

The 394th judicial district: justice pioneer

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The 394th Judicial District in the state of Texas is comprised of five counties. Those counties include Brewster, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Culberson, and Hudspeth. This judicial district is overseen by the Honorable Judge Roy B. Ferguson. Twice a year, in all five counties, Judge Ferguson sets about empaneling a grand jury. The jury selection for the second in-person Brewster County grand jury since the pandemic took place last Thursday in the District Courtroom.

A grand jury is made up of a group of 12 independent and qualified people who are selected by the judge to review felony cases. Their job is to determine whether or

See DISTRICT • 12

INSIDE



FEATURED

See Livestock page 9-11.

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023. 0.00"
January.0.00"



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 18 pages

Opinions P.4

Sports P.8

Classifieds P.17-18

PLEASE REMEMBER TO THANK A VETERAN, A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES, OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EVERY DAY.



County OKs continuation of burn ban

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioner's Court held their regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 10. Commissioner Pct. 3, Ruben Ortega conducted the meeting, as new County Judge Greg Henington was completing training for his new position.

During public comment, Mr. James Patillo, an Alpine resident living in Pct. 2 addressed

the court about the squatter that is living above Alpine Creek, adjacent to his property on cemetery road. Mr. Patillo told commissioners that he had spoken with the Alpine Police Department as well as Sheriff Dodson about this situation and no conclusion was available about what to do about this person. Mr. Patillo mentioned this person had a lot of junk around their campsite and that it was



Ruben Ortega

very unsightly to look at. Mr. Patillo then asked the commissioner's what they could do about removing this person from that area. Commissioner Pct. 3 Ruben Ortega told Mr. Patillo, that he would have to speak individually with a commissioner, asked for his contact information, and assured him that he would contact him in regard to this matter.

County Clerk Sarah Vasquez

told commissioners that there was an open position in her department for a Deputy Clerk. At the time, she was not sure if the job would be a full time or a part-time position, but that they would be looking for a new employee, and she does not have anyone in mind at present.

In other news, Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore told commis-

See COUNTY • 12

Showing them off at Big Bend



Swine exhibitors Amanda Ahrens, Evelyn Smith, and Reese Coleman present their pigs to the judge this past Saturday at the 79th annual Big Bend Livestock Show.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

City Manager calls attention to upcoming legislation

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine City Council held its' regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Of importance on the agenda were comments and updates on the city infrastructure as well as upcoming legislation currently introduced during the 88th legislative session in Austin. Councilor Jerry Johnson, Ward 5 was absent due to medical reasons.

City Mayor, Catherine Eaves opened the meeting with comments about the recent water leaks affecting the City of Alpine. Once again, she thanked all those who were responsible for the repairs, the donation of water and food, and the help in getting the word out about the boil notices from Dr. Michelle Rinehart and the

Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore. Eaves read to the council a quote from the now retired Utilities Manager Keith Sager. "Both of the major water pipeline failures which occurred recently seem to be due to improper bedding of the lines. I expect to see more failures in the future due to the bedding not being done correctly in addition to the age of the water lines themselves," said Sager.

City Manager, Megan Antrim had a lengthy report, primarily focused on the upcoming legislation that has been introduced. Antrim began her report with information on the updates to the city website, where FAQ pages have been added for those com-



Megan Antrim

mon questions that arise. These can be found on the main page as well as under the department headings with their respective FAQ's. Antrim then announced that since

the retirement last Friday of Utilities Manager Sager, the Building Services official Andrew Devaney is merging his department with that of the Utilities and is stepping in as interim Utilities Manager. Antrim also noted that several employees with the City of Alpine carried adequate certifications to continue work in the water department, at the wastewater facility, as well as at the Recycling Center. There were employees in some of these departments that were trainees and eventually the city would like to see

them certified in their departments.

Of particular importance to the City of Alpine were the House and Senate bills being introduced during this legislative session. Out of over 7,000 bills introduced this session, 200 of these can affect cities. Legislation of interest are HB92, HB349, HB375, HB443, HB550, HB640, HB657, HB743, HB866, HB1279, and HB1381. Also, of interest are SB259, SB369, and SB425. Information pertaining to these bills may be found at www.capitol.texas.gov.

In continuance of her report, Antrim also gave the report for the Gas Department, as all employees were in training. She told the council that according to Gas Utility Director, Randy Guzman, his department had completed their DIMP-

Distribution Integrity Management Program projects for 2022. Guzman's report also mentioned that new gate regulators, which had failed during last year's cold weather had been installed and were supporting equal pressure throughout the city. He also noted that his staff had all the equipment for the gate regulators for Fort Davis, but that they wanted to wait for optimal weather so that nobody would be without gas during any winter weather that might occur.

Additional reports were given by the Public Works Department and Eddie Molinar who gave the council an update on paving, repair, and seal coating that was done last year.

See COUNCIL • 12

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OBITUARIES

Juana V. Armendariz

Juana V. Armendariz, age 90, of Hacienda de Orientales, Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua passed away Tuesday, Jan. 10 in Alpine. Juana was born Feb. 8, 1932 to Angel Vazquez and Manuela Bustamante in Hacienda de Orientales, Chihuahua Mexico. She was married to Concepcion Armendariz and was the mother of Luis Aranda and Lucy, Elvia Sandate and



Martin Sandate, Concepcion Armendariz, Jr., Angel Manuel Armendariz and Jose de la Cruz Armendariz. She also had nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

After marriage, she settled in Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua.

She is preceded in death by her parents, various siblings, grandson Aquiles Gonzales, son Jose de la Cruz Armendariz, and her beloved husband Concepcion "Chon" Armendariz.

Juana was very dedicated to serving the Lord. She was full of joy with a huge smile on her face and was always singing. She was also very dedi-

cated to her family that included grandchildren, great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She enjoyed baking and knitting. She also enjoyed her time outdoors planting and going on walks.

Funeral services for Juana V. Armendariz were held at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14. Burial was held at Holy Angels Cemetery. Visitation was

held at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

Pallbearers included Alejandro Carrette, Michael Higgins, Eric Marquez, Eric Marquez, Jr., Estevan Morales, and Carter Natividad.

Honorary pallbearers were Malachi Gonzales and Miles Natividad.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com

Services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Carmon Pershing Henderson Jr.

Carmon Pershing Henderson Jr., 82, of Fort Stockton, passed away on Jan. 5 in his home surrounded by his wife and children.



Carmon was born in Van Horn to Carmon and Lucille Henderson on Nov. 22, 1940. He grew up on the X Ranch and attended Van Horn High School where he excelled at football, basketball as well as track and field. Kraut met his dance partner for life, Virginia, and they were married Nov. 23, 1961, and went on to raise four children who were along for the ride and countless adventures. He went on to attend college and play football at Angelo State University. He later transferred to Sul Ross State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts in 1967. Upon graduation, Carmon

his time with us. Those close to him will always remember him as a multifaceted and brilliant man that influenced and had a great impact on numerous lives.

Carmon is preceded in death by his parents, Carmon Pershing Henderson Sr., and Lucille Henderson Garlick, and sister Minnie Koenig.

Carmon is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia Henderson, children: Don Henderson and Christy, Kyleen Henderson, Laurie Henderson, and John D Henderson and Maureen, grandchildren: Cody Henderson and Ashley, Kayla Williams, Ashton Granado, Cyle Henderson and Melissa, Kathryn Williams, Jace Williams, and Jarrett Henderson, a herd of great-grandchildren: Logan, Harper, Carter, Morgan, Jake, James, Callan, CJ, and soon to be baby Andrew. Carmon is also survived by his brother

Jody "Pat" Henderson.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Pecos County Civic Center in Fort Stockton.

Carmon's family would like to extend a special thanks to Gary "Big Ed" Edwards, Bill Vasquez, John Johns, George Luera, Paul Henderson, and the Hospice Care Team from Pecos County Memorial: Veronica, Adrianna, and Elva.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Carmon Henderson Memorial Scholarship fund at First National Bank of Fort Stockton, PCMH Home Hospice.

Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of the Big Bend in Fort Stockton. If you would like to send your condolences to the family, you may do so by signing his guestbook at www.heritagefuneralhomeofthebigbend.com.

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Jennifer Rozene in memory of Dottie Smith	
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BIG BEND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION SHOW 2023

Diondra Luevano watches the judge closely while exhibiting her pig at the Big Bend Livestock Show held this past Saturday.

Photo by Felipe Fierro



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from 4 - 7 pm

In celebration of
DAVID KELLER
for his 21 years of contributions to the historical and archaeological preservation of the Big Bend Region



STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOPS

City of Alpine has now held six Town Hall meetings gathering the thoughts, ideas, and concerns of our residents. Next, the City will host public PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOPS to discuss with City Council how and when to move forward to address the citizen's key concerns.

Now that we have a better understanding of what is most important to our citizens, the City will discuss how we can accomplish those priorities, guiding decision-making for public improvements and fiscal planning for a sustainable future for us all.

Beginning in January, the City will host at least two public workshops intended to promote discussion between staff, Council, and the public on establishing priorities from the Town Hall data gathered. Results from the combined six Town Hall meetings will be shared and discussed at these meetings

City staff looks forward to seeing you at one of the remaining following city-wide Strategic Plan Prioritization Workshops:

- January 26, 2023, Thursday, City Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.
- February 2, 2023, Thursday, City Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.
- February 16, 2023, Thursday, City Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.

Where past meets future

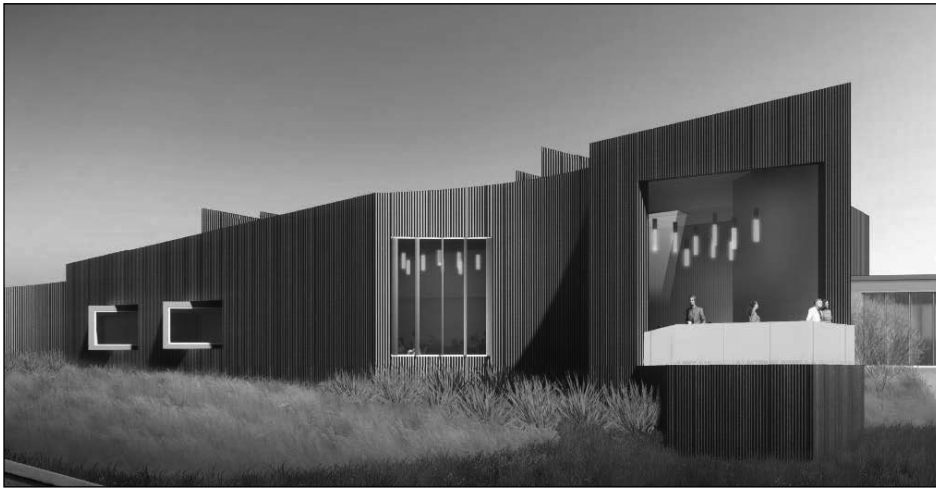
Museum of the Big Bend expansion embraces modern aesthetics

BY BETH PEABODY
Contributing Writer

To capture a moment in time is magical. To freeze an era on display is the result of dozens of experts collaborating for a truly noble endeavor, to preserve and study history for the edification of its predecessors and the successful evolution of society.

Beginning with a simple arrowhead in 1921, the Museum of the Big Bend, MoBB is an ongoing, statewide effort of collected artifacts, passionate historians, and generous donors. Contributions and local interest grew over the years, all the way through the Great Depression.

To regenerate the economy, Texas Centennial Commission, and the Works Progress Administration, WPA orga-



Architect's rendition of the outside of the Museum of the Big Bend expansion.

nized the Texas Centennial Expo. Across Texas, halls of history started popping up, honoring those who sacrificed everything to establish and develop the state of Texas, from battles to commerce.

Founded in 1926, the West Texas Historical

and Scientific Society, WTHSS was designed to preserve the entire Big Bend area. With immense effort by WTHSS and WPA, the Museum of the Big Bend opened its doors for the first time. The vision for the museum is best described on the MoBB website.

“The Mission of the Museum of the Big Bend, a Department of Sul Ross State University, is to serve and educate the public by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting the cultural, historic and natural

See MUSEUM • 12

Courtesy photo

Wildfire danger returns to state

A series of dry cold fronts sweeping through this next week brings the potential of increased wildfire risk to parts of the state, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. Currently, 69 counties are under burn bans.

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City holds first strategic plan workshop

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Last Thursday, the City of Alpine held its' first of four workshops centered around the data compiled at the town hall meetings that were held last year.

City officials attending the first workshop included Marci Tuck, grant writer for the city, City Secretary, Geo Calderon, City Manager, Megan Antrim, Mayor of Alpine, Catherine Eaves, Ward 2 Councilor, Chris Rodriguez, Tourism Coordinator, Heather Yadon, Parks and Recreation board chair, Darin Nance, Director of Utilities, Keith Sager, and Director of Finance, Alicia Salinas. Also attending the workshop were nine citizens of Alpine, including Dr.

Michelle Rinehart, Alpine ISD Superintendent, and one citizen via zoom.

Unlike a typical city council meeting, this meeting was structured so that citizens attending could voice what priorities they believe should top the strategic plan for the city, without a set time limit. Seating was arranged in a circle, so that all participants could see one another when they took the floor to speak. Mayor Eaves began with a call to order and the pledges to the flags and then turned the floor over to City Manager Antrim, who gave a short presentation on the data packet made available for those who attended the meeting.



Catherine Eaves

The packet consisted of a pie chart, followed by 17 pages, front and back of data collected at the town hall meetings. While the graph showed that employees of the city had the highest percentage margin of citizen concern, it was followed closely by the wastewater treatment plant and water, streets, and then infrastructure. However, when combined, the wastewater treatment plant, water, streets, and infrastructure covered a larger percentage than employees. After recent water leak issues that have plagued the city, replacement of water lines topped the discussion. Antrim noted that the treatment plant, the

water, and the streets all made up the infrastructure of the city, but that infrastructure was listed on the graph as a separate item because that was a generalized topic of concern turned in by citizens.

Turning to the priority in terms of tackling the issues compiled, the main thought seemed to be financial in nature. No one disagreed that water lines were a priority at this point, but how the city was going to pay

See WORKSHOP • 12

Wildlife vaccine bait airdrop underway

The Texas Department of State Health Services has renewed its battle against rabies along the Texas border by airdropping vaccine bait from planes leaving Edinburg, Del Rio and Alpine. “Our goal is to vaccinate

wildlife, with target species being coyotes and gray foxes, along the border to maintain herd immunity and to keep past variants from being reintroduced or new variants from entering Texas,” said Dr. Susan

Rollo, director of the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program. “We will be delivering vaccine baits to 18 counties this year.” About 814,000 oral rabies vaccine baits will be dropped in the 29th year of the program.

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PCHS

Notice:
Dr. John Rays last day of seeing patients at Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. is February 17, 2023

His patients may:

- Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic. Make an appointment with Dr. Edith Simmons, Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Mark Dwinell, Dr. Emily Sliz and William Mason-FNP today.
- Obtain your medical records from this office.
- Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

Aviso:
El último día de el Dr. John Rays de ver a los pacientes en Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. es 17 de febrero de 2023

Sus pacientes pueden:

- Permanecer como paciente en PCHS y ser cita con otro proveedor practicante en esta clínica. Haga una cita con la Dr. Edith Simmons, el Dr. Patrick Daly, el Dr. Mark Dwinell, la Dr. Emily Sliz o William Mason-FNP hoy.
- Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
- Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE GENRE?

RESULTS

Comedy	74% (62 votes)
Drama	7% (6 votes)
Romance	4% (3 votes)
Horror	1% (1 vote)
Action	14% (12 votes)

TOTAL votes: 84

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is your favorite movie genre?

- Comedy
- Drama
- Romance
- Horror
- Action

Vote for this week's poll online at: www.AlpineAvalanche.com

LETTERS

Send us your letters. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed. Send your letters to editor@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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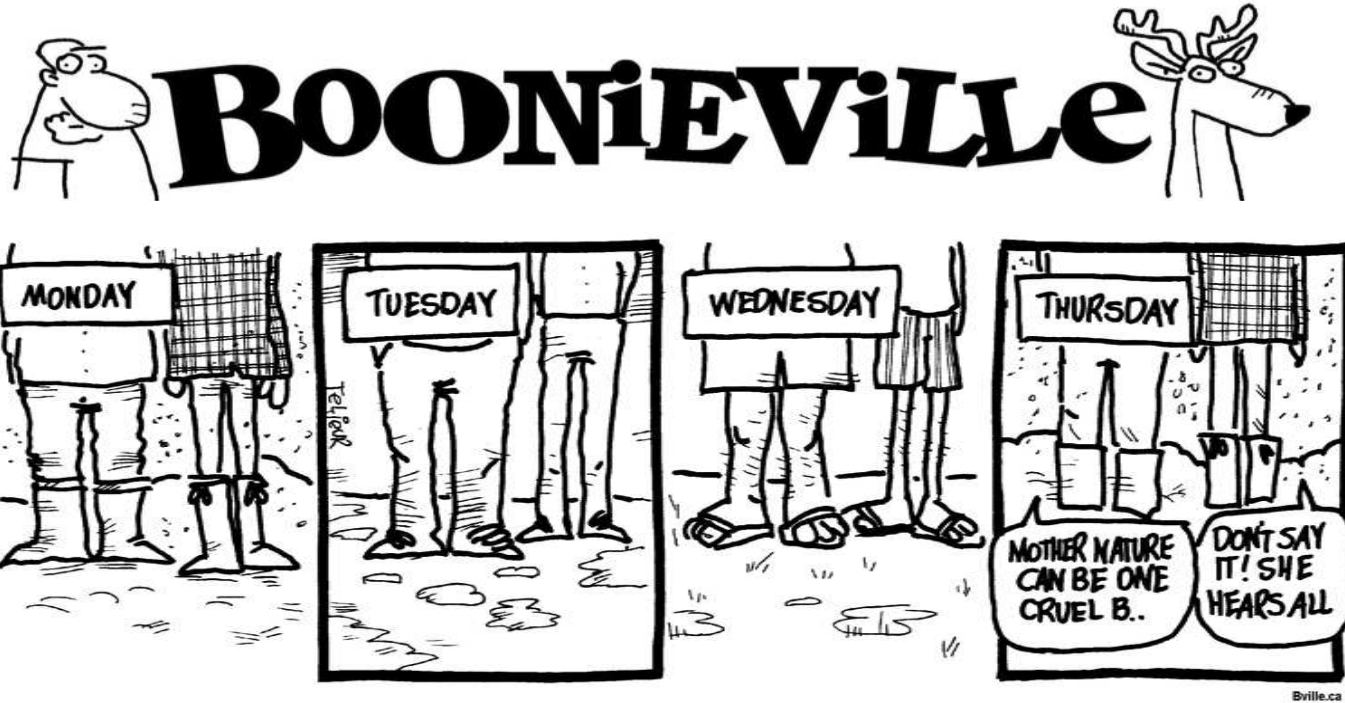
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MEMBER 2023

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



What to do with an extra dollar

"If you drive a car, I'll tax the street, If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat, If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat, If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet."
 — "Taxman" song lyrics by The Beatles

Every January, we charge into the new year filled with hope and optimism. We even get giddy, dreaming about how much better this year will be.

Then it happens. We go to the mailbox one day, and it's there. The dreaded W-2. Followed by sales pitches from tax preparation firms and tax filing software companies. We're still humming the last few bars of Auld Lang Syne when the tax man comes tapping on his shoulder.

None of us likes paying taxes, at least no one I know. But I feel just awful about my longtime friend and mentor in this business, Morris Craig, up at The Naples Monitor. He's distraught. He found a dol-

lar bill in one of his pockets the other day. And he called to tell me about his "problem."

I let him know that I had a hard time understanding how that was a problem.

"You found it," I said. "It would be a problem if Melba had found it while doing the laundry. When a wife finds money, you never see it again."

"The problem is," he sighed, "I've paid every tax I can think of. Income tax, state tax, amusement, sales, hospital, and gasoline taxes. I've paid taxes for Medicare and old age benefits, state automobile taxes for license plates, school taxes to educate the kids, and the county tax to build a bridge ... at the other end of the county."

"I even paid my dam tax," he chuckled. "You know — the tax we've been paying for years for that dam at the lake?"

"I pay my lawyer, my doctor, the butcher, and the



LEON ALDRIDGE
 Guest Columnist

baker with money I've already paid taxes on," he said. "And if that isn't enough, I pay my tax accountant with taxed money to figure out how much more tax I'm going to have to pay."

"So how come I've still got a dollar left," Craig asked? "Obviously, I've overlooked a tax. It can't be my road, defense, or college tax for higher education. And it can't be taxes for sewers or streets, wheat for starving nations, the tax on highways and public transportation, or taxes to pay the salaries of elected officials who pass more taxes. I paid all of them."

"My real estate taxes are paid, my water tax, and when they charge us for an air tax to clean up the pollution, I'll have to pay that too," he said.

"I pay taxes on the toothpaste I use in the morning and on the pillow where I lay my head at night. Taxes for parks, fire and police protec-

tion, the farmer and the pork raiser, underdeveloped nations, and urban revitalization. And I wouldn't dream of going fishing, owning a dog, or getting married without first paying a tax."

"Hold up," I quizzed Craig. "You've been married for almost as long as I've been alive. Well maybe not that long, but close to it."

"Yeah," he responded. "And we paid a tax to get hitched back then too."

Then he whispered, "I confess there is one tax I haven't paid yet ... a death tax. But I will. Until then, how come I have this dollar in my pocket? Did someone put it there to get me in trouble?"

"Craig," I told him in my best sympathetic voice. "I don't know where you got that dollar. But I can tell you what you better do with it."

"What's that," he asked? "If it were me, I would hide that dollar," I advised my friend. "Before the government, or your wife discovers you have it."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Title 42 is not about drugs
 It's about immigrants and immigrants are not about drugs. We should stop conflating the two issues. Immigrants are basically of two types — those fleeing danger in their homeland and seeking asylum in the US and those coming here for jobs or to reunite with their families. Virtually none of the immigrants are involved in drug dealing, and they tend to be the victims of human trafficking, not the perpetrators. Seeking asylum is a

legal process consistent with international and US laws. Those seeking asylum are not "illegal" and should not be treated as such. Title 42 allowed the government to force both kinds of immigrants to stay in Mexico or return to their homeland. It was an existing public health law intended to protect US residents in the case of a pandemic but was misused as "immigration law" by the Trump administration. The Biden administration has been

forced to keep it in place by legal challenges. Those forced to stay in Mexico or return home face terrible conditions of homelessness — abuse, rape, robbery, and lack of food, health care and education. Enforcing Title 42 makes them even more vulnerable to human trafficking. It basically formed a dam behind which people were held, so their numbers grew. It's no surprise that with talk of ending Title 42 use many immigrants try to reach the US any way they

can. Again, though, this has nothing to do with drugs. As much as a third of those detained for entering the US illegally are repeaters hoping this last time to succeed. This is because we have not reformed our immigration laws to provide for orderly immigration and asylum processes. Denigrating immigrants by associating them with drug dealing makes reform difficult to achieve.
 Mary Bell Lockhart
 Alpine

Bechtel Scholarship for Tri-County SRSU Students
 Sul Ross State University students who graduated from high school or were home-schooled in Brewster, Jeff Davis or Presidio coun-

ties are encouraged to apply for the Bechtel Scholarship. Eligible recipients will be awarded \$750, which can be applied to college expenses of the student's choosing. The scholarship is non-competitive, meaning that

all eligible applicants will be awarded the funding. Applicants must be full-time undergraduates, have earned at least 24 credit hours and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Deadline to apply is Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at

Noon. For more information or to receive an application, please email Matthew Walter at mwalter@sulross.edu or John Ferguson at jwferg451@gmail.com.
 John Ferguson
 Presidio

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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<p>Tony Gonzales United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 202-225-4511</p>	<p>Ted Cruz United States Senate 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4306 202-224-5922</p>	<p>Ken Paxton Attorney General PO Box 12548 Austin, TX 78711-2548 512-463-2100</p>

Heard on the STREET

How do you feel about more and more TV shows moving to subscription streaming services?



Sandra Alvidrez: I am not a big fan of it, before you know it you have so many streaming services because of certain shows you want to watch, the cost gets to be a little too much.



Bryan Ritchie: I think it's just another way for them to make money and it's a bunch of baloney.



Donel Coleman: It's ridiculous. I miss the days of having just two channels where you had to go out and move the antenna to change channels.



Shera Welch: I ditched cable for online streaming and saved lots of money by doing so.



Mary McCallister: We moved to Hulu Live awhile back and we like it. It works for us. Even when you have hundreds of choices of shows/movies, you typically can't find anything worth watching regardless of which service you have.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 21 Living with Black Bear in West Texas, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at The Bunkhouse at Bad Rabbit Café, Terlingua Ranch and 2-4 p.m. at the J.W. "Red" Patillo Community Center in Study Butte. Seminar hosted by Borderlands Research Institute and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Jan. 22 LIFEMARK Movie, 3 p.m. at the Alpine First Assembly of God church, they will show this movie based on a true story. The public is invited. They will serve popcorn and bottled water.

Jan. 26 Ribbon Cutting, 5:30 p.m. a ribbon cutting will be held at the new Alpine Food Pantry 933 E. Gallego.

Jan. 26 City of Alpine Strategic Plan Workshop, 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.

Jan. 27 Travel Talk, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Alpine Public Library, "Ultimate Africa: Five Countries, Four People, Three



Weeks" presented by Albert and Kathy Bork, Linda Hedges, and Rick Reese.

Jan. 28 LIFEMARK Movie, 3 p.m. at the Alpine First Assembly of God church.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.

American Legion Post 79 meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.

American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Big Bend Community Choral rehearsals, on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbc-chorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210

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BIG BEND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION SHOW



Jordan Miller shows off her first-place ribbon during the horse show held this past Friday at the Sul Ross SALE Arena.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is T'Challa! T'Challa, named for a Marvel Cinematic Universe character, is a one-year-old black cat who came in as a stray. He is a confident-looking guy with a diffuse white star on his chest.

T'Challa hopes 2023 is his year and would like to find his forever home. You can meet this handsome gentleman at the Alpine Animal Shelter and see if you might want him to rule your kingdom!

Several services are available to pet owners through Alpine Humane Society and Alpine Animal Services. AHS offers emergency pet food assistance through the Pet Pantry, located at 600 N. 5th Street, and provides financial support for veterinary care. Through the Shelter, AAS provides pet cremations and microchipping of cats and dogs.

Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Hu-



mane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the Shelter at 432-837-9030.

The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry recently moved to 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumane.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Property owners may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2022, the appraisal district has requested an updated application, or the owner has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. A copy of a current driver's license must accompany the application. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons receive all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below)

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE-EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRAL

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead if they became 65 during 2022 or will be 65 during 2023. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their county. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead if they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral plus interest, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS-SURVIVING SPOUSES

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes. In certain situations where the disabled vet is 100% disabled and unemployable, their homestead can be completely exempt. Surviving spouses of military and first responders killed in the line of duty may also qualify for this exemption. An annual reapplication for the 100% exemption may be required by the Chief Appraiser.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS-WILDLIFE OPERATORS

Farmers and ranchers and other property owners may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the typical income for properties in the county. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121 or from their website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/02-forms.html>

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law now requires the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. Deadline-April 15. A 30-day filing extension is available by written request.

AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Taxpayers may receive certain notices required by law from the local appraisal district in electronic format. Written agreements with the county appraisal district must be entered first, ensuring what electronic means of delivery are acceptable. If you are interested in receiving communications in electronic format, you should contact your local appraisal district to receive a form requesting electronic communications and how that communication should be transmitted.

PROTESTING PROPERTY VALUE

Taxpayers whose property value increases by at least \$1000 will be mailed a reappraisal notice stating the proposed value. The taxpayer may file a protest of the value change by completing the protest form that will be included in the notice. An informal hearing will be available to taxpayers, and if not satisfied, the taxpayer may have a formal hearing before the Brewster County Appraisal Review Board.

If you have questions about any of these topics, please contact the Brewster Appraisal District at 432-837-2558 or come by our office at 107 W Ave E, Alpine, Texas. Other information may also be available on the Comptroller's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/



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The 2023 Big Bend Livestock Association's Show and Sale was a huge success thanks to the generosity of the Big Bend business and ranching communities and the hard work of the many volunteers who give tirelessly to the 4H and FFA youth of Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties. With dollars still coming in each day, the sale again is well over the 360,000 mark!

A sincere thank you to everyone who volunteered, contributed and helped in any way to make the 2023 show and sale such a huge success.

BUYERS

These businesses and individuals purchased animals at the Big Bend Livestock Association auction at the Sul Ross University.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Ahrens Ranch and Wildlife | • Brick Vault | • High West Outfitters | • Outwest Feed and Supply |
| • Alpine Avalanche | • Byler Ranch | • In & Out Rental | • Paloma Blanco |
| • Alpine Vet Clinic | • Capital Farm Credit | • Kokernot o6 Ranch | • Porters Thriftway |
| • Andy Prude Show Goats | • Celebration Liquors | • McCoys | • Rival Energy |
| • Andy Prude Well Service | • Crystal Bar | • Mijelum LLC | • Stieg Remodeling |
| • Baeza Cattle | • CT Electric | • Mountain View Properties | • TransPecos Bank |
| • Betty Tanksley | • Double K Flowers | • O2 Ranch/ Lykes Bros Inc | • West of the Pecos Appraisal |
| • Big Bend Telephone | • Ellyson Abstract | • Oasis Tire | • West Texas National Bank |
| • Big Bend Trailers | • Fort Davis State Bank | • Oates Ranch | • WTG Fuels |
| • BMK Show Goats | • Gage Hotel | | |
| | • Hawkins Construction | | |

BUYERS POOL CONTRIBUTORS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • AEP Texas | • Black Gap LLC | • Flying W Ranch – John Weisman | • McIvor |
| • American Legion Post 79 | • Bob Eppenauer | • Hilltop Livestock | • Paul Tanksley |
| • ARCKSP LLC dba Ashley Ranch | • Carla McFarland and John Green | • J. Robert Stovell | • Producers Livestock Auction Co. |
| • Barry Beal | • Chachi Hawkins | • Jerry Springer | • Sharon Oates-Oates Ranch |
| • Ben Love | • Chip Cole | • John Boerschig – Wolverine Properties | • Tate Cattle Co |
| • Big Bend Banks (Marfa National Bank) | • Clayton Williams Ranch Co | • Lowell and Carol Woodward | • Tom and Carolyn Mangrem |
| • Big Bend Title | • Dale and Robbie Burns | • Mark and Jody Donet | • Tom and Val Beard |
| • Billy Gene and Susan Roberts | • Don Weinacht | • McIvor Ranch- Julie and Scott | • WE Love Ranch |
| | • Espy Family Ranches | | • Yarborough Ranches |

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- | | | | |
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| • Audrey Galindo | • Doug and Caroline Fox | • Kit & Stacey Wood | • R & G Welding |
| • Baeza Cattle | • Douglas Rogers | • Larry & Mary McCallister | • Rancho Espuela Cattle Co |
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| • Billy and Ralene Tarrant | • Felix and Elda Nunez | • Mack & Megan Holley | • Ruby Losoya |
| • BMK Show Goats | • Fort Davis State Bank | • Macy Chionsini | • Rusty and Ginger Moore |
| • Bryan & Micaela Ritchie | • Frontier Development, Inc | • Marian Freeland | • Sheriff Ronnie Dodson |
| • C.T. Electric | • Gage Hotel | • Mario & Dee Ann Lujan | • Stacey Yanez |
| • Calvin Baker- Garland Roustabout | • Ginger Whetten | • Mark and Ofelia McDonald | • Steven and Kelly Boultinghouse |
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| • Alpine Rock and Mow | • Cowboy Cleaners | • Hovey Honey | • Pecos County Feed |
| • Alpine Women's Club | • Davis Mountain Nut Co | • Katy Matthews | • Tractor Supply |
| • Beauty Bar | • Double K Flowers | • Livingston's Ranch | • TransPecos Banks |
| | • Gum Slingers | • Marfa Meats | |

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|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|

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Black's Case Is Up For Hearing Before Court of Appeals

The case of Francis Marion Black, under death sentence for the slaying of 13-year-old Marvin Dale Noblitt on the Worthington ranch 60 miles south of Alpine last June, is scheduled to come up for hearing before the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin on Feb. 15, it was learned here this week.

The case was appealed after Judge C. R. Sutton of the 83rd district court had refused to grant a new trial following Black's conviction some 10 days following the tragedy.

Black is accused of pushing the lad off a bluff in order to collect insurance he carried on the lad. The case against Black's wife, who was allegedly with him when the tragedy occurred, was dismissed.

Black has been held in jail here since his arrest and conviction.

District Attorney Alan Fraser of Alpine will represent the state at the hearing. Black will be represented by A. E. Owens and Mae M. Ament, Alpine, and Wallace Houghton, McKinney.

Jan 20, 1939

Francis Marion Black, who was sentenced to death for the murder of 13-year-old Marvin Dale Noblitt on the Worthington Ranch, 60 miles south of Alpine last June, is scheduled to come before the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin on Feb. 15.



Jan 10, 1947

Alpine received record snow fall between the end of December and the first part of January. Over 36 inches total fell on the town, and vehicles all over were blanketed in white.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hatch of Marathon are the parents of a son, born at a local hospital last Thursday.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Donovan Jr., in Dallas yesterday morning. Mrs. Donovan is the former Miss Virginia Holland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Holland, Alpine.

Mr. and Mrs. Guss Lines announce the arrival of a 7½-lb. baby girl, born Monday, Dec. 30, at a local hospital. The baby has been named Sara Anne, after her maternal grandmother and her late paternal grandmother. Mr. and Mrs. George Lines, grandparents of the baby, arrived Dec. 26 from Eagle Pass, to be with Mrs. Lines.

Jan 10, 1947

Mr. And Mrs. Guss Lines welcome daughter Sara on Dec. 30, just in time for her to celebrate her first new year's eve in Alpine.

CITY ZONING ORDINANCE IS NOW IN FORCE

Permit Must Be Obtained Before Construction Work Is Started

A zoning ordinance passed by the Alpine city commission Jan. 12 which limits the type of building construction in certain portions of the city is published in this week's issue of The Avalanche.

The zones were established after a committee appointed by the city commission, composed of D. C. Littleton, T. A. Beard and F. L. McCollum, had made a thorough study and survey of the city. The ordinance sets up four zones—residential, commercial, industrial, warehouse and storage yards and undesignated, and provides that no building shall be erected or structurally altered, moved or moved about, except in conformity with the regulations prescribed for the district in which the building or premises is located as shown by the zoning map on file at the city office.

Application must be made to the city engineer for a building permit "before any building operations are begun or any structural alterations to a building are made or before any building may be moved into the city or from place to place within the city," under the terms of the ordinance.

Jan. 31 is deadline for paying poll tax.

Jan 30, 1948

City officials will now enforce zoning for building in Alpine. Construction of certain types of buildings will be limited in certain portions of the city. This zoning ordinance was passed by the city commission on Jan. 12.

Drought, disease, and pests wreak havoc on trees and other plants

Dear Neil: Was this past fall's heavy acorn crop due to the serious drought or just a random occurrence?

Nut-producing trees are noted for being "alternate bearing." They will have a heavy crop one year and a very light crop the next, swinging back and forth like a pendulum. Pecans are famous for it, but as you have noted, oaks act the same way. The production of acorns had already been determined before the drought set in last summer. Dry conditions affected more the size of the individual acorns and whether the trees were able to hold them to full maturity. I've noticed on the oaks and pecans at our house, even individual trees will be on different cycles. Some will have heavy years one year while their neighbors are bearing nothing.

Dear Neil: We have enjoyed having Wheeler's dwarf pittosporums around a water feature for the past 12 years. They did very well until two years

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

ago. One of the plants was attacked by mealy bugs at that time. I tried several insecticides and finally was able to get some relief with Neem oil. Was that the best control? We have had a subsequent outbreak and would like to save the remaining plants. Is my identification of mealy bugs correct?

I believe your identification is correct, although it's unusual for them to be active in any way during the winter outdoors. They are a soft-bodied scale insect, so oil sprays are one good rem-

edy. You could also use the systemic insecticide Imidacloprid applied as a drench around the plants. Do not allow it to get into the water if you have fish. Mealy bugs are not common problems with pittosporums, although I have seen them. Cold damage is a much bigger issue. You didn't mention where these plants are growing, which part of Texas and the amount of protection in their specific setting, but if they have been exposed to the extreme cold of February 2021 and December 2022 that could have weakened them as well.

Dear Neil: I have a Silver Queen aglaonema that has been around for 30 years. It's almost a member

of the family. I've been cutting off sprigs and giving them to our children for years. Now the mother plant is developing spots on its leaves. I've repotted it into fresh potting soil, and I pay close attention to its water needs. It grows well for a while, but then the new growth develops the spots. Please let me know what I might do to help it.

I might just as well have written this very letter. My Silver Queen is 25 years old



in my home office. Watching it seven days a week I have observed that the spotted leaves are always on the old stems. The new growth coming up from the soil is much healthier and more vigorous. In fact, when I trim off the dried leaves just pulling gently on them has often caused the old stems to come up out of the pot without much in the way of roots. They've lost all their vigor. I've removed a few more of the weak stems and started fer-

tilizing a bit more often and my Silver Queen as well as another taller aglaonema I have growing beside it have really responded positively. I doubt that your plant has any kind of fungal leaf spot. It's more likely just a plant that has a few stems that are running out of steam.

Have a question you'd like Neil to consider? E-mail him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to questions individually.

ACROSS

1 TXism: "he's got the morals ___ alley cat"

5 Andrews of 1944 "Laura" with TX Gene Tierney

6 Texas legume: black-___ pea

7 TX Dan Jenkins novel: "___-Tough"

8 TXism: "poke the bear" (3 wds.)

18 TX Tanya's "One Love ___ Time"

19 oil rig workers

21 it promotes physical fitness in school (abbr.)

22 double reed instrument in the Dallas Symphony

23 member of "the Corps" at A&M (2 wds.)

24 a Texas "snipe hunt," e.g. (2 wds.)

29 country FM licensed to Port Lavaca

30 marching band percussion: ___ line

31 elected county prosecutor (abbr.)

32 soldier on a horse

34 winter garment

35 TX O. Henry story: "A ___ in Santone"

36 first Texas cattle brand was "AR" for "Alamo ___"

37 "it'll make your ___ curl"

38 statement in a crossword puzzle

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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39 subject of TX Roy Orbison song was yearning about what he could ___

41 badly behaved kids

42 identification evidence

43 Mildred ___ "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias

44 TXism: "couldn't ___ drum" (loser)

45 Davy's home state (abbr.)

46 snakelike fish

11 "tween Mon. & Wed. one of the Texas Gatlin Brothers (init.)

13 TX Keyes book: "Scarlett ___ Younger Sister"

14 raw diamond, e.g. TX Simone Biles won bronze on the balance ___ in 2016 and 2020

16 electronic crystal display (abbr.)

17 "___ living" (struggled to get by)

20 theatrical platforms

22 TXism: "tighter than bark ___"

24 July cooler (abbr.)

25 ___ well, Texas

26 bird class

27 was furious

28 TX Tommy Lee Jones 1994 legal film: "The ___"

29 sports AM serving Midland-Odessa

30 TXism: "___ a bull give milk? (no

33 hankering

34 late TX Rip Torn 1978 mystery film

35 deflated tires

37 TXism: "he sits ___ saddle" (good man)

38 wooden box

40 TX Buddy's widow: Maria ___ Holly

41 "hit below the ___"

44 TXism: "that ___ won't float"

47 you can sail on one out of Galveston

49 surface-___ missile

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Sports

Fightin' Buck Schedule

BASKETBALL
Lady Bucks
Jan. 20: Compass vs Alpine, JV @ 5 p.m., Varsity @ 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 24: Alpine vs Crane, JV @ 5 p.m., Varsity @ 6:30 p.m.
Bucks
Jan. 20: Compass vs Alpine, JV Purple @ 5 p.m., Varsity @ 8 p.m.
Jan. 24: Alpine vs Crane, JV Purple @ 5 p.m., 9th Grade Gold @ 6:30 p.m., Varsity @ 8 p.m.

ALPINE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Lady Bucks
Jan. 23: Crane vs Alpine Bucks
Jan. 23: Alpine vs Crane

Lady Bucks push it to the wire for the win

Both the Lady Buck basketball teams traveled to Kermit last Tuesday to finish off the first half of district play. The JV Lady Bucks played hard but struggled scoring points in the first half. The JV Lady Jackets would build a bigger lead in the second half giving our girls their second loss of district play.

The Varsity Lady Jackets came out swinging, jumping to an early lead to start the first quarter against the Alpine Lady Bucks. The girls would struggle with turnovers and missed shot opportunities that allowed the Lady Jackets to come back and take a 10-point lead throughout the game. With three minutes left in the game, Alpine was down 10 points, but buckled down on defense. They would use defensive pres-



Alpine Lady Bucks battle on their home court in recent play.

sure to create turnovers allowing them to close the gap.

The Lady Bucks would get within 3 points with less than minute left and eventually tie the game with six seconds left on the clock. A foul would put Kermit on the free throw line with the opportunity

to seal the game. Off the missed free throw, Novah Carrasco would rebound the ball and go the length of the court. Carrasco got just inside the three-point line and got her shot off. As we all held our breath the ball would bank off the glass and go in with no time left on the clock

giving the Lady Bucks the victory. Carrasco led the scoring with 25 points. Ali Maroney would add 11 points and Hope Dominguez with eight points.

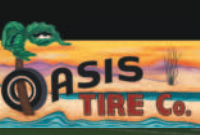
“What a game! Those types of games come down to which team is willing to stay focused and grind to the last second. These

girls are amazing, they never say die and have no quit in them. They play for each other and have each other's back. I am beyond grateful for these girls allowing me to coach them hard. We had two starters foul out within the last two minutes of the game and they stepped up and finished the game well. I can say that that was one of the best victories in my career, all thanks to these amazing young ladies. It was a well-deserved win for them, and they are ready to get back to grinding,” said Coach Virdell.

The Lady Bucks were open this past Friday but will resume district play next Tuesday traveling to Presidio to start the second half of their district competition for the season.

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Lobos end losing streak

It was a solid team win for the Sul Ross State men's basketball squad.

On Saturday evening, the Lobos ended their three-game losing streak by defeating the Howard Payne Yellow Jackets, 96-76, at the Brownwood Coliseum.

After the score was tied early in the first half, the Lobos took the lead after five quick points by Luke Pluymen. Pluymen had the hot hand as he landed another three-pointer to put Sul Ross ahead by seven with 13:48 in the opening half.

Howard Payne cut the deficit down to four, but Pluymen got the Lobos ahead by seven with another clutch three.

Caelyb Kerley got in on the action by landing a three-pointer of his own to give Sul Ross a 10-point lead. The lead grew to as much as 15 with 8:15 to go until halftime. On the fast break, Daveone Bass made a layup to give Sul Ross a 16-point lead with five and a half minutes left in the first half. Howard Payne

came all the way back to within two points with 31 seconds to go. Trey Nelson then made a three-pointer with seven ticks on the clock to give Sul Ross a five-point lead at the break.

The Lobos regained a double-digit lead with 15:54 in the second half when Pluymen made a layup. Kerley later added to the offensive spree with seven quick points to make the score 72-56. Sul Ross continued to put its foot on the gas pedal as Hayden Peterson knocked down a three-pointer to grow the lead to 20. Larry Morrison then made a layup and Pluymen hit another shot from beyond the arc to put the Lobos up by 23 with 5:21 to go. Pluymen made six 3-pointers while tallying 26 points, seven assists and five rebounds.

Kerley finished with 18 points while Morrison chipped in with 10 points and three rebounds. Gabe Sanchez also added with 10 points while he tallied three steals, two assists and two rebounds.



Luke Pluymen

Bucks return home Friday

BY SHAWN YORKS
Contributor

A week off is a good thing for most high school basketball teams, and the Alpine Bucks are no exception. And after suffering a 70-60 loss at Kermit Jan. 10, the Bucks were hoping to be full strength entering Tuesday's game at Presidio. But illness has struck the Bucks, and Alpine was still missing some players for their trip to the Border – only taking about eight or nine players.

Logan Smith and Zane Wash were expected to sit out and Jordan Rodriguez was a game-time decision.

“It's going to be tough sledding,” said head coach Aaron Hardwick, adding that the last several practices have been good. “They're in very good spirits and I think they understand and know what we have to do.”

The Kermit game was tough after the Yellowjackets lost their top player, who transferred to Wink. Hardwick wasn't sure how Kermit would respond. “They were very

motivated, they had a lot to prove,” Hardwick said. “Credit to Kermit. Coach Darian Evans game-planned very well against us. There's no easy games in district, at all, whether you're at home or on the road, and Kermit is a tough place to play.”

The Bucks were down big entering the fourth quarter but ended the game strong.

“We ended the game fantastic, especially defensively,” Hardwick said. “We held them to six points in the fourth quarter. That defensive effort in that fourth quarter is something that we looked at the other day and I think that kind of motivated our kids and encouraged our kids and kind of let them know, ‘Hey, this is the team that we are.’” Presidio was expected to be another tough game despite the Blue Devils' record.

“When you're going into anybody else's gym, it's going to be tough,” Hardwick said. “This is a team that saw us lose against Kermit, but then they beat Kermit 47-44 on Friday. So, they're really confident. It's going to be

a good matchup for both.” Results were not available at press time.

Alpine will return home for Friday night's district contest against an Odessa Compass Academy team that had lost nine straight entering their Tuesday contest against Kermit. Both their wins have come against Midland Texas Leadership Charter Academy, a team that Alpine crushed in the season-opener.

The girls tip off at 6:30 p.m. and the boys at 8 p.m.

The game is sort of a homecoming for Hardwick, who coached at Compass Academy for five years and is familiar with many of the players and their families. “It'll be good to see them, but at the end of the day, they're chasing after something, we're chasing after something and as much as I've been at Compass for however long, I'm an Alpine Buck now,” Hardwick emphasized. “My job is to make sure that my team is ready to go, and I think they will be ready to go, and they're excited about that as well.”

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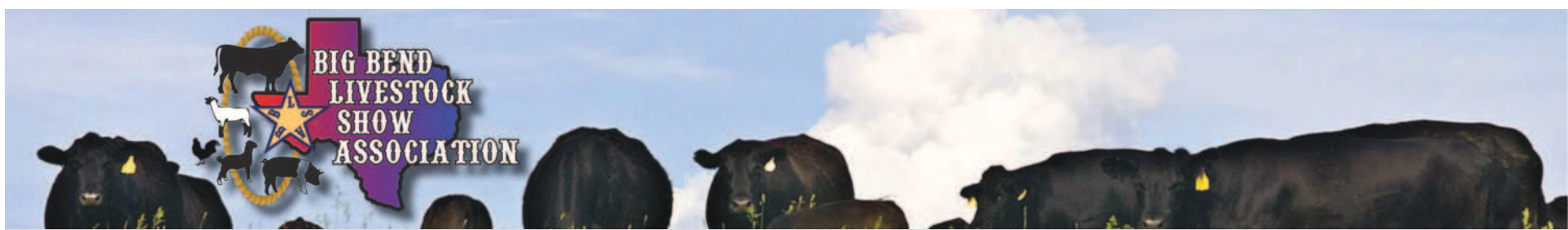
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2023 LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTS

Grand Champion steer

Hunter Stieg's Grand Champion steer was purchased by Trae Dutchover of Porter's Thriftway, Justin and Kim Claiborne of Out West Feed, and Robert Murphy and Bobby Kaufman from McCoy's Building Supply.



Reserve Grand Champion steer

West Texas National Bank representatives Dave Rogers and Phillip Carey purchased the Reserve Grand Champion steer exhibited by Talynn Stieg.

Photos by Kara Gerbert



Grand Champion/Reserve Grand Champion lambs

Buyers and Alpine Vet Clinic owners Dr. Ray Allen and wife Terry Jean Allen are shown here with their granddaughter Kaitlyn Wiggins who exhibited the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion lambs.



Grand Champion goat

Buyer Eric Welch of Oasis Tire and the o2 Ranch purchased the Grand Champion goat exhibited by Gracie Boultinghouse.



Reserve Grand Champion goat

Buyers Out West Feed and BMK Show Goats purchased the Reserve Grand Champion goat shown by Hallie Wood. Pictured here are Justin Claiborne, Roger Criddle, Kersten Keeton, Mary Criddle, Kim Claiborne and exhibitor Hallie Wood.



Grand Champion swine

Buyers Stacey Wood of TransPecos Banks and Ashley Wood of Capital Farm Credit purchased the Grand Champion swine exhibited by Tannin Ritchie.



Reserve Champion swine

Big Bend Telephone General Manager Rusty Moore bought the Reserve Champion swine exhibited by Amanda Ahrens.



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- | | |
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| Barry Beal | Jerry Springer |
| Ben Love | John Boerschig – Wolverine Properties |
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| Black Gap LLC | Paul Tanksley |
| Bob Eppenauer | Producers Livestock Auction Co. |
| Carla McFarland and John Green | Sharon Oates-Oates Ranch |
| Chachi Hawkins | Tate Cattle Co |
| Chip Cole | Tom and Carolyn Mangrem |
| Clayton Williams Ranch Co | Tom and Val Beard |
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| Don Weinacht | Yarborough Ranches |
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| Andy Prude Well Service | McCoys |
| Baeza Cattle | Mijelum LLC |
| Betty Tanksley | Mountain View Properties |
| Big Bend Telephone | O2 Ranch/ Lykes Bros Inc |
| Big Bend Trailers | Oasis Tire |
| BMK Show Goats | Oates Ranch |
| Brick Vault | Outwest Feed and Supply |
| Byler Ranch | Paloma Blanco |
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2023 LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTS



Area 4-H and FFA exhibitors presented their market goats for judging this past Friday at the Big Bend Livestock Show.

Photo by Felipe Fierro



2023 seniors

GOATS

GRAND CHAMPION MARKET GOAT Gracie Boultinghouse		Martin Sablatura Alpine FFA	Madeline West Marathon 4H	Olin Welch Fort Davis FFA
RESERVE CHAMPION MARKET GOAT Hallie Wood		Trey Vick Fort Davis FFA	Miguel Batres Jr. Alpine FFA	Liliana Flores Alpine FFA
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP Hallie Wood		Alexi Hernandez Fort Davis FFA	Kayden Gray Fort Davis FFA	Amberly Tarrant Alpine FFA
SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP Robert Vasquez		Annaliese West Marathon 4H		
DIVISION I CHAMPION Sadie Wood		Kendyl Hardaway Alpine FFA		
DIVISION I RESERVE CHAMPION Gracie Boultinghouse		Kaysen Hardaway Alpine FFA		
EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION	DIVISION II CHAMPION Rode Babb	DIVISION III CHAMPION Hallie Wood	DIVISION IV CHAMPION Gracie Boultinghouse
		DIVISION II RESERVE CHAMPION Gracie Boultinghouse	DIVISION III RESERVE CHAMPION Rode Babb	DIVISION IV RESERVE CHAMPION Rodeo Babb
		DIVISION II CLASS 1	DIVISION III CLASS 7	DIVISION IV CLASS 10
Gracie Boultinghouse	Fort Davis FFA	Rode Babb	Hallie Wood	Gracie Boultinghouse
Estefania Mucharraz	Alpine FFA	Gracie Boultinghouse	Gracie Boultinghouse	Rode Babb
Martin Sablatura	Alpine FFA	Wirth Moreland	Gracie Boultinghouse	Carolyn Newman
Amberly Tarrant	Alpine FFA	Naida Morris	Kaitlyn Wiggins	Kylie Maroney
Kaysen Hardaway	Alpine FFA	Rynn Matthews	Kaitlyn Wiggins	Kylie Maroney
Eduardo Flores	Rio Grande 4H	Madeline West	Gracie Boultinghouse	Martin Sablatura
Estefania Mucharraz	Alpine FFA	Kendyl Hardaway	Mia Morris	Robert Vasquez
Annaka Salcido	Marfa 4H	Lauren Rogers	Chelsea Hernandez	Samuel Sanchez
		Leddy Wood	Trey Vick	
			John Zuberbueler	
		CLASS 5		CLASS 11
Sadie Wood	Twin Peaks 4H	Rynn Matthews	Rode Babb	Kaitlyn Wiggins
Gracie Boultinghouse	Fort Davis FFA	Kaden Whetten	Kaitlyn Wiggins	Rode Babb
Olin Welch	Fort Davis FFA	Mason Losoya	Rode Babb	Sophie Janis
Allison Sanchez	Alpine FFA	Kaitlyn Wiggins	Naida Morris	Beau Holley
Allison Sanchez	Alpine FFA	Mia Morris	Collette Sharron	Olin Welch
Miguel Batres Jr.	Alpine FFA	Miguel Batres Jr.	Sophie Janis	John Zuberbueler
Landin Salcido	Marfa 4H	Liliana Flores	Garrett Hicks	Martin Sablatura
Ian Schwierjohn	Alpine FFA	Kayden Gray		Leddy Wood
			CLASS 8	CLASS 12
		CLASS 6	Rode Babb	Kylie Maroney
Ryli Vasquez	Alpine FFA	Acy Gentry	Kaitlyn Wiggins	Clancey Newman
Collette Sharron	Alpine FFA	Acy Gentry	Rode Babb	Sophie Janis
		Olin Welch	Naida Morris	Wirth Moreland
		Samuel Sanchez	Collette Sharron	Twin Peaks 4H
		Collette Sharron	Sophie Janis	Ian Schwierjohn
		Allison Sanchez	Garrett Hicks	Samuel Sanchez
				Lauren Rogers
			CLASS 9	Jackson Holley
			Rynn Matthews	Lauren Rogers
			Rynn Matthews	Kelton Tarrant
			Hallie Wood	Samuel Sanchez
			Sadie Wood	Samuel Sanchez
			Kelton Tarrant	Mason Losoya
			Samuel Sanchez	
			Samuel Sanchez	
			Mason Losoya	

LAMBS

GRAND CHAMPION LAMB Kaitlyn Wiggins		RESERVE CHAMPION FINEWOOL CROSS Gracie Boultinghouse	
RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB Kaitlyn Wiggins		FINEWOOL CROSS CLASS 3	
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP Brissa Baeza		Kaitlyn Wiggins	1
SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP Kaitlyn Wiggins		Rynn Matthews	2
		Jaden Miller	3
		Jaden Miller	4
CHAMPION FINEWOOL Gracie Boultinghouse		CLASS 4	
RESERVE CHAMPION FINEWOOL Gracie Boultinghouse		Gracie Boultinghouse	1
EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION	Gracie Boultinghouse	2
		Kaitlyn Wiggins	3
		Kaitlyn Wiggins	4
		CHAMPION MEDIUM WOOL Kaitlyn Wiggins	
		RESERVE CHAMPION MEDIUM WOOL Kaitlyn Wiggins	
		MEDIUM WOOL CLASS 5	
		Matheo Karleen	1
		Rynn Matthews	2
		Collette Sharron	3
		Matheo Karleen	4
		Collette Sharron	5
		Annaka Salcido	6



Kaitlyn Wiggins, a senior Alpine FFA exhibitor and her younger cousin Rynn Matthews prepare to enter the show ring with their lambs this past Friday at the Big Bend Livestock Show.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

	CLASS 6	
Kaitlyn Wiggins	Alpine FFA	1
Kaitlyn Wiggins	Alpine FFA	2
Brissa Baeza	Rio Grande 4H	3
Eliana Granado	Fort Davis FFA	4

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2023 LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTS

SWINE

GRAND CHAMPION SWINE
Tannin Ritchie
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION SWINE
Amanda Ahrens

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP
John Ritchie
SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP
Amanda Ahrens

CHAMPION WHITE OPB
Reese Coleman
RESERVE CHAMPION WHITE OPB
Tannin Ritchie

EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION	PLACE
Reese Coleman	Alpine FFA	1
Tannin Ritchie	Alpine FFA	2
Ryanna Pineda	Alpine FFA	3
Talynn Stieg	Alpine FFA	4

CHAMPION BLACK OPB
Diondra Luevano
RESERVE CHAMPION BLACK OPB
Tannin Ritchie

EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION	PLACE
Reese Coleman	Alpine FFA	1
Isaiah Briones	Marathon 4H	2
Ryanna Pineda	Alpine FFA	3
Talynn Stieg	Alpine FFA	4
Hunter Stieg	Alpine FFA	5

CLASS 3

Diondra Luevano	Alpine FFA	1
Everett Keith	Fort Davis FFA	2
Reese Ahrens	Alpine FFA	3
Hunter Stieg	Alpine FFA	4
Tripp Warren	Alpine FFA	5

CLASS 4

Tannin Ritchie	Alpine FFA	1
John Ritchie	Alpine FFA	2



Livestock Judge Audrey Meyer examines the swine in a class of exhibitors at this past weekend's Big Bend Livestock Show.

Gracie Dabbs	Marathon 4H	3
Gracie Dabbs	Marathon 4H	4
Colten Gray	Fort Davis FFA	5

CHAMPION DUROC
Amanda Ahrens
RESERVE CHAMPION DUROC
Ty Ritchie

Ty Ritchie	Alpine FFA	1
Izabella Briones	Marathon 4H	2
Alexi Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	3

CLASS 6

Amanda Ahrens	Alpine FFA	1
Kayden Gray	Fort Davis FFA	2
Colten Gray	Fort Davis FFA	3
Adrian Chavez	Fort Davis FFA	4

CHAMPION HAMPSHIRE
Tannin Ritchie

RESERVE CHAMPION HAMPSHIRE
Evelyn Smith

Evelyn Smith	Alpine FFA	1
Alexi Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	2
Kacy Hawkins	Alpine FFA	3
Kody Hawkins	Alpine FFA	4

CLASS 8

Evelyn Smith	Alpine FFA	1
Izabella Briones	Marathon 4H	2
Everett Keith	Fort Davis FFA	3
Jaxon Minor	Alpine FFA	4
Eliana Granado	Fort Davis FFA	5

CLASS 9

Amanda Ahrens	Alpine FFA	1
Adrian Chavez	Fort Davis FFA	2
Chelsea Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	3
Kacy Hawkins	Alpine FFA	4

CLASS 10

Mia Rodriguez	Presidio 4H	1
Colten Gray	Fort Davis FFA	2
Tripp Warren	Alpine FFA	3

CLASS 11

Tannin Ritchie	Alpine FFA	1
Hunter Stieg	Alpine FFA	2
John Ritchie	Alpine FFA	3
Talynn Stieg	Alpine FFA	4

CHAMPION CROSS
Amanda Ahrens
RESERVE CHAMPION CROSS
Ty Ritchie

Tannin Ritchie	Alpine FFA	1
Chelsea Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	2
Diondra Luevano	Alpine FFA	3
Kayden Gray	Fort Davis FFA	4

CLASS 13

Amanda Ahrens	Alpine FFA	1
Kody Hawkins	Alpine FFA	2
John Ritchie	Alpine FFA	3
Izabella Briones	Marathon 4H	4
Alexi Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	5

CLASS 14

Ty Ritchie	Alpine FFA	1
Isaiah Briones	Marathon 4H	2
Alexi Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	3
Colten Gray	Fort Davis FFA	4
Brody Warren	Alpine FFA	5

CLASS 15

Alijah Brito	Fort Davis FFA	1
Chelsea Hernandez	Fort Davis FFA	2
Kayden Gray	Fort Davis FFA	3
Mia Rodriguez	Presidio 4H	4
Kevin Perez	Fort Davis FFA	5

HORSES

GRAND CHAMPION MARE
Jordan Miller
RESERVE CHAMPION MARE
Talynn Stieg

GRAND CHAMPION GELDING
Kendal McComb
RESERVE CHAMPION GELDING
Ryder Coleman

CLASS	EXHIBITOR	PLACE
MARES	Jordan Miller	1
	Talynn Stieg	2
	Kaden Whetten	3
Young Mares	Lauren Aragon	4
	Reese Coleman	5
	Ella Boyd	6
Young Gelding	Graham Dubois	1
	Reese Coleman	2
	Eddie Dubois	3
	Jordan Miller	4
Aged Gelding	Kendall McComb	1
	Ryder Coleman	2
	Lauren Aragon	3
	Graham Dubois	4
	Amberly Tarrant	5
	Megan Luna	6

Kaden Whetten	7
Kendall McComb	8
Hunter Stieg	9
Gracie Dabbs	10
Edie Dubois	11
Susanna Luna	12
Reese Coleman	13

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP
Lauren Aragon
SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP
Kendall McComb

Junior Results

Lauren Aragon	1
Ella Boyd	2
Edie Dubois	3
Hunter Stieg	4
Ryder Coleman	5
Amberly Tarrant	6
Gracie Dabbs	7
Susanna Luna	8
Talynn Stieg	9

Senior Results

Kendall McComb	1
Jordan Miller	2
Kaden Whetten	3
Reese Coleman	4
Megan Luna	5



Kendall McComb trots her horse during the horse competition held this past Friday.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

CATTLE



Exhibitors show off their cattle at this year's Big Bend Livestock Show.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

GRAND CHAMPION CATTLE
Hunter Stieg
RESERVE CHAMPION CATTLE
Talynn Stieg

EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION
Henry Downing	Fort Davis FFA
Sawyer Downing	Fort Davis FFA
Brenna Downing	Fort Davis FFA

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP
Hunter Stieg
SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP
Brenna Downing

EXHIBITOR	ASSOCIATION
Hunter Stieg	Alpine FFA
Talynn Stieg	Alpine FFA
Ryanna Pineda	Alpine FFA
Kaden Whetten	Marathon 4H

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COUNCIL • FROM 1

Molinar also told the council that the pool had been painted this past year and is filled with water. He said many cities keep water in their pool year-round, and that instead of draining it this year, they were keeping a close watch on water levels for possible leaks

and vacuuming it once a week. Molinar also told the council that his department was short staffed, there being five employees including himself, and that maintaining streets, paving, and seal coating takes longer with such a small staff. In action items, the council

unanimously approved the single action item on the agenda. The action item was to approve the Order 2023-01-01, Order of General Election for May 6, 2023, for the purpose of electing one Ward 1 Council Member, one Ward 3 Council Member, and one Ward 5

Council Member for two-year terms: with early voting April 24, 2023, to May 2, 2023. After a few brief comments from council members, thanking Darrell Losoya for his good work in keeping the city safe and working with the council and the city manager and Ed-

die Molinar for his good work in paving, seal coating, and repairing the streets to the best of his ability with such a small crew, the meeting was adjourned. The next city council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.



Architect's rendition of the inside of the Museum of the Big Bend expansion.

Courtesy photo

MUSEUM • FROM 3

materials that relate to the prehistory, history and cultural diversity of the Big Bend region of Texas and Mexico." Over the past 86 years, the fame, and accomplishments of the MoBB stretch far and wide. Articles about the MoBB have been highlighted in publications like True West Magazine, Travel Awaits, AARP, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Highways, Texas Monthly, and PRIME Living Magazine, to name a few. Attractions, such as the

phenomenal Map Exhibit, curated by Matt Walters, have drawn patrons from across the country for a glimpse into the past. The historical preservation, with a focus on accuracy in time placement, span five centuries of mapping Texas and its surrounding territories. Supporters have come out of the woodwork to keep the MoBB thriving and expanding. The MoBB Director's Advisory Council members, Sul Ross State University, Texas State University

System, and the Board of Regents have begun a \$10 million campaign for a dream renovation, first envisioned in 2007. "The Cultural Events Center will be a gorgeous space to host events, workshops and other activities ..." says Mary Bones, Director of MoBB. With incredible donors like the McCoy family, Caldwell family, John & Bonnie Korbell, Modesta Williams, Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, and King Family Foundation, the

Museum Complex is now under construction. The MoBB has made available for individual purchase, 30 panels made of glass running along the guardrail of the elegant, panoramic patio. Each panel is exactly 42"h x 44"w x 3/8"d, and may be secured with a donation of \$10,000, and will boast the donor's family brand. The Museum Complex plans to celebrate a full weekend of grand opening events for the new building Mar. 10 - 11.

COUNTY • FROM 1

sioners that she would be replacing the locks and re-keying the fire station, so that there would not be the need for multiple keys. Elmore also told commissioners in her report that she was cleaning out and organizing the Emergency Response Center to make everything more accessible and easier to find and she said that she was working on multiple grants for the generator in Marathon. Elmore told commissioners that the cur-

rent burn ban needed to be extended for another 45 days, and commissioners unanimously approved the continuation. Road and Bridge Superintendent Frenchie Causey told commissioners that his crews had hauled gravel to Aqua Fria Road and base to several other county roads. Causey reported on multiple roads where general maintenance was performed, such as blading and pothole repair. He also reported that

his department worked on securing loose tin on county structures that had come loose due to high winds. Commissioner Ortega told the court about the Community Facilities Report. Ortega reported that this department had replaced light bulbs in the jail, changed HVAC filters, and was currently removing Christmas lights from the courthouse. He also mentioned that an employee from this department

and one from the Road and Bridge department went to Marathon to help unload the Food Pantry truck each time it delivers. Financially, there was no report from the Treasurer's office and only standard bills from the County Auditor's office, and one line-item transfer. The next regularly scheduled Commissioner's Court is scheduled for Jan. 24 at 9:30 a.m.

DISTRICT • FROM 1

not probable cause exists to continue in a felony court. The judge also selects four alternates for the grand jury. Grand jurors serve for a term of six months in the 394th Judicial District. To return an indictment on a felony case, jurors must meet a quorum. Nine jurors make up a quorum. Therefore, there must be nine votes out of the 12 jurors that believe there is probable cause from the information presented to them that an offense occurred, to return a "True Bill" to indict the case. A failure to get nine votes will result in a "No Bill," and the prosecution will not pursue criminal charges. All deliberations by a grand jury are secret. If secrecy is broken, it is punishable by a fine of \$500 and 30 days in jail. When the pandemic hit Texas, most things came to a screeching halt. Not so with the 394th judicial district. Judge Ferguson was one of the creative minds behind keeping the wheels of justice rolling,

not just in his own district but across the state, the country, and even internationally. Since the pandemic he has spoken in no less than eight different countries and addressed the UN Women's Association and other international judicial bodies, on behalf of the United States on how best to continue their job when the world essentially shut down. Every courthouse in the state of Texas was ordered to shut down when the pandemic hit Texas and began sweeping across the state. The 394th Judicial District Court, in order to minimize the exposure to COVID-19, implemented an online questionnaire for potential grand jurors to complete before they ever set foot in the courtroom. This allowed court proceedings to continue when business, schools, and other public entities across the state shut their doors due to the pandemic. This solution worked so well that Judge Ferguson has continued to

implement it as standard operating procedure. The days of sitting in the courtroom, awaiting 100 potential jurors to answer questions about their qualifications or disqualifications and voice their possible excuses as to why they can't serve are over. Not only did this make the selection process more efficient for the jurors, but it allowed the court to weed out those who were initially summoned that were not qualified to serve. It in effect took a body of 100 potential jurors to 30 potential jurors that are required to show up to the courtroom for selection. These digital solutions implemented by Judge Ferguson and several of his colleagues allowed for criminal cases to continue throughout the state and especially in this judicial district. Unlike many courts who are still mired in a back log of cases, this district court is caught up and proceeding as planned. Many places in the world still have back logs of

cases and are struggling to find their way on how to tackle these issues, while the 394th Judicial District Court has managed to stay on task, all while bringing the court system into the digital world, minimizing the use of paper for questionnaires, and coming full force into the 21st century.

WORKSHOP • FROM 3

for replacement was the issue. In an aging system, where would you begin in terms of the area of replacement, and with limited resources, including employees, how long would it take to complete even part of this momentous undertaking. These were all questions asked and pondered. A sound financial basis seemingly became the consensus. What loans and grants were available, how long would it take to pay off the loans, and what percentage would the city have to meet to qualify for grants. Also, how much of this would be passed on to the consumer in order to pay off loans sooner so more work could be completed. Councilor Rodriguez believed that it was important to bring in an engineer to look at what the city is currently working with and where best to begin the job of replacing these water lines. She also believed that looking closely at how much the cost of replacement

parts would be, along with budgeting in the future and accounting for inflation and cost increase of equipment was of importance. Dr. Rinehart spoke to the group about the school district implementing a pathway to trade school program for the high school and thought this might be a way to help with new employees, giving them on the job training, and allowing them to progress to certificates and licenses in different disciplines. At the conclusion of the meeting, the one clear issue was that funding was at the root of all city improvements. There was not a solid starting point for the priority of where the money is going to come from established at this workshop, but city officials hope that will flesh itself out in the upcoming workshops held later this month and into February, where all citizens of Alpine are encouraged to attend. The next workshop will be held on Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

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BIG BEND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION SHOW



Goat exhibitor Kylie Maroney seriously studies the judge during this past Friday's stock show.

Photos by Felipe Fierro

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT
Ethan Sweat**

In what activities did you participate in high school?

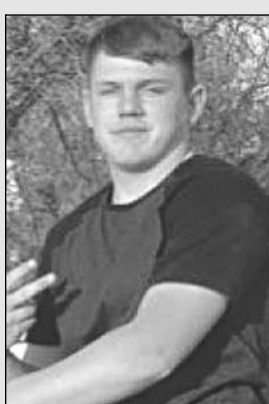
In high school I participate in football, basketball, baseball, and UIL.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite coach was coach Valenzuela because he has always pushed me to do the best I could.

What was your favorite moment of the last four years?

My favorite moment in high school was win-



Ethan Sweat

ning bi district my senior year.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan on going to college and get a criminal justice degree.

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Bulls: Steady

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300# - 400# Heifers	201.00 to 214.00
400# - 500# Steers	218.00 to 243.00
400# - 500# Heifers	189.00 to 201.00
500# - 600# Steers	188.00 to 218.00
500# - 600# Heifers	169.00 to 189.00
600# - 700# Steers	179.00 to 188.00
600# - 700# Heifers	153.00 to 169.00
700# - 800# Steers	161.00 to 179.00
700# - 800# Heifers	150.00 to 153.00
Packer Cows	72.00 to 77.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	61.00 to 70.00
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Devotional Page
Desiring Change

BY ANDREW POSADAS
Fuente de Vida-Spanish Assembly of God

As the year begins, many of us set goals and commit ourselves to making some changes. We all want a better year and many of us realize that the best way to achieve that is to work on improving ourselves. In this, many of us come to realize that change, that is true long-term change, is a difficult thing. As noble as our intentions might be, many times it seems like we can't just make it work. It's almost like we're missing something. I believe I know what that "something" might be.

Nehemiah is a person in the Bible who wanted to see change. With the Israelites returning to the city of Jerusalem, it seemed to Nehemiah like the opportune time to restore the home of his ancestors, that at that time remained in ruins. He grieved and even wept because of the condition the home of his forefathers found itself in. But even being justified in his desire, Nehemiah knew he needed to do one thing, one crucial thing, first. Nehemiah put his emotions aside and consulted his God by praying and fasting.

Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah chapter 1 is a beautiful prayer filled with worship and repentance. He asks for God to remember the promises to his forefathers and grant his request. Nehemiah is nervous because he knows he must also have the king's permission for this request. Although he wants to do the right thing, he needs to do it the right way. Later, God answers his prayers, and Nehemiah is granted the opportunity to go and restore the wall of that city he loves. God uses Nehemiah's position of influence and access as the cupbearer to the king to fulfill his plan. But all of this was done by first seeking counsel from God.

This year we might have many ideas about the things we want to get done, and we might be perfectly justified in those desires. We might also have some things that are close to our hearts; things we've poured blood, sweat, and tears into and we're ready to reap the results. But I want to challenge you today to take a moment to pray and ask God what He desires for you to do. Many times, we focus so much on getting things done, we don't take time to really consider whether we are doing the right things the right way.

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The tamale factory with the most

For 50 years, La Nortena tamale factory has served the community of Pecos, Texas. Located at 211 E. Third Street, it has been family owned and operated by the Castillo family since its inception. At one point, the family even owned and operated a brick-and-mortar Mexican restaurant and the tamale factory produced what it does best; tamales.

That restaurant eventually closed its doors



when the family patriarch and matriarch became older, and the business became too much.

They still held on to their tamale factory, and today it produces much more than just those delicious tamales they are known for all over southwest Texas. La Nortena is not a sit-down restaurant. It is strictly a to-go food option, but no better option exists when it comes to what they turn out.

Whenever I venture to the "big city" of Pecos to visit my family, there is almost always a stop at La Nortena. I buy two things, that while I



Chile Verde from La Nortena Tortilla Factory in Pecos, TX.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Chile Verde con Carne

Note: All measurements are approximate, as I tend to season this dish by sight and taste.

Ingredients: 1-2 lbs. cubed beef stew meat, fat removed 1-2 white or yellow onions, diced 1-2 large containers	of Bueno chopped green chiles, thawed 1-2 cloves of minced garlic; more if desired 2 teaspoons ground cumin; more if desired	Salt and pepper to taste Vegetable oil Water Cornstarch
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Directions:

In a large Dutch oven, over medium-high heat, add vegetable oil and stew meat and allow to brown, stirring frequently and cook until all the water has been cooked off.

Add salt, pepper, onions, and garlic and continue stirring and cooking until these added ingredients are well combined.

Add in approximately ¼ cup of water to help incorporate flavors, cook onions until almost translucent, and keep the meat and gar-

lic from burning.

Once the onions have reached an almost translucent stage, add in the cumin and the green chiles and stir well.

Cook for approximately 5 - 7 minutes, until flavors are incorporated.

Add water or chicken broth until meat is completely covered.

Reduce heat to low to simmer, and cover, cooking approximately two hours, stirring frequently, and until meat is fork tender and falling apart and at least

half of the broth has been reduced.

Using a bowl or large liquid measuring cup, make a slurry out of cornstarch and water in a two parts cold water to one part cornstarch, to use as a thickener. Begin with a small amount and stir into the chile verde until well blended. Chile verde broth should be the consistency of an easily pourable gravy.

Serve with hot corn or flour tortillas and shredded cheese if desired.

am perfectly capable of making myself, it's much nicer to have it ready to eat immediately. I always purchase at least a dozen tamales, usually two dozen, one each of red pork and green chile and chicken and a large bowl of their chile verde con carne. Their tamales are great, especially since it takes several hours to produce what you can purchase in around five minutes. But their chile verde con carne is outstanding. I have eaten a lot of chile verde

carne in my lifetime, but none of it compares to the flavor of that coming out of the La Nortena kitchens.

Their cubed beef, simmered in their roasted green chiles and blend of spices is mouthwatering heaven. It is so good, that I have tried multiple times, and failed, to replicate it. It is my life's goal to decipher the exact combination of spices they use to make this dish taste so good. Although I have as yet to figure their exact com-

bination out, I have my own version that eats well too.

So, the next time you happen to roll through Pecos, make a little side trip to La Nortena and pick up some of their world-famous tamales or any of the other delicious items on their menu. They are sure to please even the most discriminating palate. From tamales to barbacoa, to menudo, chile verde, or brisket, the Castillo family does it up right.

Avalanche Classifieds

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Citation By Publication - Heirship

To all persons interested in the Estate of:

Joe Edward Skelton, Deceased Cause Number PR03109 Brewster County Court, Brewster County, Texas In Probate

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on December 7, 2022 requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Joe Edward Skelton, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.

This Application may be acted on or after December 22, 2022 at the call of the docket. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application, should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County clerk of Brewster County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.

Attorney For Applicant: Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law SIBLEY ANDERSON LEWIS 117 N. 6th St. Alpine, Texas 79830

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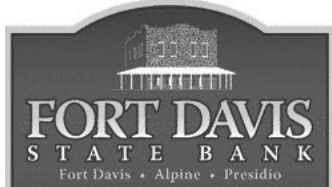


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We are looking for an HR Generalist who can effectively handle Benefits, Training, and Recruiting as well as working with management on employee engagement challenges. We are a vibrant regional telecommunications company located in Alpine in the heart of Big Bend Region of Texas. This opening is an on-site position. This position will require candidate to possess good communication skills as well as excellent analytical skills. Candidate will need to be proficient in Microsoft suite. The ideal candidate will need to have at least 2 years of experience in an HR or similar role or a Bachelors in a related degree.

Business Development & Marketing Coordinator

This is a great and rare opportunity for a motivated Business Development and Marketing professional to help grow our business. This includes a vast array of quality telecommunications products and services in the Big Bend Region and beyond. The ideal candidate will have at least three (3) years of sales and marketing experience with previous experience in the Telecommunications industry considered a plus. Candidate must enjoy a challenge and work well in a fast-paced environment. The job responsibilities will include increasing sales and creating successful sales strategies and campaigns. Candidate will need to have great communication and software skills along with good organizational abilities. This position is based in Alpine with travel outside the area to develop markets and customers. This is a unique opportunity to make a big impact in a fast-paced technical industry and be a BBT rock star. Candidate will need a valid driver's license. Compensation is extremely competitive depending on experience. The position is eligible for \$1,000 hiring bonus after 6 months of service*.

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NOTICE OF ESTABLISHING DISTRICT OFFICES AND REGULAR MEETING PLACES OF LAJITAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BREWSTER COUNTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF BREWSTER §

TO THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF LAJITAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BREWSTER COUNTY AND TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SUCH DISTRICT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Lajitas Utility District No. 1 of Brewster County, pursuant to Resolutions Establishing and Changing District Offices and Regular Meeting Places adopted on November 11, 2011, and April 19, 2018, has established offices of the District at Law Offices of Ronald J. Freeman, Attorney, 102 N. Railroad Avenue, Pflugerville, Texas 78660; and at Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa HC 70, Box 400, Lajitas, Texas 79852. Said offices were established for the purpose of opening bids for construction contracts and for the purpose of filing and maintaining the District's records. Meeting places of the Board were established at Law Offices of Ronald J. Freeman, Attorney, 102 N. Railroad Avenue, Pflugerville, Texas 78660; Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa, 100 Main Street, Lajitas, Texas 79852; 8111 Westchester, 6th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75225; and Energy Transfer Partners, 3738 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75219, which were declared to be public places and open to the public.

The mailing address of the District shall be c/o Ronald J. Freeman, Attorney, 102 N. Railroad Avenue, Pflugerville, Texas 78660.

All residents and taxpayers of Lajitas Utility District No. 1 of Brewster County and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors.

/s/ THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAJITAS UTILITY DISTRICT
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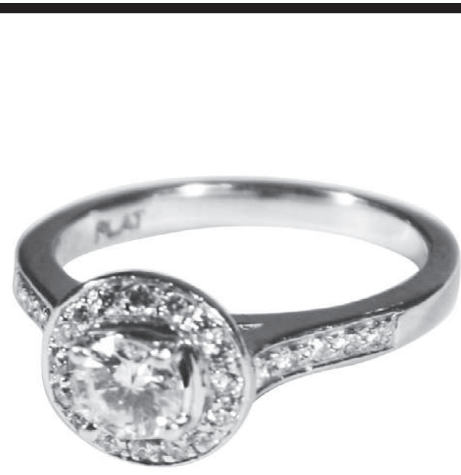
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