

Public defender's office finds new location

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 12. After a long and difficult search, the Far West Texas public defender's office has found a new location for their offices. They have signed a lease for the building located at 206 Avenue E. This update comes after the commissioner's court had extended their ability to stay in the county-owned building at 205 N. 7th Street until February. They are scheduled to move into the new location on January 8. The office recently celebrated its anniversary, as they started in a county office on December 15, 2017.

James McDermott, from the public defender's office, said, "We took 30 cases that day for the public defender's office, I had nothing,

See COURT • 6

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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.



Fine art collection now available in Marathon

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Mainstreet in Marathon now boasts a gallery of fine art. The V6 Gallery, part of the Gage Properties owned by J.P. Bryan, will display fine art by local as well as other Western artists. Many of the offerings on display are by artists such as those exhibited in the annual Trappings of Texas display at the Museum of Big Bend.

"This new fine art

gallery is dedicated to showcasing the captivating beauty of the Big Bend region through the masterful works of esteemed Texas artists," said Carol Peterson, general manager of the Gage Hotel.

Along with paintings by regional artists such as Lindy Cook Severns of Fort Davis and Marathon artist E. Dan Klepper, there are also wildlife sculptures by William Carrington.

See ART • 6



Art aficionados and featured artists alike gathered in the new V6 Fine Art Gallery, located on the main street next to the V6 Collection in Marathon during its grand opening on December 2.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

A parade of Christmas smiles



Riding in an antique fire engine, Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim, Mayor Catherine Eaves, and Ruben Hernandez help lead the Christmas Parade down Holland Avenue on Saturday night.

Photo by Joh Covington

Tough enough to win it all

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Most spectacularly, Ky Hamilton, a former Sul Ross State University rodeo team member and a native of Mackay, Australia, took the literal "bull by the horns" and won it all at this year's Wrangler NFR Finals in Las Vegas. Not only is he the first Australian to win a PRCA Bull Riding Championship, but he also won the average, surpassing Stetson Wright's high money total from last year by more than \$3,000, and was the Top Gun high money winner, earning more than any other competitor at this year's finals.

As he celebrates his

trifecta win, things could have ended much differently for the cowboy. And to say that his fourth trip to the NFR Finals was full of drama for the Aussie would be an understatement.

After completing rides in the first four rounds of the competition, and winning rounds one and four, Hamilton climbed aboard Honeycutt Rodeo's "Bales Hay's MAGA" in round five only to be bucked off, knocked unconscious, and transported out of the arena on a stretcher headed to University Medical Center Trauma Center in Las Vegas for evaluation.

See HAMILTON • 6



Ky Hamilton sits aboard "Alberta Prime Devil's Advocate" in Round 7 during the Wrangler NFR Finals last Wednesday night.

Photo courtesy of Roseanna Sales

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OBITUARIES

Patricia Renfroe Miller

Patricia Ann Renfroe Miller passed away peacefully, one month after her 91st birthday, surrounded by her children on December 9, in Houston, Texas. Patricia was born on November 9, 1932, in Corpus Christi to Lela (Gist) and Grover Cleveland Renfroe. The youngest of four girls, Patricia grew up in "the Valley" and graduated from Pearsall High School, where she was the drum major of her high school band and was voted "May Queen."

Patricia attended and graduated from Texas State College for Women (now TWU) in Denton. While she was a student there, she went on a blind date and met "the cutest, funniest man she ever knew", Kimball Miller, who was a student at Texas A&M. After her graduation, in 1952, Patricia taught school in Austin and was a roommate of Ann Richards (who would become the governor of Texas) for a year. Confident and with a spirit of adventure, Patricia accepted a position in San Jose, Costa Rica to teach English at the Lincoln School. This experience opened up the world for her and expanded her love of the Spanish language and all things Latin. Although separated by distance, Patricia and Kimball cor-



responded frequently.

After returning to the United States and settling down, she agreed to marry Kimball who had left the Air Force to become a commercial pilot for Braniff Airways (Braniff International Airline). Patricia and Kimball married in Austin on June 15, 1957. Their honeymoon was a two-week-long driving adventure in an MG convertible traveling to Mexico City and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Patricia and Kimball lived the jet-set life of an airline pilot. Their three children, Michele, Keesey, and Drew, were born while they lived in Irving. After 17 years, Kimball retired medically from Braniff and he began a new career in Commercial Real Estate in Dallas. Far west Texas beckoned them to begin a completely new life. In 1974, the family moved to Ft. Davis, where Kimball was born and raised. Patricia, once again, began teaching Junior and High School English and Spanish. While teaching Spanish, Patricia twice took students to Spain

for six weeks. She also took a group to Chihuahua, Mexico. For several years, Patricia directed students in many successful UIL One Act Play competitions and other literary UIL events for many years. Her favorite compliment to give those in the cast was "That was great, now do it again". Along with teaching, and being a confirmed bibliophile, Patricia opened El Cerro Bookstore and Antiques. She specialized in Southwestern and Texana books, fine jewelry, and antique furniture, especially early Mennonite pieces from Mexico. Patricia was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Davis for almost 50 years. After selling the bookstore, Patricia retired from teaching in 1994. Her retirement enabled her and Kimball to travel more. Both thoroughly enjoyed having their grandchildren visit them in Fort Davis every summer. Patricia and Kimball visited both their sons in Germany, many times, and in Italy. Patricia was a proud member and former Regent of the Paisano chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), and a board member of Casa Hogar Orphanage in Ojinaga. For many years Patricia

was also a member of the West of the Pecos Cattlewomen. Patricia was an amazing example of perseverance, grace, faith, and love of family. The greatest gift she gave her children was the gift of each other.


Patricia was preceded in death by Kimball, her husband of 64 years, her parents, and her three sisters, Geraldine (Dottie) Martin, Eva Renfroe Thomas (BF), and June Renfroe McIntyre (Bill). She is survived by her three children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Daughter, Patricia Michele Miller Browning (Brad) and their children Ben (Amber), Whitney (Michael Repking), and Sarah (Bryan Parker); son Keesey Renfroe Miller (Sandra) and their children Annika, Stella, and Faith; son Andrew Kimball Miller (Heidi) and their children Ren, Kate, and Ada. Great-grandchildren include Everett Browning, William, Madelyn, Lila and Henry Repking, Oliver, Charlie and Emily Parker. Patricia is also survived by two nieces, a nephew, numerous "Renfroe" great nieces and nephews, and many Miller cousins.

Patricia and Kimball were only able to remain in their home for the last five years with support directed by a former

student and friend, Sylvestra Salcido, and her family, Ruby and Lety Salcido, Adel Ramos, and more recently Erica Barragan. Loving medical care was provided by Dr. James Lueke. Many Miller cousins visited her frequently. Being home in Fort Davis provided comfort in a way that nowhere else could have. Many thanks to all of you and the community of Fort Davis!

A memorial service and burial will take place

at 1:30 p.m., March 16, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Davis with interment to follow at Hillcrest Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Casa Hogar Orphanage in Ojinaga, Mexico (P.O.Box 305, Alpine, TX 79831), the Fort Davis Higher Education Foundation (PO Box 1339, Fort Davis, Texas 79734), or the Parkinson's Foundation (200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, Florida 33131).



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Performing arts comes to Marathon

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

In partnership with the Marathon Public Library, Marathon ISD, and the Missoula Children's Theatre they brought a theatre production to the small community. Students from the local school

auditioned for parts in the stage production, rehearsed, and even participated in acting workshops to prepare for the community performance.

"Marathon Public Library was excited to bring back Missoula Children's Theatre for a

seventh tour to our community. Without this program, the students in our community would not have the opportunity to experience performing arts. We are grateful to Marathon ISD for being accommodating with their school week allowing every student to participate in this life-changing program," said Erin Albright, Marathon Public Library board president.

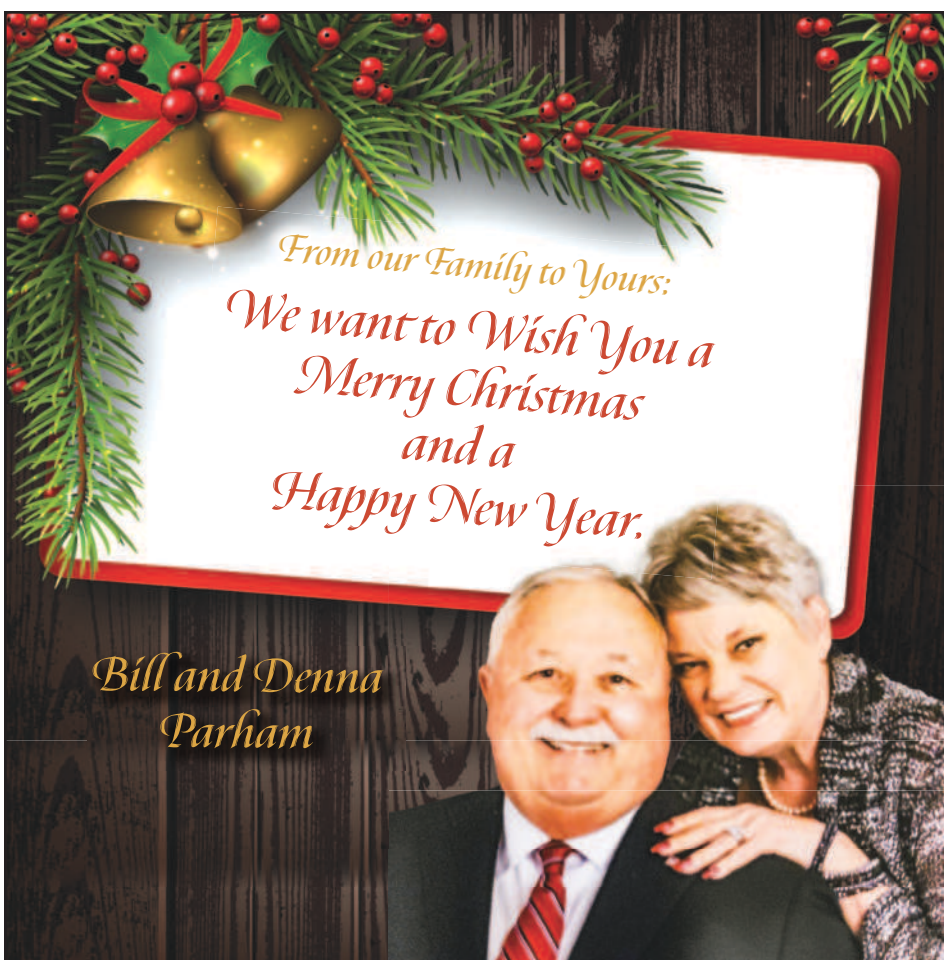
The Missoula Children's Theatre allows students from kindergarten through 12th grade to participate in and experience the performing arts.

The production was titled "Betty Lou and the Country Beast" which

is a country western adaptation of Beauty and the Beast. Local students took on the roles of their characters all while building life skills that included teamwork, confidence building, and effective communication. Funding for the program was made possible by the Union Pacific Foundation.



Children from Marathon participate in the Missoula Children's Theatre in a production entitled "Beauty Lou and the Country Beast."



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Paisano Chapter of the DAR donates to the Lobo Pantry

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Paisano Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently donated food and other items to the Sul Ross Lobo Pantry as part of one of its many service projects. Items from the Lobo Pantry are distributed to students with food insecurity.

Items such as canned goods, instant soup, peanut butter, and mon-

etary donations were presented recently to Katy Williams, the director of Civic Engagement Assistance at Sul Ross. A junior member of DAR from the Paisano Chapter, Muriel Cotman presented the donations. Cotman graduated last week from Sul Ross as a music major.

The DAR is a non-profit and non-political women's organization that focuses on historic preservation, education, and patriotism.



Katy Williams accepts a check from Muriel Cotman as part of a donation to the Sul Ross Lobo Pantry from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Paisano Chapter.

Davis Mountains State Park under new leadership

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Davis Mountains State Park (DMSP), located just northwest of Fort Davis is under the new leadership of Diego Aragon, who is the new park superintendent. Aragon, previously at Choke Canyon State Park took over on October 1.

In the last few years, DMSP has been undergoing renovations in several areas, most notably the Indian Lodge and Black Bear Restaurant. The lodge itself is a full-service hotel boasting 39 rooms as well as a meeting room. The lodge also has a pool, while the restaurant was open for limited hours. As part of the ongoing upgrades and renovations, recruitment and hiring are at the top of the list for Aragon. "There are several positions currently open at the restaurant and the lodge and both will soon be fully operational, with the restaurant providing full-service dining for all meals," Aragon said.

Aragon feels that these improvements to lodging and dining will improve visitation to the park.

"With our upgrades and hiring new staff, these efforts and strategies I feel will greatly improve visitation. Our goal of having consistent, full lodging and dining availability without having to minimize operations due to lack of staff will be an asset," Aragon added.

Aragon says that the best thing about working at DMSP so far is the staff. "The staff here is great. They have welcomed me wholeheartedly," Aragon replied.

Although renovations are still currently ongoing, the park is still open to camping, hiking, and mountain biking. It is also an excellent birding site and also allows for horseback riding, with 11 miles of trails designated for the avid equestrian.

The Indian Lodge and the Black Bear Restaurant are scheduled to be reopened sometime in January 2024.

Christmas Past

Visitors from Christmas past walked the main street in Fort Davis during their Christmas Parade recently. The Union soldiers in their warm wool coats passed out tiny wagons from the fort.

Photo by Joh Covington



Forever homes for half price

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Christmas time is commercialized as a time of happiness and good cheer, but for an animal shelter, and those four-legged souls who are stuck there that is not always the case. The holidays, and December in particular see shelters across the country extra full of dogs and cats in need of a loving, forever home, and you can make their dream of a permanent home come true for half price.

The Alpine Animal Shelter offers adoptions of cats and dogs at a normal price of \$100 per animal. This adoption cost includes a spayed or neutered animal, all vaccinations, a microchip, heartworm testing for dogs, and feline leukemia testing for cats. For anyone who wants to make a difference in a pet's life this December, the Alpine shelter is offering adoptions at half price through December 31.

The local shelter sees on average throughout a calendar year about a



"Buddah", the mascot for the Alpine Animal Shelter glares approval at the camera as Charles Fox holds "Boba" and Vanessa Soto holds "Greenly" as they pose in front of the Christmas tree at the Alpine Animal Shelter. "Boba" and "Greenly" are anxiously awaiting adoption into a new forever home.

50% split between animal adoptions and transports but would like to see more adoptions. "We do a lot of work with Grand Companions in Fort Davis, and we've transported animals to rescue facilities in Oregon and Seattle, but these

aren't always an option. It is difficult to find people to transport animals and it's expensive," said Jennifer

Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor for the City of Alpine.

Stewart said that during the holidays shelters are usually shorthanded, so that makes the adoption of an animal better for all involved at this time. "Holidays are hard on those who work in the shelters as they usually end up doing double the work because there are fewer people to help out since there are usually more animals at this time of year stuck in shelters. It not only becomes additional work but it's heartbreaking to see these animals not be able to spend time with a loving family."

"An adoption can fulfill the need of one less animal in a shelter and that animal gains the benefit of a loving forever home. There is no better time than right now to adopt a pet. Make your and your new pet's holiday wishes come true."

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AISD grant supplies teachers with new technology

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Earlier in the year, the Alpine Independent School District (AISD) received a \$70,000 grant from the Permian Basin Area Foundation to be used towards technology for the district. This grant funding, when added to district instructional

material funds, allowed AISD to purchase new laptops for every teacher, counselor, and attendance clerk in the district.

These new laptops replace the current laptops that are six or more years old and are constantly being updated and refurbished and were presented to the teachers and staff on December 8.

National Park announces concession services

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Big Bend National Park announced last Wednesday that a new concession service has been selected to serve visitors for lodging, food and beverages, fuel, retail, the RV parks, and other visitor services. A new 15-year contract was signed with Casa Grande Hospitality, LLC, a subsidiary of Aramark. Services from the concession servicer will begin

July 1, 2024. Aramark, the incumbent operator has provided services for Big Bend since it purchased Forever Resorts in 2022.

Acting Park Superintendent Kendell Thompson said, "We look forward to a successful relationship with Casa Grande Hospitality. They are a critical partner with the National Park Service in providing essential amenities for our half-million annual visitors."

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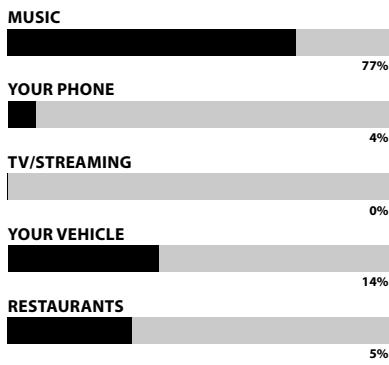
Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHICH OF THESE WOULD BE THE HARDEST TO LIVE WITHOUT?

RESULTS



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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LETTERS

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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.



A mission statement purposely applied

As the sun sets on another year at Sul Ross State University, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements and transformative experiences that have characterized our campus community. Reflecting on the past year, and indeed the last 18 months since I arrived, I find myself compelled to celebrate the remarkable milestones that have defined our journey at SRSU.



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ
Sul Ross president

In the face of challenges, our students, faculty, and staff continue to exhibit remarkable determination, adapting swiftly to the evolving landscape of education. Whether in-person or through virtual means, our commitment to student success has remained steadfast.

If you've not read our mission statement, or it's been a while since you've heard it, I want to remind you: "Sul Ross State University offers

life-changing opportunities by delivering quality undergraduate and graduate education. We foster critical thinking, creativity, diversity, and research, empowering our students to excel beyond the frontiers of what is possible. We are a Hispanic-serving public institution for the residents of the U.S./Mexico borderlands, Southwest Texas region, and beyond."

There are three phrases in our mission statement that often stand out.

"Life-changing." We offer a future to our students that they and their families may never even have imagined. Many of them come from low-income families and are the first to ever attend college or even travel so far from home. They come to Sul Ross and find that they have a chance to change the trajectory of their lives and build something that will

last for generations.

"Empowering." When our students recognize that the power to succeed lies within them, and always has, it is a sight to behold. When they find their light and understand the power of a solid education and a university degree, and what it means in their own lives, it is inspiring, and a powerful reminder of what Sul Ross means to so many people.

"Beyond the frontiers." We call ourselves "The Frontier University of Texas" not only because of our location but because of what it means to believe in possibilities. It's a great big world out there and the opportunities for our graduates are vast, even if they're unknown. Sul Ross State is an institution for what is knowable and we're here to provide a solid foundation, a place for lift-off.

Our faculty and staff continue to lead by example through unwavering support for our students. Their dedication to

mentoring and guiding the next generation of leaders has been instrumental in shaping a transformative educational experience at SRSU.

Beyond the confines of the classroom, our campus has been a hub of creativity and collaboration. Our students have excelled in various extracurricular activities, showcasing their talents in athletics, arts, and community service.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of every member of the SRSU family—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and emerged stronger and more united than ever before.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to making 2023 a resounding success. As we continue our journey of excellence, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to learning, growth, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Only one person texts me that late

"A sister is someone who knows everything about you and loves you anyway."

— Author unknown

It was just a few days ago. November 14. 11:04 p.m. "Ding." A late-night text.

My bedtime routine is ... well, routine. With the best of intentions, I plan to be sound asleep by 10:00. When around 11:00, I'm reading, cleaning house, or sometimes simply struggling to improve my guitar skills. I know I will be midnight getting in bed. Again.

Only one person texts me that late. My baby sister, Sylvia.

"What are you doing," her message inquired. That's her cue for me to call. Sylvia already knows I'm reading, cleaning the house, or struggling to improve my guitar skills.

"Hello," she always said with that melodic tone of voice. Her clocks were chiming in the background. She had a wall of them. Some on tables. Some on shelves. They made her happy. Most days, Sylvia was a happy camper any time of the day. Especially if she'd been working on crossword puzzles or making something good to eat. "Made some of mom's pimento cheese today. You should be here."

Thinking about eating anything my youngest sister prepared in her kitchen made me wish I were there. Mom's pimento cheese. Kentucky Snappy Cheese. A cheese sandwich. Anything.

November 16. 3:26 p.m. "Ding."

"I had a Reuben at the Anvil."

"I'm jealous," I replied. "So, you went to Pittsburg today? Are you moved in at Mount Pleasant?"

Sylvia was in the middle of a move from Longview, her home for the last 30 years or so. She was moving to Mount Pleasant where my sisters and I grew up and graduated from high school. I'm the oldest, Sylvia; the youngest. Leslie fits somewhere there in the middle.

Mom always said she didn't feel old until all of her children were in their 40s. When Sylvia turned 70 earlier this year, I wondered how Mom might have felt when all of her children were in their 70s. We lost Mom on December 10, thirteen years ago.

"Not yet" Sylvia responded about the move. "It will be a slow process."

My sisters and I talked frequently at times, and infrequently at others. Sometimes about nothing in particular, others about specific problems. I was lucky. I could confide in both of them, confessing my fears and concerns. They knew everything about me and loved me anyway.

And they were always compassionate. Leslie is typically quick to offer, "It will be OK. Everything will work out." Sylvia was equally encouraging with words like, "Well, that was



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

dumb, Bubba. So, how's that working for you?" But she said it with love.

Anytime Sylvia and I weren't solving a crisis, we talked about food.

November 25. 4:34 p.m. "Ding."

"Eating at Nicky's in Bossier City." A picture of the sign followed.

"Great place," I replied. The food is still just as good as when we ate there many years ago with Joe and Mary Greene."

November 19. 10:36 p.m. "Ding."

"Can you call me when you get a minute?"

"What's up," I asked.

"Are you still coming for Thanksgiving?"

"Yes. What do you need me to bring?"

"Just a dessert."

Thanksgiving at her house this year was small. Just me, Sylvia, her daughter Diana, and grandson Aiden. Aldridge gatherings that once numbered a dozen, 15, or 20 are smaller now. Kids grow up and move away. Older generations might not be able to attend. Sometimes, it's another family member's name in the family Bible with that second date added after the dash.

We all talked and ate. Diana and Aiden left for another round of Thanksgiving at someone else's house, and we talked some more. Just Sylvia and me. Settling on the couch and talking is

usually all I'm suitable for after Thanksgiving dinner.

Her clocks had struck two when we started. I left just before they chimed six. "That's as long as we've talked in a long time," she said. "It was nice," I agreed. "Let's do it again. Soon."

December 13. 4:04 p.m. "Ding." It wasn't late. There was no small talk. No questions. One message. "In the ER." We exchanged short messages until she wrote, "They are keeping me overnight," adding that tests found nothing other than "abnormal bloodwork." Whatever that means.

"Keep us updated," I responded. "Let me know if there is anything I can come up there and do. I'm not that far away. Love you!!!"

"Thanks," she replied.

The phone call came early the next morning. One of those you know when it rings — you just know. Good news seldom comes that early.

Sylvia Anne Aldridge Crooks' life spanned 70 years, six months, and 23 days before she became the most recent name in the family Bible with that second date added after the dash.

It was just a few days ago. My phone has fallen silent after 10. No clocks chiming. And we will have to wait for that next talk we were going to have.

Sisters are the best. I love how they've always known everything about me. And how they've loved me anyway.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Davis County
potluck a success

Our potluck holiday special at Dedie Taylor's house was a huge success. We celebrated what all our members have accomplished this past year, and our members brought

with them to the party an astonishing amount of pasta and other food to contribute to our Food Pantry Drive for Jeff Davis County. Calvin Glover, our Democratic County Chair, thanked everyone for their support and con-

tributions this past year. Vicki Gibson brought her fliers with detailed information on the tireless work of our wonderful Jeff Davis County Food Pantry and updated us on their continued efforts to feed our community. Finally, a list

of our party's year-long accomplishments was prepared by Beth Francell and was distributed as we discussed our accomplishments and talked about our plans for 2024.

Roy Morey
Fort Davis, Texas



Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "When you were attending Sul Ross, what was your favorite spot on campus?"



Daniel Price: I always liked those pods in the library. I get distracted so easily and when I'm in there my brain just knows it's time to focus and pay attention and get all of those late assignments done!



Victoria Rios: My favorite spot on campus whether with friends or if I just needed quiet time was the ceramics building. That was home.



Amanda Eastwood: The third floor of the library. It was quiet and the view is amazing.



Reine Conrad: During my undergraduate, my favorite place to sit and just hang out with my friends was outside of the Meat lab under the big pecan tree. We would stand there

talking and laughing for HOURS after we were done working. That area is filled with happy memories for me. During graduate school, the garden on the backside of the biology building was my special escape. After studying for my graduate exam or being trapped down in the museum collections for hours I loved to sit on the rock walls surrounding the garden to watch the bees.



Kevin Franks: Outside, honestly, I just liked to pick a spot outside,

really anywhere, and enjoy the good weather. Which, for me, was any time it wasn't windy. I needed to take a pause every now and then, away from school thoughts and people and the campus was really pretty. Bonus points if you remember a blanket to sit on the grass.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 19-21 Live Nativity, 7 p.m. each evening at Kokernot Lodge. Refreshments will be served each evening and anyone wishing to participate is welcome to come between 6-6:15 p.m. to get their costume and instructions. Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended.

Jan. 1 Black-eyed Pea Off, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Terlingua Ghostown porch. Entry fees are \$10 with peas due promptly at 2 p.m. Anyone may partake of a bowl of peas to usher in "good luck" for the new year for \$10, and it comes with a bowl and spoon along with cornbread until it is gone. All proceeds benefit the Terlingua school graduation scholarships.



ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the 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 bbcc.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.

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Juno. This beautiful girl came into the shelter with a litter of eight puppies, apparently abandoned. She was a great mom and so deserving of a new place to call home where she could be loved. Now, she is spayed and ready to live her new life as a great companion to a family.



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.

Could that be your family? She has posed with her finest Christmas look as she eagerly awaits adoption. Stop by the Shelter and consider making her holiday dreams come true.

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 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.

Need holiday décor or supplies? The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery may have just what you need at the best prices in town. Thrift shopping is good for the planet and your wallet!

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

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Santa saddles up



Santa saddled up his cow pony Saturday night and made an appearance at the City of Alpine's annual Christmas Parade.

Photo by Joh Covington

33rd Annual Black-eyed Pea Off

Downtown Terlingua Ghostown
Monday, January 1, 2024



2:00 pm ~ Turn-in time
(\$10 Entry Fee ~ Cook onsite or off)

2:30 pm ~ Start the year off with a bowl of "GOOD LUCK" ~ \$10 donation.

Local Music & "Hot Date" Raffle

Proceeds will benefit continuing education scholarships for Terlingua School Graduates!



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COURT • FROM 1

no secretary, no staff, no furniture, and no other lawyers, I did have one thing and that was the building, thanks to Brewster County.” According to McDermott, their business model has been replicated in other counties in the state.

Next, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington shared with the court that the recent auction that sold several old trailers brought the county approximately \$11,600. He also thanked all the volunteers for the successful Christmas tree lighting that occurred earlier this month on the courthouse lawn.

Henington also updat-

ed the court on the status of the clean-up project of the county files. Many boxes are scheduled to be moved and organized starting January 22.

The court approved increasing the budget for their project list, for the Alpine Emergency Services shade structure for their vehicles and trailers, from \$30,000 to \$41,000. This increase is for concrete and materials.

The county budget was also updated to reflect the cost of the new audit task force. This was a line-item transfer of \$50,000 to a non-departmental section for use and oversight of the task force spending. At

the previous meeting, the court approved hiring Patty Roach and Malinda Richardson for the audit task force.

During this meeting, the court also approved appointing Henington as a co-investment officer for the county. Henington has served as an investment officer for a hospital district in the past and will be a co-officer with Julie Morton, the county treasurer. This item was approved with the stipulation of pending bond requirements that may alter his allowance to serve.

The Brewster County clerk’s office also presented a property alert contract proposal for the

county with GovOS. This is a software tool that will be free to the public, allowing them to register their land and be notified if anything is filed regarding their property. The proposed contract was for three years, with a 4% increase each year, however, the court negotiated the contract for a year of probationary period for \$1,200.

The 2024 fee schedule was also edited during this meeting. The schedule will now reflect updates that Senate Bill 1612 made, which repealed some local government codes. There will no longer be a dollar service filing fee. Also, the county was charg-

ing \$55 for filing plats. Now, that has increased to about \$95. The clerk’s office is hoping to acquire a scanner to upload new plats to avoid the \$200 cost of sending them out.

The Childcare Investment Partnership Donation Agreement was also approved. This agreement is a part of the commissioner’s court project approval for the establishment of a childcare facility, operated by the Alpine Independent School District. Funds given by the county will allow the facility to qualify to apply for several grants.

Stephanie Elmore, Brewster County Emer-

gency Management Coordinator presented her general report to commissioners. The burn ban has been renewed for another 45 days and the court approved the December fireworks order that Elmore brought forward which prohibits fireworks classified as “skyrockets with sticks” and “missiles with fins” within Brewster County.

The next commissioner’s court that was scheduled for December 26 has been canceled due to lack of quorum and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 9.

ART • FROM 1

Also, on display are works by Noe Perez, Marshall Harris, Bob Stuth-Wade, and Jeri Salter.

Stuth-Wade depicts staggering, often rugged landscapes, many of these highlighting the Big Bend and its famous geology, and Salter, now residing in the Austin area, offers a softer side of the Texas landscape, having moved from oils to pastels as her favorite medium.

Perez depicts contemporary landscape scenes across Texas such as the

majestic Texas longhorns and the ever-abundant prickly pear cactus while Harris, a native of San Antonio now living in Fort Worth, creates stunning, large-scale, graphite drawings of western saddles.

“I’m honored and excited to show my work at the new V6 Gallery in Marathon with an assortment of outstanding western-themed artists both local and not so much. My association with the Gage Hotel began when I discovered a

beautiful Western saddle in the lobby of the hotel back in 2011. This saddle is part of J.P. Bryan’s collection, and the work “Midnight Cowboy” became one of my three saddle portraits exhibited today in this wonderful group show. The exhibition curated by Carol Peterson, brought my work full circle with the Gage organization and I’m so very pleased to have been included in this exhibition,” Harris stated.

The collection was specially curated to display

original paintings, photography, and sculptures focusing on the breathtaking landscapes and cultural heritage of the region.

Peterson added, “These works offer a unique and mesmerizing interpretation of the Big Bend, and the featured artists celebrate the timeless beauty of the area with their stunning works of art.”

The V6 is open daily, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

HAMILTON • FROM 1

Hamilton was diagnosed with a concussion, a bruised lung, and a broken rib, and according to reports from Justin Sports Medicine’s Dr. Tandy Freeman, Hamilton would not be returning for the round six matinee performance scheduled for the next day.

Until he climbed over the back of those yellow chutes at the Thomas and Mack that morning and rode Sankey Pro Rodeo and Phenom Genet-

ics’ “Love the Grind’s Bouchon” to split third place with an 85.5 ride.

And in an even more astounding and unbelievable performance, he would claim a round seven victory, being the only bull rider to cover his bull in the eliminator pen, with an 88-point ride aboard Duane Kessler’s “Alberta Prime Devil’s Advocate,” netting the bull rider a \$99,053 payday. When added to his round six money from earlier

that morning, Hamilton earned \$114,654 in 16 seconds. Not bad for a day at the office.

Grit and determination were the keywords for Hamilton during this past week, as both of those words describe what could possibly be the only way for the 23-year-old to end a night unconscious and be back to business as usual the next morning in one of the most dangerous sports in the world.

“We knew what Ky was capable of when he was on the team at Sul Ross. Everyone else is now getting to see how special his talents are,” said C.J. Aragon, Sul Ross rodeo coach.

This year’s Wrangler National Finals will be one for the record books and what an amazing end to the year for a young Australian cowboy who showed the world what it means to “Ride for the Brand.”

Santa visits Murphy Street



Santa visited with kids and posed for photos recently during the Historic Murphy Street’s Feliz Navidad event.

Photo by Joh Covington

Dan Platt, Jr.

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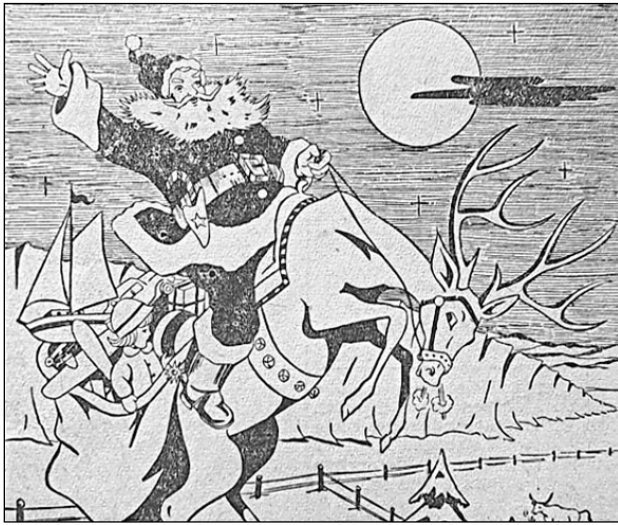
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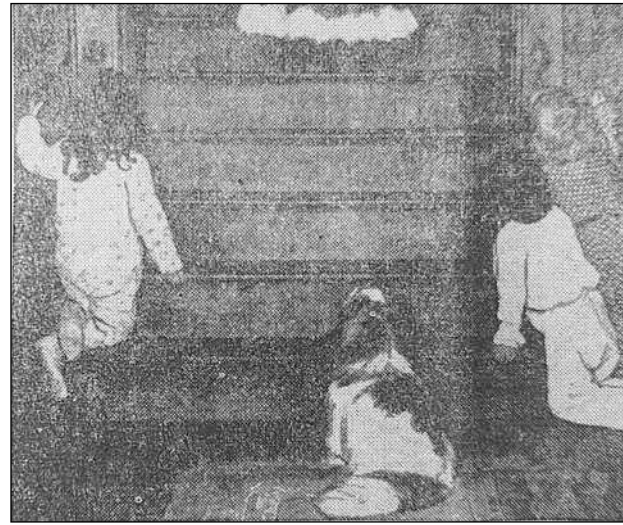
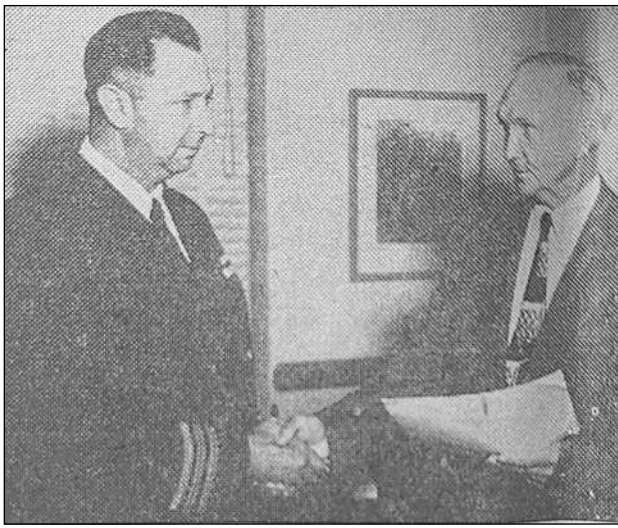
December 22, 1950

Santa stops out west on a buckin' reindeer to deliver toys to all the children in Texas style.



December 26, 1947

Price Campbell, president of West Texas Utilities, was awarded a citation for services rendered to the Naval Reserve Program in 1947. Commander G. E. Talbutt presented the honor. Campbell affirmed that the purpose of their company is public service.



December 26, 1947

Pictured here, kids and their canine best friends were waiting not-so-patiently for the arrival of Christmas and the jolly old St. Nick. These lucky kids reportedly heard, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

December 26, 1947

Mr. Claus appeared in the *Avalanche* the day after Christmas in 1947. Santa is especially important to those kids who live in the final frontier, as Christmas magic is especially bright under the Texas stars.



January is the best time to transplant lirioppe

Dear Neil: I have a bed of lirioppe that I would like to use for new plants so that I can start another bed elsewhere in my yard. When and how should I do that?

Start by trimming away any dead foliage left over from cold spells. That will give you a clearer vision of where the plants are. Use a sharpshooter spade to remove small clumps within the bed in a way that the remaining lirioppe will conceal the fact that you've been in the bed digging. Your new plants' root systems should be approximately tennis ball-sized, and you'll want to space them on 8-inch centers in the new bed. Late January is the best time to do this dividing and transplanting before new spring growth begins. Lirioppe starts growing very early, so don't wait too long.

Dear Neil: I thought I might try rhubarb. I saw some in the grocery the other day and it reminded me how much I enjoyed having it from our garden years ago in Illinois. What do I need to know to grow it?

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but rhubarb is not

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

suiting to Texas. It can't handle our summer heat, and our winters are too warm as well. Honestly, it really should never be offered for sale here, but you'll see it in some of the big national chain stores. While most other garden crops will do well in Texas if planted at the proper time, rhubarb doesn't make the cut.

Dear Neil: I planted ryegrass last October to cover a portion of our yard where we had taken down a building. So that it wouldn't look odd, I just seeded the entire backyard. But the grass looks tired right now. I guess

I might describe it as "hungry" looking. How soon can I apply fertilizer to it? The dogs are still able to track mud in from that area.

You can fertilize it before any several-day warm spell. Since part of it is overseeding other turf, I would suggest putting perhaps a half-rate application on, just so you don't push the permanent grass too much at a time when it's not going to be able to grow. Apply your fertilizer and then water it in. The grass will rebound fairly quickly. Or, if you're able to feed just ahead of a soaking rain, that might be an option, although that's usually not the best plan, since both organic and inorganic fertilizers are subject to nutrients being leached into runoff when rains turn out to be heavier than expected.



Dear Neil: I Lirioppe

was given a kalanchoe plant in full bloom as a gift back in early October, and it has just finished flowering all these weeks later. Is it possible to grow it and bring it back into flower another time?

Yes, although it requires some diligence. It's a succulent plant that is fairly closely related to the jade plant and the various sedums. Trim off the seed heads, cutting the stems back into normal leafy growth. Repot it into fresh potting soil and grow it in full morning sun with perhaps a

little bit of afternoon shade in mid-summer. Of course, it won't stand freezing weather, so this process will have to begin on a windowsill now, and then move out onto the patio this spring. Your biggest challenge will be in keeping the plant vigorous and compact until it's time to bring it back into flower. Kalanchoes, like poinsettias, produce flower buds naturally once nights get long. The plant you were given was carefully manipulated in a greenhouse setting. That

doesn't mean that you can't accomplish the same thing at home once your plant has re-grown nicely. It just means that you'll have to keep it in total and uninterrupted darkness at night, and full sun during the days to get it to set buds. That can be a bit cumbersome in an indoor setting.

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

- gauge to check rpm on Santa's reindeer?
- Stanley Gardner was an honorary TX Ranger day when "nice" TX youngsters get presents (abbr.)
- largest continent
- "Mr. Sam" who was speaker of U.S. House (init.)
- Texas-born Gene Autry wrote "Here Comes Claus"
- TXism: "changes his mind as often ___ does his socks"
- holiday garland
- Texas government building
- holiday greenery or Texas rock-'n-roller Buddy
- help Santa's helper (2 wds.)
- Santa's elves work behind-_-
- TX Bobby who co-founded the "Black Panthers"
- "you need to ___ that baby!"
- TXism for "Scrooge": "___ flint"
- this Philbin was like Santa Claus on "Millionaire" show
- "Star Wars" missile defense system (abbr.)

- "plastic money" gets ___ a lot at Christmas
- yuletide log chopper pack clothes in this for a holiday trip
- there's little of this indifference at Christmas what kids do on Christmas morning (3 wds.)
- provoked mockingly need a stand to ___ up a Christmas tree
- some Texans go to this NM area to ski over the holidays
- a main ingredient of Christmas nog
- this TX Winters is a linebacker for the 49ers

- ### DOWN
- TX Tanya song about Texas (4 wds.)
 - moonwalker Neil and Cowboy Dornace
 - TX-born Gen. ___ Chennault founded the "Flying Tigers"
 - TXism: "___ few bricks shy of a load" pig's place
 - ___ Belo founded The Dallas Morning News
 - TX Blue Bell flavor: "Cookies ' Cream"
 - best little puzzle in Texas (abbr.)
 - Clyde High School football class
 - elves to Santa
 - T-bone and Ribeye
 - "festive" Archer County town?
 - Metroplex Tex-Mex chain (2 wds.)
 - TX handyman Carrell and Mr. Neiman
 - private detectives (abbr.)
 - actress Garr (init.)
 - Santa's jolly shout when repeated
 - beige
 - "___ fine" by the Easybeats
 - what to do with a tiger (2 wds.)
 - birth state of Davy Crockett (abbr.)
 - univ. in Lawton, OK
 - suitable
 - hot tub or resort
 - TXism: "flew off the handle"
 - Larry, Moe, or Curly (2 wds.)
 - looks through the blinds for Santa
 - TXism: "it belongs to me ___ the bank"
 - TX Tanya (init.)
 - ___ McArdle painted "Dawn at the Alamo"
 - TXism: "rile up"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

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Sports

Bucks topple Panthers in West Texas Shootout



Ferris Daley gears up for a shot against Fort Stockton during tournament play.

Photo by Shawn Yorks

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks have returned home from the West Texas Shootout Tournament that was held last week, where they would finish tournament play sitting 2-2.

"Always a great competition! Estacado is ranked 7th in the state for a reason. Although we didn't come out on top, I thought we did some good things against them both offensively and defensively," said Aaron Hardwick, head basketball coach for the Bucks.

The first challenge of the tournament was against the Lubbock Estacado Matadors who won 84-58 against Alpine. Next, Alpine would beat the New Way Christian Academy Eagles in a high-score game 100-18.

The Bucks then fell again to the Presidio Blue Devils by a score of 67-32 but would go on to win the game against the Fort Stockton Panthers 75-64.

"Fort Stockton was a great bounce back win for us. It's

not easy coming off a loss and then turning around to play the host school in their tournament. I thought the team was focused and responded very well to that challenge," said Hardwick.

In the battle with New Way Christian Academy, the Bucks crushed the Eagles by more than 80 points. In the first quarter, Alpine immediately got the jump. Guillermo Busey made several successful free throws for Alpine and Daedrick Hardwick had a two-point field goal. Alejandro Hernandez and Zane Wash each had their fair share of field goals along with Jace Canaba, all in the first quarter, ending it with a score of 23-2.

Notably, Evren Martinez made a three-point field goal after two field goals from Canaba to start off the second quarter, followed by two free throws from Canaba. Hardwick made a three-point field goal and Ferris Daley and Alec Ramos both sunk their own field goals.

The Eagles then had a successful three-point field goal and a two-point field goal, however with more points gained by JJ Victorino and Ramos before halftime, the second quarter ended with Alpine leading 22-5.

After halftime ended, it was the Eagle's ball, and they scored another field goal. Jace Canaba then made his own, followed by two free throws from the Eagles. The Bucks responded with two field goals from Martinez and Hardwick. Ultimately the third quarter was more of a back and forth between the two teams but the score for the quarter was still in favor of Alpine 30-8.

The Buck's win was punctuated in the final quarter, with a score of 25-3.

Against Presidio, the Bucks would outscore the Blue Devils in the second quarter but would fall behind in the other three. In the first quarter, the Blue Devils outscored

See BUCKS • 9

Lady Bucks enter district play with a bang

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The Lady Bucks won their first two district games last week. On Wednesday, December 13 they faced the Presidio Blue Devils in a district away game and on Friday they returned home for a district home opener against Compass Academy from Odessa.

Head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks, Christopher Virdell said, "We started off district in a great way, earning wins in both games. The Presidio game was played on a Wednesday due to a lack of officials, but the girls handled the change well."

The delayed first game against Presidio also gave the team some time to heal up, as four players have been down due to ankle injuries for the past couple of weeks. The Lady Bucks took down Presidio 50-35. They won three of the quarters, 16-8 in the first, 14-4 in the second, 8-6 in the third, and would come up just short with 12-17 in the fourth.

Karolina Castillo was a leader for this game and scored 19 points along with six rebounds and three steals. That makes it seven consecutive games in which Castillo has scored at least 25% of Alpine's points. Nadia Morris also put a dent in the competition with seven points along with three steals.

Alpine's victory bumped their record up to 3-9. As for Presidio, they still haven't won a game yet this season and fell to 0-2.

"The girls executed the game plan very well. We wanted to play as fast as always but we added a defensive full-court press that we had not yet shown to anyone. It allowed us to create turnovers and score quickly out of transition," said

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL
 Dec. 28-30 Caprock Tournament-Lubbock TBD
 Jan. 2 Stanton @ Alpine Gold 6:30 p.m. JV Purple 5 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.

LADYBUCKS BASKETBALL
 Dec. 28-30 Caprock Tournament-Lubbock TBD
 Jan. 2 Stanton @ Alpine JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.

Virdell.

The girls jumped to a quick lead in the first half and never looked back. Virdell is very pleased with the girls' ball movement on offense and their shot selection throughout the game. Defensively they were very aggressive to the pass and played great help defense.

"It was a great way to start off district and it was the first game of the year that we had all ten girls available to play," said Virdell.

The home game with Compass Academy started off really slow according to Virdell. "We were unable to capitalize on easy transition buck-

ets and that led to a tied game at halftime, 20-20. We were able to jump start the third quarter with great offense outscoring them 17 to 5, to give us a comfortable lead," Virdell said.

Alpine was ahead in the first quarter 14-5 but fell in the second 6-15. The second half was a complete turnaround as the girls amped up the pressure on defense and got back on track to running the court for transition basketball. They led in the last, however, surpassing Compass Academy 17-5 in the third quarter and 16-13 in the fourth.

It is always great to start out the district games with wins. Starting 2-0 in district is a confidence builder for their upcoming games, which will be tough games according to Virdell.

"I have told the girls all season that our district will be a dog fight, every game. We have to be consistent in what we do and execute game plans.

Our focus will continue to be on playing fast and creating pressure defensively," Virdell said.

Novah Carrasco led this game by gaining 22 points with nine field goals and eight rebounds.

The back-to-back wins may be a sign of good things to come as these two victories make it two games straight that Alpine has won by exactly 15 points, and Virdell is very excited about the team chemistry on the floor. The girls play together and for each other and that will lead to continued success.

"Crane is a tough gym to play in, but I can

See LADY BUCKS • 9



Novah Carrasco blocks a Van Horn player at the Lady Buck's last home game.

Photo by Joh Covington

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

HOPE DOMINGUEZ

Junior Power Forward has racked up 107 rebounds, 26 assists, 23 steals, and 4 blocks so far this season. Hope sets the tone defensively on the court and is key to the transition game on offense. Hope is a great teammate and is versatile for the Lady Bucks on both sides of the court.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Women's basketball coach receives award

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

E.J. Smith, head coach of the Lobo women's basketball team was presented with the Academic Excellence in Coaching Award for 2022-2023 on November 29. The award was established to recognize coaches who make an outstanding effort to support the academic success of student-athletes. Nominations for this award come from students, faculty, the student government, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The decision was finalized at the Sul Ross Faculty Assembly.

Several nominators had nothing but praise for Smith. "She stepped onto campus with a bundle of love for her players, peers, and students at Sul Ross. This love is reflected by the Alpine community and students. It is challenging to advertise the rigor and exceptionalism of women's

"In Coach Smith's eyes, the student comes before the athlete part
— Academic Excellence in Coaching Award nominator

athletics, but people are willing to support our team because she is a beacon that allows everyone to swarm around her and her intention for her team," one nominator said.

"At the beginning of the year, she required 10 hours of study hall a week. If we were not in class or at the gym, then we would be in the study hall doing homework or studying. In Coach Smith's eyes, the student comes before the athlete part. She talks to every professor and gains feedback on how each student is doing in class. She wants every athlete to gain a degree because nobody can take that from you," added

another nominator.

Smith was presented with a plaque by the Sul Ross State University Faculty Assembly President, Dr. Eric Busby at a ceremony held in the President's Conference Room. In response to the award, Smith said, "I was very surprised to receive the award. I believe my players nominated me for the award, and Marley Rokas and Melody Martinez wrote unbelievable comments about me. I was a little emotional and had no idea my players thought that way about me. When I took this job, I wanted to concentrate on my kids becoming good human beings, getting a degree, and becoming a good basketball player under my leadership. I really appreciate the committee that selected me. It means so much to me and I always appreciate my players. I have some great kids and I received this award because of them."



Dr. Eric Busby, President of the SRSU Faculty Assembly, presented the Academic Excellence in Coaching Award to Coach E.J. Smith.

Courtesy photo

LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

promise you the girls will be up and ready for the challenge. They always are when it comes to playing Crane. I have known the Crane coach for many years, and we are similar in philosophy. So, I am expecting it to be a great match for us," said Virdell.

Alpine's match up with Crane this week for the last district game before the Christmas break ended with the Lady Bucks falling to the Golden Cranes 43-60.

Over the break, the team will take off the mandatory UIL five-day break but will be back

in action quickly as they travel to Lubbock for the Caprock Tournament from December 28 to December 30. They also have practice the following week and have two scheduled district games before they return to school.

BUCKS • FROM 8

the Bucks 12-8. Alpine would take the second quarter 12-9 and Presidio would dominate the remaining quarters with scores of 16-4 and 30-8.

On the final day of the tournament, the Bucks faced Fort Stockton and would beat the Panthers 75-64. While starting the last quarter only ten points ahead, the Bucks solidified their victory field goals and free throws from Wash and Hardwick. Canaba and Martinez followed up with free throws, ending the game with Alpine winning, 75-64.

On Tuesday the Bucks traveled to Crane for their first district game

of the season, and would dominate the game, beating the Golden Cranes 62-38.

"Every game we have had has helped us prepare for this district season. We are excited and ready for it," Hardwick said.

According to the coach, Crane is tough and physical, and he expected them to use that physicality to gain an advantage against the Buck's speed and quickness.

The Buck players are ready for district as well. Dae Hardwick said, "I am excited for district season. I know we can win district and go more than two rounds deep in

the playoffs. It's going to be a grind but if we stay focused, take care of ourselves, and remain disciplined, the rest of the season will go as planned."

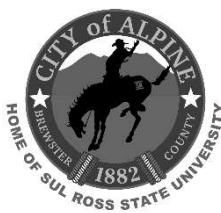
And fellow player Guillermo Busey echoed that, saying, "The team is looking forward to a very successful district season."

After Christmas, the Fightin' Bucks will face the Hawley Bearcats in the Lubbock Caprock Tournament on Thursday, December 28. Their next district game is scheduled to be against the Stanton Buffaloes in a home game on Tuesday, January 2 at 8 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM,
THE BREWSTER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING
HAS BEEN CANCELLED
FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023**

**THE NEXT REGULAR
COMMISSIONERS COURT
MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR
JANUARY 9TH, 2024**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2023-12-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX C – ZONING, ARTICLE I – SCHEDULE OF DISTRICTS, SECTION II – R-1 ONE FAMILY DISTRICT TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING THE REQUIREMENT THAT BEAUTY SALONS ARE NOT AN ACCEPTABLE USE IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA BY APPROVED SPECIAL USE PERMIT; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE. THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE.

ORDINANCE 2023-12-03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ALPINE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; A TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH 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. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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may be cancelled for the next publication until 12:00 (noon) on the Monday before publication.
ACCEPTANCE - The publisher wants to do everything that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.
PAYMENT - All Classified Ads must be paid in advance.
EMAIL - Send your Classified Ads to the Alpine Avalanche by email at shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com.

tion. It shall not be responsible for any consequential damages suffered by any party.

DEADLINES - All ads are due in the office by 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday.

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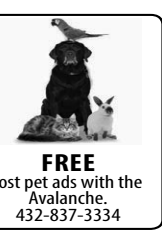
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Interested candidates should email or fax resume to **(432)729-3071 Ext. 607** or **texashr@villagefarms.com**, applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.

On the 12th day of December, 2023, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of William Malcolm MacRoberts, Deceased, were issued to Rebecca Evans, Independent Executor, by the County Probate Court of Brewster County, Texas, in cause number PR03145, pending upon the docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present them within the time prescribed by law at the following address:

/s/ Sean Kelly McPherson
Sean Kelly McPherson
Attorney for Applicant
TBN: 13848100
924 East 25th Street
Houston, TX 77009
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713 869 3223 facsimile
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CAUSE NO. PR-03140

In Re Estate § IN THE COUNTY COURT
§ SITTING IN PROBATE
§ OF
§ BENJAMIN RUMMERFIELD, §
Deceased § BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BENJAMIN RUMMERFIELD, Deceased, were issued on October 4, 2023, in Docket No. PR-03140 pending in the County Court Sitting in Probate of Brewster County, Texas, to:

LAURA HARRISON-RUMMERFIELD
C/O Robert E. Steele
P.O. Box 1765
Alpine, TX 79831

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above.

DATED the 14th day of December, 2023.

/s/robertesteele
ROBERT E. STEELE
SBOT: 00794689
PO Box 1765
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432-294-5757
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r_e_steele@msn.com
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Heads up



Coach Cory Cason is making her wishes of a white Christmas known as she holds the ever-popular snowball everyone looks forward to once that white stuff hits the ground.

Courtesy photo

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SENIOR Spotlight VEGA HARRISON



In what activities did you participate in high school?

I participated in photography, journalism, and sports.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite teacher is Mrs. Golden because she was always there for me when I needed her.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?

My favorite moment in the last four years was being able to look back at our freshman selves and see how much we've grown.

What are your plans after high school?

My plans after high school are to move to San Antonio and go to Cosmetology school.

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Devotional Page Joy to the World!

BY SUSAN CELAYA
First United Methodist Church

And the angel said, "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Rejoicing and worship were spontaneous responses of the shepherds who first heard the news of Jesus' birth. And deep delight, elation, and joy arise in the hearts of Christians every time we ponder the great gift of God's son. We were created to praise God.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we focus on joy. In some traditions, the day is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for Rejoice. We light the rose-colored candle, a lighter shade than the purple candles, signifying the brightening of our lives by the joy Christ brings. And we often sing the hymn "Joy to the World." English minister and hymn writer Isaac Watts wrote the words in 1719. It wasn't based on a gospel text describing Christ's birth, nor does it specifically mention the events in Bethlehem. Rather, it draws its lyrics by paraphrasing Psalm 98. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord... Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.... Let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord... for He comes." For Watts, the psalm pointed to the coming of Christ at Christmas.

It is a hymn of rejoicing at the advent of the Lord. We, along with the entire world, sing this hymn out of elation and gratitude for the gift of Christ coming to us on earth.

But "Joy to the World" is also a hymn that we could sing every day, praising our God for all the holy gifts that fill our lives. For joy is always part of our lives if we are open to it. We feel it in reunion with relatives we haven't seen for a long time, in fellowship of friends and family around the table, hearing the gleeful laughter of a young child, through the glorious, blended voices of an a cappella choir, viewing sparkling diamond stars in the dark December sky, and in the fresh fragrance of a live Christmas tree. Especially during the celebration of Advent, many things bring us deep heart-stirring joy.

And it's likely that what gives us the truest joy are not material things, but shared experiences with others, silent times in nature, and exhilarating worship through music. Relish this joyous season. And, then also in April and August and throughout the year, cherish all the joy God gives us. Every moment may not bring happiness. But, as we shift our focus to all the gifts God has given us, there is always an underpinning of sustaining joy. Sing the Psalms of Thanksgiving every day. Be ever amazed at the goodness of God. Rejoice!

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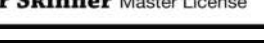
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Satisfying and savory Christmas breakfast

It's early Christmas morning, and if the house is full of kids, they are all raring to go to see what Santa delivered to them. And despite their excitement at the latest video game or fashion-forward sneakers, sooner or later everyone will be asking for food.

If your household is like most, there is already preparation underway for the main Christmas meal, but what do you do in the meantime to tide those ravenous little bundles of metabolism over? So that you hit all of those important aspects of breakfast without using every pan in the house, whip up some savory breakfast monkey bread.

Yes, monkey bread. Not the cinnamon and sugary kind, but a savory, breakfast combination that adds in everything a full country style breakfast has to offer. Minus the potatoes. But you could add those too if you wanted. This monkey bread recipe even figures in the country-style gravy. How can you go wrong with that? And don't believe for one minute that this can't be made into a veg-



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

etarian option. Instead of using bacon, sausage, or ham, substitute any of these meats with your veggies of choice.

The great thing about this savory, breakfast



Breakfast monkey bread

Courtesy photo

meal is that you can adapt it according to your and your family's personal tastes. If your

family prefers bacon over sausage, then you add sausage. Better yet why not add both? And while this particular recipe does not call for eggs, there is no rule that says you can't scramble some up and add those to the mix.

This also makes a great brunch meal for any time of the year, and the ingredients can always be changed accord-

ingly. It can also serve as a unique idea for a potluck option. What once was just an interesting dessert has morphed into a versatile addition to the family dining table.

So, gather all your breakfast favorites, combine in a greased bundt pan, bake, and enjoy a simple, yet satisfying new take on Christmas breakfast that is sure to satisfy the whole family.

Breakfast Monkey Bread

Ingredients:
 ¾ cup milk
 1 package of country gravy mix
 ¼ cup melted butter
 3 (7.5 ounces) refrigerated butter-

milk biscuits
 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided.
 ½ lb. ground breakfast sausage (or meat of choice), cooked and drained

Directions:
 Mix milk, gravy mix, and melted butter in a bowl and whisk until well blended.
 Reserve ½ cup gravy mixture and set aside.
 Cut biscuits into quarters add pieces into gravy mixture and gently toss to coat.
 Stir in 1 ½ cups of cheese and cooked sausage until well blended.
 Place biscuit mixture into 10 cup, greased bundt pan and pour the remaining gravy mixture on top.

Bake in a pre-heated 350-degree oven for 35 minutes.
 Sprinkle with the remaining ½ cup of cheese and bake for another 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.
 Cool in the pan for 5 to 10 minutes.
 Loosen the sides of the monkey bread from the pan with a knife, then invert it onto a serving plate. Serve warm.
 *Note: This can also be prepared the night before. Just mix, cover, and refrigerate until time to bake.

Ready for Christmas



Alpine High School band members Matteo Solis and Owen Thompson look confident that Santa will bring them what they want for Christmas, while Walt Urbanczyk (middle) seems to still be contemplating what he wants to ask the jolly old fellow to bring him.

Courtesy photo



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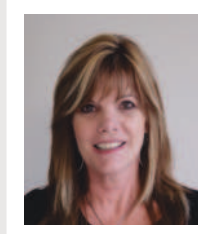
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Dr. Cecil comes to Shannon from Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, where he served as a urologist for seven years. He is board certified by the American Board of Urology.

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