



KATE BUBACZ

The staging site being built for Fisher Industries in Presidio on FM 170 has rented equipment and office trailers.

Data center investors seek a section of land in Presidio city

Plan starts with a gas-powered electric generator

Presidio

The dusty outskirts of Presidio could soon be covered in warehouses of data centers. Two proponents of a data center complex sought early interest in a deal to build within the industrial zone from the Presidio Municipal Development District Board.

“What we ask for from the county is large portions of land,” said Gerardo Barrera, a founding partner at Lead Capital, a financial services firm from Mexico City that is involved in the proposal. He told the board on June 3 that Lead Capital investors are seeking between 200 and 250 hectares of land, or the equivalent of a square mile, from both the city and county of Presidio.

Their initial proposal, which has not been formally submitted, would include building a gas generator plant to ensure constant power for a 100 megawatt data center complex.

The presenters downplayed the skepticism that has met data centers elsewhere in Texas and across the nation, and stressed that the site would follow environmental regulations.

“It’s a great opportunity for the county, and a lot of counties are doing it,” said Jesus Leyva, a representative from Maachi, a local company affiliated with Lead Capital, on the proposal. “Having the municipality as a partner

can create long-term economic investment.”

Texas has become a top destination for the data center gold rush, with over 400 built already and another 248 on the way. An analysis by the Texas Tribune found that data center builders have started seeking out rural and unincorporated areas where regulation is limited and they can proceed despite sometimes stiff local resistance.

Data center sites require a huge amount of land and water resources. A 100 megawatt data center would draw the same amount of electricity as 50,000 homes. Residents living near data centers across the country claim they cause toxic air and water pollution, and spiking energy prices. A constant low level hum from the whirring processors can be heard for up to two miles away, causing distress and anxiety, according to critics of the centers.

The economic benefit is murky. Functioning essentially as a warehouse for processing units, data centers don’t require long-term employment in the same way that a factory does. The jobs created are usually limited to the initial construction and ongoing maintenance. Texas misses out on at least \$3.2 billion dollars every year in state tax revenue from data centers, a figure that was released by the comptroller’s office. Local tax opportunities are also limited.

Leyva estimated that the first phase of the project would generate 300 jobs for the 18 months of

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Official fired after drug charges

Charges included tampering with evidence, and resisting arrest

By GINA VERA and ROB D’AMICO

Alpine

City Secretary and former Interim City Manager Geoffrey “Geo” Calderon was fired Tuesday night following his arrest on May 31 on charges including possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest.

Calderon, 36, worked for the city since 2018, was appointed secretary in 2021, and served as interim city manager until the January appointment of Henry Arredondo. He has been the chief

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Border wall staging begins

TRUMP WAIVES GREEN LAWS FOR BIG BEND WALL

By KATE BUBACZ

Presidio

The heavy machinery is moving in. Barely a week after receiving a \$2.6 billion federal contract for border wall construction, subcontractors for Fisher Industries have started to build a lay-down site for equipment outside of Presidio.

As the sun rose on Monday morning, two subcontractors from Arizona were looking at plans and figuring out how to grade and pave an area off FM170. A rented maintainer, water truck and front-end loader sat next to three prefab buildings that will become the Fisher offices. The staging site is located on 14 acres of private property owned by Herman Acosta within the Presidio industrial park.

When reached by phone, a man who identified himself as Herman Acosta said that he didn’t know anything about the happenings in Presidio. He later relayed that his son Herman Jr., the site owner, leased the site to Fisher Industries for their offices. In return, Fisher agreed to level off and fence the property. His son declined to comment further on the lease terms.

The subcontractors indicated that the site would be for staging equipment related to the border wall, and they did not know of any plans for worker housing. “There’s not a lot of options,” said one of the subcontractors, who gave his name as Dylan.

The North Dakota headquarters for Fisher Industries confirmed that a lay-down site was being built in Presidio but did not have details about further construction plans. The company has received two federal contracts totalling \$3.8 billion dollars to build the border wall in Texas

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Gives “CBP unfettered authority to do anything they want within the national park”

MARFA PUBLIC RADIO

By TRAVIS BUBENIK

The Trump administration is once again bypassing federal environmental laws to speed up work on border barriers and related infrastructure in the Big Bend region of West Texas, this time for a project in and around the region’s namesake national and state parks.

According to a preliminary federal notice released Monday, the latest regulatory waiver will apply to more than 100 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border in the region, from near the Closed Canyon trail in Big Bend Ranch State Park through the entirety of Big Bend National Park and into remote parts of southeastern Brewster County.

In the notice, Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin wrote that the administration is bypassing a wide range of laws “to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads” along the southern border.

While U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to insist it will not build a 30-foot-tall steel border wall in either the state or national park, the agency’s current plans call for a mix of vehicle barriers, surveillance technology and patrol road upgrades in the parks as part of a project dubbed “Big Bend 4.” A CBP spokesperson confirmed that the latest waiver is intended for that project.

This week’s waiver comes after six former superintendents of Big Bend National Park penned a letter to Mullin urging him to not take such a step.

“This is devastating news, giving CBP unfettered authority

to do anything they want within the national park,” said Bob Krumenaker, the park’s most recent former superintendent who now chairs the Keep Big Bend Wild advocacy group.

Technically, this latest regulatory waiver isn’t new: It’s a revision of a similar one issued in May for a different stretch of the border.

Big concern: Impact of road

In Monday’s notice, Mullin wrote that last month’s filing—which initially applied to part of the Rio Grande east of Big Bend National Park—contained an “incorrect” description of the area covered by the waiver. The new filing contains updated GPS coordinates, changing the area of the border where federal laws will be bypassed.

Park supporters have been particularly concerned about the potential for new road building along the Rio Grande, which Krumenaker said in a statement advocates will “continue to do everything possible to deter.”

“Their utter disregard for the will of the people, the taxpayers’ money, the actual data showing minimal numbers of border crossings inside the park, and the values that Texans and all Americans hold dear as represented by the National Parks leave us without sufficient words to express,” he said.

In a statement, a CBP spokesperson said the agency is coordinating with the National Park Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other agencies.

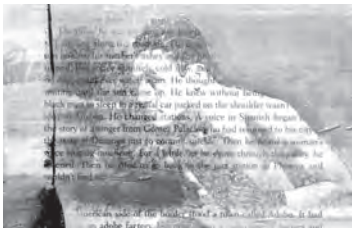
“While there are priorities for new border wall and detection technology in [the Border Patrol’s] Big Bend Sector, the combination of barriers, roads, and technology (cameras, infrared illuminators, and other detection technology) in the areas adjacent to the Big Bend National Park and State Park are still in the planning stages, while CBP focuses on other higher priority locations,” the agency said.

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HANNAH GENTILES FOR MARFA PUBLIC RADIO

INSIDE



Art: **457 pages** by Dimick—Page 6

Sentinel News Project



Centennial postponed

“Despite enthusiasm for the *Sentinel* centennial, including a Jimmie Dale Gilmore benefit on June 20, we’re moving the dates back,” said Roger Black, publisher. With our lean staff it seemed better to devote our energies now to journalism—the reason for the publication.”

“We’ll set a date in the fall,” said Rob D’Amico, editor.” Meanwhile, the team is out reporting area news—and furthering community dialog, he said. “We’ll stage a celebration that’s a springboard to the next hundred years.”

A view of the Rio Grande from the Boquillas Canyon Trail in Big Bend National Park.

Public Notice – Action Required

Sexual Abuse Claims in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by September 11, 2026.

The Diocese of El Paso (“**Diocese**”) has filed bankruptcy to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Putative Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, In re: Diocese of El Paso (Bankr. W.D. Tx.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, go to <https://cases.stretto.com/dioceseofelpaso> or call (833) 345-0351.

Who Should File a Claim?
Anyone who alleges they were abused and believes the Diocese, or persons affiliated with the Diocese, may be responsible for the abuse must file a claim. This includes abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese, including schools, orphanages, parishes, or Catholic Charities. A list of such entities associated with the Diocese is available on the website or by calling the toll-free number listed below.¹ If you have an abuse claim against any entity on that list, you may have a claim against the Diocese. Only the Diocese is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against any entity on that list, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

When and How Should I File a Claim?
You should file a claim using either Official Bankruptcy Form No. 410 (or a form substantially similar thereto) or the Abuse Proof of Claim Supplement Claim so that it is received by September 11, 2026. **If you do not file a timely claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese, including any right to compensation.**

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

¹ This may include parishes formerly under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese and, as of August 17, 1982, under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese of Las Cruces, NM as set forth on the following websites:
A. <https://www.elpasodiocese.org/parishes-by-vicariate.html>
B. https://www.elpasocatholicschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=653277&type=d&pREC_ID=1108512
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No official proposal yet on Presidio data center

Continued from page 1
construction, and then around 80 jobs long term. Barrera said that no public money would be required for the first phase of the project. They said that there are already interested investors, but the exact customer for the data center has not been identified. This would be the first data center project for Lead Capital and Maachi.

“Here we’re providing the needs of these big tech companies, where gas is cheap, and we can provide access to Mexican workers where the labor is cheaper,” said Barrera when explaining why Presidio was an attractive site. The industrial site north of the city provides access to roads and grid-tied power lines. The LNG terminal and the proposed geothermal power plant could augment the proposed gas power plant.

“Data centers bring everyone together because it will make money for y’all, and it’ll make money for us,” said Leyva. Leyva is a native of Presidio, and his company Maachi is registered in town, but he says that he lives and works out of San Antonio. Barrera is based in Mexico City.

John Kennedy, the executive director of the municipal development district, and Board President Laura Portillo recommended the investors submit a formal written proposal and engage with the community and city council over concerns about the impact to local health and the environment.

“There was a thought that a smaller-scale data center could be in the mix for the master plan for the industrial park,” said Kennedy, while noting that the risks to air pollution and water use would have to be addressed.

Board Treasurer Jiovannie Escontrias expressed interest in the project, noting that the city is

facing a \$400,000 budget shortfall. The investors said that in addition to building infrastructure they would also consider paying for the hazmat training necessary for the fire department to deal with the sensitive processors. The training represents a substantial cost to the city.—KATE BUBACZ

Presidio site set for wall equipment

Continued from page 1
alone. It has similar contracts for border wall construction in New Mexico, Arizona and California.

It’s unclear what land use rights, if any, have been secured by the Army Corps of Engineers. Letters requesting right of entry for construction and surveying were sent to some landowners along the border starting in March and April.

Presidio County passed a resolution in March against the border wall construction, although there are no ordinances that would directly apply. The staging site is being built outside Presidio city limits, which are a patchwork on the north side of town following the sale and transfer of parts of the industrial park. City officials expressed frustration with the federal government over the lack of communication and cooperation.

Looking south across the highway towards the Matasaguas mountains, one of the subcontractors asked if that was Mexico. He then asked how late the border was open and made plans to go to Ojinaga for dinner.

Feds waive park protections

Continued from page 1
CBP to ignore a wide range of federal laws as it moves to install or upgrade a mix of surveillance technology, vehicle barriers and patrol roads in the parks, as the agency’s latest map of the Big Bend 4 project calls for.

“These horrific plans are an affront to the millions of Americans who treasure Big Bend,” Lai-ken Jordahl, an advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. “Politicians who’ve never set foot here are signing a death warrant for this wild and beautiful place.”

The Center noted that the latest waiver notice, as written, allows for the installation of new border fencing, barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors.

The latest development comes as Customs and Border Protection is gearing up to begin construction on an actual 30-foot steel border wall through other parts of the Big Bend region outside the parks within weeks.

Amid months of shifting plans and public confusion about what exactly the administration is seeking to build in the region, anti-wall advocates have continued to sound the alarm about the physical wall plan, saying the approximately 175-mile border wall through Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties is still a threat.

Jordahl’s group, along with West Texas residents, has already sued the Trump administration over an earlier federal regulatory waiver intended to speed up the steel border wall. He said the Center for Biological Diversity will fight the new waiver “with everything we’ve got.”

This article was published June 8 at marfpublicradio.org

Council appoints interim city secretary

Continued from page 1
City Council meetings and oversees—at a top level—many of the city’s projects. According to a bio on the city’s website, Calderon is an Alpine native and graduate of Alpine High School.

“The city secretary position is a revered position within Texas municipalities, and as such, those holding this title must be beyond reproach,” said Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves. “The City Council was left with no choice but to terminate Geo Calderon’s employment with the effective date June 10. It was with heavy hearts that this decision was made, but it was in the best interest of all our citizens,” Eaves said.

The Alpine City Council voted unanimously to remove Calderon from his city position during a special meeting that also included the appointment of Clarinda Espinoza as interim city secretary.

Espinoza has held the position of human resources generalist for the City of Alpine since September 2022.

“My heart goes out to Geo and his family,” Eaves said following the Tuesday meeting. “Drug addiction is a horrible thing that has caused a lot of grief throughout our country and which affects individuals of all races, all socioeconomic levels, and all professions. Good people sometimes get caught up in bad things. I wish him success as he works on his recovery and forges a positive, productive, and happy personal and professional life in the future.”

Police arrested Calderon during an early morning traffic stop on charges of possession of a controlled substance, resisting arrest, tampering with evidence and possession of a prohibited substance in a correctional/civil facility, according to records from the Brewster County Sheriff’s Office.

Deputy Dustin Chopelas stopped a car Calderon was a passenger in at 2:58 a.m. for not signaling a turn soon enough at Highway 118 and E. Gallego, ac-

cording to a probable cause affidavit by Calderon’s arrest.

The affidavit by Chopelas outlined the following sequence of events, which started with: “Heavy odor of alcohol was emitting from the vehicle.” A 24-year-old woman in the car admitted to drinking, but the 22-year-old male driver said he was a designated driver.

Police said Calderon “displayed nervous and deceptive behavior inside the vehicle” as well as when being questioned outside the vehicle. Calderon also emptied his pocket of a clear container of liquid and threw it in a yard. Rock-like substances in the car tested positive for cocaine, the affidavit said.

“An attempt to detain Calderon was conducted,” the affidavit stated. “Calderon resisted arrest by pulling away and kicking Of-

ficer Juarez multiple times. During the search of Calderon [at the jail], Calderon attempted to destroy a clear plastic baggie containing a white power like substance by throwing it in the bathroom toilet ... The contraband was retrieved out of the toilet and later ... [the] substance tested positive for the presence of cocaine.”

Calderon was released from Brewster County Jail that same Sunday on a bond.

Possession of a controlled substance charges list the class of drug, in this case Class 1, which includes cocaine. The charges were for 1 gram to 4 grams. However, Calderon’s charges specifically included a “1-B” classification, reserved for fentanyl. Since the affidavit did not list any fentanyl found, it’s still unclear why that charge was levied.



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PRESIDIO INTERNATIONAL

Instalan centro de operaciones para el muro fronterizo en Presidio



El sitio de operaciones que se está habilitando para Fisher Industries en Presidio, sobre la carretera FM 170, cuenta con equipo y remolques de oficina alquilados.

Por KATE BUBACZ

Presidio

La maquinaria pesada está llegando al lugar. Apenas una semana después de recibir un contrato federal de 2.600 millones de dólares para la construcción del muro fronterizo, subcontratistas de Fisher Industries han comenzado a habilitar un centro de acopio y operaciones para el equipo en las afueras de Presidio.

Al amanecer del lunes, dos subcontratistas de Arizona revisaban los planos y calculaban cómo nivelar y pavimentar un terreno situado junto a la carretera FM170. Una motoniveladora alquilada, un camión cisterna y una cargadora frontal se encontraban junto a tres estructuras prefabricadas que servirán como oficinas de Fisher. El centro de operaciones se ubica en una propiedad privada de 14 acres perteneciente a Herman Acosta, dentro del parque industrial de Presidio.

Al ser contactado por teléfono, un hombre que se identificó como Herman Acosta dijo no saber nada sobre lo que estaba ocurriendo en Presidio. Más tarde informó que su hijo, Herman Jr. —propietario

del terreno—, había arrendado el sitio a Fisher Industries para sus oficinas. A cambio, Fisher acordó nivelar y cercar la propiedad. Su hijo rechazó hacer más comentarios sobre los términos del contrato de arrendamiento.

Los subcontratistas indicaron que el sitio serviría para concentrar maquinaria relacionada con el muro fronterizo y que desconocían si existían planes para alojar a los trabajadores. “No hay muchas opciones”, comentó uno de los subcontratistas, quien se identificó como Dylan.

La sede central de Fisher Industries en Dakota del Norte confirmó que se estaba construyendo un centro de acopio en Presidio, pero no ofreció detalles sobre planes de construcción adicionales. La empresa ha obtenido dos contratos federales por un total de 3.800 millones de dólares para construir el muro fronterizo únicamente en Texas. Cuenta con contratos similares para la construcción del muro en Nuevo México, Arizona y California.

No está claro qué derechos de uso de suelo, si es que existe alguno, ha obtenido el Cuerpo de

Ingenieros del Ejército. A partir de marzo y abril, se enviaron cartas a algunos propietarios de tierras a lo largo de la frontera solicitando permiso de acceso para realizar trabajos de construcción y topografía.

El condado de Presidio aprobó una resolución en marzo oponiéndose a la construcción del muro fronterizo, aunque no existen ordenanzas municipales aplicables directamente al caso. El centro de operaciones se está construyendo fuera de los límites de la ciudad de Presidio; dichos límites presentan una configuración irregular en el lado norte de la localidad, producto de la venta y transferencia de diversas secciones del parque industrial. Las autoridades municipales expresaron su frustración ante la falta de comunicación y cooperación por parte del gobierno federal. Al mirar hacia el sur, cruzando la carretera en dirección a las montañas de Matasaguas, uno de los subcontratistas preguntó si aquello era México. Luego preguntó hasta qué hora permanecería abierta la frontera y planeó ir a cenar a Ojinaga.

Inversores de centros de datos buscan grandes extensiones de terreno en Presidio

Presidio

Las polvorientas afueras de Presidio podrían cubrirse pronto de naves industriales destinadas a centros de datos. Dos promotores de un complejo de centros de datos sondearon el interés inicial de la Junta del Distrito de Desarrollo Municipal de Presidio para un proyecto de construcción en la zona industrial.

“Lo que solicitamos al condado son grandes extensiones de terreno”, declaró Gerardo Barrera, socio fundador de Lead Capital, una firma de servicios financieros de Ciudad de México que participa en la propuesta. El 3 de junio informó a la junta que los inversores de Lead Capital buscan entre 200 y 250 hectáreas —el equivalente a una milla cuadrada—, solicitándolas tanto al Ayuntamiento como al condado de Presidio.

Su propuesta inicial, que aún no se ha presentado formalmente, incluiría la construcción de una planta generadora de gas para garantizar un suministro eléctrico constante a un complejo de centros de datos de 100 megavatios. Los representantes restaron importancia al escepticismo que han suscitado los centros de datos en otras partes de Texas y del país, y subrayaron que las instalaciones cumplirían con las normativas medioambientales.

“Es una gran oportunidad para el condado; muchos condados lo están haciendo”, afirmó Jesús Leyva, representante de Maachi —una empresa local afiliada a Lead Capital— al hablar sobre la pro-

puesta. “Contar con el municipio como socio puede generar inversión económica a largo plazo”.

Las instalaciones de centros de datos requieren enormes cantidades de terreno y recursos hídricos. Un centro de datos de 100 megavatios consumiría tanta electricidad como 50.000 hogares. Los residentes que viven cerca de centros de datos en todo el país denuncian que estas instalaciones provocan contaminación tóxica del aire y del agua, así como un aumento en los precios de la energía. Según los críticos de estos centros, el zumbido constante de los procesadores en funcionamiento puede escucharse a una distancia de hasta dos millas, causando malestar y ansiedad.

El beneficio económico no está claro. Al funcionar esencialmente como almacenes de unidades de procesamiento, los centros de datos no requieren empleo a largo plazo de la misma manera que una fábrica. Los empleos generados suelen limitarse a la fase inicial de construcción y al mantenimiento continuo. Texas deja de percibir al menos 3.200 millones de dólares anuales en ingresos fiscales estatales procedentes de los centros de datos, según datos de la oficina del contralor. Las oportunidades de recaudación de impuestos locales también son limitadas.

Leyva estimó que la primera fase del proyecto generaría 300 empleos durante los 18 meses de construcción y, posteriormente, unos 80 empleos a largo plazo. Barrera afirmó que no se requerirían fondos

públicos para la primera fase del proyecto. Señalaron que ya existen inversores interesados, aunque aún no se ha identificado al cliente final del centro de datos. Este sería el primer proyecto de centro de datos para Lead Capital y Maachi.

“Aquí satisfacemos las necesidades de estas grandes empresas tecnológicas: el gas es barato y podemos facilitar el acceso a trabajadores mexicanos, cuya mano de obra es más económica”, explicó Barrera al justificar por qué Presidio resultaba un emplazamiento atractivo. El complejo industrial, situado al norte de la ciudad, cuenta con acceso a carreteras y a líneas eléctricas conectadas a la red general. La terminal de GNL y la proyectada planta de energía geotérmica podrían complementar la central eléctrica de gas propuesta.

“Los centros de datos benefician a todos, ya que generarán ganancias tanto para ustedes como para nosotros”, afirmó Leyva. Leyva es oriundo de Presidio y su empresa, Maachi, está registrada en la localidad, aunque él reside y trabaja desde San Antonio. Por su parte, Barrera tiene su sede en Ciudad de México.

John Kennedy, director ejecutivo del distrito de desarrollo municipal, y la presidenta de la junta, Laura Portillo, recomendaron a los inversores presentar una propuesta formal por escrito y dialogar con la comunidad y el ayuntamiento sobre las inquietudes relativas al impacto en la salud local y el medio ambiente.

— **KATE BUBACZ**

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OBITUARIES

Avid preservationist and cyclist, with business acumen

MIKE and his wife Debbie arrived in the Davis Mountains in 1997, rolled up their sleeves and helped craft one of the largest most important conservation projects in Texas. They were inseparable, and they loved the land and each other. The next year they moved to the mountains and never left.

Mike Murphy's friends in Far West Texas would describe him as energetic, friendly, driven, focused, smart and good-natured. He mastered many skills over his 71 years.

Mike could create and understand complex financial documents and real estate deals. He possessed carpentry and wood-working skills, would willingly dig a trench in the West Texas hardpan to establish a garden, and could explain the ancient Hebrew alphabet if anyone asked. Mike had a well-defined sense of right and wrong, and he called out equivocation.

Mike Murphy, of Fort Davis, passed away on May 25, Memorial Day, 2026, ending a bedside vigil by family members at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Mike lived the urban, corporate life as a management and technology consultant (IBM, Ernst & Young, among others) until the late 1990s, when he and his wife Debbie bought acreage at the foot of Arabella Mountain near Limpia Crossing in Fort Davis, Texas. By 1998 they'd built a log home with inspiring views of McDonald Observatory.

Mike jumped right into community work, helping develop and teach leadership curriculum for Leadership Big Bend. He was interested in the dynamics of groups and conducted workshops in team-building and strategic planning for local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Over the years, he held almost every officer post in the Fort Davis Lions Club. As a member of Fort Davis United Methodist Church, Mike was involved in a variety of roles and committees and was a familiar participant in local Bible studies.

He brought his energy to the board of Texas Mountain Trail, a tourism promotion arm of the Texas Historical Commission and served two terms on the Jeff Davis County Appraisal Review Board.

Mike's passion for bicycle riding began when he raced bicycles on velodromes as a member of the St. Louis Cyclones. Mike annually helped plan and round up volunteers for the spring Hammerfest bicycle races in the Davis Mountains and Fort Davis Cyclefest, the annual fall ride on the scenic mountain loop around the town.

For years after the Davis Mountains Preserve was established, he was an active volunteer who spent hundreds of hours clearing roads, building trails and sharing whenever possible how critical it was to preserve this unique sky island. Mike led hikes on the trails and often cooked and cleaned for scheduled public outings at the Preserve.

Putting his business skills to work, Murphy's Pizzeria and Café



opened in Fort Davis using a pizza dough recipe Mike said he'd been carrying in his wallet for years. With Mike as dough puncher and pizza cook, the restaurant was popular and successful until the restaurant was sold.

Mike joined the Small Business Development Center at SRSU as a business advisor assisting clients with startup planning, financial analysis and marketing strategies. Later he earned his real estate license and acquired Texas Mountains Realty growing the business until it was eventually sold.

All the while, Mike set aside time for bike rides with Debbie, and he frequently joined friends from Marfa and Alpine on rides and hikes. On a trip north, Mike and Debbie explored Denali National Park on a tandem bike. For many Octobers, he explored the canyons of southeast Utah with friends from Fort Davis and Alpine. If someone spotted an interesting looking cave, Mike would scamper up the rocks to be first to stick his head inside. Mike also rode horses in cattle drives and trail rides in Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and Big Bend National Park.

Mike was born on November 18, 1954 in Evergreen Park, Illinois, grew up in the Chicago area and attended Southern Illinois University and National Lewis University earning a BA in behavior science. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; siblings Philip Murphy III (Julia), the late Jeanie Murphy-Mittal (Jim), the late Susan "Suzie" Murphy, Eileen Murphy Amlee (Duane), Sharon Richardson (Tim), Mary Castle (Kent) and David Murphy (Stacy Alexander); sister-in-law Barbara Bresciani (John); and brother-in-law Herb Johnson (Laura). Mike is uncle, great-uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend to many others.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday August 23, 2026, at Davis Mountains Preserve McIvor Conservation Center.

Donations in Mike's memory may be made to Jeff Davis County Food Pantry PO Box 244 Fort Davis, TX 79734, foodpantry-jdc.org or to the Fort Davis Volunteer Fire Department P O Box 811, Fort Davis, TX 79734.

Alpine native nurtured family, plants and pets

YOLANDA Parras Marquez, 74, passed away on June 3, 2026, in Alpine, Texas.

Yolanda was born on July 8, 1951, in Alpine, Texas, to Francisco Parras and Ramona Ramos Parras. She was raised in the community she loved and called home throughout her life.

Yolanda married Reymario Marquez of Sanderson, Texas, and together they welcomed two sons, Reymario Marquez Jr. and Eric Jesus Marquez. Following the loss of her husband in April 1979, Yolanda continued to devote herself to raising her family with strength, love, and determination. Later, she married Ramon Yniguez of Alpine, Texas, with whom she shared many years of companionship and love.

Throughout her life, Yolanda was known for her strong work ethic and dedication to serving her community. She worked for American National Insurance and later for the Alpine Housing Authority, where she built lasting relationships and earned the respect and friendship of many colleagues and residents.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Francisco and Ramona Parras; her brothers, Francisco Parras Jr., and Ruben Parras; and her first husband, Reymario Marquez.

Yolanda is survived by her loving husband, Ramon Yniguez; her sons, Reymario Marquez Jr. and Eric Marquez and his wife, Hang Marquez; her sister, Irma Lara; her cherished grandchildren, Rosella Marquez, Rosalyn Marquez, and Eric Marquez Jr.; her beloved great-grandson, Carlos Aziel; and a great-granddaughter expected to arrive soon. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will deeply miss her presence.

Yolanda's greatest joy in life was spending time with her family. She treasured every opportunity to gather with her children, grandchildren, and loved ones. She had a special love for flowers and plants and found great happiness in nurturing them and watching them grow. She was also an avid animal lover who adored cats and dogs, and she enjoyed listening to music that brought comfort and joy to her days. Her home and heart were always open to family, friends, and the pets she loved so dearly.

May she rest in eternal peace. Pallbearers : Eric Marquez Jr., Leo Lara Jr., Jessie Lara, Tony Lara, Jerry Lara, Robbie Parras and Tony Hernandez, and Adam Arredondo.

Viewing is scheduled for June 11, 2026, from 1:00-9:00 p.m. at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home, Alpine, TX.

The Mass will be held on June 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine, Texas.

Services are entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home and gifts and condolences may be left by visiting www.alpinememorial-funeralhome.com.

AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thursday June 11

Boxing at Maintenant
7:30am-9:00am
Maintenant, 1825 Rabbits Rd.
Marfa, TX

Skyline Drive Geology Tour
9:00am-11:00am
Davis Mountains State Park
Park Rd 3
Fort Davis, TX

Meditation
6:00pm, free and open to all
Marfa Public Library
Community Room
Marfa, TX

Friday June 12

Desert Sketches-
Cochineal Dye
10:00am-11:00am
Big Bend Ranch State Park
Terlingua, TX

Indian Lodge Tour
4:00pm-5:00pm
Davis Mountains State Park
Park Rd 3
Fort Davis, TX

Live Music:
Gil Shackelford & Friends
7:00pm-10:0pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Saturday June 13

Pollinators in the
Davis Mountains
Alpine Public Library
805 W. Avenue E
Alpine, TX

Agaves & The Animals That
Love Them
2:00pm-3:00pm
Davis Mountains State Park
Park Rd 3
Fort Davis, TX

Live Music: Marathon
Moonhorse on The Patio
8:00pm-10:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX



Open Mic Night: Comedy
7:00pm-10:00pm
Alcove Social
211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Sunday June 14

Morning Bird Walk
9:00am-11:00am
Davis Mountains State Park
H3V6+G93, Park Rd 3
Fort Davis, TX

Sunday Slow Stretch
with Bailey
4:00pm-5:00pm
La Sala Studio, 207 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Open Mic Night: Music
5:00pm-8:00pm
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

Tuesday June 16

Too-Early Tuesdays Sunrise
Hiking at CDRI
8:00am
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center
& Botanical Gardens
43869 State Highway 118
Fort Davis, TX

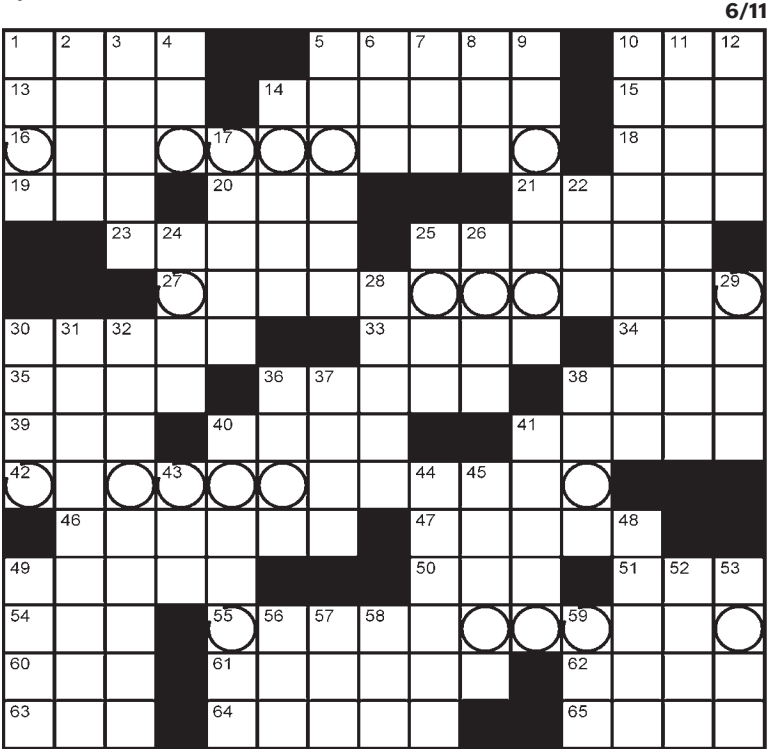
Meditation
6:00pm, free and open to all
Marfa Public Library
Community Room
Marfa, TX

Trivia Tuesday
7:00pm-9:00pm
Alcove Social
211 E Holland Ave
Alpine, TX

CROSSWORD

The Beast in Me

By Rebecca Goldstein



Edited by Taylor Johnson

ACROSS

1 What a skateboarder might grind on

5 Airship used to promote "Marty Supreme" in 2025

10 "How adorable!"

13 Guesstimate words

14 Less forthcoming

15 National dish of Vietnam

16 "Who Wants To Be a ___?" (In this clue's answer, note letters 1, 4-7 and 11)

18 ___ favor (please, in Spanish)

19 Small battery size

20 Unspecified degree

21 "Weekend Update" co-host Jost

23 Palindromic title

25 Pickling liquids

27 Dictation machine insert (... letters 1, 6-8 and 12)

30 "The Whale" actress Sink

33 "Never ___ I ever ..."

34 "I get it now!"

35 Name hidden in "rotten idea"

36 Like a crunchy carrot

38 "Jump" duo ___ Kross

39 "Arrival" arrivals, briefly

40 Lemon's cover

41 Restless

42 Localized weather conditions (... letters 1, 3-6 and 12)

46 One parent of a mule

47 Ranch units

49 Singer and actress

50 Janelle King, in French

51 Breathe it in!

54 Traveler's guess

55 Frantic rush (... letters 1, 6-8 and 11)

60 Person whose House work is often away from home, for short

61 Jogging, say

62 Torah cabinets

63 Letter with two curves

64 Grannies

65 Small bother

DOWN

1 Tomato variety

2 Diva's chance to shine

3 Imam's faith

4 "ur hilarious"

5 Vietnamese sandwich

6 NYC airport code

7 V - II

8 Prefix with "man" or "maid"

9 Exact

10 Fruity dessert

11 Question of identity

12 Threadbare

14 Trig ratio

17 Not mainstream

22 I, at times

24 Surrounded by

25 Sheepish sounds

26 Invitation acronym

28 Meaty topping for a hot dog

29 Simple

30 Appear to be

31 Remedies

32 Times spent out before

36 "Finally" singer

37 Depend (on)

38 Joint above the calf

40 "Gotta Catch 'Em All" franchise

41 Sunlit lobbies

43 Genetic messenger

44 Celebrity chef

45 Nut used in much Indigenous American cooking

48 Buffalo NHL player

49 Insignificant

52 Kinds

53 Take a breather

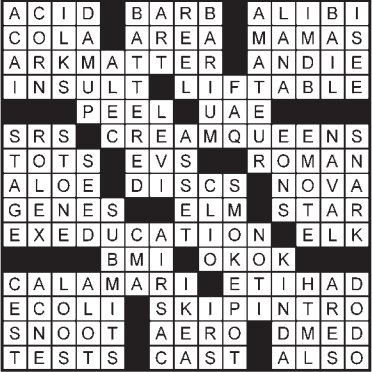
56 Santa ___, California

57 "Schitt's Creek" actor

58 Mrs., in Spanish

59 Cartographer's creation

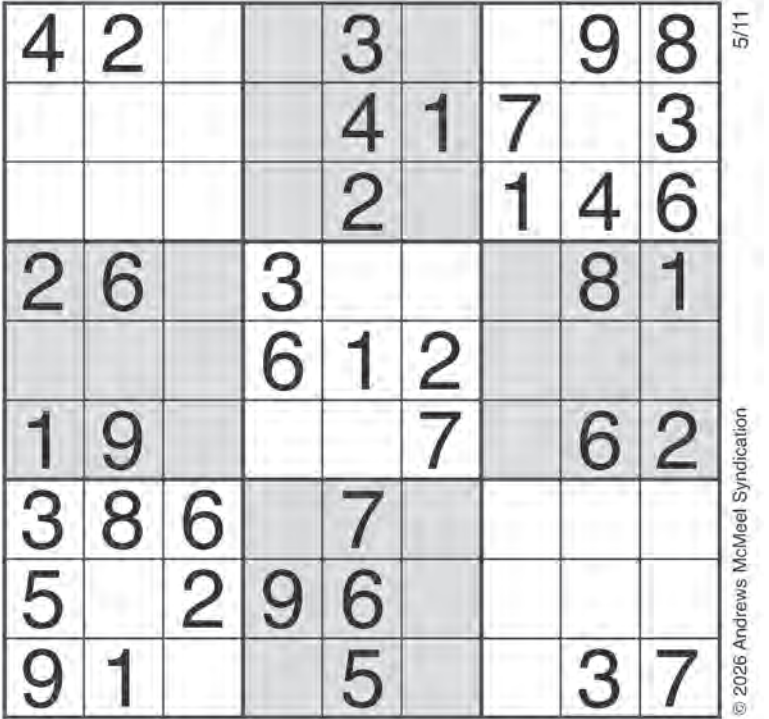
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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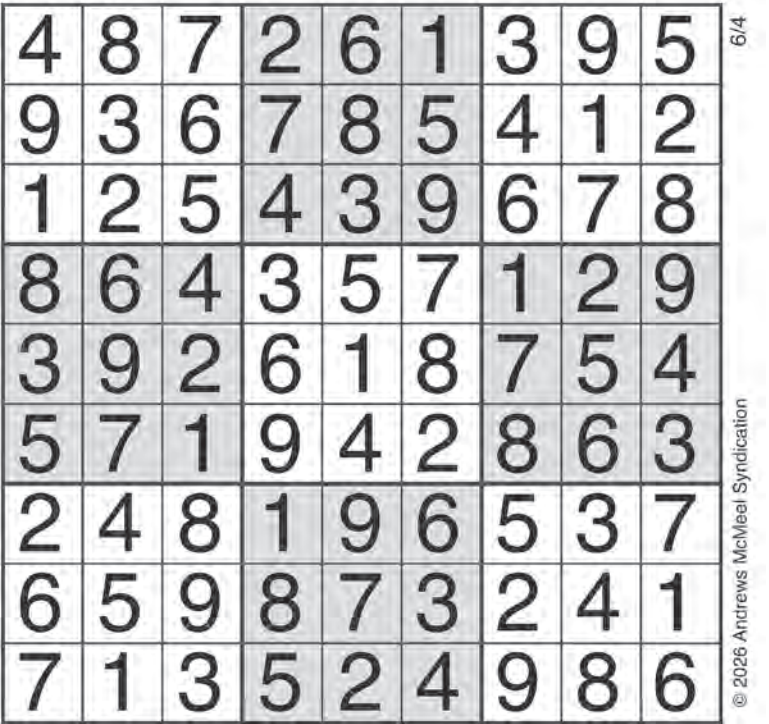
SUDUKO

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

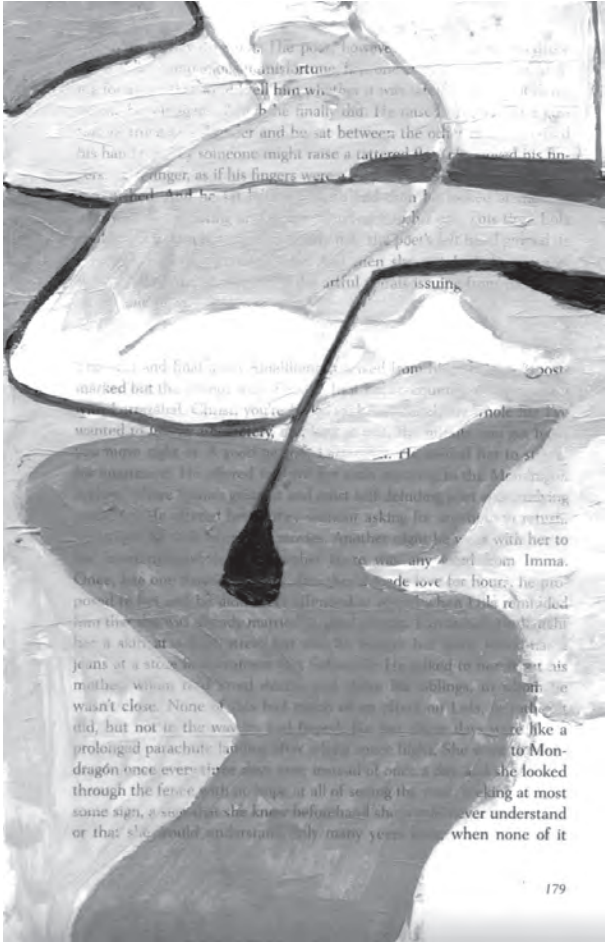


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

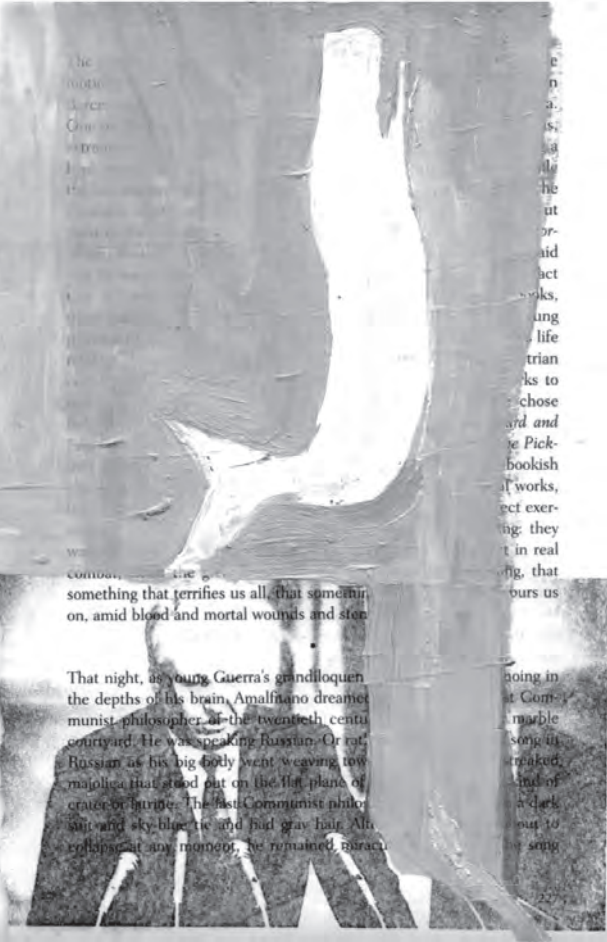
SOLUTION:



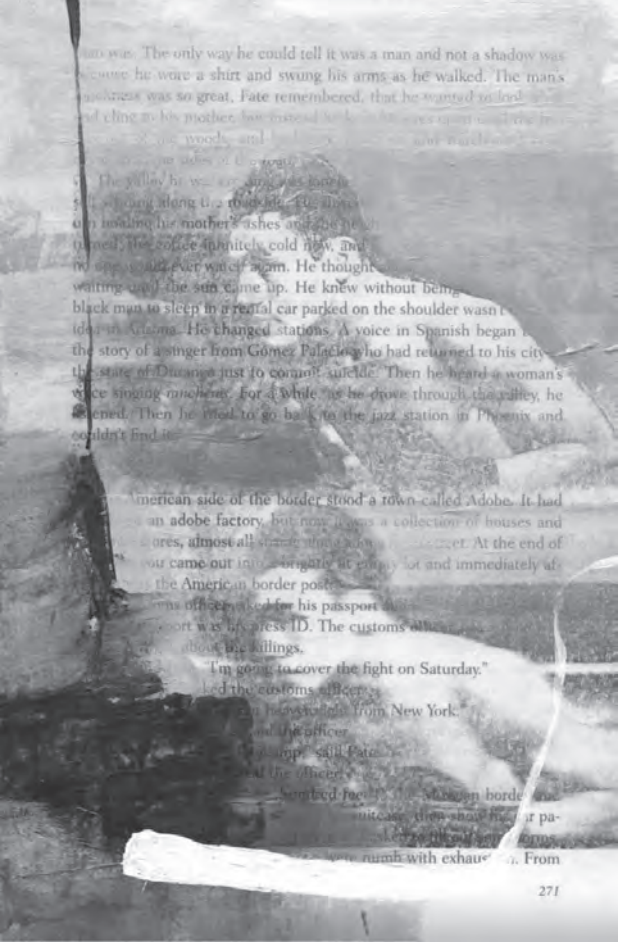
ARTS



Lucas Dimick, 2666 Project, page 179



Lucas Dimick, 2666 Project, page 277



Lucas Dimick, 2666 Project, page 271

Museum of the Big Bend hosts summer art camp

Alpine

Young artists will have a chance to explore their creative side this July as the Museum of the Big Bend hosts its annual Summer Art Camp.

Running from July 20-24, 2026, the camp will take place at the museum's Cultural Events Center, located on the Sul Ross State University campus. The week-long camp is split into two age-specific half-day sessions:

- Ages 4 to 6: 9 a.m. to noon
- Ages 7 to 10: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 for non-members and \$35 for museum members. Parents looking to secure the discount can join or donate during the online registration process. Because the museum prioritizes hands-on instruction, spots for both age groups are strictly limited, and early registration is highly encouraged. For more information, visit museumofthebigbend.com/education-program.



Campers are well equipped for creative projects.

Visualizing the ‘emotional imprint’ from a book

Dimick exhibit at Eugene Binder features 457 pages of paintings

THE PREMIERE of artist Lucas Dimick's 2666 Project will take place June 12-20 in Marfa at Eugene Binder located at 218 Highland Street. The exhibition of 457 individual paintings made directly on the

pages of a book will open with a public reception with the artist on Friday, June 12, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will be on view through Saturday, June 20.

"The 2666 Project is a series of paintings made directly onto the pages of a physical paperback copy of Roberto Bolaño's novel 2666," Dimick says. "The book, unfinished at the time of the author's death, is sprawling, fragmented, and haunting. It moves through overlapping narratives of violence, obsession, academia,

and art that, for me, left behind a lingering sense of unease about global economic systems and their effect on people pushed to the margins of a globalized world."

Dimick is an award-winning independent animator whose work has been presented at the Blanton Museum of Art, Museum of Human Achievement, the Chicago Underground Film Festival, and the Marfa Film Festival. He lives in Austin.

"I have painted over every odd-numbered page, for a total of 457

pages/paintings," Dimick says. "My intention was not to create illustrations that directly match the narrative, but to make work based on the impressions and emotional imprint the book left me with. By painting on every odd-numbered page of the book, transforming the physical copy of the book into a continuous sequence and complete visual object."

"The goal isn't to explain or interpret 2666, but to remain with the feeling it left behind," Dimick

adds. "My intent is to create a standalone work layered onto a preexisting one—a transformation of a mass-produced object into something that stands on its own."

A talk with the artist will air on Marfa Public Radio during the Marfa Mystery Hour program on Wednesday, June 17, at 8 p.m. A closing reception for the show will take place on Saturday, June 20, from 5-7 p.m.

More information and images of the work can be found at: www.lwdimick.com/2666-project

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The public is invited to attend.

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