

## Healthcare initiatives on tap for Hospital District

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD), under the direction of J. D. Newsum, has several healthcare initiatives slated for Presidio as well as South Brewster County. Thanks to grant funding, access to healthcare for these areas will increase.

The grant is a U S Department of Agriculture Rural Health Care grant the district received in February. The district's clinic partner, PCHS, has recently re-opened their after-hours clinic in Presidio. Their hours will be from 2 p.m. to 10 pm. Tuesday through Thursday and one Saturday per month.

Along with this after-hours clinic, the BBRHD will begin a community paramedicine program in conjunction with Terlingua Fire and EMS as well as the City of Presidio EMS.

See HEALTH • 10

### INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports page 8-9.

### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023. . . . .9.49"  
September. . . . . 1.4"



### Burn Ban ON

INDEX 16 pages

Opinions. . . . . P.4

Sports . . . . . P.8-9

Classifieds . . . . .P.12-13

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



## Council to conduct tax workshops

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine City Council held a special meeting Tuesday, September 12, after last week's regular meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. During this meeting on September 12, all members were present except Ward 1 Councilwoman Judy Stokes, and Mayor Catherine Eaves joined via Zoom due to illness.

Ward 5 Councilman Rick Stephens led the meeting in Eaves' stead, but the mayor was still

able to give her report remotely. Eaves thanked everyone for their well wishes as she recoups and shared that the Alpine Historic Association is working with other boards to create some type of historic overlays for Alpine, in order to have standards which locations must meet to qualify as historic, and thus possibly qualify for funds.

According to Eaves, the Alpine Community Projects board has been very busy with the "Greenhouse nursing home



Catherine Eaves

project," and right now they are trying to raise money for one of its stages.

Stephens and Eaves each ran independent polls, inquiring about people's feelings of the potential changes in tax.

They each received very different feedback, supporting the established plan for the city to host workshops regarding the issue.

One member of the community, Guy Fielder of Ward 5, spoke up on the subject during

the public hearing portion of the meeting, stating, "As someone who comes to most of the council meetings, the one thing I hear over and over again is that 'we don't have any money for that.' Now if we have \$2.1 million in reserves ... there's some disparities in what I am hearing, and I would like to see that cleared up."

Next on the agenda, the court approved the consent agenda which consisted of approving the appointment of William

See COUNCIL • 10

## Artists at work



Alice Leese, the premier artist for the 2023 Trappings of Texas, works on a painting on the patio of the Museum of the Big Bend's Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building while fellow artist Troy Menix looks on.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## Rural healthcare changing for the future

### Under pressure: Medical student makes the journey

Being a medical student is a long, arduous process, but Kyle McDaniel, a fourth-year medical student at the Texas Tech Health Science Center-Permian Basin believes it is just part of his journey of service. A service that he is extending to the citizens of Marathon each Friday at the Marathon Clinic as part of his Rural and Community Elective as a medical student.

A medical student in year four of their schooling has the most open year of all their studies up to this point McDaniel says. "The students at this level are able to focus more

on their area of interest in the medical profession, where the first two years focus more on lectures and learning the basics, and year three focuses on the different specialties the field of medicine has to offer."

This is not McDaniel's first time to far West Texas. He has done two previous rotations at the Alpine PCHS Clinic under Dr. Adrian Billings and will continue to help out at this clinic while not in Marathon or at home.

McDaniel is the first medical student to work in the Marathon Clinic,

See STUDENT • 10



Fourth year medical student Kyle McDaniel from Texas Tech University Health Science Center-Permian Basin teaches Joe David Gonzales and Keller Barlow how to manually take blood pressure during one of three presentations he gave to students at the Marathon High School.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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## OBITUARIES

### Monserratt Dominguez Curtis



It is with great sadness that the family of Monserratt "Monsey" Dominguez Curtis announce her passing on September 12, at the age of 92, in San Antonio. Monserratt was born to Pedro and Santos Dominguez of Bal-

morhea on September 19, 1930. Monserratt is preceded in death by

her loving husband, Oscar Levake Curtis.

Monserratt was a wonderful mother, grandmother, and friend. Her greatest accomplishments were her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren that she dearly loved.

She is survived by her brother Ramon Dominguez - Pecos, and sister

Lupe Galindo - Mesa, AZ. Monserratt will be dearly missed by her children: Robert and Alicia Curtis - Fort Stockton, Oscar and Jan Curtis - San Antonio, Diana Curtis and Tom G. - Tucson, AZ, Daniel and Irma Curtis - San Diego, CA, Joanna Curtis - Poteet, and Joe Curtis - Arlington,

VA. She will be remembered and missed by her 11 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.

The viewing / Rosary will be held at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home on Friday, September 22 starting at 5 p.m. with Rosary recited at 7 p.m..

The Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of

Peace Catholic Church in Alpine at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, followed by burial at Holy Angels Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at: [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com)

Service are entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

### Isabel Ramirez



Isabel Ramirez, age 100 of Alpine, passed away September 17 at home surrounded by family in Alpine. She was born July 7, 1923, to Joe and Isabel White in Marathon. Isabel married Luis Ramirez on November 23, 1952, in

Marathon, and lived in Big Bend National Park

for many years. She was a devoted housewife and mother to three children.

Preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her grandson, Michael Ramirez, Isabel is survived by her children Jose (Queta) Ramirez, Adelaida (Jose) Salmon, and Martin (Gloria) Ramirez, her grandchil-

dren Ray (Corina), Julie, Anna, Adrian (Kristen), Tony (Arielle), Eddie, and Daniel (Georgia), 10 great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren; three nieces Corina, Dora, and Bertha, one nephew, Manuel, and several grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Rosary will be held

Thursday, September 21 at 7 p.m. in the Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Service and Mass to be held Friday, September 22 at 10 a.m., St. Mary's Catholic Mission, Marathon, followed by burial at Marathon Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Ray Ramirez, Adrian

Salmon, Tony Ramirez, Eddie Ramirez, Daniel Ramirez, and Manuel White.

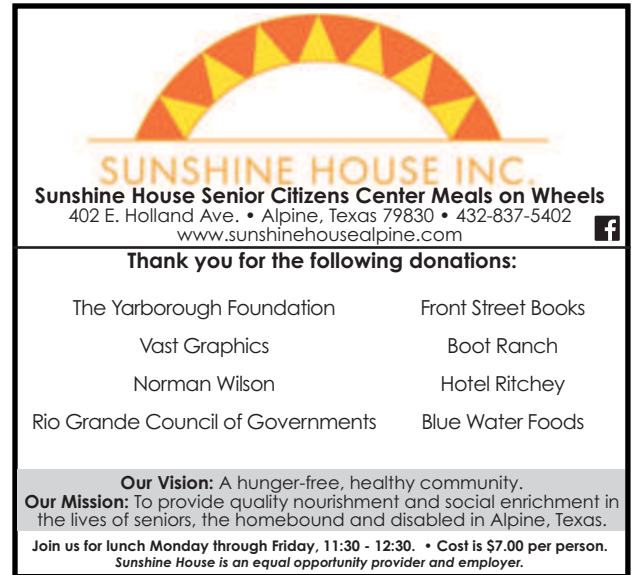
Online condolences may be left at: [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com)

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

## Catwalk contenders

Alpine's coaches and staff took last Friday's pep rally theme to heart as they dressed to impress in their favorite decade's fashions. From left Coach Wayne Schroeder, Mrs. Robie Golden, Coach Adrian Smith, Mrs. Veronica Crespo, and Dr. Michelle Rinehart.

Courtesy photo

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# Memorial 5K



Around 50 participants came out early Sunday morning to participate in the First Annual Rick Keith Memorial 5k hosted by Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church as part of their annual Fall Festival.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

# Drought aid available for livestock producers

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) sent out a reminder last Tuesday that livestock producers in more than 200 counties in Texas may be eligible for financial assistance due to grazing losses due to drought in 2023. Assistance may be sought via several different programs including the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), or the Emergency Haying and Grazing Conservation Reserve Program.

According to Kelly Adkins, State Executive Director for FSA in Texas, "Producers across Texas have been

faced with another significant drought year causing considerable economic hardship as they go to great lengths to provide adequate feed, forage, and water for their livestock." "Producers who are eligible for the much-needed disaster recover assistance are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to apply."

Deadlines for program assistance for ELAP and LFP is January 30, 2024.

Additional disaster assistance may be found on farmers.gov, including the drought, wildfire, disaster assistance recovery tool, disaster-at-a-glance fact sheet, and the farm loan discovery tool pages.

For more information contact the local FSA office at 432-837-2325 or go by 1805 TX-118 North, Alpine.

# Seniors attend JobCon



Seniors from Alpine High School attended the Workforce Solutions JobCon held at Sul Ross State University's Gallego Center last week.

Courtesy photo

# We cook rain or shine



Around 30 teams participated in this past weekend's West Fest Cabrito Cook-off held at the Post Park in Marathon. Despite the rain, participants did not let that slow them down. Teams from as far away as Del Rio came out to participate in this annual event.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

# Donation program aids robotics at AISD



Alpine Middle School's robotics classes received new drones from the Donors Choose project. This is just one of the things this project allows donors to choose from when aiding education.

Courtesy photo.

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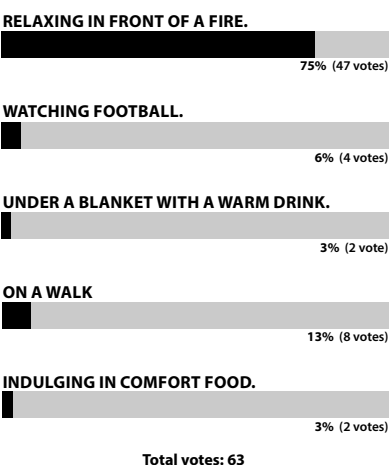
# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

#### WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO SPEND A FALL EVENING?

##### RESULTS



### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

#### What is the best way to spend a fall evening?

- Relaxing in front of a fire
- Watching football
- Under a blanket with a warm drink
- On a walk
- Indulging in comfort food

Vote for this week's poll online at: [www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://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](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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## Making a historic investment to provide statewide connectivity

Texas has a lot to offer which includes over 80,000 highway lane miles. We also have world-class rail and air facilities for freight and passengers. Nearly 2,000 people move here every day, steadily increasing the pressure on our infrastructure.



**ALVIN NEW**  
Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission

That's one of the reasons why my Texas Transportation Commission colleagues and I made history this month with the approval of a record \$142 billion total investment for Texas' transportation infrastructure, including the \$100 billion 10-year Unified Transportation Program (UTP). This funding will help ensure vital transportation projects will improve safety, congestion, preservation, and connectivity for Texas drivers.

Our state is growing by leaps and bounds in our metropolitan, urban, and rural communities. The growth places stress on our transportation system. Rural Texas cities like my hometown of San Angelo and others are feeling the effects of more traffic on our highways. For instance, many of our rural roadways,

especially in the Permian Basin, have experienced dramatic increases in truck traffic, driven by the oilfield economy in the largest source of oil and gas production in the country. This record level of transportation funding will continue to reduce crash rates and improve pavements. In turn, life will be better for us personally, easier on our vehicles, and better for rural industries such as energy, agriculture, timber, and others.

TxDOT has planned, and will continue to plan, for this growth as the agency works to provide the needed infrastructure to help move people and products across the state. To help address this effect on our system, this historic 2024 UTP reflects an unprecedented level of projected funding and estimates \$34.2 billion in development costs and \$7.5 billion in routine maintenance contracts for a total investment of \$142 billion. The UTP also includes funding for five highway corridors (US 87/US 83, US 69/US 175, US 281, US 59, and US 277/US 83) to

improve mobility, provide alternatives to Interstate Highways, or beginning phases of building Interstate Highways that pass through urbanized areas.

This 10-year plan provides for the development of a network of rural highways to improve mobility, connect major activity centers, provide access to ports of entry into Texas, and address safety by building four-lane divided roads. In addition, the 2024 UTP includes the development of major state-wide corridors to achieve Interstate Highway classification. Future Interstate Highways in Texas include Interstate Highway 14, Interstate Highway 27/Ports-to-Plains, and Interstate Highway 69.

Since our mission at TxDOT is "Connecting You with Texas," we're working hard to make sure every region of the state stays connected. Since fiscal year 2015, we've completed more than 258 rural connectivity projects — an investment of \$7.7 billion. And we have another 120 projects — \$7 billion worth — currently under construction.

In fact, we're planning to invest a historic level of \$19.2 bil-

lion in our rural areas over the next 10 years through our 2024 UTP. That's a major increase over the past few years compared to \$2.2 billion in the 2016 UTP. It demonstrates TxDOT's commitment to building and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system, not only in our most populous areas, but also in those rural areas that are so vital to our state's economic success.

This UTP also puts us to work in the energy producing areas of the state. Roads in our energy sector are bearing the brunt of that industry's economic boost to the state in wear and tear. That's why we're dedicating billions of dollars to address specific roadways impacted by traffic in five energy producing regions.

With this historic investment, we're showing our commitment to connecting every region and every Texan to the people and places that matter most. It is my privilege to serve you as a Texas Transportation Commissioner and to continue to "Connect You with Texas" safely and in a way that keeps pace with the vigorous economic climate we enjoy.

## Jesus, just take me now

*"All to Jesus I surrender;  
At His feet, I humbly bow,  
Worldly pleasures, all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now."*

— Traditional hymn lyrics by Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1896

Despite the old joke about getting to church "early to get a good seat — one in the back," the front seat is where I sit. The very front pew. Every Sunday.

It's something I've grown accustomed to over the years. Mainly the years I've volunteered to lead congregational singing. Which is about half my life, give or take a year or two. I enjoy leading singing, and I also enjoy sitting at the front.

And who knows. Someday, I might even learn how to sing.

Not only is the front row convenient for song leading, but it's also an incentive for me to ... let's call it "look alert" during the sermon. Despite how it may appear, my eyelids closing for a few seconds is not a reflection on the preacher or the message. Because any time I get still and comfortable, anywhere, my eyelids get heavy. Therefore, I've become adept at listening even when my eyes appear to be briefly closing. When I'm not preparing to lead the next song.

Song-leading, however, was not my first experience in front row sitting at church. That happened long before then.

My earliest memories include going to church every Sunday

morning. Perhaps you've seen the typical childhood photos of a kid sitting on a pony or straddling a new bicycle? My childhood photos are of me dressed and ready for church. Dress shirt, clip-on bow tie, jacket, and all. At five years of age. Because that's how my loving mother raised me. She attended services regularly, and my accompanying her was never an option.

As a youngster, I always sat with her at Southside Church of Christ in Mount Pleasant. About midway toward the front on the left side with her friend and neighbor, Betty Rust. Proper church etiquette was expected early. Listen to the sermon. No naps. No talking. No fidgeting. No burping or any other surprises. And any infraction was met with a hard pinch. It might be my leg, my arm, or my ear. But whenever Momma was unhappy with my conduct in church, my thoughts were, "Jesus, just take me now. Better you than my Momma."

As I got older, Mom never questioned me about where I went or when I got home. The car races Saturday night at Tyler. With friends, to a concert, or a movie. Never a question. But regardless of whether I got home at 8 p.m. Saturday night or 3 a.m. Sunday morning, I was going to church with



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

Mom. And I had better be ready when she reached the front door with her white gloves, hat, and shiny patent leather Sunday purse.

My first introduction to front-row seating for the Sunday sermon happened in high school. Before any attempt to direct a song service. That was when guys about my age at Southside, Ronald Rust, Randy Brogoitti, Rusty Clark, Ronny Melton, Rod McCasland, and probably others whose names I will remember as soon as I send this to print, began branching off from sitting with our parents. Opting for the back row. Directly behind our parents. Hoping it put us out of sight and out of mind.

It was one Sunday morning, sometime in the mid-1960s. Some of the above may or may not have been included. I don't remember and certainly don't want to incriminate the innocent at this point in life.

About mid-point in the sermon, the preacher stopped. Just quit preaching. The silence was cause to look up. Did he lose a page in his notes? Was he done preaching? Was it time to stand up and sing?

Then he said, "You boys on the back seat." We looked around as if to confirm he was talking to us. "Your whispering and laughing is distracting from the service."

Every mother in the building turned in unison and looked our direction.

"I want you boys ... yes, all of you ... to come down here and sit on the front seat facing me. Now." Anticipating that we might not be clear about his request, he leaned over the podium. Then pointed directly at the pew before him.

We got up and walked single file to the front, right where he pointed. Not a single one of us so much as cast a glance toward our parents. We also didn't speak for the rest of the service. We didn't even risk breathing.

But those words came to me again. "Jesus, just take me now. Better you than to face my Momma. And Jesus, I'm serious this time."

Fortunately, Jesus spared me, and so did Mom. She was unhappy. Really unhappy. But thankfully, she postponed any plans she may have harbored about sending me back to Jesus. Offering me another chance at salvation. The following week, however, I was sitting with her again. Fearing the pinch.

Every now and then, that long-ago Sunday crosses my mind. Like it did last Sunday. Sitting on the front pew. Fighting the temptation to close my eyes. Just for a moment, so maybe the preacher won't notice.

Because unlike that Sunday so many years ago, it was still and comfortable on the front row last week.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### World Climate Declaration

Recently an organization of 1609 climate scientists and professionals signed off on an agreement that the so-called Climate Change "Climate

Emergency" was nothing more than a fictional ploy designed by corrupt scientists, politicians, and businessmen for the acquisition of political power and undeserved financial gain. You don't hear much about that on main-

stream media, do you? What this means is we all need to stop believing corrupt politicians, scientists, businessmen, and their mainstream media servants. We all need to begin doing our own personal research on this matter

if you haven't already. The truth is out there, you only need to look for it. Always remember, "Awake" is always much better than "Woke".

James R. Le Blanc  
Fort Davis, Texas





# Heard on the STREET

What is your strange pet peeve?



**Kylie Garcia:** My pet peeve is that it bothers me when people open multiple tabs on a computer and never close them out. There are just a lot of tabs opened on a computer.



**Tamara Randler:** I really dislike it when people hint at what they want without directly asking for it. Specifically, about food. They'll look longingly at it and say that it looks amazing and wait for you to offer some. It drives me crazy.



**Abigail Elizondo:** My pet peeve is when people can't differentiate between 'there,' 'they're,' and 'their,' another one is when people use 'am' to mean 'I'm'.



**Alicia Trotman:** I dislike it when people leave the door to your home open for longer than usual because it lets bugs in and I don't like bugs.



**Rosa Ruiz:** I hate it when people have a "No shoes" policy in their house, but they just have a pile of shoes by the door. Just get a shoe shelf or something, to make it more organized.

Send your community events to [kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept 21-23 78th Annual Sul Ross Rodeo**, 7 p.m. at the Sul Ross SALE Arena.

**Sept 21 Karl Glocke Film Screening**, 7 p.m. free admission at the Granada Theatre celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the films by Charles Bell and Dave Cadriel, honoring the late Rick Keith.

**Sept 23 FREE ENTRY**, to Big Bend National Park

**Sept. 23 Jump into Fall**, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 105 E. Murphy Street. Bouncy houses, face painting, music, food, and more. Bring your lawn chairs. Free of charge. For more information



contact Mary Ann Lujan 432-294-2370.

**Sept 28 Ribbon Cutting**, 5:30 p.m. Rio Raton Card Room 2305 FM 1703.

**Sept. 29 Simposio de Herencia Hispana**, 6 p.m. social hour featuring Rick Ruiz and complimentary appetizers followed by the symposium at the

Granada Theatre. The symposium is a collaboration between the Sul Ross department of Visual and Performing Arts and Historic Alpine, Inc. and is presented by Visit Alpine, Texas. A cash bar will be available, and the event is free of charge. For more information contact Abbey Branch at 713-515-1204 or [branch@historical-pine.com](mailto:branch@historical-pine.com).

**Sept. 30 Dark Sky Speaker Series**, 6 p.m. at the Alpine Public Library, Nicole Wilson, an Opto-Mechanical Tech from McDonald Observatory will present information on the Hobby-Eberly telescope in the Community Room.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more in-

formation, call 915-562-4081 or [aa-intergroup.org](http://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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbchorale.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

## 78th Annual Bar-SR-Bar Rodeo begins tonight



Sul Ross kicked off their Rodeo Week on Tuesday with the campus cattle drive. Performances begin tonight and continue through Saturday evening.

Courtesy photo

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Laya. Did you hear that? Laya's listening ears are on, and she's on high alert. Laya is a beautiful two-year-old Shepherd mix with the tallest ears in the shelter. She's a funny girl with a ton of personality and is always ready to play. Laya has a ton of energy and would run around all day, every day, given the chance. She's pretty polite for such an energetic dog, walks well on a leash, and plays well with most dogs. Laya occasionally has a tough time reading the social cues of some dogs, so she's not everyone's cup of tea, but high-energy, non-dominating dogs make the perfect playmates for an athletic gal like Laya. Laya has never met a stranger and is ready to meet you.

Retail sales revenue from our thrift store is our most significant source of income for supporting our mission of ensuring every cat and dog has a full and rewarding life. The store is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we accept all credit cards. Ask about how you can save with the Clover app on your smartphone.



Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Humane 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](http://PetFinder.com) or [www.alpinehumanesociety.org](http://www.alpinehumanesociety.org), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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**STARTERS:** Tortilla Soup Bowl • Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup • Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Senano Ketchup • Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

**SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:**  
 (Your choice of any two items)  
 Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup  
 Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich  
 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppered Bacon

**Big Bend Regional Hospital District Medical Enhancement Grants**

BBRHD is now accepting grant proposals for the FY2024 Medical Enhancement Grant program, the deadline to apply for funding will be on November 3, 2023. Brewster and Presidio County entities that provide healthcare or other related services, consistent with the mission and objectives of the District, to residents of Brewster or Presidio Counties are eligible to apply. The grant application package and additional information are available at [www.bbrhd.com](http://www.bbrhd.com) or call 432-837-7051.



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**Dan Platt, Jr.**

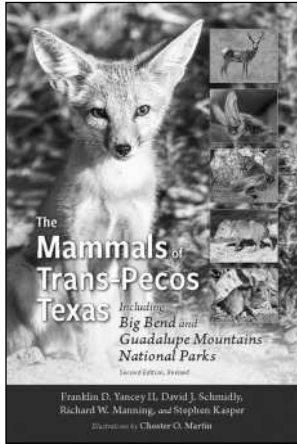
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# 'Mammals of the Trans-Pecos' has new edition

BY RANI BIRCHFIELD  
Contributor



The second edition of "Mammals of the Trans-Pecos Texas Including Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks" by Texas A&M University Press is an indispensable update to the 1977 book by author David J. Schmidly. The new edition, which is a collaboration of four different authors, Franklin D. Yancey, II, David J. Schmidly, Richard W. Manning, and Stephen Kasper, reaffirms its status as a must-have resource for naturalists, researchers, and anyone passionate about the biodiversity of one of the last frontiers, the Trans-Pecos region.

The book opens with an introduction to the Trans-Pecos region, setting the stage for a journey through its rich and

varied ecosystems. It then dives into detailed species accounts, showing the diversity of mammals found in the area, from the elusive mountain lion to the American badger to the tawny-bellied cotton rat. Each account contains not only descriptions but geographic distribution, basic life history, taxonomy, along with population and conservation status. Each species is meticulously

updated and documented with descriptions accompanied by an illustration by Chester O. Martin, the same illustrator from the first book. Also included are photographs and range maps, providing an invaluable reference for field identification and study. The second edition, which is almost twice the size of the first edition, incorporates the latest research findings and taxonomic updates. There has been a substantial growth in knowledge since 1977, and the references have gone from 102 to nearly 400. Another factor is the addition of 18 species: nine native, six non-native, and three domestic feral.

The additions are a result of increased field studies, technological advances like game cams and gene and DNA sequencing, as well as introduction /

reintroduction and natural dispersal. Additionally, the book emphasizes the region's conservation challenges, shedding light on the importance of protecting ecosystems and their denizens. Behind the pages of the book "Mammals of the Trans-Pecos Texas," lies a story of collaboration, dedication, and a sense of coming full circle. The four authors of this book have an intertwined journey that led to the creation/revision of this invaluable resource.

Many local residents will recall Dr. Clyde Jones, Horn Professor of Biology at Texas Tech University. Jones was Frank Yancey's professor and introduced him to Dave Schmidly, at which time Dave immediately put a copy of the original version of "Mammals of the Trans-Pecos" in Frank's hands and said,

"Here, you're going to need this." That was 25 years ago.

Fast forward to 2019 to a casual conversation between Frank and Dave at a conference in Washington D.C. when Frank raised the question of an updated version, Dave's response was a challenge: "Why don't you do it?" This conversation led to a collaboration that extended beyond just these two authors. The involvement of Rick Manning and Stephen Kasper, who were both deeply engaged in their own fieldwork, added further depth to the project. Each author brought their unique expertise and research to the table, forming a powerful collective dedicated to documenting the diverse mammalian fauna of the Trans-Pecos region.

The journey from proposal to publication was

not without its challenges, including delays due to unforeseen circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the authors persevered, drawing from their individual projects, and pooling their knowledge to create a comprehensive guide.

The authors' commitment to the preservation of this vital ecosystem is evident in their decision to donate all royalties to field research at Texas Tech University, enabling future generations to continue filling in gaps and investigating taxonomic issues.

"Mammals of the Trans-Pecos" has indeed come full circle, connecting professors and students, and opening the door for ongoing research, to ensure that the wonders of the Trans-Pecos region are well-documented for generations to come.

## Marfa Lights and horses

No West Texas parade would be complete without a few horses. Locals from the Marfa area saddled up recently to participate in the annual Marfa Lights parade and celebration.

Courtesy photo



## Science 'matters'



Alpine Middle School students investigate properties of matter in a recent science class, including magnetism, states of matter, relative density, and solubility.

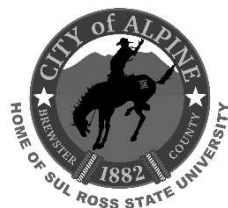
Courtesy photo

## Marfa store under new ownership



Para Llevar in Marfa is under new ownership. Rene Cardona, Jr. (far left) and his family has taken over this established business. Originally from Presidio, the Cardona family has relocated to Marfa. Para Llevar will host a soft opening this Friday and their hours will be from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, where they provide pizza, salads, sandwiches, and more.

Courtesy photo



### NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

**ORDINANCE 2020-10-01:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS, SECTION 10-186 DANGEROUS DOGS; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; PROVIDING A TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

**ORDINANCE 2021-01-01:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS. ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

COPIES OF THE ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N. 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM). QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT 432-837-3301, OPTION 1.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCE:

**ORDINANCE 2023-09-02:** THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ALPINE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; A TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM). QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.



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**ORDINANCE 2023-09-01:** THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 PROPOSED TAX RATE OF \$0.457554 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES.

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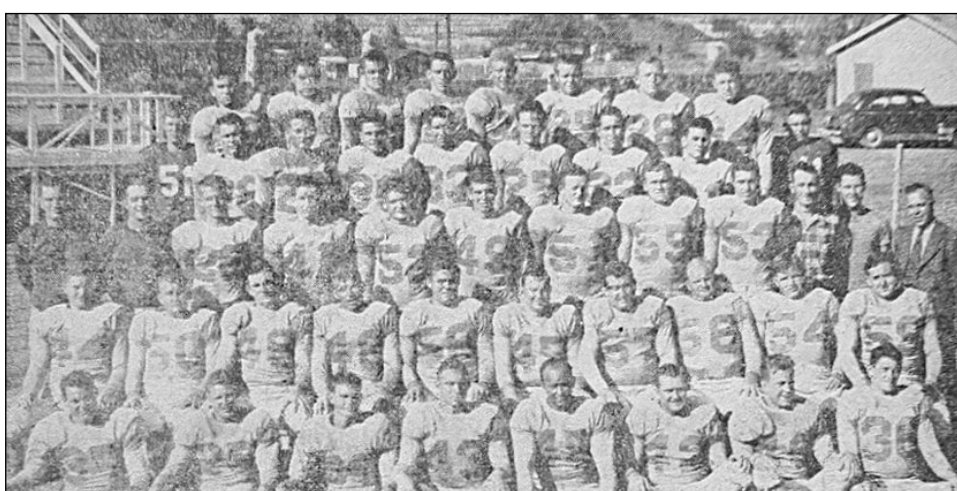
## LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

September 26, 1947

Pictured here are all the members of the 1947 Lobo football squad of Sul Ross State University and their coaches. They are photographed on Jackson Field, and behind the team can be seen the Sul Ross Campus, buildings, and the notable Bar-SR-Bar emblem on the university hill.

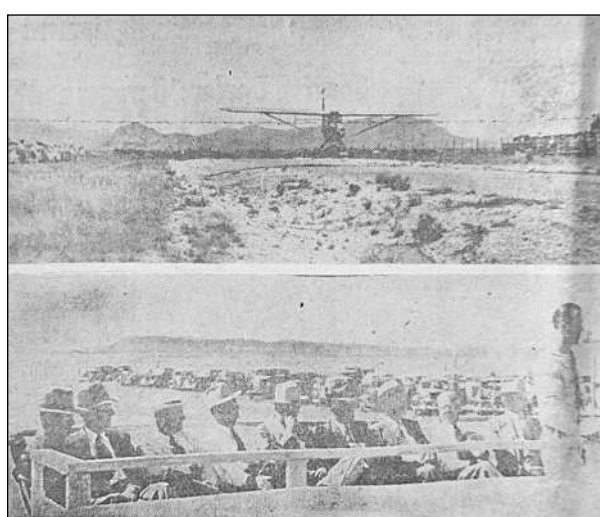


September 26, 1947

Concert pianist, Walter Robert, will be opening the concert season in Alpine with his musical talents October 2. Robert is the first of many artists of a series coming to Alpine this year for the fall season.

September 24, 1948

Alpine will be one of the many stops for President Truman on his trip through Texas. The Alpine Chamber of Commerce will present a cowboy hat to the President during his 20-minute pause in the town, the hat is inscribed with the words, "President Harry S. Truman, presented 1948 from the Alpine Chamber of Commerce."



September 26, 1947

The formal ribbon cutting for State Highway 227, the new road from Marathon to Big Bend National Park, was held on Saturday. Spectators saw the ribbon itself cut via airplane. The plane, piloted by Bill Hargus, is a part of the Big Bend Flying Service. Also seen here are the speakers and guests of honor for the memorable event.

# Patience is key for bird of paradise

Dear Neil: I've had a bird-of-paradise plant for 10 years. Originally it was in the ground, but I have since planted it into a large pot. However, it has never bloomed. Is there something I can do to get it to flower?

I don't know if you're talking about Mexican bird of paradise (Caesalpinia) or the tropical type (Strelitzia). I suspect the former. It blooms best when it's allowed to grow vigorously in good soil and full sunlight all summer. The tropical type is a completely different story. It will tolerate a bit of early morning sun, but it won't handle summer sun. It also must be kept somewhat rootbound before it will bloom best. "Patience" is the byword for it, although it sounds like you have already practiced that. I can't get much more specific without knowing which plant and seeing the setting.

Dear Neil: I have rural property with native yaupon hollies. During this summer's extreme temperatures and extended drought, I have tried to

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

keep them watered with a hose. Still, I see browned leaves and leaf drop. Will they be OK come spring?

I can't tell without a photo. Watering was definitely the right thing to do. Hopefully you let the hose run slowly every week or two and for a long period of time so the soil could be soaked deeply. Keep doing so over the winter and into the spring. Hopefully you still have at least 30 to 40% of the original leaves in place. If the branches of any plants are completely bare those plants may not come back. Good luck!

Dear Neil: We purchased a red oak early this summer. It is 13 feet tall and planted in good soil. We water it six days a week with about three gallons per day on the base and leaves. We've been told to apply a fungicide and insecticide to it, which we have done five times, both at the base level and to the leaves at body level. Thanks for any help you can give us.

I have several thoughts that all intermingle. The overriding one is that I think your tree is going to be fine. It was planted at a rough time of year, and this was an especially rough year for new plantings. My guideline for new plantings from containers is that you should give them water equal to the original container size ev-

ery two or three days for their first summer, May through September, less often during the "off season." You'll probably want to continue doing that next year as well. That would be done via a hose laid on the ground around the trunk of the tree and allowed to fill a basin slowly. This was probably a 40-gallon container, so that would mean applying 40 gallons of water every two or three days. I see no benefit to applying water to the leaves. I see no evidence of

insect damage, and I doubt if this is disease-related, although it does look like a leaf spot of some sort. If it were, I would deem it to be of minor importance.

By far my biggest concern here would be whether or not you have the trunk wrapped. Sun scald is a very serious concern with smooth-barked trees like red oaks, pistachios, and red maples. The third or fourth year after they are planted it's common for their trunks to split vertically on their

west and southwest sides due to exposure to the sun's burning rays. Internal tissues of the trunks are exposed by the massive losses of bark. Your prime way to prevent that is to protect the trunks with paper tree wrap from the ground up to the lowest branches. Leave the wrap in place for the first three years.

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



### ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_-Cola
- 5 TXism: "\_\_\_ piece" (distant)
- 6 TX Don Henley sang "Life in the Fast \_\_\_"
- 7 TX Trini's "If \_\_\_ A Hammer"
- 8 not a gentleman
- 9 LBJ's dogs
- 16 this Nixon played outfield for the Rangers in 1995
- 18 actor Jack of TX-filmed "Terms of Endearment"
- 21 TXism: "chompin' \_\_\_ the bit"
- 22 Glen Campbell is a Texan in "True \_\_\_"
- 23 female sheep
- 24 TXism: "attacked like grandma \_\_\_ chicken snake"
- 30 direction to Austin from San Antonio
- 34 dir. to Dallas from Palestine (abbr.)
- 35 Texas fiddler, Choates
- 36 winter garment
- 37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" offers a 72-\_\_\_ steak
- 39 TXism: "\_\_\_ 'for" (crave)
- 43 \_\_\_ Tuck
- 44 joyful
- 45 \_\_\_ Siecke State Forest
- 46 this Robb started as a Ranger and ended as a Giant

- 47 type of sleep (abbr.)
- 48 TXism: "tight \_\_\_" (miser)
- 50 TXism: "could wear his work \_\_\_ a church social" (lazy)
- 53 dir. to Bryan from Waco
- 54 \_\_\_ Grange, TX
- 55 TXism: "leaning \_\_\_ handle" (goofing off)
- 56 increase in intensity
- 59 grasped

### DOWN

- 1 first Texas flag was made of this cloth
- 2 TXism: "at the drop \_\_\_" (immediately)
- 3 seat of Hemphill County
- 4 TXism: "mad as \_\_\_-eyed cow"
- 9 TX golf legend Byron (init.)
- 10 final decade of the Cold War
- 11 unit of Texas land
- 12 old VW: Karmann \_\_\_
- 13 TXism: "\_\_\_ breathing room"
- 14 \_\_\_ Paso, TX
- 15 dir. to Marlin from Waco
- 17 in Wilson County on U.S. 87
- 19 TXism: "he paddles his \_\_\_" (independent)
- 20 more recent
- 24 TXism: "grabbin' \_\_\_ straws"
- 25 TX O. Henry story: "A \_\_\_ in Santone"
- 26 TXism: "just \_\_\_ whoops and a holler away" (near)
- 27 goes in

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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# Sports

## Runnin' Bucks take 2nd and 3rd in Presidio

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

According to Alpine Cross Country Coach Cory Cason, the Presidio course is the most difficult course they will run all year. "It is a great warmup as the varsity travels to the Lubbock Invitational this weekend to preview the regional championship course which is also pretty tough."

"The weather was actually great for Presidio...it was hot...but it

could have been much hotter. The storms rolled in just after the last race was run," Cason added. Presidio will be hosting the district championship this year, which means the Bucks will return to that course the second week of October.

The varsity girls took second place overall on the Presidio course with the varsity boys placing third. The junior varsity girls took first place, with the junior varsity boys coming in second overall.

The varsity girls competed on a 2.2-mile hilly course with four varsity girls placing in the top 10 contributing to their second-place team win. Emyliana Hernandez ran a great race finishing in the top spot for the Lady



Alpine Runnin' Bucks Cross Country Team

Bucks in fifth place. Collette Fowlkes came in just behind Hernandez in seventh, followed by Molly Garrett in ninth and Tannin Ritchie rounded out the group in 10th place.

Hatfield Cason and Presidio's top runner provided some great racing for the fans, with Hatfield finishing in second place, just missing out on a first-place finish by five meters and bested his

last year's Presidio time by 14 seconds. Aaron Miller and John Mendoza placed 13th and 15th respectively helping the Bucks finish in third-place behind district rivals Presidio and Crane.

Alpine Cross Country will host their annual Big Bend Mountain Ramble on Saturday September 30 at Kokernot Park. The event draws over 500 middle school and high school runners.

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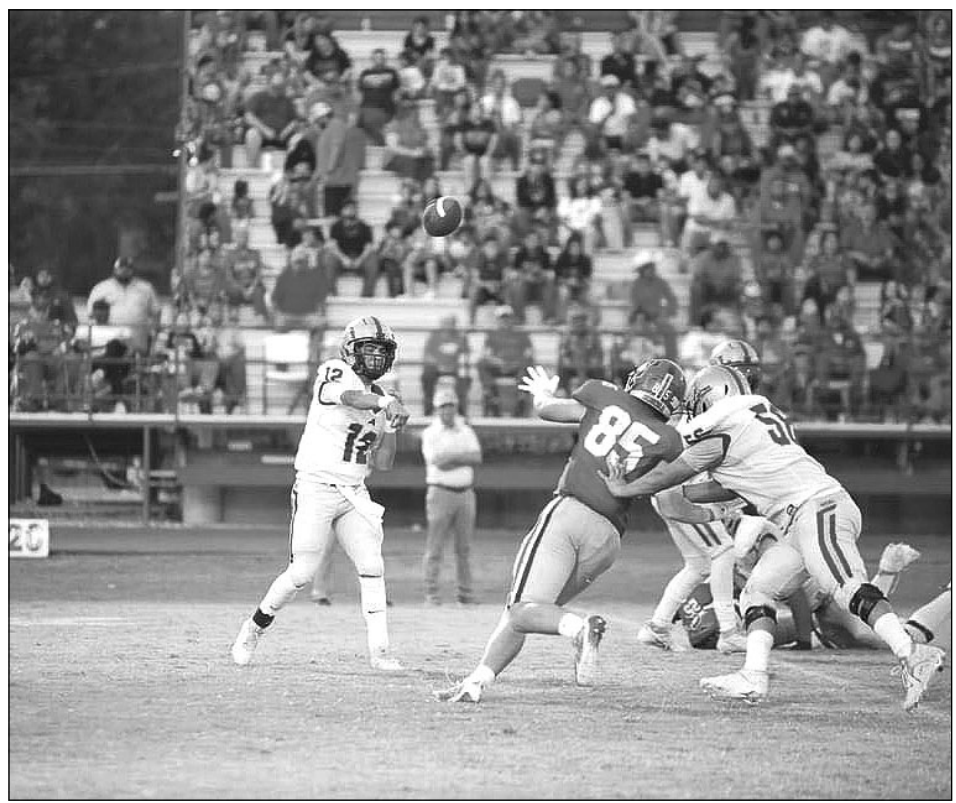
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**AGAVE  
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**BIG BEND  
CONCRETE**





Quarterback Devon Rojo passes the ball in the Friday game against Sonora.

Photo by Noe Lujan

## Alpine Bucks fall to non-district Broncos

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks football was beaten 45-18 in Friday's non-district away challenge against the Sonora Broncos. The Bucks now sport a 1-3 record, where they'll take the field against Compass Academy for a 2-3A Region I District 1 challenge on Friday, September 22. Alpine will meet a team coming off a 27-24 non-district win over Water Valley, whose record now stands at 2-2.

In the first quarter, Sonora kicked off to Alpine with Iden Lujan giving the Alpine team six points with a three-yard touchdown. Lujan, a junior, capitalized on several opportunities against the Broncos. He blocked a Sonora punt early in the game that put the team in position to score on offense. Lujan scored two touchdowns on offense during the match-up. He ran the ball tough from the quarterback and running back positions. He also played well on defense

at the safety position and punted the ball well.

Afterwards, Daedrick Hardwick rushed for a two-point conversion, bumping Alpine to 8-0. Head football coach and athletic director, Andy Smith spoke highly of his players after the game "Iden is a leader on our team, and I expect him to continue to play well in all phases of the game moving forward through district play." With a two-yard touchdown and a two-point conversion, Sonora met Alpine 8-8, in the first quarter. "Logan Smith once again ran the ball well between the tackles and is a great asset in the backfield carrying the ball," said Smith.

In the second quarter, Sonora jumped to 24 points with a 96-yard and an eight-yard touchdown with successful accompanying two-point conversions. "Walt Urbanczyk has been a great place kicker for us. He kicked one PAT, made a field goal for three points, and kicked two onside kicks. He has done a great job all

year kicking the ball for us. He is a great weapon to have on our special teams' units," said Smith.

With two minutes to go in the second quarter, John Valenzuela kicked a 30-yard field goal, bringing Alpine up 11 to 24. "Moses Riggins has done a great job on returning kicks and playing wide receiver," Smith said. At the top of the third quarter, Alpine kicked off to Sonora and took over the ball at their own 50-yard line. The score was 11-30 at the end of the third quarter. While Alpine continued to drive through the game, Lujan gained six points with an eight-yard touchdown, followed by Valenzuela's extra point a, bringing the Alpine score to 18.

Despite these efforts, Sonora ended the final quarter with 45 points after several touchdowns. The game ended 18-45. "We have played four quality opponents in non-district, and we feel this has prepared us to compete in district play," Smith concluded.

## Lady Bucks beat Buena Vista, fall to Monahans

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

"Our program has improved in all aspects of the game," said Adrian Smith, head volleyball coach for the Alpine Lady Bucks, after the team's games against the Buena Vista Longhorns on Tuesday and the Monahans Lobos on Saturday. The Alpine team won the non-district game against the Longhorns 3-0 and had

played the team previously during the Best of the West tournament, which Alpine also prevailed with a 2-0 winning score.

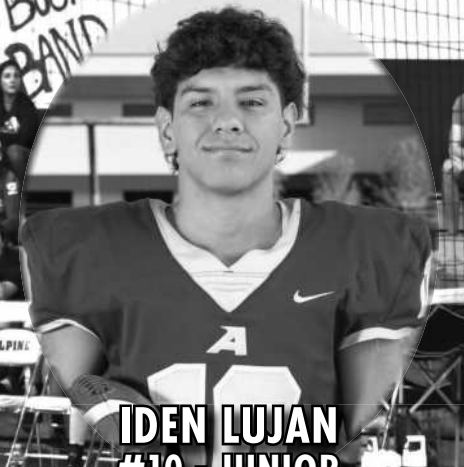
"Throughout the season leading up to district we have had individual areas of focus throughout practices and games," said Smith. During the game against Buena Vista, the Lady Bucks won all

See VOLLEYBALL • 9



Hope Dominguez celebrates a reception at a recent game

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**




**IDEN LUJAN  
#10 - JUNIOR**

**QUARTERBACK // RUNNINGBACK // SAFETY // PUNTER**

Iden Lujan plays extremely well in all phases of the game. He blocked a Sonora punt early in the game that put us in position to score on offense. Iden scored two rushing touchdowns on offense vs Sonora. He has four total rushing touchdowns on the season. He ran the ball tough from the Quarterback and Running Back positions vs Sonora. He also played well on Defense at the safety position and punted the ball well on Special teams. It's an honor to have him on our team.

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# Remembering the decades of old



Alpine High School cheerleaders lead everyone in a decade's celebration at last week's pep rally.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

## Fall opportunities announced for Junior Bucks

The Alpine Junior Bucks youth sports organization is announcing registration opportunities for both youth flag football and, for the first time in recent memory, youth volleyball as well. Regis-

tration for both sports is available for grades 1-6. Seasons for both sports are expected to start in October and run into December.

"We are really excited to be able to offer volley-

ball this year, in addition to flag football, for our area youth," stated Alpine Junior Bucks board president Javier Prieto. "We are only able to make these opportunities happen through the support of

our parents, coaches, volunteers, and our generous sponsors."

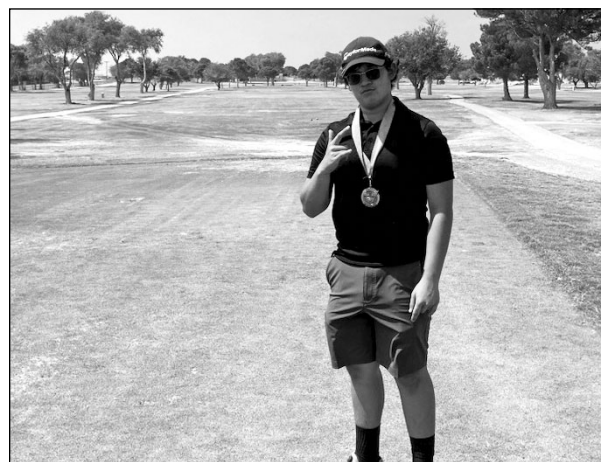
For more information, updates, and access to the registration form, please visit the Alpine Junior Bucks Facebook page.

## Baca takes Monahans Fall Invitational

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Alpine High School's David Baca has dominated yet another tournament and has kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with a top finish. Baca competed at the Monahans Fall Invitational last Wednesday and took first place.

Shooting a 74, just two over par, to out golf the other nine teams and 58 players entered in the tournament. Baca was the only participant from Alpine to compete against the schools of Legacy, Permian, Seminole, Andrews, Monahans, Midland High, Garden City, Greenwood A and B, and Odessa High.



Alpine High School sophomore David Baca posed for a photo with his medal after winning the Monahans Fall Invitation.

Courtesy photo

### SUL ROSS RODEO FALL 2023

Sept. 14-17 Eastern NM University-Portales, NM  
Sept. 21-23 Sul Ross State University  
Sept. 28-29 Vernon College-Vernon, Texas  
Oct. 12-14 Frank Phillips College-Canadian, Texas  
Oct. 26-28 Texas Tech University-Lubbock, Texas

### Sports Schedule

#### FIGHTIN' BUCKS FOOTBALL

Sept. 22 Alpine vs Odessa Compass\* Varsity 7:30 p.m. JV TBA  
Sept. 28 Alpine vs Pecos JV 6 p.m.  
Sept. 29 Alpine vs Tornillo\* Varsity 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 26 Kermit\* @ Alpine JV/F 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 30 Alpine vs Crane\* JV/F 11 a.m. Varsity 12:30 p.m.

#### ALPINE CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 22-23 Lubbock Invitational-V @ Mae Simmons Park  
Sept. 30 Big Bend Mountain Ramble @ Kokernot Park  
\*District 1-3A Game

#### LADY BUCKS VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 23 Alpine vs Tornillo\* JV/F 11 a.m. Varsity 12:30 p.m.

### VOLLEYBALL • FROM 8

three sets prevailing 25-17, 25-16, and 25-12. "Now we are working to combine all of those improvements into an overall cohesive system of dynamic high caliber competitive play," Smith said.

Adayna Garcia and Novah Carrasco covered the team with their offense moves. Garcia delivered 12 kills and Carrasco 11. Jaycee Portillo and Mia Morris along with Carrasco also defended their side of the court well during this game, each having 10 or more digs. Lady Buck Paula Vargas was on point, giving a total of 37 assists during her three sets played and Morris as well with her 15 receptions.

"We are working to gain as much experience as we can so that we have the preparation and confidence needed to compete at a high level throughout district and post season play," Smith said. In the next game against the Monahans Lobos, the Lady Bucks lost 0-3, tipped in set one and two.

While the Alpine team did lose this game the match-up was exciting in each set, 21-25 in set one, 20-25 in set two, and 13-25 in the final set three. During this Saturday game, Garcia and Carrasco with Peyton

Kinkade, Hope Dominguez and Hannah Juette accumulated 27 kills in the three sets. Portillo had 26 digs while Vargas had 26 assists.

When asked about the outcomes of these recent games, winning some and losing some, Smith said that "Competition will always vary from opponent to opponent. One of our focuses throughout the season has been to utilize the style of competition on the other side of the net to our advantage in working to gain a variety of game experiences to aid in our progress toward our program goals."

The Lady Bucks currently have a 19-9 record and played Compass Academy in a non-district home game on September 19. The Compass Academy team won their last game against Klondike 3-2 and have a 13-6 record. "Our game versus Compass Academy is a great opportunity to implement all of our improved areas into an overall cohesive unit. We are excited to have the opportunity for a competitive match leading into district play," said Smith. After playing Compass Academy, the Alpine team is scheduled to play the Tornillo Coyotes on Saturday, September 23.

## Seventh grade Bucks play first game



The Alpine Middle School Seventh graders had their first football game of the season last week. Although they fell to the Sonora Broncos, the eighth graders racked up another win for their season, defeating the Broncos 20-14.

Courtesy photo

## All-State Games features AMS Lady Bucks



Kaci Hawkins, Roxanna Rodriguez, and Imani Miller, all Alpine Middle School students were nominated to participate in the All-State Games in basketball yesterday in Lake Dallas. Nominations were based on videos and their skills.

Courtesy photo

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COUNCIL • FROM 1

Snodgrass to the Music Advisory Board and Manuel Martinez to the Animal Advisory Board. Also approved for the Alpine Casparis Municipal Airport, was an increase of \$.01 per square foot of hangar lease rental rate.

The majority of the council voted to approve all the action items on the agenda which included a resolution for utility rates and fees for city provided services for fiscal year 2023-2024. Also approved was a new policy regarding the TikTok ban, which prohibits the installation of the app on any city devices or its use for any official city matters. This policy could potentially evolve

to encompass other apps as well and is in observance of Texas Senate Bill 1893.

The court approved the annual Alpine Public Library agreement, which was increased from \$40,000 to \$45,000. They also approve renewing the contract with Big Bend Concrete for concrete agreement services.

The last concept that the members of the council wanted to impress upon the citizens is the importance of the upcoming tax decisions and how significant it is to hear the input of the people.

The next scheduled city council meeting is set for September 26.

STUDENT • FROM 1

and during his time there will focus on the clinical experience of engaging the community. "The first time I came out to Alpine to work at the PCHS Clinic was when I really realized I wanted to focus on not just family medicine, but rural family medicine. I am the first TTUHSC student to go through this Rural and Community Elective, and this experience along with my other experiences here in the Big Bend has made me realize just how underserved rural communities are in terms of healthcare," McDaniel said.

A portion of McDaniel's schooling is paid for through a scholarship that focuses on rural community healthcare. Part of the requirement for qualification is once the student has graduated and become a licensed physician, he or she must work in a rural community as part of "paying back" the federally funded scholarship.

The Marathon Clinic is one of the first to engage in telemedicine, thanks in part to Marathon local Marci Roberts and TTUHSC. McDaniel, in his first few days has already utilized this option when presented with a case that required a licensed physician. "Telehealth is extremely valuable for not only a student like me, but also for the community. I am able to perform routine health screenings and physicals for students for athletics and a few other things, but having a licensed physician just a video call away really gives me a sense of relief to know that I have the backing of the TTUHSC doctors should I need their expertise. Not only that, but because of how successful this program has been in Marathon, TTUHSC has been able

**"Telehealth is extremely valuable for not only a student like me, but also for the community."**

— Kyle McDaniel, fourth-year medical student at the Texas Tech Health Science Center-Permian Basin

to obtain grant money to begin a Telehealth Institute that will be able to support telehealth options for the entire TTUHSC service area, including Big Bend," said McDaniel.

The need to be of service is what led McDaniel to medicine. His service career began in the boy scouts, and he also volunteered at clinics in Houston that focused on the underserved Hispanic population. McDaniel also volunteered to deliver needed medical supplies and equipment throughout West Texas during the COVID pandemic. While the service aspect of medicine and medical school called to McDaniel he says medical school can be challenging, but he finds the most difficult aspect is when he is only in places such as Marathon for a short time. "It's difficult to really ascertain what a community is really like and what they need in terms of healthcare when we are only here for short periods of time. If I had the opportunity to spend several years in a community such as Marathon, I would be able to be acquainted with the community in order to serve them better. That is the ultimate goal for me as a physician in training. I want to establish myself in a rural community and focus on becoming a part of that community so I can better serve their needs as their physician."



*Hilly terrain common for runners*

Alpine Runnin' Buck Hatfield Cason tackles a hill against Presidio's top runner this past weekend at the Bo Coffman Invitational in Presidio.

Courtesy photo

HEALTH • FROM 1

This program allows paramedics and EMT's to operate in expanded roles for the rural communities by assisting with public and primary healthcare preventative services that are non-emergency related.

The BBRHD is also supporting a small rural health clinic in Presidio that will be managed by the Big Bend Regional Medical Center. The hospital district will convert half of their Presidio office into a clinic for the BBRMC initiative.

This new Big Bend

Regional Health Clinic (BBRHC) is designed to be a comprehensive family practice providing obstetrics, vaccinations, and walk-in appointments for patients of all ages. The clinic will be led by Dr. David Sanchez, a member of the medical staff at BBRMC, along with Bob Rice who is a Nurse Practitioner.

The grand opening is scheduled for October 27, and the clinic hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The

same insurance plans currently accepted by BBRMC will be accepted at the clinic and appointments may be scheduled through the official BBRMC website at bigbendanytime.com, making it easy to access healthcare services.

Rick Flores, CEO of BBRMC, shared "It has long been the goal of BBRMC to supplement primary care by adding another location in Presidio," he explained. "We are grateful to the Big Bend Hospital District for their dedication

to helping enhance access to care throughout the region. We look forward to welcoming patients at the new location in Presidio in the coming months," Flores added.

The Alpine branch of the BBRHC, located at 2600 Highway 118 North will continue with their regular hours of operation, which are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The new Presidio branch of BBRHC will be located at 602 W. O'Reilly, Suite C.

Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §§26.06(b-2).

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE**

This notice **does not** apply to a taxing unit that has a de minimis rate.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$	0.457554	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$	0.411402	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$	0.457554	per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for CITY OF ALPINE from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that CITY OF ALPINE may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CITY OF ALPINE is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 at 5:30 PM AT THE CITY OF ALPINE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 803 W HOLLAND, ALPINE, TEXAS 79830.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CITY OF ALPINE is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the CITY OF ALPINE of CITY OF ALPINE at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:  
Property tax amount = ( tax rate ) x ( taxable value of your property ) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: JUDY STOKES, CHRIS RODRIGUEZ, DARIN NANCE, MARTIN SANDATE, RICK STEPHENS  
AGAINST the proposal: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENT and not voting: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF ALPINE last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF ALPINE this year.

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	2022 adopted tax rate \$0.466326	2023 proposed tax rate \$0.457554	No Change between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year per \$100
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	2022 average taxable value of residence homestead \$144,780	2023 average taxable value of residence homestead \$160,080	Increase of 10 %
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	2022 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$675.14	2023 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$745.86	Increase of \$57.31 between amount of taxes imposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the preceding year (2022) and the amount of taxes proposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the current year (2023), or eight percent difference between taxes imposed for preceding year (2022) and taxes proposed for current year (2023)
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	2022 levy \$2,038,393	(2023 proposed rate x current total value)/100 \$2,304,382	Increase of \$265,989 between preceding year levy (2022) and proposed levy for current year (2023), or 13% percentage difference between preceding year levy (2022) and proposed levy for current year (2023)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact Tax Collector, Sylvia Vega, Brewster County Tax Assessor/Collector at 432-837-2214 or [taxassessorcollector@brewstercotad.org](mailto:taxassessorcollector@brewstercotad.org), or visit [www.brewstercountytexas.com](http://www.brewstercountytexas.com) for more information.

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## EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

**Proposition Number 1  
(HJR 126)**

**HJR 126** proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2  
(SJR 64)**

**SJR 64** proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3  
(HJR 132)**

**HJR 132** proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4  
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

**HJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

**from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."**

**Proposition Number 5  
(HJR 3)**

**HJR 3** proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6  
(SJR 75)**

**SJR 75** proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7  
(SJR 93)**

**SJR 93** proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from

the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8  
(HJR 125)**

**HJR 125** proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9  
(HJR 2)**

**HJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10  
(SJR 87)**

**SJR 87** proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11  
(SJR 32)**

**SJR 32** proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and

reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12  
(HJR 134)**

**HJR 134** proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13  
(HJR 107)**

**HJR 107** proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14  
(SJR 74)**

**SJR 74** proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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**FOR RENT/LEASE**

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Interested candidates should email or fax resume to (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or [texashr@villagefarms.com](mailto:texashr@villagefarms.com), applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.

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**Brewster County Administrative Assistant**

Brewster County is currently seeking qualified applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant under the Brewster County Judge and under the administrative direction of County Judge, Greg Henington. Position is open until filled.

**Required Knowledge and Skills:**

This position performs a variety of administrative and clerical duties to provide support for the office of the County Judge.; Must be able to work independently in the absence of specific instructions and establish and maintain effective working relationships with County employees and the public.

The Administrative Assistant is an employee of Brewster County. Therefore, the employee must understand and abide by the Brewster County Employee Handbook. Applicants must also demonstrate good people skills, must be able to follow directions and orders, and be a flexible team player. Salary dependent upon experience. This position is also eligible for the Brewster County Employee Health and Benefits Package.

For a full Job Description and application, visit: [www.brewstercountytx.com/employment](http://www.brewstercountytx.com/employment). Please complete an application and resume and submit to Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, PO Box 1601, Alpine, TX 79831 or in person Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W Ave E, Alpine, TX 79830 or can be submitted via email [Greg.Henington@co.brewster.tx.us](mailto:Greg.Henington@co.brewster.tx.us) For questions, contact 432-837-2412

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### BREWSTER COUNTY AUDITOR

394th District Judge Roy Ferguson is now accepting resumes for the position of Brewster County Auditor. The position is open effective October 1, 2023 and will be filled as quickly as possible. Applicants must meet all statutory qualifications under Chapter 84, Tex. Loc. Govt. Code. The position is full-time and qualifies for all county benefits. Annual compensation will be up to, but not more than, the compensation and allowances received from all sources by the highest paid elected county official.

Applicants must be:

1. A competent accountant with at least 2 years' experience in auditing and accounting (prior experience as a county auditor will also be considered);
2. Thoroughly competent in public business details;
3. A person of unquestionably good moral character and intelligence; and
4. Skilled in interpersonal relationships and office management.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send letters indicating interest and resumes with references, by mail to Judge Roy Ferguson, P.O. Box 1410, Alpine, TX 79831, or by e-mail to 394th.jud.dist.court@gmail.com.

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### SENIOR Spotlight MAYA DOUGHTY



**In what activities did you participate in high school?**

I've participated in band all four years of high school.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**

My favorite teacher by far was Mrs. Crump. She was always helpful and so kind to everyone.

**What was your favorite moment the last four years?**

My favorite moment the last four years was going on all the band trips.

**What are your plans after high school?**

After high school I'd like to travel as much as possible.

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## Devotional Page "I Say to You"

BY SUSAN CELAYA

First United Methodist Church

Recently, two different references to the Sermon on the Mount really made me think. First, a preacher told a story of when he was a new pastor. A mentor advised him to read Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5 - 7 every day for a month. Doing that would help the words of Jesus seep into the new minister's thoughts and attitudes and impact how he lives every day and how he treats others. That sounds like useful guidance.

The very next day, I read a troubling article by a church leader who had heard from several pastors that they were leaving the ministry. A recurring reason was the response from their congregants to their preaching based on the Sermon on the Mount. Church members told their pastors that those messages—such as "Turn the other cheek," and "Love your enemies," were too weak; that's not what they wanted to hear. The very words of Jesus from the gospels were unacceptable to them. Are not the teachings of Jesus the very bedrock of our Christianity?

Let's look at a few points from Matthew chapters 5 through 7. First, the sermon begins with the Beatitudes. Remember the qualities that Jesus calls Blessed: meekness, mercy, purity of heart, peacemaking. These are not characteristics of the powerful, of the mighty,

of the influential "winners" in society. No, they are gentle traits, ways of being that reflect the love and kindness and justice of Jesus.

Another oft quoted verse from Jesus' sermon is "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Do we stretch our love to those who are different from us? That's what Jesus tells us to do. "Judge not," Jesus says. He warns against condemning others. Too often, judgmental attitudes, especially in churches, repel people from the true good news of God.

The very heart of the gospel is found in the Sermon on the Mount. Chapter 7, verse 12 instructs "So whatever you wish that others do to you, do also to them." If we adhere to that rule, we won't stray far from the way Jesus wants us to live.

To pray "Thy will be done" is part of Jesus' sermon, too. All the guidance he gives tells us what God's will is. He uses phrases such as "I say to you" over a dozen times in his discourse, emphasizing the importance of his teachings to us. His words tell us how to live in loving relationships with others. The way of love and concern and prayer for all, even those who oppose us, is not easy. "The way is hard," Jesus says. But he also says that if we hear the words and do them, our lives will be built upon God's unshakeable foundation. This week, challenge yourself to study the lessons of Jesus in Matthew 5-7. Let the words soak into your life and be your touchstone. God's will be done. Amen.

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Send updates to:  
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# Fall fellowship on your mind? Casseroles are potluck perfect

After a sweltering summer, it seems as though fall is finally creeping in. Beyond the pumpkin spice craze, many turn their thoughts to fall comfort food such as soups and casseroles. One of several ingredients that bring to mind the fall season are sweet potatoes.

Sweet potatoes have long been a part of the Thanksgiving or Christmas meal traditions for most people. Until recently that is. As folks are leaning towards healthier meals, sweet potatoes have taken on a greater supporting role in people's diets. Different than your standard white



**HEAD OVER MEALS**

by kara gerbert

or red potato, sweet potatoes are higher in fiber when baked, but they're also higher in sucrose, which is a complex carbohydrate. While still a sugar, this disaccharide takes longer to break down than monosaccharides such as glucose or fructose, so it creates more lasting energy. Unlike simple sugars, they also won't spike blood sugar, and are good for your eyes, heart, and inflammation.



**Roasted Sweet Potato casserole with Rosemary-Pecan Streusel**

stitution ratio is a good beginning. Any other wet ingredients would need to be reduced by ¼ cup, however.

This recipe uses melted butter, so that is the sole wet ingredient that would need to be reduced were you to use applesauce as your added sweetener. The sweetness of this casserole works well as a potluck side to roasted chicken or smoked turkey and adds a great crunchy element to your meal thanks to the toasted pecan streusel topping. It also lends that great taste rosemary provides for potatoes of all types, adding that herbaeous savory element to the sweet.

Whether it be sweet or savory, potluck or family dinner, casseroles always make a great addition to any table. Therefore, if you're searching for something different to make, utilize those cookbooks or the thousands of online options and find a casserole that speaks to you of fall evenings shrouded in comfort.

*Courtesy photo*

One of the health drawbacks to this particular casserole, is the added brown sugar. However, this could easily be replaced for a substitute

such as coconut palm sugar or unsweetened applesauce. If using applesauce, you may have to do a bit of experimenting, but a one-to-one sub-

## Roasted Sweet Potato Casserole with Rosemary-Pecan Streusel

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted, divided, plus more for the baking dish.
- 4 large, sweet potatoes, sliced into ¼ inch coins.
- ½ cup plus 4 tablespoons packed light brown sugar, divided.
- Kosher salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour spooned and leveled.
- ½ cup chopped, toasted pecans.
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary.

**Directions:**

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Lightly butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish.
- Arrange half the sweet potatoes in one layer, overlapping as necessary, in the prepared baking dish.
- Top with ¼ cup melted butter and 2 tablespoons of sugar. Season with salt.
- Repeat with a second layer of sweet potatoes, butter, sugar, and salt.
- In a separate bowl,

- combine flour, pecans, salt, remaining ½ cup butter, ½ cup sugar, and rosemary.
- Stir with a fork until clumps form. Sprinkle on top of potatoes.
- Bake until potatoes are soft when pierced with a knife, around 55-65 minutes.
- Cover dish with foil for the last 10 minutes of baking if necessary to prevent over-browning.
- Serve warm.



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