

Special budget meeting scheduled, CERT to begin in September

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Brewster Country Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting July 25, at 9:30 a.m.

During Tuesday's meeting, Walter Kuykendall, program manager for Emergent Air, gave the organization's quarterly report. There are currently two emergency air service providers operating in the area, Emergent Air and AirMedCare Network. Individuals can choose either service provider, and in the case of medical emergencies, both will respect agreements made to either company, in order to protect the health or safety of the person in need of medical transport.

County member Florence Cox came before the court to propose the removal of Scott Road from the county road list in order for it to become

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

20235.73"
August0.84"



Burn Ban ON

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



Celebrating Alpine history with Fiesta 1888

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

After a turnout that surpassed expectations last year, the fiesta is back in business this Saturday for its second year. Downtown historic Murphy Street and Alpine's cultural roots will be celebrated once again during the Fiesta 1888's event on August 5.

Attendees will be a special and appreciative crowd this year, because 1888 will be the last one for a little while, as it may not be back until 2025.

Mary Ann Lujan, executive director of the event, said, "Next year there isn't going to be a fiesta. Probably not until 2025. It's a lot of work."

Lujan has worked tirelessly alongside co-directors Elidia and Robert Polanco and Annette Gallego to make this event a reality, and they all have big plans for the next fiesta, whenever it is possible. One plan includes lighting up the "A" on "A" mountain for the



See FIESTA 1888 • 6 Murphy Street

Viva Big Bend rocks Alpine once again!



Neil Trammell, lead singer & bass player for The Doodlin Hogwallops, joined Will and the Wilderness on stage at the Railroad Blues on Sunday night of Viva Big Bend. From left are acoustic guitar player Chris McWilliams of the Hogwallops, Trammell on vocals, Michael Leftkowitz on drums, Will Dupuy on lead vocals and upright bass, and Doug Moreland on fiddle.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Property tax legislation further handcuffs school funding

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD board of trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 26 at 5:30 p.m. On the agenda were final updates from Parkhill and Imperial on last minute construction items for the high school, and updates on state legislation in regard to school funding.

Representatives from Imperial and Parkhill were both in attendance for the meeting, as they embarked on their final walk through of the AHS campus Wednesday, taking note of any small items that may have been overlooked and not completed. There were only a few minor items not completed, and the Americans with Disabilities Act representative will do a walk through on August 2 to inspect the few items like rails in the restrooms that need to be completed.

The floor remediation for AHS was completed this month, and grass is beginning

to take root and grow in the areas where the landscaping has been completed. AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart told the board, "I have been approached about watering the landscaping from a couple of concerned citizens, but if anyone asks, we were watering heavily to germinate the grass seed in the courtyard and around the school. Now that the grass has taken hold, we will be cutting back considerably on that watering." Chad Barnard from Imperial told the board that they had received the official certificate of occupancy from the City of Alpine, so everything was good to go. Barnard also told the board, "You all built this school at the right time. I know this project was costly, but when doing the math, Alpine was able to build this school at a cost of around \$300 per square foot. I have other projects in rural areas that are coming in at over \$700 per square foot now, so you all real-



Dr. Michelle Rinehart

ly saved some money by building when you did. I also want to commend Mr. Vickers and his staff as well as the students for doing such a good job of taking care of the new building. I've gone into Dallas area schools that are a year old and they're destroyed, so you all have done a good job."

Following the construction updates were the reports by the three AISD campus principals and the athletic director. Mr. Curtis Wubbena, principal at the elementary school, told the board about how excellent the Amplify curriculum was and how it utilized academic vocabulary about subjects that are interesting to the students. Mrs. Judith Pardo-Alferez reported to the board that her campus at Alpine Middle School was very fortunate, in that she did not lose any teachers for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. "All of my teachers I worked with last year are all still here, so we are all familiar with ev-

erything going forward. It will make things much easier since everyone is familiar with how we structure our schedules and learning," Pardo-Alferez said.

Mr. Jarrett Vickers, principal at Alpine High School told the board that they will be holding a freshman orientation student and parent meeting on August 9. He also told the board that he was able to streamline the message boards throughout the school, so they will run important dates, times, and events that the students need to be aware of.

Athletic Director Andy Smith reported to the board, that due to utilizing the Huddle live streaming for the athletics program, it actually saved the district money. "There is only one school in our district that does not utilize this program, so this saves us the time and money we might normally have to spend by taking our own cameras on the road to out of town games," Smith stated. Smith

See AISD • 6

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OBITUARY

Janice Lerich

Janice "JJ" Lerich passed away peacefully at her home in Carlsbad, NM surrounded by family and friends on July 17 after a battle with cancer. JJ was born December 17, 1956, in Fort Worth, to Richard Carlous Jones and Gloria Jean Lewis Jones, while her father was serving in the US Air Force at Carswell AFB. As a young girl, JJ lived with her parents in Kyllberg, Germany until she and her mother moved back to the U.S. due to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The family came to Alamogordo, NM when JJ's father was stationed at Holloman AFB where he served as an air traffic controller. JJ graduated from Alamogordo High School in 1974. She married Klad Zimmerle and they had a daughter, Desiree Sunshine. JJ met



the love of her life, Scott P. Lerich, in Orogrande, NM in 1993 and they were married in May 1994 in San Antonio. Grandson Dean Anthony "Bubba" Thatcher was born in Anchorage, AK in 1997.

JJ worked as a Vet Tech for a number of years before entering nursing school. She graduated with an associate's degree in nursing from New Mexico State University - Alamogordo and started work at the old Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital (GCMH) on 10th Street as a Registered Nurse

(RN). After various positions, JJ worked in and eventually managed the ICU at GCMH where she made many friends. JJ served as an RN for over 28 years in New Mexico and West Texas and loved her work.

Scott's work as a wildlife biologist took them to Texas for 10 years where they lived in Brewster County, Lubbock, and Amarillo, before moving back to Alamogordo in 2008. JJ started making pottery and then quilting while living at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area near Alpine, where she enjoyed the peace and quiet. JJ loved hosting the many interesting visitors, both family and scientists, who came to Elephant Mountain through her years there, and she especially enjoyed watching the elf owls and pallid bats that

visited her on the back porch of the house.

JJ enjoyed quilting, sewing, making pottery, online games, wine, gardening, and traveling. JJ traveled halfway around the world with Scott, and they were making plans for a trip to Ireland when the pandemic shut the world down in 2020. Especially enjoyable were a couple of trips to Europe, a very interesting trip to Chihuahua, Mexico in 2019, cruises, and a week in Hawaii. She even got temporarily lost at Tulum, Mexico during a visit to a Mayan archaeological site, as life with JJ was often an adventure. JJ also enjoyed training dogs, hunting, and loved to cook big meals for everyone who visited her home to enjoy.

JJ always considered Alamogordo home and owned multiple homes there and in nearby La

Luz through the years and she cherished her friends in those communities. JJ and the family would like to thank the staff of Enhabit Hospice, particularly Katrina, Lexi, Debra, Amy, Crystal, Shanya, and Jessica. The family is especially grateful to JJ's caregiver Belle Renteria who provided exceptional care with love and compassion. JJ was deeply loved by family and friends and will be missed terribly.

JJ was preceded in death by her parents Richard C. Jones and Gloria Jean Lewis Jones, and her aunt Jan Lewis.

JJ is survived by her husband of 29 years Scott P. Lerich, of Carlsbad, NM, her daughter Sunshine Thatcher, of Crossroads, grandson Dean Anthony "Bubba" Thatcher, of Dallas, and dear friends Jennie Taylor of Albuquerque, Lyn Essex of Alamogordo, and Liz Alden of Lakeside, AZ; mother-in-law Florence Maxwell; sister-in-law Melody Aldrich (Mike); and sister-in-law Sandy Ferry; JJ requested her ashes be scattered at Sunspot, NM, which was a special spot for her. Services are not scheduled at this time.

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Viva Big Bend



Marijuana Sweet Tooth entertained the crowd on historic Murphy Street last Thursday afternoon on the porch of the Hotel Ritchey as part of Viva Big Bend. From left, Devin Hopwood on keyboard, Cale Hand on drums, Clara Brill on violin, Travis Bubenik on pedal steel, and front man on vocals and acoustic guitar Mateo Mares.

Photo by Joh Covington

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2010	FORD	PK	1FTX1EW0AFD22186	LP-LLN6131	WHITE	TEXAS
2013	CHEVROLET	CP	2G1FB3D33D9242571	LP-00999B2	RED	TEXAS
2001	FORD	PK	1FTRX17L11NA53772	LP-6010AN	WHITE	TEXAS
1991	FORD	4D	1FMDU34X3MUC81932	LP-KPR9976	WHITE	TEXAS
2009	CADILLAC	4D	1G6DV57V390123874	LP-GDL9979	WHITE	TEXAS
2000	NISSAN	4D	3N1BB51A4YL000866	LP-663858B	RED/BLK	TEXAS
2017	TOYOTA	PK	5TFGZ5AN3HX084474	LP-JMR1342	TAN	TEXAS
1999	DODGE	PK	3B7HC13Y7XG235843	LP-9CMV45	BLUE	TEXAS
1996	JEEP	LL	1J4GZ58Y7TC343817	LP=SHF4989	RED	TEXAS
2014	KAWASAKI	MC	JKBRTCC14EB501608	LP- NO LP	GREEN	TEXAS
2003	FORD	PK	1FTRX07L13KD21413	LP- SBT0135	BLACK	TEXAS
1996	BMW	4D	WBAGJ8325TDL36762	LP- BCG8328	BLACK	TEXAS
1994	CHEVROLET	LL	1GNEC16K9RJ317074	LP- PGV4170	BLUE	TEXAS
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Dominguez joins University of Central Arkansas faculty

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Dr. Maritza Dominguez, a 1998 Alpine High School graduate, will be joining the faculty of the University of Central Arkansas as an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Dr. Dominguez began her studies at Sul Ross and then transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication in 2001, followed by a Master of Physical Therapy from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2009.

Dr. Dominguez completed her PhD in Physical Therapy from the University of Central Arkansas in August of 2020, and has been a certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer since August of 2013.

She has 14 years of experience as a physical therapist, where she has provided therapy to patients for pain management, strokes, brain injuries, spinal injuries, multiple sclerosis, strains, sprains, amputations, and post-operative care.

Dr. Dominguez also has experience with adaptive devices such as orthotics and prosthetics. She joins the faculty of UCA in August where she will play an active role in courses such as Kinesiology and Therapeutic Exercise.

Dr. Dominguez is the daughter of Leo Dominguez and the late Elsa Dominguez. She is also the granddaughter of the late Ruperto and Corina Ceniceros of Marfa and the late Isidoro and Virginia Dominguez of Alpine.



Dr. Maritza Dominguez

Courtesy photo



Alcove Social, formerly The Saddle Club held its ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening Wednesday, July 26. Pictured are Sara Bow Gluck, Eva Olivas, Rick Kelly, Geri Davis, owner Benjamin Garcia, Judy Stokes, and Berta Rios-Martinez.

Photo by Joh Covington

Presidio County woman pleads guilty to drug trafficking charge

According to information received the United States Attorney's Office of the Western District of Texas, a Presidio County woman plead guilty in Alpine federal court last Tuesday, to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and fentanyl.

The announcement was made by U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza of the Western District of Texas and Special Agent in Charge Francisco B. Burrola of the Homeland Security Investigations El Paso Division.

Court documents stated that Cherakee Lee Perez, 33, provided a negative declaration during a U. S. Customs and Border Patrol vehicle inspection at the Port of Entry at Presidio, when entering the U.S. from Mexico. The detection of narcotics by a canine unit discovered over three dozen packages hidden in the vehicle Perez was driving.

Of these packages, 29 of them contained approximately 4.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, while the other 13 packages contained seven kilograms of fentanyl. Sentencing for Perez is scheduled for October 23. She faces a penalty of 10 years to life in prison. The sentencing will be done by a federal district court judge who will determine any sentence after the consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. The case is being investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Greenbaum.

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Alpine American Legion Post awarded first place community service award in Texas

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Last week, Big Bend Post 79 received the 2023 American Legion Community Service Award for the Department of Texas.

"We here at Big Bend Post 79 are committed to helping out Big Bend area veterans and community at large," Post 79 said in the award announcement.

Alpine's Big Bend Post has given support to many civic and community organizations in the area over the years and this honor recognizes that valuable service to the people of the area.

The list of people that Post 79 has helped is extensive, including organizations like: The Sunshine House, the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, the Alpine Public Library, the Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, as well as a number of local and transient veterans in financial need.



Members of the American Legion Big Bend Post 79 pictured are Phil Westerman, Andy Ramos, and James Sullivan

They have also aided the Alpine Police Department, the Brewster County Sheriff's Department and the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department, and the Elm Grove & Holy Angel's cemeteries.

Additionally, The FFA Stock Show, the Alpine Lions Club and Kiwanis Club, the Alpine Cowboys baseball team, Alpine Ladies Golf Association, Alpine Boxing Club, Alpine High School

golf team, and Alpine girls' softball have benefited from the Post's endeavors.

While educational organizations have also had a strong supporter in the Post, Sul Ross State University, the Alpine Christian School, and Project Graduation as well as the yearly scholarships that the Post grants, have had a positive impact on those in the pursuit of education.

The positive impact that

Big Bend Post 79 has on the community has been observed and appreciated quietly for some time now. With this first place prize, however, they have received some well-deserved notoriety from the area and the State.

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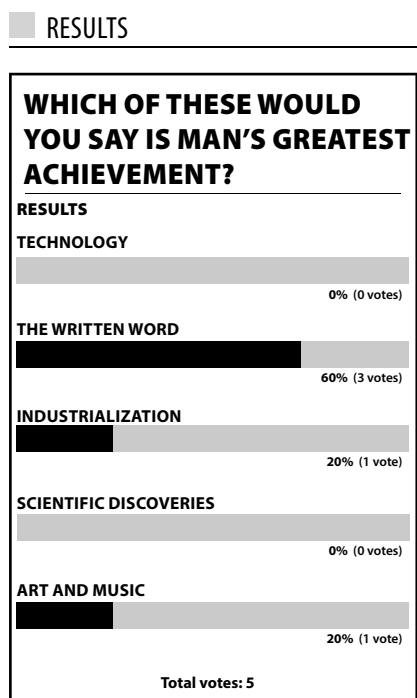
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is your favorite sport to watch or attend in person?

- Football
- Volleyball
- Track and Field
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Rodeo
- Basketball

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 kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.



BOONIEVILLE



Big news for Sul Ross



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ
Sul Ross president

I'm looking back on all of the good news – some of it really big news – out of Sul Ross State University in the last few weeks or so alone. I'm so proud of all that we're accomplishing, especially as we look to improve our student experience so that we increase enrollment and retention, which remain our two top goals on our Alpine campus.

Let's start with our application to NCAA Division II. This is going to be huge for Lobo sports. I want to commend Athletic Director Amanda Workman who worked tirelessly throughout this very complicated process to make sure we crossed every "t" and dotted every "i." In the meantime, she gave birth to her first child. I want to congratulate her for both of these achievements.

She has her work cut out for her over the next couple of years, but I know she is up for the challenge.

At Sul Ross, we believe that a move to Division II and the Lone Star Conference will aid our efforts to recruit and retain not only student-athletes, but across our spectrum of degree programs. The data shows that high school students and traditional freshman consider athletic programs, even when they are not participating themselves, when making choices about higher education. Competition and sports bring people together and we're looking forward to future success. It will be fierce at the start, but we believe in our Lobos!

Head Football Coach Barry Derickson was named to Dave Campbell's Texas Football

40 Coaches Under 40 list. No pressure, Coach. Let's get those W's.

Let's turn to academics. Dr. Lisa Thompson Sousa was honored by her peers with the Exemplary Course Design Award for online Instructional Design for the second year in a row. SRSU is embracing technology and remote learning in addition to being a residential campus.

Dr. Barbara Tucker, the dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, was named an Impact Academy fellow through national non-profit organization Deans for Impact for her commitment to improving educator preparation. As you likely know, Sul Ross started as a teacher's college and education continues to be one of our top programs. Our certified teachers are working in school districts all over Texas.

Our writer-in-residence, Sid

Balman Jr., a Pulitzer Prize nominee, will release his third and final novel in the Seventh Flag series on August 1. The series is set in the future in West Texas.

Finally, the Borderlands Research Institute announced the creation of a \$400,000 endowment in the name of Victoria and Parker Johnson. Victoria is the daughter of John L. Nau III, a longtime supporter of BRI and SRSU. His collection of Texas art is currently on loan and displayed at the Museum of the Big Bend. His support, and that of his family, is appreciated.

While many believe that the summer term is restful on college campuses, you can see that we are hard at work in Alpine. As always, we'd love for you to come and visit. The evening hours are quiet and just a few degrees cooler. You're welcome to stroll the mall and get a little sun.

Don't let a little dust blowing bother you

"I'm a-goin' where the dust storms never blow."

— Song lyrics, "Ain't Gonna Be Treated This Way," American folk singer Woody Guthrie.

While in the West Texas city of Abilene a couple of weeks ago, I spent time visiting familiar landmarks. Recalling my fondness for the region. Remembering a time when I lived there not long out of college. In the 70s.

By the time I entered grade school in Crockett, we had lived in the West Texas burghs of Ballinger and Muleshoe plus Pampa up in the Panhandle. The following year, we were back out west in Baylor County just in time to enroll me in the second grade at Seymour Elementary School. That stay was longer than anywhere. Then then we moved to Mount Pleasant in Northeast Texas just as the fifth-grade year was wrapping up.

It's funny nowadays to joke about how the dime store chain, Perry Brothers, moved store managers like my dad more often than the Methodist Church moved ministers. But for a grade school kid, leaving friends and having to make new ones in the next city wasn't all fun. Or funny.

That nomadic lifestyle in West Texas, however, probably accounts for my fondness of the state's western region and my desire for frequent visits.

Truthfully, living in Abilene back then was based on a good job offer rather than that fond-

ness. But I liked the dry summer heat, comfortable nights, and four distinct seasons. It was just some springs that could often be, as Paul Harvey used to say, "the rest of the story."

Those "West Texas springs" were a topic of reminiscing with a friend recently who had also lived in West Texas.

"West Texas Springs are exactly what drove us back to East Texas," he grumbled. "We didn't even have to drive back. We were deposited somewhere near Henderson by one of those beautiful West Texas spring dust storms."

Texas newspaper columnist Clyde Wallace once wrote about those dust storms, "In some parts of the state, you have to live there for years before you're accepted as a local, but in West Texas, you're in after you've survived 'The Winds.' All it takes is one spring."

Like Wallace, I remembered my first spring in Abilene. I arrived in March, just in time to get acquainted with co-workers before the first "duster" blew in.

Maybe it was listening to me bragging about East Texas small towns, trees lining creek banks, lots of lakes ... all uncommon sights in West Texas. But for whatever reason, everyone in the office seemed eager for me to experience what was about to happen.

Happen it did one day when



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

the western sky got dark about mid-morning. Everyone gathered in the front office near a large window looking south from our location at Eighth and Pine Streets in downtown Abilene.

As the storm swallowed the city and was bearing down on us, a flurry of activity was underway locking doors and placing wet towels around window and door openings.

Darkness slowly swallowed the sun. The old 16-story Wooten Hotel just four blocks away gradually disappeared. Looking at darkness in the middle of the day was eerie. You knew there was a city surrounding you, but you could no longer see it.

Seeking a personal experience with the freaky phenomenon, I went to the service department in the back and opened a door. Regret was immediate.

My face was sandblasted. My eyes and my lungs filled with dust. My nose flattened against my cheekbones. Convinced it was real, I grabbed the door and pulled it shut.

"Bet you never saw anything like that in East Texas," someone chuckled.

"Sure, we did," I replied, dusting myself off and coughing. "But over there, they blow up out of the Gulf, they're a little wetter, and we give 'em names."

Just like the duster had slowly

surrounded the city in darkness, it faded away. All over in a couple of hours. Office clean-up started, and my co-workers granted me full-fledged West Texas citizenship, including a certificate of authenticity.

The following year, as winter gave way to warming hints of spring, I was sitting on the back porch at my house "on the hill," as they call the ACU area of Abilene. Enjoying a cup of coffee and the late afternoon ritual of watching B-52 bombers from Dyess Air Force Base on the city's west side. For about an hour late in the day, they would fly around the city's south side to Abilene Regional Airport on the east side where they practiced landing approaches before pulling up and returning to Dyess.

Just as sure as knowing I could catch the bomber practice show in the evening, I also knew that winter's warming meant spring was coming back. That's when I laughed, recalling how Wallace ended his West Texas column.

"So come on out. You'll love the summer, the autumns, and the winters. The springtime is nice, too. Ha, Ha, Ha ... sucker."

I stayed in Abilene for a couple more dust storm seasons. They didn't seem that bad although it could have been the experience of the first one causing others to pale in comparison.

To me, West Texas is still a great place to live. If you don't let a little dust blowing every now and then bother you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Invasion and big government

Texas and the USA have undergone an almost silent invasion, with what I call a Biden invasion. This invasion has allowed untold millions in illegal drugs and immigrant mules to enter the U.S. Some get captured. That is in the news we read, but when you push numbers, there is a lot more that gets in, than gets caught. Where does it go? Well, the cartels

have their own system of business distribution. A well-regulated and well thought out business plan. This has to be true because of all the deliveries coming in that are producing illegal drugs easily obtained, and subsequent deaths due to overdose that are at an all-time high. Washington does not help the southern border. Texas is left to deal with the problem. And all the border crossers from countries not friendly to the USA

come here and drain humanitarian resources that well deserving American citizens could use. These resources are now diverted to non-Americans. Now, the current thought is that all border crossers will vote Democrat and draw entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, housing, and so on. I believe this to be a product of a failing system of government. Republicans and Democrats fighting each other. What

happened to "We the People?" It's now a government of have and have nots. Salaries of politicians are a paltry amount, yet when they leave office, they leave with millions of dollars. Where does that money come from? Not from taxpayers, but lobbyists with pay off money, including China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and who knows from where else.

Robert Lafarelle
Midland, Texas

Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "What is your favorite kind of sandwich?"



Sara Allen Colando: I think my favorite sandwich is the Reuben at Espresso y Poco Mas!



Greg Henington: A pimento cheese sandwich.



Mo Morrow: A bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich, with lots of bacon. Or a hamburger if it applies.



Ruben Ortega: Agreed, BLT, heavy on the bacon.



Jim Westermann: Peanut butter and jelly, with raspberry jelly and a glass of milk.

Send your community events to kara.gerber@alpineavalanche.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

July-August Summer Reading Program, The Alpine Public Library is hosting its summer reading program for all ages along with various events. For more information visit alpinepubliclibrary.org or stop by and visit the circulation desk for more information.

Aug 5-6 Fiesta 1880, 11 a.m. Aug. 5 to 1 a.m. Aug 6 on historic Murphy Street.

Aug 7-11 Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Kokernot Park Pavillion. Registration is from 8:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Monday. This is a joint venture between Hillside Baptist Church and First Assembly of God in Alpine. Ages K-5 is invited to attend. For more information contact Karen McGuire 432-386-3071 and leave



a message if no answer.

Aug 11-12 Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, 7 p.m. Aug 11 to 10:30 p.m. Aug 12 at the Sul Ross SALE Arena.

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 Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

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 bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Celebrate Recovery, at Big Bend Cowboy Church on Monday evenings 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information contact CW at 432-386-3628 or Stacey at 432-386-2979.

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 See more at alpineavalanche.com.

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The Granada Theatre held its grand opening and ribbon cutting this past Saturday. The Granada is a local event space, that hosts everything from music to meetings to roller skating. From left are Alpine Ambassador Gerri Davis, owner Benjamin Garcia, ambassadors Rhonda Cole, Eva Olivas, Sara Bow Gluck, and Sheila Johnson.

Photo by Joh Covington

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Alice. Alice is a nine-month-old female who craves attention and loves to play. She sings the song of her people when alone and will greet you with pleasantries when you walk through the door. Alice gets easily excited over chin scratches and will not pass up a cuddle session.

The Alpine Animal Shelter offers services other than adoptions, including microchipping and pet cremations. Call for more details on these services.

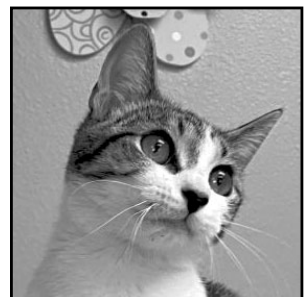
Alpine Animal Services operates the Shelter and is a department of the City of Alpine. They dispatch animal care officers when

needed and enforce animal-related ordinances. Alpine Humane Society is a separate organization and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that supports Alpine Animal Services.

While Alpine Animal Services works only within the city limits, Alpine Humane Society helps throughout our tri-county region to improve the lives of companion animals.

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

The Alpine Humane



Society Thrift Store and Cattery at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit Pet-Finder.com or www.alpin-humane-society.org, and see us on Facebook and Instagram.

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NOTICE OF DEMOLITION ORDER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION MEETING WAS HELD ON JULY 26, 2023 TO ASSESS COMPLIANCE AND TO ABATE VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY'S DANGEROUS BUILDING ORDINANCE. THE BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION ORDERED ACTION TO ABATE NUISANCE CONDITIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY'S MINIMUM PROPERTY STANDARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

1. THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1203 E AVE H AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT NINE (9), BLOCK FORTY-TWO (42), HANCOCK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ALPINE, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS ROSA MARIE RUIZ. THE PARCEL ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS R10787.

THE BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION ORDERED THAT THE PROPERTY BE DEMOLISHED BY THE OWNER WITHIN 45 DAYS. IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE ORDER, THE CITY MAY DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE AND PLACE A LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FOR OUTSTANDING COSTS. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDER MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM OR AT CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 100 N 13TH STREET. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO (432) 837-3301, EXT 1.

COUNTY • FROM 1

a private road. Scott Road is a dead-end paved road, lined with private properties, that receives unwanted traffic, according to Cox. The court will consider this change after Cox gathers signatures on a petition to show the agreement from all the occupants along that the road.

The court also heard from James McDermott, from the Far West Texas Regional Public Defender's Office. According to the Constitution and the Texas Fair Defense Act, courts are required to provide legal counsel for people who

are accused of crimes, who can't afford to hire a lawyer themselves. In Brewster County, that is about 90% of the cases, according to McDermott.

McDermott also said that it was about six years ago that the counties got together to create a public defender system that has been in use since then.

"Unless there's a conflict of interest, we take 100% of cases," McDermott said. Except for recently, where the office had reached caseload maximum. In March, after almost five and a half

years, they had to stop taking cases for about three months due to the workload and number of staff members.

Comparing their costs to a private counselor that would cost about \$2,400 per case, currently Alpine's public defender's office offers approximately 90% savings, at about \$220.

The public defense office will be looking for new office space in the future as well as an increase in budget, proposed to be just over \$167,000 for the year.

This matter will be further discussed in the up-

coming budget meetings.

The Sage Brush land development has moved forward after receiving a water permit from the groundwater district. The commissioner's court approved the final plat and will sign the agreement after reviewing the water district's permit.

The court also approved the business associate agreement between Brewster Country and Secured Document Shredding, for the shredding of election materials that have met their retention period.

Frenchie Causey, the road and bridge superin-

tendent, gave his report. Causey mentioned the new requirements needed for commercial drivers' licenses which require new applicants to attend classes and fulfill many hours. Those who have already acquired this license in the past can be grandfathered in, only requiring testing.

Emergency Management Coordinator, Stephanie Elmore, spoke to the court about the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team or CERT basic training program. "Brewster County, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and local

responders are partnering to provide free CERT Basic training. This is a citizen-based program that prepares volunteers to effectively help their communities. There is no cost or fee for the program and no prior experience is required," according to a CERT announcement. Those interested in registering can go to preparingtexas.org.

A special meeting to discuss the county budget was held on August 1 at 9 a.m. The next regular Commissioner's Court meeting will be held August 8 at 9:30 a.m.

AISD • FROM 1

also noted that the Meet the Bucks night will be on August 23 for 7th through 12th graders.

In more dismal news regarding school funding, the Texas legislature finally agreed on property tax reform. The homestead exemption agreed upon by legislators further hampers the funding for AISD. "While this reform is great for the homeowner, it further decimates our ability to fund our schools," Rinehart said. The 10% that AISD has provided

in relief to homeowners who homestead their property has long been the response to state property taxes that gave no prior relief. "When the state passed this property tax bill in the recent special session, they handcuffed school districts who have offered tax relief to local homeowners. Wording in the bill included not allowing school districts to rescind or decrease this tax relief to homeowners for five years. That is even more money, on top of the already dismal collection of funds to our coffers.

"When the state passed this property tax bill in the recent special session, they handcuffed school districts who have offered tax relief to local homeowners.

— AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart

And there is still the issue of the local CAD and state comptroller discrepancies," Rinehart added.

According to Rinehart, the only bright light was

that the resolution passed by the AISD board at their last meeting was on the tongues of a committee that was created to tackle school finance and vouchers for a special legislative session coming up in October. The outcome of what happens during this special session can affect not only the 2023-2024 budget for AISD but also the 2024-2025 budget.

The next regular meeting of the AISD board of trustees is scheduled for August 16 at 5:30 p.m.

FIESTA 1888 • FROM 1

day, a symbol that Lujan believes is synonymous to Alpine itself.

Those familiar with Murphy Street's history know that Alpine or the "Alps of Texas" as the original settlers called the area, was originally known as Murphyville. Founded because of the springs, railroad, and ranching, Murphy Street is a great reflection of the original small West Texas town.

Murphyville became Alpine in the year 1888, thus the celebration's iconic name.

Food vendors and live music will join forces to make the celebration of historic Alpine one to remember. Vendors will be selling their goods from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. during this family friendly and free admission occasion.

"There will be entertainment all day long, until 1 a.m.," said Lujan.

At 1 p.m. Murphy Street will be the perfect place to admire the clas-

"We have a lot of volunteers and sponsorships. And we have so many people who have supported the fundraisers that made this free event possible, it wouldn't have been possible without them"

— Mary Ann Lujan, Fiesta 1888 executive director

sic car show that takes the street back stylish decades. At 5 p.m. the Dance Under the Stars begins with the special opening guest, Pecos River Band de Efrén Rodríguez followed by Puro Party All Starz and ending with the legendary Augustine Ramirez "La Rey de Tejas".

Ramirez, or "El Guti", is a prolific Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, and member of

the Tejano Music Hall of Fame who has recorded over 80 albums. Seeing him for free this weekend on Murphy Street is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Robert Alvarez, board chair for the Texas Mountain Trail and executive director of Visit Big Bend said, "This is a celebration of when Alpine became Alpine."

A lot of people don't know the history behind the reason for Fiesta 1888, in a way it is Alpine's anniversary.

The Visit Big Bend team will have a booth open at the event, 1-5 p.m., to inform guests about the history of the event, the city, and what more the area has to offer.

The Holy Angels Cemetery Association will also have a fundraiser booth on Murphy Street stocked with asado and brisket burritos, baked goods, tea, and water for sale.

"We want to thank everyone who has sup-

ported Fiesta 1888. We have a lot of volunteers and sponsorships. And we have so many people who have supported the fundraisers that made this free event possible, it wouldn't have been possible without them," said Lujan.

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REPLAT OF LOTS 10 AND 11, BLOCK 3, SUNNY GLEN ESTATES
ENVELOPE 175, PLAT RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

LEGEND
● IRON ROD FOUND [CAPPED AS NOTED]
() RECORD INFORMATION
BEARING BASIS: WGS 84

VICINITY MAP
WAGON RD
SUBJECT TRACT
HWY 90 ALPINE

UNITS: BEARING, DISTANCE
LINE BEARING: LT N 04°30'28" E 176.75'

CURVE	CLASS	LENGTH	ANGLE	CH. BEARING	CH. LENGTH
(C1)	126.95'	250.00'	S 44°41'12" E	127.11'	
(C2)	31.33'	120.00'	S 88°30'23" E	31.24'	
(C3)	69.60'	120.00'	S 44°30'41" E	68.63'	
(C4)	120.00'	120.00'	S 44°30'41" E	68.63'	

NOTES:
1. ACCORDING TO FEMA FIRM MAP PANEL 4800840200C, DATED 4/2/1991, THIS TRACT APPEARS TO BE WITHIN ZONE C [AREAS OF MINIMAL FLOODING].
2. THIS TRACT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION [ETJ] OF THE CITY OF ALPINE.
3. NO ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ARE PROPOSED WITH THIS REPLAT.

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COUNTY OF BREWSTER

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DAWN LACY
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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BREWSTER

GREG HENNINGTON, JUDGE

JIM WESTERMANN, PRECINCT 1
RUBEN ORTEGA, PRECINCT 3
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SARAH VASQUEZ
BREWSTER COUNTY CLERK

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Notice A preliminary plat was filed at the Brewster County Clerk's Office on 7-10-2023

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LOOKING BACK

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Alpine Avalanche

Girl Scout Summer Camp Site Is Inspected Last Week-end

47 Representatives From 8 Towns In Permian Basin Area Attend Meet

The new permanent Girl Scout camp at Mitre peak, between Alpine and Fort Davis, was the scene of area-wide activity last Saturday and Sunday when representatives from the area gathered to inspect the new site.

Saturday the business meeting began at 1:30 p. m., with a short talk by Benjamin F. Berkeley of Alpine about the camp. After that the meeting was conducted by Mrs. George Ramer of McCamey, area training chairman, to plan training for the area and for the local councils. Following the meeting everyone was given an opportunity to inspect the camp site.

Forty-seven were registered, including guests, and eight towns were represented, including Alpine, Wink, Kermit, Fort Stockton, McCamey, Monahans, Pecos and Odessa.



July 18, 1947

Eleven survivors have been rescued in the Nicaraguan jungle. While three members of the missing bomber crew are still missing, the found men survived the crash of the Army B-17. Shown in this photo, the pilot of the helicopter that found the men, 1st Lt. Pauls, Sgt. Ray English and Sgt. Pate Reale, members of the lost crew, and Lt. Anderson,

July 18, 1947
 Almost 50 representatives from around the Permian Basin area visited the new Girl Scout camp this Saturday. The new location at Mitre peak, located between Alpine and Fort Davis, was on display for guests from eight towns over the course of the weekend.

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July 21, 1944

Tires starting at \$15.37? Beat that price! H.J. McBride, owner of Western Auto Associate Store in Alpine, offers new tubes, wax, polish, and tires.

Now You're **DISHIN' IT OUT!**

Are you one of the host of American women who've given up a more desirable job to help boost war production at home?

Whether you are running a lathe or drill press, or cleaning out a gas line to keep a tractor in trim, you are filling the shoes of a fighting man, and helping to speed the day of victory.

That's what we call dishin' it out. For, these are days in which every service that's performed to hold the line, and to increase production here at home, is vital to our total war effort. America is truly grateful to you.

That ADVERTISEMENT published by the PEARL BREWERY of San Antonio in APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS of American Women War Workers.

That's what we call dishin' it out. For, these are days in which every service that's performed to hold the line, and to increase production here at home, is vital to our total war effort. America is truly grateful to you.

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July 21, 1944

Pearl beer lifts a glass in honor of the women who have stepped up in the war effort. Many American women war workers have taken on the jobs that were occupied by men before they were sent away into military action. This vital service to the country hasn't gone unnoticed by this beer company of San Antonio.

Texas weather is taking its toll on plant life

Dear Neil: Do you have any idea why my lantanas don't bloom? They form pea-sized pods, but nothing more.

There is something odd looking about the foliage in your photo. The plants look like they're not getting enough sunlight. They need absolutely full sunlight to grow and bloom best, and the leaves I'm seeing look very "soft and succulent," as if they were produced in shade. The heads I can see look like they did try to bloom and then turned moldy, as if excessive rainfall caused them to decay. The only other thing I can think of would be too much nitrogen that would result in excessive vegetative growth.

Dear Neil: Can you tell me why these grasses look so different? They were watered and fertilized the same. Are they different types of grass?

I have zoomed in as far as I can, and it looks like both sides are St. Augustine. The line of demarcation is so dramatic it looks like a chemical has been applied to the right side - perhaps one that was intended

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry

for use only on bermudagrass turf. Something has caused a dramatic scorching of that St. Augustine, and it's more than just a piece of cardboard or black plastic laying on top of the grass for a couple of hours. The runners were killed, too. I've never seen an insect or disease hit any turf in a straight line like that.

Dear Neil: I've had the most beautiful salmon-pink geraniums most of my life. They have produced huge, healthy blooms that lasted for weeks, but in recent years they start withering from the moment they start to flower. They look pretty at the nursery, but they

start going downhill almost immediately. I'm 83 and stunned. I'd like to have my beautiful geraniums back.

You have been doing something radically right in those prior years, because many of us do not have great luck with geraniums in the heat of the summer. Some of the newer introductions have been bred to hold up to warmer weather than old types from 25-35 years ago, but our recent summer heat last year and this year have almost outpaced them. Think back to when you bought them in other years versus this year. You want to buy geraniums early in the spring, even before the last killing freeze. Grow them in pots so you can move them into protection should it still get cold later than it should. I treat them much like I

do petunias. I buy and plant them on the first few warm days of early spring and I nurture them along while it's still cool. By the time great weather arrives in April and early May they're large and blooming beautifully. I gradually move them back into shade as summer approaches, knowing that there will come a day when I need to replace them. I feature some of the larger types of wax begonias, Dragon Wing begonias, caladiums, pentas, coleus and angelonias to take their place as it gets hot. All are available in shades of pink.

Dear Neil: Our grass



Lantana not blooming

started to die this spring, as you can see from the photo. The same thing has happened to several of our neighbors' yards. What is happening?

I don't know where this photo was taken, but I've seen a bunch of this in the cooler areas of the state (remember back when it was cool in Texas) where people have St. Augustine turf. In almost all cases it's been damage left over from the past two winters. The grass was wounded and has been lethargic about com-

ing back. I have several parts of the Sperry lawn that look somewhat like this. All we can do is give it time to cover over the bald spots. We can speed it back with new sod or plugs, or we can wait for it to spread and cover. Be sure, too, that your trees haven't grown larger and created more shade than in prior years.

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 TX George W.
- 5 Baird High School class (2 wds.)
- 6 St. Marks in Dallas is a ___ school
- 7 29th and 32nd governor "___" Ferguson
- 8 TXism: "living high on the ___" (rich)
- 9 in Eastland County on highway 6
- 15 TX Ryan Palmer is on PGA ___
- 16 in Cameron County on highway 107
- 19 soft fruit that is not commercially grown in Texas
- 21 hollow unleavened breads
- 22 Galveton's "Bishop Palace" (2 wds.)
- 27 TX Gramm, U.S. senator (1985-2002), and representative (1979-83)
- 28 kin to the llama
- 29 mockery, ridicule
- 30 TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)
- 32 late TX Helmond of TV show "Who's the Boss?" (init.)
- 33 "North ___ & Rodeo" in Denton
- 36 "___ and void"
- 37 Del ___, Texas
- 38 former Cowboys tight end, Jay
- 39 using electronic sounds to substitute for expletives
- 41 fish appendage

- 42 married woman, south of the border
- 45 TXism: "easy as falling off ___"
- 46 this Sarah made the first "lone star" flag (init.)
- 47 natural hair style worn by some Texas black folks
- 48 TXism: "the ___ is in the fire" (trouble)
- 49 most graceful
- 52 "Zeke's" college state

DOWN

- 1 TX Wills, "Western swing" musician
- 2 "one" in Mexico
- 3 Baylor County seat
- 4 TXism: "___ snappin' turtle"
- 8 "___ for the best"
- 9 "All the Gold in California," Texas group (2 wds.)
- 10 TXism: "dab it ___"
- 11 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
- 12 Jason Spezza went from the Dallas Stars to this Toronto team (2 wds.)
- 13 got ___ in my shirt (tear)
- 14 TXism: "___ lick of" (none)
- 15 TX Shelley Duvall's "Tall ___ Legends"
- 16 TX Ellender book: "And ___ Goes"
- 17 tackling Dak for a loss
- 18 TXism: "happy ___ in slop"
- 20 actress in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"
- 22 TXism: "old ___ dirt"
- 23 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse ___"
- 24 ___ gallon hat

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- 53 most light bulbs today
- 54 poetic "before"
- 55 dir. to Lufkin from Mineola
- 16 map or plan for a piece of land
- 17 org. of the Texans and the Cowboys
- 18 Palmer left the Rangers for this Baltimore team
- 19 TXism for "hello"
- 20 "___ Siecke State Forest"
- 21 this Fred won TX Byron Nelson Golf Classic, 1987 (init.)
- 22 this Stilwell started Port Arthur (init.)
- 23 "One ___, one Ranger"
- 24 singer Randy who has a ranch outside Tioga, Texas
- 25 "ready, willing, and ___"
- 26 TXism: "___ ___, half a dozen of the other"
- 27 singer Randy who has a ranch outside Tioga, Texas
- 28 TXism for "hello"
- 29 "___ Siecke State Forest"

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- 34.99** YOUR CHOICE Four Seasons Courtyard® Green Deluxe Sports Chair or Blue Oversized Padded Quad Armchair T 243 411, 412 B4
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Sports

Alpine High School football gains new head coach

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Alpine High school football had their first practice this Monday, and new head coach and Athletics Director, Andy Smith, is setting strong expectations for both the teams and the individuals on them.

As for the first practice, Coach Smith said, "The kids brought a lot of energy, the coaches too."

Even though a very high percentage of the players participated in the summer workouts, according to Smith, in the beginning practices the coaches slow everything down to instruct and lay the groundwork for good habits and better outcomes. "It was a lot of 'new', a lot of teaching," said Smith.

This step-by-step guidance gives the new beginning players the starting point they need and allows the returning players to come back to the routine in a strong way.

"Slowing things down, plus adding and conditioning, we're getting them back into football shape. We're still doing station



**Andy Smith,
Athletic Director**

rotations and extra running. It's more of a focus on just teaching and conditioning," Smith said.

These are foundations for the team's success goal: to compete for the district championship.

"I think that's the expectations for the community. It's been a long time since the Bucks have made it past the second round, our goal is to get into the third and fourth round and play into December football," said Smith.

This is Smith's 17th year coaching, starting out in neighboring El Paso as a graduate assistant football coach at the University of Texas at El Paso. From there, Smith took his first high school coaching job in Athens, before moving to Houston for his first offensive coordinator position in New Caney. For the last 10 years, Smith has worked along the coast, at Gregory-Portland and King High School in Corpus Christi.

Smith's background has been predominantly in offensive football, "I've coached every position on the offensive side of the ball," said Smith.

Beyond the tangible competitive goals that Smith has, he and the other coaches are also setting high expectations for the players as individuals. The football department wants to inspire the players to overachieve by effecting the culture surrounding the sport.

Smith wants to upgrade how they define success, "If we can overachieve in all phases and in all areas of life and improve the overall culture, I really want

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCKS FOOTBALL

Aug. 11 Alpine vs McCamey -Scrimmage, JV 5 p.m., Varsity 6 p.m.
Aug. 18 Pecos @ Alpine - Scrimmage, JV 5 p.m., Varsity 6 p.m.
Aug. 24 Alpine vs Clint Mountainview JV 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 25 Clint Mountainview @ Alpine Varsity 7 p.m.

LADY BUCKS VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 4 Alpine vs El Paso Franklin-scrimmage TBA
Aug. 5 Alpine Scrimmage begins @ 8:30 a.m., Roger Kinzie Memorial AHS gym
Aug. 8 Wink/Fort Stockton @ Alpine TBA
Aug. 10-12 Best of the West Tournament @ Wink. TBA

ALPINE CROSS COUNTRY

Aug. 12 West of the Pecos @ Pecos

culture, building strong positive bonds with people, and giving young men and women a positive experience, the world's definition of success and wins follow suit, according to Smith. All this, while helping that person become better for themselves and those around them.

"Ultimately the world will judge us on how many games we win, but 20 or 30 years from now what you remember is the relationship that you had with the coaches and teammates, the impact you had on your community, and the lessons you learned from athletics," said Smith.

Smith wants to help these young people to be ready for whatever the future holds for them by encouraging them to operate to a high standard in all areas, from looking people in the eye while they shake their hand to being upstanding members of the community.

"Those are the types of things we want to teach, to make you a better person; to be college ready, career ready, or even military ready," Smith said.

to focus on making our young men better people and to be champions in life through athletics," Smith said.

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Butch Hancock: right, along with his son Rory performed for a packed crowd last Friday afternoon at the Gage in Marathon. The annual Viva Big Bend music festival kicked off on Wednesday evening in Terlingua last week.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



Colin Gilmore and the West Texas Exiles opened up Viva Big Bend 2023 last Wednesday with a show at the Starlight Theatre in Terlingua and then entertained a packed patio at the Holland Hotel the following day. From left, Colin Gilmore, Marco Gutierrez, Eric Harrison, and Daniel Davis.

Photo by Joh Covington



Jerry King and the Rivertown Ramblers entertained the crowd for Big Bend Telephone's BBQ and tailgate party on historic Murphy Street last Friday as part of the Viva Big Bend festivities.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

VIVA BIG BEND



Local band the Doddlin Hogwallops have closed out the Viva Big Bend weekend since the beginning. The band has added a few regular members since they began as a trio, with a full-time drummer and electric guitarist. Their show at the Railroad Blues this past Sunday night also featured Ricardo Tellez on trumpet. From left are Tellez, Case Southerland on electric guitar, Chris McWilliams on acoustic guitar, Aaron Kinzie on drums, Neil Trammell on lead vocals & upright bass, and Todd Elrod on harmonica.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



The Alpine Visitor's Center hosted M.U.S.I.C. Acoustic Music Circle on Sunday afternoon, with musicians of all persuasions sitting around picking and grinning as part of this past weekend's Viva Big Bend music festival.

Photo by Joh Covington



Jomo and the Possum Posse entertained a packed house at the Railroad Blues on Saturday night of Viva Big Bend with their upbeat and quirky tunes.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



The Hank Woji Conspiracy kicked off the Viva Big Bend weekend last Wednesday night at the Starlight Theatre in Terlingua.

Photo by Jason Barrett



Bake Turner, Alpine local and football hero entertained a packed courtyard at the Holland Hotel last Thursday during the afternoon sessions of Viva Big Bend.

Photo by Joh Covington



Local entertainers, The Calamity Creek String Band enthralled music lovers last Thursday afternoon on the porch at the Hotel Ritchey on historic Murphy Street. From left, Sam Cason on banjo, Mark Goff on standup bass, and David Keller on acoustic guitar.

Photo by Joh Covington



Miss Comanche Springs Rodeo Teen, Kendall McComb showed up at the Big Bend Telephone BBQ and tailgate party as part of the Viva Big Bend celebration on historic Murphy Street this past Friday.

Photo by J.T. Maroney



Anthony Ray Wright entertained a full house at the Old Gringo last Saturday night during Viva Big Bend festivities. Wright has been a regular act performing at the music festival for many years.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



Alpine's own Grupo Alegre serenaded Viva Big Bend attendees in the Holland Hotel last Thursday with their mariachi stylings.

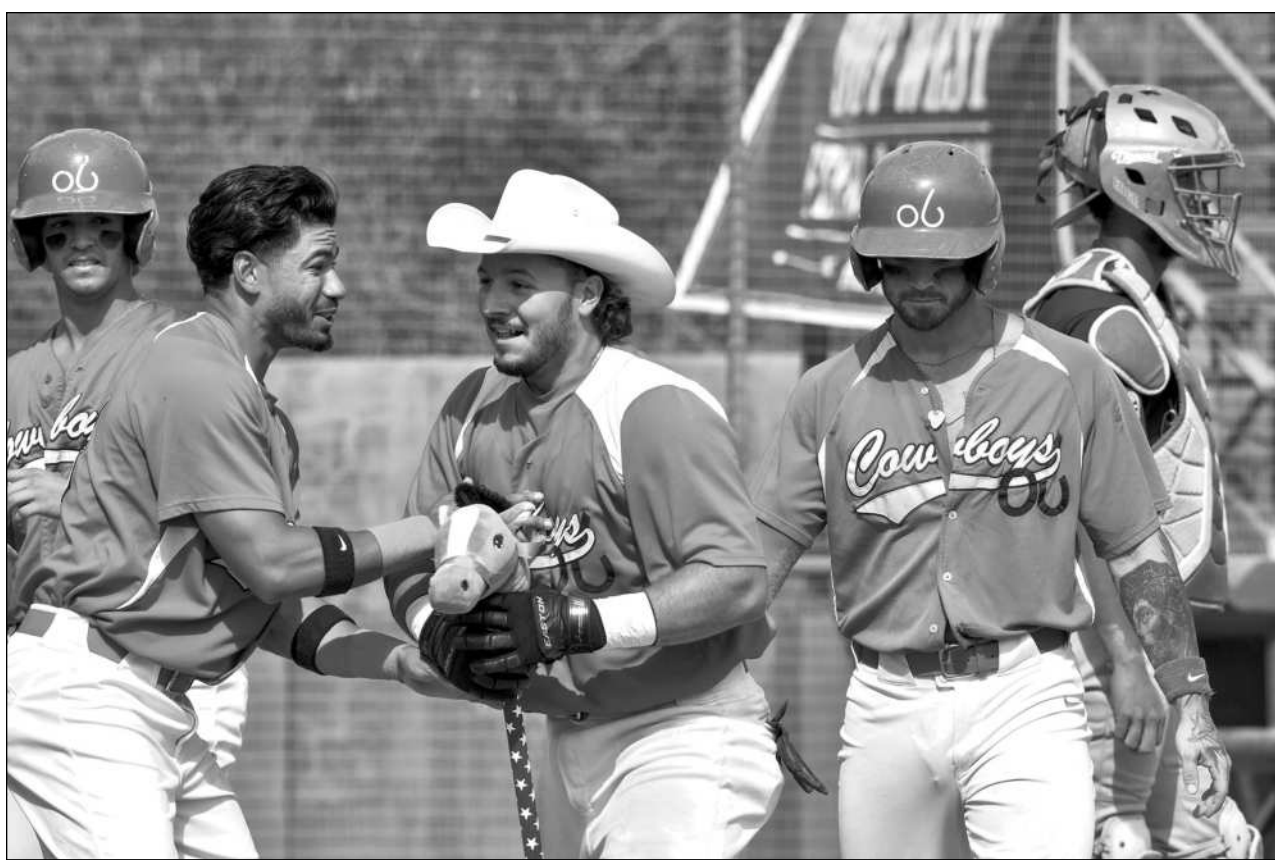
Photo by Joh Covington

Lady Bucks basketball camp



Lady Bucks Andynne Ramirez and Novah Carrasco recently participated in the Sul Ross girls' basketball camp. From left, Sul Ross Lady Lobo Vania Hampton, Andynne Ramirez, Novah Carrasco, and Sul Ross head ladies' basketball coach E.J. Lee Smith.

Courtesy photo



Alpine Cowboys catcher Jake Sisto celebrates his home run against the Austin Weirdos July 29 at Kokernot Field with a pair of props, the team's cowboy hat and hobby horse.

Photo by Julie Myers

Cowboys ready for postseason

BY ETHAN EIBE
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys finished the regular season as the hottest team in the Pecos League, and it was not particularly close. The o6 Cowboys went an astonishing 23-2 in the month of July, rising from the depths of fifth place in the Mountain Division all the way up to second and just a half game back of first. Alpine ended the season on a 13-game winning streak to finish 36-16 and will host the Trinidad

Triggers in the first round of the playoffs.

In the 12 Pecos League seasons the Cowboys have played, Alpine has never missed the playoffs. The Pecos League features three rounds of postseason action, with each series being a best of three. The Cowboys last won the Pecos League championship in 2019 and have been knocked out of the postseason in the first round in each of the last two years. Last year's exit came at the hands of the Triggers at

Kokernot Field, so the Cowboys will be looking for redemption.

The final two weeks of regular season games have proven the team's resolve and established Alpine as a force to be reckoned with. A four-game home sweep of the Blackwell Flycatchers and a shocking run of victories against the first place Tucson Saguaros set the tone for another home sweep of the Austin Weirdos to conclude the month of July.

The Cowboys will send

left-hander Cameron Mulvihill to start game one of the Trinidad series Wednesday, August 2. Ace right-hander Matt Hess is slated to take the hill in game two and lefty Brayde Hirai will have game three, if necessary. If the Cowboys get through the opening round with a sweep, Hirai would then start the first game of the Mountain Division Championship Series, which would pit the Cowboys against either Tucson or the Garden City Wind.

Alpine Cowboys baseball camp



A large group of kids showed up for the Alpine Cowboys baseball camp last week. The kids worked on baseball fundamentals, had lunch, and participated in a water balloon fight to top off the day.

Courtesy photo

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LEGEND:
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 BEARING BASIS: WGS 84

NOTES:
 1. ACCORDING TO FEMA FIRM MAP PANEL 480042200C, DATED 4/2/1991, THIS TRACT APPEARS TO BE WITHIN ZONE C [AREAS OF MINIMAL FLOODING].
 2. THIS TRACT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ) OF THE CITY OF ALPINE.
 3. NO ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ARE PROPOSED WITH THIS REPLAT.

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BREWSTER

BRAD ORBINK, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE OWNER OF THAT CERTAIN 6,748 ACRES OUT OF SECTION 102, BLOCK 9, G.H. & S.A. RY. CO. SURVEYS, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN 10.16 ACRE TRACT DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 210, PAGE 472, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, AND A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN 2.24 ACRE TRACT DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 277, PAGE 211, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, AND DO HEREBY SUBDIVIDE SAID TRACT TO BE KNOWN AS:

MESQUITE TRANQUILITY SUBDIVISION

BRAD ORBINK
 200 MARSHNET RD
 FORT DAVIS, TEXAS 79734

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BREWSTER

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, ON THIS DAY PERSONALLY APPEARED, BRAD ORBINK, KNOWN TO ME TO BE THE PERSON WHOSE NAME IS SUBSCRIBED TO THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT, AND ACKNOWLEDGE TO ME THAT THEY EXECUTE THE SAME AS A FREE ACT AND DEED AND FOR THE PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATION THEREIN STATED.

GIVEN UNDER MY AND SEAL OF OFFICE, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023, AT _____, TEXAS. MY COMMISSION EXPIRES THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS
 BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF HAS APPROVED THIS REPLAT ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D., 2023.

GREG HENNINGTON, JUDGE

JIM WESTERMANN, PRECINCT 1
 RUBEN ORTEGA, PRECINCT 3
 SARA ALLEN COLANGO, PRECINCT 2
 MO MORROW, PRECINCT 4

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS BASED ON AN ACTUAL ON THE GROUND SURVEY AND THAT THE LINES AND CORNERS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

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SARAH VASQUEZ
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ERRORS - Please check your ad the first day of publication. We are only responsible for the first incorrect insertion of any ad. Publisher's liability for damages resulting from errors in any advertising that it has agreed to publish shall be limited to the amount actually received by the publisher in consideration for its agreement to publish the advertisement in ques-

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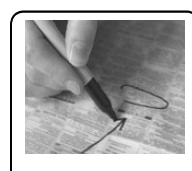
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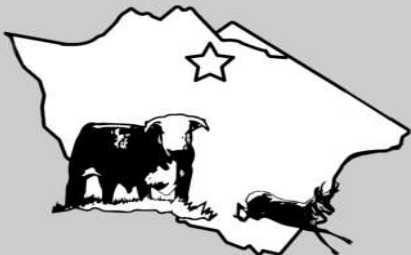
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Viva Big Bend



Left: Big Bend Telephone employee Kasey McComb mans the firebox at the BBT tailgate party and BBQ last Friday during Viva Big Bend.



Right: Out West Feed hosted Anthony Ray Wright this past Friday as one of the many free shows available during Viva Big Bend this past weekend. Wright also performed on Saturday night at the Old Gringo. From left Case Southerland, Jerry Girton, Anthony Ray Wright, and Karrie Sheehan.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

Photo by Joh Covington

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Zyan Llanez

In what activities did you participate in high school?

I was mostly associated with Student Leadership, but not really sports until my senior year, in which I participated in Basketball.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite teacher was Ms. Ramos. She taught me that I was able to accomplish as much as I wanted to and believed in me when not many did.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My favorite moment(s) of high



Zyan Llanez

school was managing the girls teams. They were my second family, and there was never a dull moment with them. I miss it more and more every day.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school, my plans are to attend college and pursue a career in being ultrasound technician.

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Devotional Page Big Dreams, Small Beginnings

BY ANDREW POSADAS
Fuente de Vida

The benefits of small-town living have not escaped me. The quiet, star-filled nights, the absence of any real traffic jams, and the hospitality when you visit a new friend's home are a few of the many perks I've personally experienced in the last year. Beyond convenience, the environment is set up for opportunity, growth, and most importantly hope. Unfortunately, many do not see it that way and have assured themselves that "smallness" is something to be detested and even fled from. Rest assured; small beginnings are not an obstacle but an opportunity.

We all have a vision for the future, a goal for the person we want to be, and the things we want to achieve. That goal can seem so far away, essentially unachievable unless something changes. And this is where we look to things outside of us to adjust or remove. Take a minute to consider that maybe, just maybe, that goal can be achieved by working diligently right where you are planted. At the end of the day, the credit won't be due to the environment you are in. I hear no celebrities thank New York City or Los Angeles when they receive the longed-for award. They thank the parent that raised

them, they thank the teachers that invested time in them when no one saw where they were going to be, and many thank God that gave them the strength to not give up.

God is all about small beginnings. His hometown of Galilee was the butt of the joke in John 1:46 when Nathaniel assures Philip that "nothing good comes from Galilee". Little did Nathaniel know that from this humble town came the Messiah that was promised for generations to bring salvation to the entire world. The town was despised and ignored, much like when David was not even considered to be worthy of being anointed king by his father (1 Samuel 16). His father left him tending to the sheep and it wasn't until the prophet asked if he had any more children that he was brought up. The youngest most unassuming one of his sons was the one God had chosen.

Maybe you come from small humble beginnings, and feel the dream is much too big for this quaint little town. Or maybe your family is not one of legacy and your social media following would not impress anyone. Start where you are at, and with God's help, you will see those things do not make it happen. Hope and perseverance, but most importantly hope. Never lose hope.

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Beat the heat with a "fruit" sandwich

I bet you're wondering what I mean when I say "fruit" sandwich. Well, what I mean by that is a cucumber sandwich. Yes, believe it or not, a cucumber is actually a fruit. In the culinary world, it is used as a vegetable, and there are three main types of cucumbers. There are the slicing cucumbers, the pickling cucumbers, and the seedless cucumbers in which several different varieties have been cultivated.



HEAD OVER MEALS
by kara gerbert



Cucumber Sandwiches

Cucumbers are great to use in the summertime when temperatures are hot, because they

contain a high water content. They are also low in calories, have no fat, and contain vitamins C and K, along with magnesium, potassium, and manganese. Normally, cucumber sandwiches are associated

as a finger food for baby or bridal showers. Sometimes they even show up at picnics, and for sure they're a staple at any British high tea, but there is no law that says you can't whip up a batch on a

hot afternoon. Cucumber sandwiches, while associated with England, actually originated in India. Which would stand to reason if you recall that India was once ruled by the British from 1858 to 1947. The Brits created the cucumber sandwich while lording over the Indian continent because they wanted a light snack to counteract the sweltering heat that India is known for. From India, these delightfully, light, and refreshing sandwiches spread to China, the Middle East, and of course Europe. These sandwiches are quick and easy to make, as well as delicious. They only have nine ingredients total, including the bread, so it's not difficult to see why they have been enjoyed

for hundreds of years. Over the years, I have made my own version of these delightful little sandwiches, but recently I found a recipe that I like better. The advantage of my find is the addition of cream cheese to the mix. This not only gives the sandwich more body, but also a creamier texture. It allows for more depth of flavor as well, as it absorbs the flavors of the other ingredients. It is also preferable to use English cucumbers as opposed to regular cucumbers, because they are less watery, and their skin is thinner and not as waxy. Their skin also doesn't need to be peeled, but if an English cucumber is not available, the everyday variety will do. You may just want to lay the slices out on a paper towel to absorb some of the moisture before assembling your sandwiches so that they don't make your bread soggy.

Overall, these refreshing little snacks are a great addition to your summer meal plans, and an extra good idea for kids or even adults who may be spending time outdoors in the summertime heat.

Cucumber Sandwiches

Ingredients:
8 ounces of cream cheese, slightly softened
2 tablespoons of mayonnaise
2 tablespoons minced, fresh chives
2 tablespoons minced, fresh parsley
2 tablespoons minced, fresh dill
2 teaspoons lemon zest
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon finely minced garlic
Salt and pepper to taste
1 English cucumber, thinly sliced
8 to 10 slices of fresh sandwich bread of your choosing

Directions:
In a medium bowl, using an electric hand mixer, whip cream cheese on medium-high speed until fluffy, about two minutes.
Fold in mayonnaise, chives, parsley, dill, lemon zest, lemon juice, garlic, and season with salt and pepper.
Spread cream cheese mixture over top side of bread slices. Top four of those slices with plenty of cucumbers, then top each with another slice of bread, cream cheese covered side facing down over the cucumbers.
Slightly press down on sandwich and if desired, trim the crust off the edges. Cut into halves or quarters as desired and serve immediately.

They are also low in calories, have no fat, and contain vitamins C and K, along with magnesium, potassium, and manganese. Normally, cucumber sandwiches are associated

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