

Alpine City Council holds last meeting of the year

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Alpine City Council held their last meeting of the year on Tuesday. Topics of discussion included highly contested rezoning issues, the first readings of amended ordinances, and the accepted invitation to join a coalition of cities to argue a reasonable rate case with the service provider AEP.



Catherine Eaves

City Mayor Catherine Eaves started off the meeting with her report, sharing that the local non-profit organizations have done a wonderful job providing holiday events for the community. Eaves recognized the Alpine Historical Society for the wassail crawl and the county tree lighting.

In other news, City Manager Megan Antrim

See COUNCIL • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023 12.56"
December 0.00"



Burn Ban ON

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



Wildlife conservationist makes move to BRI

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) has acquired a new team member. Mike Janis, formerly with Texas Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife Division has joined the BRI team as part of the Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement. Janis will help manage a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant that was recently awarded

to BRI which will provide over \$2 million of Pittman-Robertson funds.

These funds are a result of the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 which placed a federal tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition to help fund wildlife conservation in the United States. This funding will be used to enhance habitat on private lands for the benefit of native wildlife.

Shawn Gray, leader of the TPWD mule deer and pronghorn program was the driving

force behind the grant. "I am truly excited to help facilitate another opportunity for our landowner partners to further their conservation goals," said Gray. "This is a great example of how partners can work together to affect landscape-level conservation."

BRI will be joined by the Rio Grande Joint Venture to aid in the delivery of this program.



See JANIS • 6 Mike Janis

Spreading joyous noise



Elementary school children serenaded the community along with Mr. and Mrs. Claus in the lobby of Trans Pecos Banks in Marathon at the annual Fiesta de Noche Buena event this past Saturday.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

The new face of Double K Gifts and Flowers

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Since 2015, Double K Gifts and Flowers at 409 E. Holland has provided the Big Bend area with flower arrangements, plants, and gifts. This great customer service now has a new face, but the same level of excellence will remain.

Valynda Henington, wife of Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, is the new owner of Double K. Along with the help of her sister-in-law Jennifer Alexander, Henington will now be the face behind the counter at the long-standing flower shop. While these two ladies have taken over the day-to-day business, previous owner Debbie Pruitt

will show up from time to time and help out, lending her eight years of experience to the mix.

"This is a new learning curve from my former job in tourism, but business is still business, and I'm still in the people business. I'm just having to utilize a new set of tools and have different deadlines," said Henington.

The Heningtons wanted to give back to the community, which prompted them to purchase the local business. Henington grew up in the area. She's a local gal, having been born in Presidio County, raised in Jeff Davis County, and has lived and



Jennifer Alexander and Valynda Henington are the new faces of Double K Flowers, previously owned by Debbie Pruitt. Henington and her husband, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington recently purchased the successful business.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

See DOUBLE K • 6

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OBITUARIES

Debra Ellen Burks

Debra Ellen Burks, 70, of Pampa passed away on November 15 in Hobbs, NM. She was born on May 28, 1953, in Pampa. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.



Debra had a feisty and unique personality. She was known for her strong-willed nature and

her ability to stand up for what she believed in. She had a passion for online shopping and enjoyed

treating herself to manicures.

Debra had a career at Sul Ross State University prior to retiring. She dedicated her time and energy to her work, making a lasting impact on those she worked with.

In her personal life, Debra cherished her sons and grandchildren and the time she spent with her loved ones. She is

survived by her sons, whom she adored, Burke Headrick and Taylor Headrick, as well as her grandchildren Emerson, Justin, and Ashley. They were the sparkle in her eye.

She is also survived by her sister, Judy Burks, her brother Dwayne Burks, and her sister Deena Marazas.

She also had a special

bond with her fur baby, Huni, who now has a new human, Sue, one of Debra's best friends.

Debra was preceded in death by her father, Hubert Burks, and her mother Ann Burks.

A future celebration of life will be announced to honor Debra's memory and allow friends and family to come together to share stories

and memories. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Alpine Humane Society, a cause close to Debra's heart.

Debra Ellen Burks will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Her feisty spirit, unique personality, and love for her family will be forever remembered. May her soul rest in peace.

Richard Charles Kelly

On November 28 Richard Charles Kelly went to be with his Lord and Savior. Rick was 80 years old and from Midland. Born on February 19, 1943, in Stockton, California to Harold Francis and Beatrice Marsha Kelly, the family moved to Midland in 1948 where he graduated from Midland High School and in 1965 from Sul Ross University with a BA in History and Government. Rick served in Naval Intelligence during the Vietnam era and was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal. He became a Brewery Representative for Miller Brewing Company following his service.



becoming the General Manager and co-owner. He met and married Bette Bell Morehead in 1976. Parenting three sons, Charles, Clay, and Jeff Morehead.

Rick was preceded in death by Charles in 1989. He is survived by his wife Bette, as well as children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was grandfather to Drew and his wife Shanna, Tasha, Christopher, and Jessica Morehead, great-grandchildren Emma Sue and Ethan Morehead, uncle to nephew Robert Kel-

ly, and nieces Kathleen Hernandez and Kristine Kelly.

Rick and his family relocated to Boerne in 1981 where he resumed his entrepreneurial endeavors with Car Washes, Storage Units, and property investments while his wife Bette was busy with her own Boutique/Gift Shop. In 1991, Rick became a co-owner and General manager of a Fredericksburg Beer Distributorship until the fall of 2000. Moving to Alpine, Rick and Bette acquired Aerolite Auto Rentals now known as Alpine Auto Rental and Sales.

Rick was a member of The Ambassadors of Alpine, served as a member on the Big Bend Regional Memorial Hospital Board, and was an Executive Board Member of Alpine's Post 79 Ameri-

can Legion. He was the recipient of many awards throughout his business life including Alpine "Businessperson of the Year" and Sul Ross Sammy Baugh Award, and Co-Founder of the 100 Club of Brazoria County. He was also known for never meeting a stranger and selling many, many fundraising tickets for local civic organizations and all good causes.

Rick loved the Constitution of the United States, History, and Geography. Above all, he loved his family and friends and was very patriotic and loyal to his country.


An old-fashioned Irish Wake was held at the American Legion on Saturday, December 2nd from 2-4 pm. A Celebration of Life will be announced in the near future. The family requests

memorial contributions be made to the charity of your choice.

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

alpinememorialfuneralhome.com

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.



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BOYD, PEARL L
CAYTON, PATRICK
DAVIES, ELLIOT O
HENDRYX, BROOKLYN S
LUTZ, KELLER A
MILLICAN, KENNEDY G
RODRIGUEZ, NOAH J
SANDOVALL, AZALAYAH J
VIDAL, NOAH R
VIELMA, INANNA Z

2ND GRADE

BRAUCH, ROCZEN J
HINOJOSA, PAMELA

5TH GRADE

BAEZA, KELLEN K
GENTRY, ACY J
GRAY, BROOKE
HERRING, ZACHARY C
MATTHEWS, RYNN
MENDOZA, GABRIELA J
MESKER, BROCK
MORALES, MIRANDA R
O'SHAUGHNESSY, RILEY J
ROACH, ELLA D
SQUALLS, IMANI

6TH GRADE

ADAME, ARMANDO
CHAVEZ ADRYN
ESCUADER, EVA MAE
ESPARZA, ETHAN
FIERRO, ANOKI
WARREN BRODY

9TH GRADE

BRUTTOMESSO, ABBY L
CALDERON, KARYSSA B
FOWLKES, COLETTE E
FRIOX, JUDITH M
GALVAN, ZARIAH
JANIS, SOPHIE M
SANTOS, ARTURO D
SOLIS, JOSHUA
STATION, JOSEPH R
THOMPSON, GUS C
VELASCO, ISLA M
VELEZ, NANCY A

10TH GRADE

BACA, DAVID A
BATRES, MIGUEL A
CARRASCO, NEVEAH
GONZALEZ RENTERIA, RAUL M
HAWKINS, KODY J
HINOJOSA, GERALDINE
KINKADE, PEYTON R
KLOCKMAN, TARYN K
MACK, VIOLET A
MUNOZ, JOEL
ORTIZ, IZABEL M
PALAZUELOS, MARIANA
PINEDA, RYANNA B
PRIETO, JOHN
RITZI, TERESA L
SMITH, SYDNEY
SOTO, KHRISTAL
STEWART, LILLIAN R
STRUTHERS, MEGAN H
YBARRA, TONI F

11TH GRADE

ADAMS, ROXELL A

MESKER, BROOKE L
MIRANDA, ABRIL R
MUNOZ, TOMMY K
RINEHART, WILLIAM A
RUCKMAN, MACI L
STATION, WYATT L
VOGEL, MICHAEL S

3RD GRADE

AGUILAR, ARLETT M
ANDERSON-FULLER, JACKSON D
CAYTON, WILLIAM R
GALINDO, MAYLEE N
GOMEZ, ISAIAH A
GONZALEZ, MISELA G
HOLGUIN, DANIEL H

ALPINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

WU, EDISON

7TH GRADE

BILLINGS, COLT
CONTRERAS, NERALI
DODSON, ELIJAH
DOMINGUEZ, ILIANA
DRISCOLL, RYLEN
KEARNS HOLGUIN, KELLI
MARKIN, ELISIA
MARTINEZ, REYNA
PORTILLO, ABRAM
ROACH, EMERSON
STRUTHERS, LEAH
TAMALE, SHANNON
WOOD, HALLIE
YOUNG, BARRY

8TH GRADE

BEHAN, KELSTON
DE GUIA, ROSE CHRISTINE

ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL

AHRENS, AMANDA R
BASIBUYUK, ZEYNEP
BATES, LAURALAI A
CASON, HATFIELD R
CELAYA, JAYLYNN L
COLEMAN, REESE M
CRAVERTURNER, CHRISTOPHER
DOMINGUEZ, HOPE DESIREE
DOVE, MASON
FRIOX, EVAN R
GUNES, MUZZAFFER M
HAILE, KALEB D
IOTTI, ESTHER
MAXWELL VALENZUELA, SIERRA L
MIRANDA, MASIELA R
NEAK, ASHLEE
ROJO, DEVON J
SANCHEZ, ALLISON I
TAYS, PEYTON B
TEDESCHI, KIARA M
VALENZUELA, JOHN P
VELASCO, LANDON G
WASH, PIPER G
WASH, ZANE JAYDON

12TH GRADE

ADAME-RAMIREZ, AYLEEN
AHRENS, REESE A
ALVIDREZ, SANTIAGO P
ARREDONDO, ZOE I
BOJORQUEZ, JOSE ANTONIO S
BUSEY, GUILLERMO C
BUSEY, MIGUEL F
CANABA, JACE T
CARRASCO, NOVAH A
CAULFIELD, KALAVATI L
CORONA, NIDIA K

LUTZ, LINDLEY M
RINEHART, CLARA E
TARRANT, ANSON L

4TH GRADE

ADAME, ALYSSA
CHEN, JOSEPH
HERRING, JOSHUA E
LOSOYA, MASON K
MCDONALD, ELLISEN K
SANCHEZ, EMMA A
SCHNIERS, ADALEE A
SLEDGE, COLLIN A
VALENZUELA, LUCAS M
VIDAL, TROY T
VOGEL, ARIA J

DUBOIS, MATTHEW
FURR, LAUREN
HINOJOS, RYAN
HINOJOS, JEREMY
LE BLANC, EMILIE
LLANEZ, ZAYLIN
LUJAN, EZRA
MORRISSEY, GYLLIAN
RAMIREZ, ANDY NINE
RAMOS, ALYSSA
RODRIGUEZ, ROXANNA
SANCHEZ, BELLA
SAUNDERS, ALICE
SCOTT, ABIGAIL
VEGA, JAKE
VIDAL, CAIIN
WANG, ANIKA

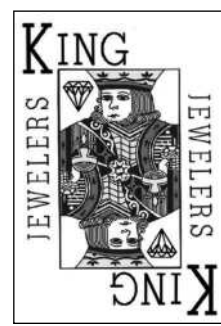
CRESPO POLIDURA, VALERIA S
EVANS, JOBRE A
FIERRO, ENYSSA N
FIERRO, KAYLEE M
GARCIA, ADAYNA J
GARRET, AUDREY E
HALE, BRODIE MORGAN
HIDALGO-MIRANDA, DIEGO
HOLGUIN, ARNEL
HOPKINS, JHETT D
HUERTA-ACOSTA, NAYELI J
JUETT, HANNAH ELIZABETH
MALLOS, AUBRI R
MARONEY, ALI A
MARTINEZ, EVREN
MORRIS, MIA SOLEIL
MUCHARREZ, CAROLINA S
MUNIZ, MADISON N
NANEZ, ALYSSA P
NEWMAN, JOHN
NUNEZ, MIA A
OLAZABA, DEVIN R
PRIETO, JAVIER
RAINER RITCHE, TANNIN
RENTERIA, ALEXA
RUCKMAN, SIERRA J
SABLATURA, MARTIN E
TAMALE, SHALOM
THOMPSON, OWEN W
VARGAS, AMERIKA
VARGAS, PAULA
VASQUEZ, ROBERT N
WARREN, MADALYN W
WELCH, YANESSA E
WOODALL, LILY ELAINE

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Billings among new officers for TAFP

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

On November 11, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP) held their Primary Care Summit in Grapevine where they installed four new officers. Among these appointees was local physician Dr. Adrian Billings.

Dr. Billings is the Chief Medical Officer of Preventative Healthcare Services FQHC here in the Big Bend area. He also holds the title of Associate Academic Dean of Rural and Community Engagement and is the Senior Fellow of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.



New officers for the 2023-2024 Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Billings has spent his career in rural and community healthcare, specifically along the Texas-Mexico border here in West Texas. His

mission as a physician is to enable rural-born and educated students to seek out opportunities to enroll in healthcare training programs, especially

those seeking to work in rural and community healthcare facilities.

Dr. Billings was installed as the Parliamentarian for the TAFP.

Teen killed in hunting accident

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

According to information from the Presidio County Sheriff's Department (PCSO), on Sunday, December 3, deputies from the PCSO responded to a call about a hunting accident involving a 15-year-old male. At approximately 10:30 a.m., the incident occurred North of Presidio, where the juvenile was fatally shot in the chest from

a self-inflicted gunshot wound while preparing rifles for hunting. Members of the victim's family immediately transported him to Marfa, escorted by PCSO to meet the Marfa ambulance. The victim was rushed by ambulance to Big Bend Regional Medical Center, where despite all efforts he was declared dead on arrival. In respect, the name of the victim's family is being withheld.

Enjoying holiday beverages



Rick Ruiz and Tony Lujan chat with a music fan and enjoy a cup of wassail during this past Friday evening's Wassail Crawl in downtown Alpine.

Photo by Joh Covington

Food Pantry in need of pasta

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Jeff Davis County Food Pantry is seeking donations of pasta. Regular pasta, any shape or size is being requested, but they are not looking for whole wheat. The food bank has been unable to supply regular pasta and buying wholesale is not an option. There are currently 242 households with 548 individuals

who are enrolled at the food pantry. Their goal is to collect 500 pounds of pasta before the end of the year so that they may supply each household with two pounds each. Pasta donations may be dropped off at the Jeff Davis County Food Pantry located at 609 Compromise Street in Fort Davis or they may also be dropped off in the donation barrel at the Jeff Davis County Library.

Children's Christmas store opens Saturday

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The seventh annual Hillside Baptist Church children's Christmas store will be open this Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the fellowship

hall located at 205 Church Road just off East Hwy 90. Items will be priced from 25 cents up to \$5 and children are asked to bring a list of names with the correct spellings. Hillside helpers will assist the children by wrapping and

tagging each gift, and the children can purchase a gift for each name on their list. All proceeds go to the Children's Advocacy Center of Alpine. For more information contact Karen McGuire at 432-386-3071.

Lobo alum to deliver Alpine commencement

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Sul Ross State University alumni and graduate Benjamine C. Huffman will deliver the fall commencement address here on the Alpine campus on Friday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gallego Center.



Benjamine C. Huffman
Courtesy photo

Huffman is a native of West Texas and entered the U.S. Border Patrol in February 1985. Currently, he leads the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Law Enforcement Centers (FLETC). His

duties include overseeing 125 partner organizations along with state, local, tribal, as well as territorial, and interna-

tional law enforcement partners. Huffman directs operations at locations in Georgia, South Carolina, Maryland, and New Mexico.

Before assuming his current role, Huffman served as the acting Deputy Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB), the largest law enforcement agency in the U.S. On top of his numerous achievements stateside, Huffman has also served in various missions around the world including operations in South Africa and Bolivia.

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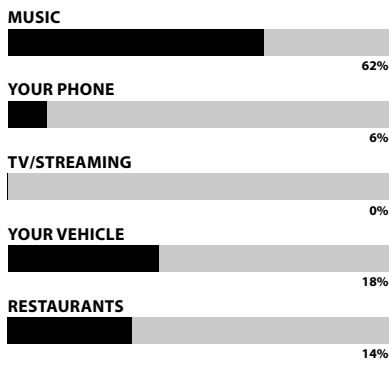
Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHICH OF THESE WOULD BE THE HARDEST TO LIVE WITHOUT?

RESULTS



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LETTERS

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Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published.

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed.

Send your letters to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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



The other cost of vouchers

As the fourth-called special session wraps up this week, the Texas Legislature leaves \$5B in new public education funding unallocated due to political infighting over voucher programs. These funds should have been flowing to school districts,



DR. MICHELLE RINEHART
Superintendent,
Alpine ISD

and classrooms over the past six months. Instead, they sit in state coffers waiting for state leaders to pass legislation that would provide much-needed teacher pay raises, as well as district funding increases to counteract inflation, address learning loss, and improve safety and security.

While the House's decisive vote against vouchers earlier this month ended the voucher debate for 2023, the politically motivated, incessant push for vouchers in Texas has caused significant damage in at least two major ways: by expanding the scope of public-school underfunding statewide, while also creating manufactured divides between local communities and their schools.

Although the expansion of chronic underfunding of public education is dire, drastic, and

infuriating, especially since it is completely avoidable given our state's record-setting surplus, I'd like to focus here on the other cost of our state leaders' failed push for vouchers: the harm that has been caused by deliberately attacking public schools over the past year as a political tactic to try to force vouchers into law.

What harm has this caused? The concerted, public attack on public schools, teachers, and administrators has created artificial, perceived divides between communities and their schools. By pushing false narratives about widespread "failing" schools and fear-mongering about culture war crises that aren't happening in schools, mistrust can be fabricated in communities. Locally, folks might trust their schools less, might assume the worst of any school interaction or decision, and/or might slip into an "us" versus "them" mentality positioning parents against schools.

The reality couldn't be further from the truth. Particularly in small towns, we must remember that the professionals in our schools who dedicate their lives

to inspiring and teaching the next generation are our neighbors, friends, customers, parishioners, and fellow citizens.

Together, we are Alpine.

Left unaddressed, the local impacts of these political divides can force great people out of one of the noblest professions: education.

What can we do locally to counteract these manufactured divisions? Thankfully, quite a bit. Here are four ways we can make sure that we write the story of the unity between our community and our public schools.

First, actively celebrate the great things that are going on in our schools every day. Great things happen every day in Alpine ISD. From classroom joys to extracurricular performances to character-building moments to skill development, join our students and staff in celebrating these everyday successes.

Second, in a spin on the TSA-inspired slogan, when you see something good, say something good. In a time of coordinated negativity against public schools, your words of affirmation, encouragement, and support mean more than ever. Did you notice the way that the counselor honed in on a particular student's needs? Thank them. Did you notice the way

a teacher made a student's day? Celebrate that. Did you notice the way that the coach helped a child learn a new skill while also building their confidence? Shout that out. We attract more of what we put out; we become more collectively positive by seeing and acknowledging the good all around us.

Third, when concerns arise, bring them to school officials so we can work on them together. We are a brilliant community; by putting our minds, efforts, and talents together, we can creatively problem-solve issues as they arise. As a district, we are not perfect, but we are constantly progressing. Join us in that collective effort on behalf of our community's children.

Fourth, legislatively, let's not be fooled by rhetoric that puts politics above children. Let's keep advocating for the real issues that face our public schools: adequate funding, teacher compensation, teacher shortages, support for programs that improve student outcomes, safety, and security needs, and collective support of public education.

Let's not allow a failed political stunt to negatively impact our community. We are Alpine. Together, we continually build our legacy of excellence.

Laughing still beats crying

"The greatest lesson in life is realizing I still have a lot to learn."

— Author unknown

The view from my window is thought-provoking. I've always tried to learn from experience and by watching others.

From where I sit in my office on the southeast corner of the downtown Center square, I have a front-row seat for many things. Chief among them in frequency is the sheer number of people in cars who don't know how to drive. Or apparently, how to read traffic signs.

I also see a lot of wreckers. Towing services. "Why would I notice that" some may ask. It could be related to my first observation about people I see driving on the square. Or it could be related to experience. And memories. Because body shop paychecks working at Sandlin Chevrolet and Olds, and Surratt and Heimer Body Shop in Mount Pleasant paid my way through college.

Johnny Garner at Sandlin's took a chance on me based on experience gained working the previous summer at Ogner Volkswagen body shop in Canoga Park, California. A memorable summer gig for a 19-year-old, working for my Uncle Bill, the shop manager. And body shops introduced me to the world of wrecker driving. Experience that afforded me a lot more stories worth telling than did painting cars.

In the late '60s, wrecker services were on 24-hour call for

periods of one week at a time. As the newbie at Sandlins, I was quickly tagged "the wrecker driver." Mostly because no one looked forward to taking the wrecker home at night and sleeping close to the phone for the middle of the calls from the police department.

Wrecker driving was also my introduction to jobs where my clientele is people who are not having a good day. Rushing to help someone who has either been involved in a wreck or had car trouble.

Every time I bailed out of bed at 1:00 a.m. and hit the road resulted in a different story.

Like the family, I rescued from the side old roadside park on Highway 67 toward Omaha. Where their big Olds Vista-Cruiser station wagon's transmission had given up the ghost and left them stranded. I arrived and hooked on to the crippled cruiser. Then engineered a man, his wife, their child, and the family dog into the cab. Miraculously, there was still room for me to drive. And by the time I dropped them off at the Holiday Inn, we were all close friends. Almost too close.

Other memories: some still haunt me. It was before the invention of "The Jaws of Life." A time when wrecker drivers were called on to pull mangled doors open or raise crushed car tops. Hopefully to free injured occupants. Not just to aid in the



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

removal of bodies.

Occasionally, there were rewards. Like the time I worked a truck wreck on I-30. An overturned semi with a full load. Of bananas. Green bananas. The job took more than one wrecker service. When the rig was righted and ready to tow, the truck driver announced, "Take some of these bananas. We can't sell them since they've been involved in an accident," he said. "So, take a case. Or two. Or three."

I stacked my bounty in the kitchen that night relishing the thought of fresh bananas. But I failed to factor in one thing. The bananas would get ripe. Every one of them at the same time. Mom made banana pudding and banana bread. We ate bananas on cereal. We ate bananas on ice cream. On toast. On things I would never have thought of eating. We shared bananas with family, friends, neighbors, perfect strangers.

And with any job, there are always the weird and wacky stories. Warped humor, maybe. But they are stories because laughing is better than crying.

The phone rings and in minutes, I'm on my way out to Highway 67 again. No details, just that DPS needs a wrecker. Wee hours of the morning and foggy. I pull up behind the cruiser on the side of the road. Lights flashing. No vehicle in sight. Just the officer waving his red baton flashlight, and the

shaken-up driver sitting in the car.

The trooper pointed out the local funeral home's hearse. Down an embankment, front end in a creek bottom. Barely visible from the road. Wrecker set; I make my way down to the hearse pulling the cable. Winch in freewheel. After slithering up under the vehicle in the damp darkness and securing the cable on the rear axle, I open the driver's door to make sure the transmission is in neutral.

In the glow of my flashlight, the first thing I saw was the last thing one wants to see in the middle of a foggy night. The impact had broken the casket from its mount in the back, propelling it forward, allowing the dearly departed to partially depart the damaged casket.

I jumped back, fell down, and dropped my flashlight. Said things I never let fly in front of my sweet Momma.

Gathering my wits and attempting to get up, I heard heehawing from up the hill. "I forgot to tell you the funeral home is dispatching another hearse to transfer the body," the officer said through his uncontrolled laughter. "As soon as you get that one back up to the highway."

Some things have changed since then. I've learned that wreckers are better and safer. Cars are better and safer. Drivers on the other hand, not so much. That at this age, I still have a lot to learn.

And laughing still beats crying.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attitude concerns

I'm not sure what position or action California Governor Gavin Newsom has taken regarding China and President Xi Jinping, and after reading Mr. Le Blanc's letter of November 29, I still don't. However,

I can assure Mr. Le Blanc that Governor Newsome is not a "fiend" who seeks to "destroy America."

If Mr. Le Blanc wishes to warn us that Governor Newsom's actions regarding China are somehow akin to Chamber-

lain's appeasement of Hitler, he might make more progress with less name-calling and more reliance on reasonable, fact-based arguments. Alas, I'm afraid such open-minded debate no longer has a place in our society.

Mr. Le Blanc's letter exempli-

fies an attitude that infects not only our politics but increasingly our daily lives. This attitude has done more to "destroy America" than any policy of Governor Newsom.

James Saunders
Alpine



Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "What are you excited about for winter break?"



Andrew Alegria: What I'm looking forward to this winter break is spending time with my partner, my parents, and my cat..... Oh, and finding all the Korok Seeds in The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom.



Eric Busby: And I quote... "I look forward to doing nothing, and hopefully that nothing doesn't begin before 3 p.m."



Gregory Tegarden: I'm not ready for the semester to be over, because I love what I do, but I am looking forward to working in the garden. I will also get to sleep in a little, as much as I can these days. My wife and I also get to travel to see both our families.



Isabella Morales: I am excited about not having 8 a.m. classes. Sleeping in is highly underrated.



Rosemary Briseno: I am looking forward to spending time with my family---with my husband and our two sons. We like to play board games while snacking on things like homemade pies, coffee, and hot chocolate. I am also looking forward to reading for pleasure while cuddling with all my furry rescue children.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 8 Big Bend Community Chorale Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Alpine.

Dec. 9 Frontier Christmas, 5-7 p.m. Old West Christmas parade, Christmas cookie contest at all open downtown shops, craft booths at the Jeff Davis County Courthouse, horse-drawn wagon and buggy tours to see Christmas lights, followed by the courthouse tree lighting and a Christmas movie on the lawn. Visit the Fort Davis website for more information.

Dec. 9-11 Marfa Holiday Bazaar, with hot cocoa, snacks, a holiday lights parade, singing from the Marfa Children's Choir, and tree lighting on Friday. Vendors, music, and more on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., and on Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. more shopping, music, and



a pet parade at 3 p.m.

Dec. 10 Big Bend Community Chorale Concert, 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Marfa.

Dec. 12 Friends of the Library, 12 p.m. for a meeting in the AEP multipurpose room at the Alpine Public Library for a discussion on fulfilling their mission of building community, encouraging literacy, and promoting lifelong learning. Everyone is welcome.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more information,

call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

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

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

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

Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.

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

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals, on Monday evenings

at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbc-chorale.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

Late Night Game Night, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101 W. Ave E.

See more at alpineavalanche.com.

Restaurant Guide

\$6 a week gets you a spot in our restaurant guide www.alpineavalanche.com

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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)
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Singing in the Christmas season



Alpine community members sang Christmas carols before the official lighting of the county Christmas tree this past Friday night at the Brewster County Courthouse.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Maggie. Maggie is a 15-year-old Aussie/Rottweiler mix. This girl is looking for a loving retirement home and still has plenty of love to offer. Maggie is overweight but loves short walks to get some fresh air.

If you can offer this Golden Girl a good home, she will show you how healthy those daily walks can be. Maggie gets along well with other dogs and enjoys the company of most people. Meet this happy girl today and consider opening your home to her.

Remember, you can find a unique selection of new, nearly new, and vintage items perfect for

holiday giving from our Thrift Store and Cattery. Thrift shopping is an economical and environmentally friendly way to complete your shopping list this season.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the 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. Mon-



day through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable

pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumane-society.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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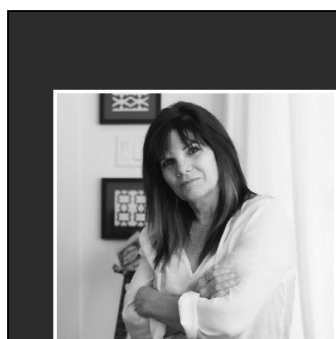
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Best wishes for the holiday season



Pct. 2 County Commissioner Sara Colando spoke to the Alpine community on Friday night at the tree lighting ceremony held at the Brewster County Courthouse.

Photo by Joh Covington

JANIS • FROM 1

After 24 years with TPWD, most recently as the Trans-Pecos District Leader, Janis will serve BRI as the Trans-Pecos Conservation Initiative Coordinator. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked with private landowners on several issues that include game species management, and habitat enrichment via conservation projects, as well as helping landowners to balance ranch operations with their wildlife management goals.

Janis will be working alongside BRI researchers and staff to help im-

plement landscape-level conservation projects for grassland as well as riparian habitats across the region. These projects will include brush control management in existing pronghorn habitats, the restoration of riparian areas by intervening in the restoration of perennial creek flow, as well as pronghorn-friendly fencing.

"I'm excited to be working with West Texas landowners on habitat enhancement projects and helping them reach their goals," said Janis. "Private landowners, and ranchers in particular, are

crucial for healthy wildlife populations in Texas, and we are fortunate to be able to offer several cost-share programs that can assist landowners across the region."

On top of this TPWD grant, BRI is administering several other grants that will also provide for conservation efforts on privately owned land. To facilitate this process, BRI has developed an application portal to apply for these grant resources.

"We are pleased to make it easier for West Texas landowners to access funds that will

help them implement conservation efforts and practices across the Trans-Pecos," said BRI Associate Director of Stewardship Services Billy Tarrant.

The Center for Land Stewardship at BRI provides technical resources for landowners, energy developers, community members, and conservation partners that aid in facilitating cost-share programs to help carry the financial burden of land management techniques that come with the implementation of these natural resource conservation practices.

COUNCIL • FROM 1

gave her report informing the counsel of the status of the September and October revenue and expense report outcomes, "Bottom line, we did underspend based on our revenue collections, which is wonderful because that means we are building our fund balance."

The city was recently approached by a law firm, which is gathering a coalition of cities that have contracts with AEP as legal counsel. The firm is pursuing a reasonable rate case to deter AEP from raising its rates.

Also, according to Antrim, the airport will be seeing some changes in the future due to the possibility of expected grant funds. These funds are planned to be utilized in the software and infrastructure updates for the airport.

This is a Routine Airport Maintenance Plan, or RAMP, 90-10 grant. Usually a 50-50 split, this 90-10 split means that the federal grant would cover 90% and the city would be responsible for 10% of the cost, which the city has already set the funds aside for. "This is a huge investment for the city that we really need to harness and move forward with," said Antrim.

In other news, the council approved and denied several action items during this meeting.

The city council followed the recommendation of the planning and zoning committee regarding the rezoning issue of 401 W. Sul Ross Ave. The property has been the subject of much discussion in recent meetings because the owners hope to rent the property to a local, single-chair, salon owner.

While the council did decide to deny the rezoning of this property from an R-2 to a C-O, they did approve the first reading of an ordinance change that would grant the ability of an R-2 and higher the ability to host this type of small business.

On the subject of zoning, the local zoning map will be getting a major overhaul soon. The planning and zoning committee has been tasked with creating an accurate and user-friendly map of all of the different zones in the area, and the project is well underway.

Finally, the council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the city's 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

In closing some of the council members had closing thoughts for the last meeting of 2023.

Ward 5 City Councilman Rick Stephens thanked everyone for the "right" discussions, and that while many have differing opinions, he believes that they all hold the well-being of Alpine as a priority. Mayor Eaves said, "I do enjoy the discussions. We don't always agree, but it's really all about Alpine. And I appreciate those of you that come to these meetings."

The council has endeavored to make the meetings shorter with the use of stricter time limits and agendas. "It's been a long year, but we did get a lot accomplished. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the City of Alpine and I urge you to continue to be active. This is our last meeting of the year, so I want to wish you a Happy New Year and a Merry Christmas," Rodriguez said.

Serving up warmth

The Alpine Lion's Club served hot chocolate and cookies for the Alpine community at this past Friday's tree lighting in front of the Brewster County Courthouse.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



DOUBLE K • FROM 1

worked side-by-side with her husband in Brewster County for over 30 years. "I believe in small business, I think that is what drives this country, and I'm an entrepreneur, and I just want to continue giving back to the community that I've been a part of all my life," Henington replied.

Marketing is a part of any new business, and like the previous owner, Henington wants to continue using local media such as newspapers and radio along with word of mouth and local networking to get the word out about the business and about her being the new owner. "I hope to

have a social media presence, but that may be something that has to be developed going forward," Henington added.

As for business offerings, flower arrangements are the largest part of the business. Double K offers plants as well as some gifts and currently has Christmas gifts in stock along with beautiful poinsettias for the holiday season.

As for future endeavors, Henington hopes to have a small nursery, where they will be able to offer native plants to the public.

"Jennifer and I both love plants and in my previous business, I

bought and planted a lot of native plants. We had a nursery license, but I never sold any of them, I just gave them away, but we hope to utilize the backyard here at our location to fill our little greenhouse and offer native plant species to the public," Henington remarked. "I just want to make sure before we begin anything new, that the current business model is doing well. I don't want to start anything new until what we are doing now is running smoothly, and I want to make sure that we are delivering a product that people are still happy with."

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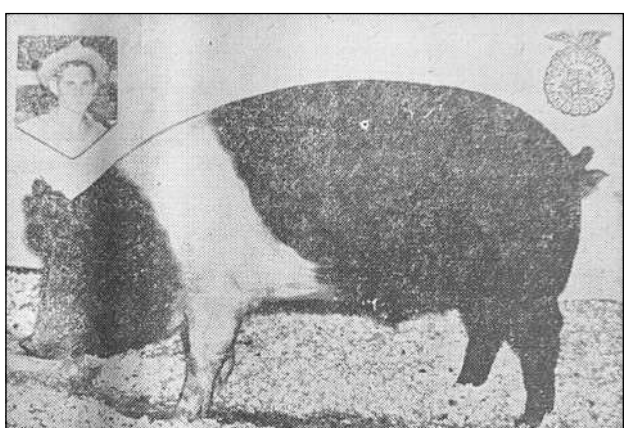
LOOKING BACK

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Alpine Avalanche

December 29, 1950

19-year-old FFA boy, Joe Pecharich Jr., set a new hog price record with his participation in the 1950 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. At \$3.10 per pound, this hog brought his young owner more than \$825.



December 9, 1938

Florence Robinson with 11 young fellow adventurers took to the sea for a 7,700-mile voyage to Tahiti. The crew man a 89-foot brigantine and will be turned over to a copra trader at the end of the trip, one that the Dennis, the voyaging pig, will not see in favor of providing several meals for the crew.

December 5, 1947

The famous Wings Over Jordan Choir will be coming to Alpine this month. The conductor, Gilbert Allen, has added the most excellent background of musical training and experience to the choir.



December 9, 1938

The American Committee for Relief in partnership with the Czechoslovakian Red Cross has been formed to aid Czech refugees and families, like pictured here. These families have been forced to leave behind their homes and possessions while the German army marches into the Sudetenland zones.

2021 cold spell likely the culprit for Texas sage death

Dear Neil: A friend has sage plants in her native plant landscape in Wichita Falls. Big sections of several of them are dying out – have been for some time. They have been watered fairly well, both from rain and irrigation. What might cause them to be dying in parts?

It could be from poor drainage if they have been kept very wet for prolonged periods, but most of the ones I've seen struggling in the northern half of the state the past almost two years have been suffering leftover damage from the really cold spell clear back in February 2021. They were hurt and have just never bounced back.

Dear Neil: Last summer my magnolia tree took a beating from the brutal heat. What precautions can I take so that I won't lose it next time around? I was watering it every other day.

Water is only one key to a magnolia's survival – an important one, I'll grant you, but there are others as well. Don't overlook the importance of regular feedings ahead of times of new growth. Apply an all-nitrogen fertilizer around March 1 and repeat it on May 1. If we

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

have a relatively cool, moist spring (might as well hope), a third application made June 1 would be in order.

One of the most critical things is to be sure there is no type of weedkiller included with the fertilizer. I've seen literally hundreds of beautiful southern magnolias killed or maimed by applications of weed-and-feed lawn fertilizers containing atrazine. While it's labeled for use on St. Augustine turf, atrazine causes magnolias' leaves to turn yellow, roll, fold, and die.

You mentioned watering every other day. For a new tree less than two or three years in your landscape, that would be fine, but as any tree ages, watering less often but more at a time is the key.

Soak the soil deeply enough that it doesn't require additional irrigation for a week or so.

Dear Neil: Our beautiful chrysanthemum went from gorgeous to completely trashed overnight. What is the pest in my photo, and what do I do with the plant and the insects?

Those are spotted cucumber beetles, and you're right about the fact that they ruined your mums. Cut your plants back to within an inch of the soil line (which you should do at the end of the blooming season anyway). Treat the top of the ground with Sevin or Permethrin to kill the existing bugs, then again in the spring if you see any signs of more of the beetles developing. Don't let them get out of hand and treat them before they can feed on the flowers.

Dear Neil: I have never grown purple-heart before, but it did really well for me this year. I am told that it is winter hardy.



Will it come back in the spring? My other wandering Jew plants never have.

It's the one type out of that group that is winter hardy. It will freeze to the ground (already has in some parts of the state), but if you leave it undisturbed, it will sprout out again in the spring. Your planting should get thicker and thicker over that time. It's a great perennial that many of us have fallen in love with.

Dear Neil: Are there any types of tree leaves we shouldn't use in our compost pile? We have primarily elms in our yard, but

I've collected upwards of 20 bags from neighbors and I'm ready to grind them and put them into our compost.

Great work. That's a wonderful way to build up organic matter for your garden, and it also saves valuable landfill space. Some people will tell you that certain species (oaks, pecans, walnuts, cedars, etc.) have oils that are not good for plant growth, but that's vastly overstated in my opinion. Oaks and pecans make up the bulk of our compost at our house, and a big part of our landscape is beneath eastern redcedars

(growing in years of cast needles). The secret is in using these things in moderation and in giving them time to decay before you start planting in them. Your elm leaves will be a great mixer with oak and pecan leaves. Shred all of them to speed the decay and mix in 1 inch of topsoil or mature compost to introduce the microorganisms needed to get it all started. You'll be in great shape.

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

ACROSS

- 1 soreness pain
- 5 former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen
- 6 TXism: "split ___" (laughed hard)
- 7 TXism: "___ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)
- 8 O.J.'s judge
- 9 chili flavorers
- 15 fishing method: "___ line"
- 16 environment scientist
- 19 Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County
- 21 TXism: "risky as ___ a sailor"
- 22 1st US military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin ___
- 27 ___ Star State
- 28 TXism: "___ a hen, she'll cluck"
- 29 TXism: "running around like a chicken with its head ___"
- 30 Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz
- 32 ___ Pleasant, TX (abbr.)
- 33 Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)
- 36 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder
- 37 Irving is the headquarters of this nat'l scouting org.

38 in Victoria County on U.S. 87

- 39 immensity
- 41 stat. for Astro Verlander or Ranger Eovaldi gets whiffs of
- 45 LBJ took ___ of office on Air Force One
- 46 ___ Rio, TX
- 47 Jesus' saying on the cross (Aramaic)
- 48 S-shaped curve

DOWN

- 1 shout of triumph
- 2 gear tooth
- 3 home of the NFL Texans
- 4 this Cowboy was 6' 9" (4 wds.)
- 8 colored eye part
- 9 genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)
- 10 mail place (abbr.)

11 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)

- 12 Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 13 these are big on some Texans
- 14 weary exhale
- 15 triple strong eyewear
- 16 Jackson County seat
- 17 Buchanan Dam
- 23 UT foe for "Red River Shootout"
- 24 El Paso univer. (abbr.)
- 25 lazed about
- 26 Texans look for quality ___ in a nursing home
- 28 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"

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Sports

Bucks beat Van Horn before Denver City shootout

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Fightin' Bucks basketball team played Van Horn in a non-district home game, winning 72-34. On November 28, traveling to the Denver City Tournament, they competed against the Levelland Lobos, losing by a score of 43-49. On Saturday, the Fightin' Bucks played the Liberty Patriots and won 68-60 in the tournament followed by a close loss of 76-77 against the Slaton Tigers later that day.

Head basketball coach for the Bucks, Aaron Hardwick shared after the Van Horn game, "It was good to have an early home game this year after a season last year where we did not have a home game until mid to late December. We played well and did some good things offensively and defensively against Van Horn. I still feel like we haven't hit our stride yet, but it's early and we understand this season is a marathon, not a sprint."

Hardwick believed that the Denver City Shootout would be an opportunity



Zane Wash defends the net during the Bucks first home game against Van Horn.

Photo by Joh Covington

for the team to grow as a ball club, and the wins and narrow losses definitely revealed growth. In the first challenge of the competition, against Levelland, the Bucks fell short by six points, losing 43-49.

"As you know we came up short to Levelland, a good upstart pro-

gram and a team who are well-coached. We struggled to get into any offensive rhythm due to some things they threw at us defensively. Missed lay-ups, fouls, and turnovers also hurt us, but we make no excuses, and we will be better moving forward," said Hardwick. In the next game with

Liberty, the Fightin' Bucks struck hard and fast in offense and defense. Winning the game 68-60, the Bucks would take that energy into the last game of the tournament.

According to Hardwick, tournaments are good for kids because they afford another op-

portunity to see if the team has learned from the previous game. Currently, the Bucks have four wins under their belt and two losses. "We can't play for the tournament championship anymore, so the next challenge is to win the next two ball games in order to play for consolation,

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL
Dec. 8 San Elizario @ Alpine Gold
 4:30 p.m. JV 6 p.m. Varsity 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 12 Greenwood @ Alpine Gold
 6:30 p.m. JV 5 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.
Dec. 14-16 Sanderson Tournament
 TBD

LADYBUCKS BASKETBALL
Dec. 8-10 Andrews
 Tournament Varsity TBD
Dec. 12 Alpine vs Presidio JV 5 p.m.
 Varsity 6:30 p.m.

which would be a huge accomplishment for a tournament such as this," Hardwick said.

On Tuesday, the Bucks were in Fort Hancock, to take on the Mustangs. Alpine would defeat the Mustangs 77-42. Before the game, Hardwick said, "Ft. Hancock will be a challenge. They are very scrappy and tough, especially at home. We are looking forward to going on the road and competing against them."

Tomorrow, the Fightin' Bucks will face the San Elizario Eagles in a non-district home game at 7:30 p.m. followed by their next home game on December 12 against the Greenwood Rangers.



Novah Carasco steals the ball during the Lady Bucks Home game against Van Horn.

Photo by Joh Covington

Lady Bucks win first home game

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Lady Bucks played their first home game against the Van Horn Eagles last Tuesday. In the non-district game, the Lady Bucks came out on top 57-29.

Head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks, Christopher Virdell said, "Against Van Horn, we were able to work our transition game. We were focused on rebounding and quick outlets to push the ball during practice, and I think we did that excellently."

And indeed, they did, with high scores in each quarter. The Lady Bucks outshot the Eagles in the first quarter 11-7, the second 27-7, the third 7-6,

and 12-9 in the fourth. "We really want to score off of transition and keep the game as fast-paced as possible. I was able to get all the girls quality playing time and each one stepped up to the challenge. With a new and young team finding cohesiveness takes time with lots of playing, and it was nice to see the girls starting to feel comfortable with each other and seeing that trust on the floor," said Virdell. "I was super excited about their play and proud of the growth they continue to show. The overall focus of the program is to compete at all times. I believe the girls are finding that

See LADYBUCKS • 9

Lady Lobos clinch conference opener

In a battle to the end, the Sul Ross Lady Lobos eeked out a win against the University of the Ozarks Eagles in last Thursday's conference match-up at the Pete P. Gallego Center. The Lady Lobos defeated the Eagles 82-73.

Sul Ross would start the contest with a 9-0 run on the Eagles with a series of layups by Victoria Aguayo, Morgan Peralez, and Marley Rokas. Cheyenne Bonilla would top this off with a three-pointer at just under seven minutes into the first quarter.

About a third of the way into the second quarter Sul Ross was able to keep the lead over the Eagles but lost it until Aguayo hit a layup with around five and half minutes left in the quarter. The Lady Lobos would keep the lead



Cheyenne Bonilla takes her shot at the free-throw line after being fouled on her way to the basket during last Thursday evening's contest against the University of the Ozarks.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

for the remainder of the game.

The contest would see double points on

the board from Rokas with 21, Peralez with 16, Aguayo with 15, and 13 from Bonilla.

Bonilla and Kayley Diaz were the only two three-

See LADY LOBOS • 9

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

NAIDA MORRIS

Sophomore shooting guard, has averaged 50% shooting, 64% from the free throw line, 33 total points while pulling in 15 rebounds, 5 steals, 1 block, and 2 assist this past week. Naida is a versatile player on both sides of the floor and runs the 3 spot for the Lady Bucks.

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Hoops masters

Several of the Sul Ross State University men's basketball team received their letter jackets last Thursday evening during the half-time portion of the women's contest against the University of the Ozarks at the Pete P. Gallego Center.

Photos by Kara Gerbert



Five Sul Ross women athletes were on hand to receive their letter jackets Thursday evening during a half-time ceremony at the Lobo men's basketball game. Receiving jackets were Courtney Cavallin, Caitlyn Corley, Marley Rokas, Kayley Diaz, and Brylee Sweeten.

LADY LOBOS • FROM 8

point goals of the game, with Diaz coming fresh off the bench in the third quarter to hit a mid-range jump shot at the six-minute mark followed by her three-pointer a minute later.

The team showed cohesion coming into the fourth quarter of the game. Bonilla would score six more points for her total on the evening along with Peralez's four. Rokas would add three more points to the board with a free-throw and a jumper while Aguayo and Ariana Escalante would score two a piece.

Head coach EJ Smith

had this to say, "Our players played hard and shot the ball well. My team shot the ball 50% from the floor and we were able to grab 43 rebounds and 25 assists as a team. I am very happy with our performance, but we need to clean up a few things. Rokas, Aguayo, and Peralez shot over 50% from the floor scoring 21, 15, and 16 points respectively. My guard Victoria had 10 rebounds alone on the night and Bonilla handled the ball well and added six more to that total. Diaz sparked coming off the bench

with her three-point shot along with making all of her free throws and layups. It was a great team effort."

Sul Ross now sits at 3-4 on the season after facing UT Dallas on Saturday. The ladies would fall just short of victory in Saturday's contest, falling 60-62 to the Comets.

Next up for the Lady Lobos, they follow the men's team to Abilene to take on McMurry University tonight at 5:30 p.m. followed by an afternoon game versus Hardin-Simmons at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

every day and it will lead to great floor chemistry as well as team chemistry."

During this game, Novah Carrasco was the high scorer, reeling in 20 points and a total of 17 rebounds. Each Lady Buck played a strong game, with Nadia Morris and Karolina Castillo adding 14 and 10 points respectively to the team's 57-point total.

The Lady Bucks then traveled to the Denver City tournament, first facing the Midland Classical Knights, and falling short 31-49.

"The Midland Classical game came down to turnovers in the second and third quarters for us. We played evenly matched with them throughout the game stat-wise and the game was close. We had to adjust in the mid-quarters defensively and run man-to-man, something we have not played much of this year yet, and I was very pleased with the girls' coachability. That game led to us adjusting our defensive scheme for the rest of the tournament, playing against Monahans and Morton," Virdell said.

In the Monahans game, the Lady Bucks kept it

close, being outshot in the first quarter 10-11, in the second 20-17, winning the third 20-17, and losing the fourth quarter by 10-13.

"The Denver City tournament was a great gauge for us with quality competition. We were able to work on everything and also learned to adjust on the fly. Against Marathon, that was our first game, and you could see it. A double overtime game that came down to missed opportunities and free throw percentage," said Virdell.

During the Marathon game Novah Carrasco, the senior point guard injured her ankle, and according to Virdell that made them have to adjust their offense very quickly. "It was a great first game for us and allowed me to situate the girls in positions for upcoming games," Virdell said.

According to Virdell, through all these games, the girls just compete regardless of the opponent, score, or game situation. And that they continue to work hard every day, get better every day, and have bought into each other.

"As long as there is growth there is progress and with progress comes

success. We learn from every game, win or lose, and I am super proud of these young ladies," said Virdell.

On Tuesday, the Lady Bucks faced Fort Hancock in a non-district away game, where they fell 34-41 to the Mustangs.

Before the game, Virdell said, "Fort Hancock will be a tough match for us. They have one of the best players in West Texas playing for them. We will game plan to stop her and run the court. They like to run just like us, so it could possibly turn into a track meet. The girls will see a lot of rotation play in this game."

Today, the Lady Bucks enter another tournament, first facing Denver City and then Bowie. The team will then begin their first district games later this month, starting with Presidio on December 12.



Parham Announces Candidacy for District Court Judge

My name is Bill Parham and I formally announce my candidacy to be the 394th District Court Judge. I am currently the First Assistant/Border Prosecutor for the 83rd District Attorney's Office in Alpine. I have over 6 year's experience as a prosecutor in Brewster, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Pecos Counties. As District Judge, I will preside over the same three counties, Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio, plus Culberson and Hudspeth Counties. I am a full-time prosecutor and I ask for your vote to be the full-time District Judge.

I am married to my lovely wife Denna and together we have four children and ten grandchildren. We live in Alpine where I am also a member of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Texas – Alpine Frontier Lodge 766.

I have been a full-time practicing Texas lawyer for over 33 years. I graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston. My legal career consists of 15 years in private practice in criminal law, criminal appellate law, family law, probate law and, guardianship law. I am certified from Texas Tech University/Lubbock County in mediation and family law mediation. I have over 18 years' experience as a full-time prosecutor in criminal law and criminal appellate law.

I am currently a member of the Child Protection Law, Family Law, and Criminal Justice Sections of the State Bar of Texas. In addition, I have been an instructor at Angelina College where I taught Family Law, Ethics, and Criminal Law. I am also an instructor for the Sul Ross State University Police Academy where I teach Texas Penal Law, Texas Criminal Procedure, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Court Procedures, and U.S & Texas Constitution.

My entire legal career has been in Texas Law which serves to enhance my experiences and qualifications to be a Texas District Court Judge.

As District Judge, I will be committed to establishing and maintaining a just and fair court where litigants/defendants are treated with respect, and the same is expected of them for one another, opposing lawyers, and the court staff. I will be a full-time District Judge.

Over the course of the next several weeks, I will be knocking on doors and holding meet and greets. Please take the opportunity to share your concerns and ask questions.

Lastly, I ask: **MAY I HAVE YOUR VOTE FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE?**
May God Bless Texas.

Bill Parham
BILL PARHAM
 billparhamfordistrictjudge@gmail.com

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SENIOR Spotlight JACE CANABA

In what activities did you participate in high school?
 I participated in basketball, baseball, the National Honor Society, Student Advisory, and Leadership Council.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
 Coach Hardwick because he pushes me to be the best version of

myself and he has my back on and off the court.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
 My favorite moment was winning bi-district in basketball with my brother in my sophomore year.

What are your plans after high school?
 I plan to go to college and play basketball.

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EXHIBIT C-3			
TERLINGUA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT			
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES			
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023			
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,753,412	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,754,512
5800 State Program Revenues	975,442	158	975,600
5900 Federal Program Revenues	228,837	477,917	706,754
5020 Total Revenues	<u>2,957,691</u>	<u>479,175</u>	<u>3,436,866</u>
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	924,692	317,429	1,242,121
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	67,466	-	67,466
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	9,039	613	9,652
0021 Instructional Leadership	11,446	-	11,446
0023 School Leadership	132,800	-	132,800
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	96,326	-	96,326
0033 Health Services	1,364	-	1,364
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	87,346	-	87,346
0035 Food Services	19,231	-	19,231
0036 Extracurricular Activities	112,239	3,824	116,063
0041 General Administration	305,019	-	305,019
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	272,746	-	272,746
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	6,060	-	6,060
0053 Data Processing Services	45,022	-	45,022
Capital Outlay:			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	418,944	160,033	578,977
Intergovernmental:			
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	21,450	-	21,450
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	33,205	-	33,205
6030 Total Expenditures	<u>2,564,395</u>	<u>481,899</u>	<u>3,046,294</u>
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	393,296	(2,724)	390,572
0100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	2,436,427	16,825	2,453,252
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	<u>\$ 2,829,723</u>	<u>\$ 14,101</u>	<u>\$ 2,843,824</u>

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eleanor Margaret Hay Foster, Deceased, were issued on October 24, 2023, in Cause No. PR03136, pending in Brewster County, Texas, to Mark Foster. All claims can be submitted to Mr. Foster at 614 Mountainside Drive, Alpine, Texas, 798830.



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- Gerente de Custodia- \$3,335.23 Mensual
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Interested persons are invited to comment on the tower and antennae placement and related equipment shelters at the wireless telecommunications facility proposed to be constructed at: **N 30 21' 16.39"/W 103 41' 22.67"**, 2601 FM 1703, Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, with respect to impacts on historic properties located at or near this facility, if any. The facility will consist of a **36' MP**. Comments regarding potential effects to historic properties should be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice by mail to White Buffalo Environmental, Inc., 7707 East 111 th St., Suite 101, Tulsa, OK 74133, or by calling (918)660-0999. Questions about this facility or this notice may also be directed to that address or phone number. This notice is provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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Devotional Page

God has spoken

BY LANA COVINGTON
First Christian Church of Alpine

Hebrews 1:1 – 2 tells us, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds." Perhaps the most important part of the verse is at the beginning, "God spoke." It is pretty amazing that the God who created the universe, including humans, speaks to His creation. His desire to speak indicates that He wants to have a relationship with people. In its simplest form, a covenant was an agreement that those who entered into the covenant would be His people, and He would be their God. The people who entered into the old covenants, however, were unfaithful.

In these last days, however, according to the author of Hebrews, God has spoken by a Son, and that is a reference to God's only Son, Jesus Christ. In John 1:1, Jesus is the Word, and He was with God, and He is God. Jesus is the way God spoke to those in the First Century and still speaks to us in the 21st Century. Jesus introduced a new covenant, available to all people who would believe in Him. The Old Covenant was based on the law, but the New Covenant is based on grace. Those who believe in Jesus Christ enter into the New Covenant and are promised forgiveness and eternal life.

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The readers of Hebrews are not specifically identified, but there are indications that they were Jews who had converted to Christianity. They were experiencing hardships, including persecution, and it appears they were thinking about abandoning their faith in Jesus and returning to Judaism. The purpose of the Book of Hebrews was and is to encourage them and us to remain faithful to Jesus by showing He is superior to angels, prophets, and priests. Hebrews 2:8 encouraged readers to "pay greater attention to what we have heard so that we do not drift away from it."

"Drifting away" may be a good way to describe the decline in the importance of Christianity in our nation. Instead of this happening in a culture of hardship and persecution, it is happening in a nation in which freedom of religion is guaranteed, and, for the most part, people live a life of abundance. Perhaps we have not understood that Jesus has told us to take up our cross daily and follow Him, which requires a change of heart and transformation into His likeness. Paul calls it presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. The good news is that even when we have drifted away, Jesus is still faithful. When Jesus was transfigured, the disciples Peter, James, and John heard a voice say, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas, God is still speaking to us through His Son. Are we listening? Are we following?

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Texas Trash Pie

For someone who writes about food, the holidays are always the best time of the year. Parties and gatherings galore are all a part of the festivities and most of the time these get-togethers involve some sort of food. While many of these focus on appetizers and finger foods, the more legit holiday gatherings like Christmas always bring out savory delights and scrumptious desserts.

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we can concentrate on all of the goodies for our Christmas table. One such dessert, that while not traditional holiday fare, that should be on everyone's table this season is Texas Trash Pie. Although the name leaves something to be desired, it is the dessert world's "relative" to our local burrito joint's Trash



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

Can burrito.

While most pies have a main ingredient with maybe some spices and binders to hold it all together, this pie has a little bit of everything. Chocolate, check, coconut, check, toffee, check, coconut, check, pretzels, check, and even sweetened condensed milk. Those ingredients pretty much cover the gambit where ingredients are concerned. There's likely not another pie out there

with as many varied ingredients.

This pie is also delicious, although if you're looking for something that isn't very sweet, best to steer away from this one. It hits the top of the scale of sweetness, but it also rises to the top where texture is concerned.

Many pies, when one thinks about texture fall into a couple of categories. First, if we're talking about something such as chocolate pie or key lime pie, those pies have a smooth, velvety texture to them. If fruit pies are what you think of when you think about pies, not only do these have a velvety filling, but they add in the added texture of the fruit they're made of. Peach, cherry, blueberry, and apple come to mind as pies with texture. Let's not forget pecan pies ei-



Texas Trash Pie

Photo by Kara Gerbert

ther. While their texture is coarser than a traditional fruit pie, their sweet filling falls right in line with the description of the others.

This Texas Trash Pie is unlike any of those mentioned above. Instead, it has a unique texture to it. Not quite chewy, but not smooth and velvety or crumbly as a cake would be. Its flavor and texture are as unique as its name, and it is guaranteed to leave your tastebuds happy.

So, if you're looking to try something different this holiday season that is sure to please anyone with a sweet tooth, look no further than this unique pie with a taste as big as the state it's named after.

Texas Trash Pie

Note Original recipe calls for a 9" deep dish frozen pie crust, but I substituted that for a 10" graham cracker crust.*

Ingredients:
1 10" graham cracker pie crust or chocolate pie crust
1 cup chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Crush pretzels and crackers

Heat butter in a microwave-safe bowl until melted.

Combine all the ingredients in a large

1 cup crushed pretzels
1 cup crushed graham crackers
1 c shredded coconut
1 cup pecan pieces
1 cup caramel or toffee bits (Heath bar)
1 stick unsalted butter
1 can sweetened condensed milk.

bowl and mix until well blended.

Pour or spoon into the pie crust and bake for 35 minutes or until the pie is set or golden brown on top.

Let cool for 30 minutes before serving.

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