...Robert Lee Problems

(Continued from page 5)

What happened to these items? What happened to the safe? With the safe missing, a value was hard to establish. Estimates ranged from a completely unusable and trashed safe valued at \$500 to comparable safes just needing a locking mechanism and valued at several thousand dollars.

It is hard to understand how members of the city council did not notice all of the new items at city hall. A statement was made that city council did not even realize that the city had debit cards prior to December 2018. That is also hard to understand considering how debit card spending from May 2018 through January 2019 averaged approximately \$18,000 month.

Long time city council

...Balmorhea pool reopens

(Continued from previous page) In addition, the existing distressed wall and backfill was removed, a new footing foundation was installed, backfill was replaced and a new wall was constructed. The cofferdams were constructed in the pool to ensure the protection of the endangered species and maintain water flow in the canals cienegas and throughout construction.

Due to the cultural sensitivity of the site and the presence of endangered species, no heavy equipment was used during construction.

After initial evaluations from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff, the project was estimated to cost \$2 million.

Apache Corporation partnered with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) to help fund the repairs to the spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park. The fundraising effort was jumpstarted with a \$1 million challenge grant announced by TPWF and Apache in August 2018. Apache pledged to match all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$1 million. Donations poured in, and by Jan. 17, more than \$1 million had been raised.

More than 575 donations were received from all corners of the state, with 60 percent of the donations under \$100. Several Texas companies made significant contributions, including Texas Pacific Land Trust, Saulsbury Remme Industries, McCoy Ranches, Legend Energy Services, Pioneer Energy Services, and Garrison Brothers Distillery.

In addition to their initial \$1 million match effort, Apache Corporation contributed a \$1 million endowment to benefit Balmorhea State Park in perpetuity.

"We are deeply grateful for Apache's generosity establishing the challenge grant and for stepping up again with a \$1 million endowment to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the Balmorhea State Park pool," said TPWF Executive Director Anne Brown. "The overwhelming response from Texas citizens and companies who chipped in demonstrates just how much people love this iconic West Texas oasis."

members Roger Alexander and Janie Munoz resigned during the February 4, 2019, meeting after they were shown to be the only council members in favor of continuing the restrictions placed upon Mayor Crenshaw.

The remaining members (Brandi Brosh, Ricky Green and Ann Hedges) appear to be solidly behind Mayor Crenshaw with their support and votes. An example of this support is the new Internal Control Structure passed February 26, 2019.

Mayor Crenshaw and Mayor Pro Tem Brandi Brosh are not on the May 4, 2019, ballot. Filing for the three 2-year terms Ricky Green, Tracy Grantham, Jason Moran, Manuel Abalos, Becca McGuire, David Lewis and Ann Hedges. Filing for the 1 year unexpired term are Zachary Van Tine and Wyatt Hopson.

"Apache is proud to have been one of the many companies and individuals who stepped up to support the treasured pool at Balmorhea State Park in its time need," said Apache Corporation CEO John Christmann. "Texans from far and near, including our employees and partners in the region, can once again enjoy the pool with friends and family thanks to the leadership of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation and the generosity of so many."

In addition to TPWF and Apache, this project was assisted by the TPWD Inland Fisheries division, the Texas Historical Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Reeves County Water District, just to name a few.

"We are grateful for the numerous partnerships that assisted with the completion of project,"said Franklin "Generations have enjoyed the pool and thanks to the generosity of Texas donors it will be enjoyed by generations to come."

This project is only one of the three major developments at State Balmorhea Renovations to the San Solomon Springs Courts and campgrounds continue and overnight facilities at the park will not be available until later this summer.

As the home to one of the most unique aquatic environments in Texas, Balmorhea State Park is toward dedicated water conservation, and the ongoing repairs to the septic system will require that extra measures be taken to limit water use.

The Civilian Conservation Corps era structure was built in the mid-1930s and is the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool. More than 15 million gallons of water flow through the pool each day, gushing from the San Solomon Springs. The 1.3- acre pool is up to 25 feet deep, holds 3.5 million gallons of water and the water temperature stays at 72 to 76 degrees year-round.

Additionally, the Balmorhea State Park pool is home to numerous species of aquatic animals, including two small, endangered desert fishes- the Pecos gambusia and Comanche Springs pupfish.

For more information about the park, or to buy a day pass to Balmorhea State Park, visit the TPWD website.

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