Kentucky neighbor
11 Hone
12 Lifeguards usually acquire them
16 Speediness
18 Chicago : "How are you?" :: Chihuahua: "___ estas?"
24 The outdoors
26 Hairdo stiffeners
27 Buffalo's lake
30 Rejects at the altar
32 Trippy designs
33 What Lindbergh and Earhart did, notably
37 A ponytail hangs over it
38 One who's done with U?
40 Try to win
41 Electric current units
42 Made a macrame shawl, perhaps
44 Singsong syllables
45 Logically unsound
46 Corn covers
47 Coleslaw, for example
48 Consultant's hourly rate, say
51 ___ Hopkins University
54 ___ out (lose at a casino)
55 Oven for ceramics
57 Globes
60 "That's funny"
61 "That's funny"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

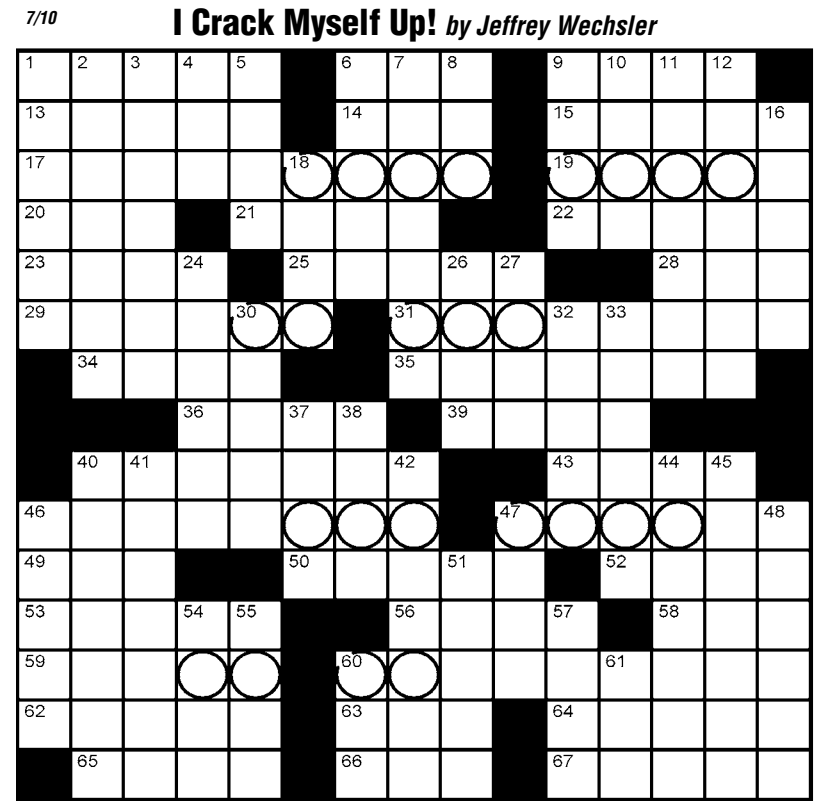
■	S	E	P	T	A	■	P	A	L	L	■	C	B	S
A	P	P	E	A	L	■	L	M	A	O	■	A	R	E
F	O	I	A	R	E	Q	U	E	S	T	■	T	A	T
R	I	S	K	S	■	U	T	N	E	■	S	N	I	T
A	L	O	E	■	F	O	O	D	R	E	C	A	L	L
M	E	D	D	L	E	■	■	■	S	T	A	P	L	E
E	R	E	■	O	A	S	T	S	■	U	N	S	E	R
■	■	■	F	O	R	E	W	O	R	D	S	■	■	■
A	S	C	O	T	■	C	A	N	O	E	■	G	O	O
S	N	O	R	E	D	■	■	■	P	S	Y	O	P	S
F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

7/9

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www.upuzzles.com

7/10

I Crack Myself Up! *by Jeffrey Wechsler*



Judd Foundation

Judd Foundation offers direct engagement with Donald Judd's art and vision in the Chihuahuan Desert. These formerly private living and working spaces provide firsthand experience of his concept of permanent installation.

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The Chinati Foundation appoints José Noé Suro, elects new board leadership

MARFA — The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati this week announced the appointment of José Noé Suro to its board of trustees and the election of Board Chair Lee Baumann Cohn and Board Co-chair Sam Hamilton. They succeed Mack Fowler and Annabelle Selldorf, who have served as board chair and board co-chair since 2018.

Both Fowler and Selldorf will continue to serve on Chinati's Board of Trustees, where they have served since 2005 and 2009, respectively. The outgoing chair and co-chair celebrated the appointment of Suro, who brings with him a rich artistic background and leadership experience.

"We are delighted to welcome José to Chinati's board," said Fowler and Selldorf in a joint statement. "His demonstrated commitment to artists, architects, and designers will support Chinati's mission broadly. We look forward to working with José and benefiting from the fresh and valuable perspectives he will bring to the museum."

José Noé Suro is the director of Mexico's leading ceramics studio, Cerámica Suro, in Guadalajara, Mexico. He has turned what was once a family workshop, founded in 1951, that manufactured dinnerware and decorative objects into an incubator for international artists and architects working on ambitious projects with ceramics in many forms. Among them are Pia Camil, Sarah Crowner, Jose Dávila, the Haas Brothers, Sarah Morris, Jorge Pardo, Eduardo Sarabia and Pae White. Cerámica Suro was the producer of the tiles in Chinati's current special exhibition, a site-specific installation, Platform (Blue Green Terracotta for JC) (2022), by Sarah Crowner.

In 1993, Suro, trained as a lawyer, decided to devote himself to the family business full-time. At that point, Cerámica Suro transitioned from a family workshop to a creative venue. During the last three decades, Cerámica



Courtesy of The Chinati Foundation

José Noé Suro

Suro has carried out projects that have put Guadalajara on the radar of the international art world. The studio has also continued to create bespoke dining pieces for fine restaurants, including Enrique Olvera's Pujol in Mexico City, Manta in Cabo San Lucas, and Damian in Los Angeles.

Lee Baumann Cohn and Sam Hamilton, Chinati trustees since 2018 and 2012, shared their excitement in assuming the roles of chair and co-chair.

"It is an honor to follow Mack Fowler and Annabelle Selldorf as chair and co-chair of Chinati," said Cohn and Hamilton. "We thank them for their many years of service and look forward to their continued stewardship as members of the board of trustees."

OBITUARIES



Hughes

Richard Dale Hughes, age 84, entered into eternal rest on Monday, July 3, 2023, in El Paso, Texas. Dick was born June 8, 1939, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and later moved to El Paso as a young child. Dick graduated from Austin High School and Texas Western College (UTEP) with a degree in business. After several years in insurance and construction, he moved to the family ranch in Jeff Davis County, Texas. Dick is preceded by his parents, H.K. Hughes and Sybil Simpson, and his son John Reynolds Hughes. Dick is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Susan Reynolds Hughes; his son David Dale Hughes and daughter-in-law Paula; his daughter-in-law Heather Lynn Hughes; and his grandchildren, Angie and Sharon. Dick is also survived by many extended friends and family to cherish and honor his memory.

Dick was devoted to his family. He enjoyed spending time with his sons while actively supporting them in their various interests through the years including sports teams, BMX, hunting and fishing. He had a special relationship with twins Ruben and William Ortiz.

Dick was a proud Eagle Scout and a licensed pilot of small aircraft. He was an elder in the University Presbyterian Church, a member of the Davis Mountain Trans Pecos Heritage Association and was an honorary director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA).

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at University Presbyterian Church, 244 Resler Dr, El Paso, TX 79912.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the Outreach Committee at UPC to support community partners.

Services are entrusted to Sunset Funeral Homes-West, 480 N. Resler Dr.

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Thu July 13

Kids' Movie Night
5:30pm - 7:30pm at the Granada Theatre, 207 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Movie TBD. Doors at 5:30pm, movie starts at 6:00pm. Free to enter, but donations are always appreciated!

Live Author Event at Front Street Books
6:00pm at the 121 E Holland Ave in Alpine
Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the INFAMOUS CHICKEN RANCH. Talk and signing with author Jayme Lynn Blashcke.

Fri July 14

Theatre of the Big Bend
7/14 - 7/16 8:00pm at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre, 1710 Loop Road in Alpine
The 58th season on Theatre of the Big Bend presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." July 7 – 23 at the Kokernot Outdoor Theatre. Buy tickets online at www.bit.ly/sulross-theatre

Sun July 16

ALL-STAR Game
6:00pm at Kokernot Field, 400 Loop Road in Alpine
The Alpine Cowboys will host the 2023 Pecos League Mountain Division All-Star Game and Home Run Derby. The O6 Cowboys look forward to welcoming the best of the Pecos League!

Mon July 17

Alpine Cowboys Baseball
7/17 - 7/19 at 7:00pm at Kokernot Field, 400 Loop Road in Alpine
A 3 game series between the Alpine Cowboys and the Blackwell FlyCatchers!

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

Ongoing Weekly Events & Classes

Big Sky Yoga
Monday: Sculpt at 5:00pm, Vinyasa at 6:00pm
Tuesday: Hatha at 9:00am
Wednesday: Sculpt at 9:00am; 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 & Thursday at 6:00pm at Marfa Public Library

Life Drawing with Model
Saturday from 9:45am - 12:00pm 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 & sometimes in-person at Marfa Public Library

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

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

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

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

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If interested, contact:
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DRAWING OF THE WEEK



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JOBS

PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

EMAIL ADS@BIGBENDSENTINEL.COM FOR ADVERTISING RATES



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.

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

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

The positions are as follows:
River Authorities – Term expires December 2025
Electric Generating Utilities – Term expires December 2025
Urban - Economic Development – Term expires December 2026
Rural - Economic Development – Term expires December 2025
Tourism – Term expires December 2025
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 August 31, 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

The City of Marfa, Texas will consider proposals for routine scrap metal recycling/pickup services for the Marfa Recycling Center.

Complete RFP can be found at https://cityofmarfa.com/rfps
Deadline is August 4, 2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Jeff Davis

Jeff Davis County is planning to submit an application to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award (ERA) Grant Program funded through the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and is soliciting proposals to provide application and administrative/project delivery services for the BIL ERA eligible projects.
Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format via email EMS@jeffdaviscounty.texas.gov. Proposals must be received by Jeff Davis County no later than 2:00PM on July 25, 2023 to be considered. Jeff Davis County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

Jeff Davis County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
Jeff Davis County

Jeff Davis County is soliciting service providers to apply for the proposed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award (ERA) Grant Program funded through the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) program(s). Accordingly, Jeff Davis County seeks to contract with a qualified engineer/architect/surveying (individual/firm) to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, conduct all necessary interim and final inspections, carry out grant contract activities, environmental review, and construction management of BIL ERA eligible projects. Please electronically submit your SOQ in .pdf format via email to ems@jeffdaviscounty.texas.gov. Statements of Qualifications must be received by Jeff Davis County no later than 2:00PM on July 25, 2023 to be considered. Jeff Davis County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit SOQs and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

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

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Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves:
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JEFF DAVIS COUNTY
Judge Curtis Evans: *(432) 426-3968*

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

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

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