

## Sul Ross offers new degrees

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Beginning this fall, Sul Ross will be offering several new master's degrees and graduate certificates, allowing the university to diversify its current offerings. All three of the colleges at Sul Ross will offer new courses, although accreditation is currently pending but expected from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as well as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In the Jimmy D. Case College of Literature and Social Sciences, there will be a new master's degree available as well as a graduate certificate. Students seeking to further their education beyond a bachelor's degree can apply for admission to a Master of Arts in Anthropology or

See SRSU • 6

### INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024 . . . . .0.00"  
January . . . . .0.00"



### Burn Ban ON

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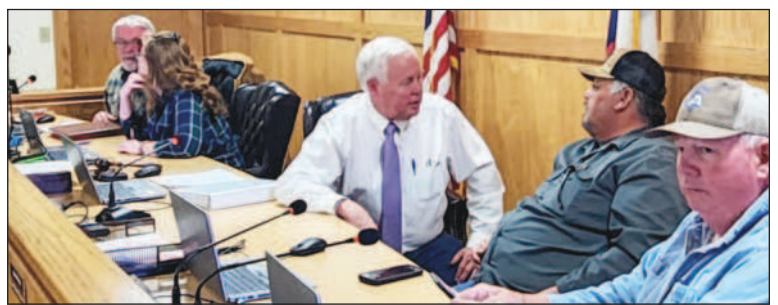
## County officials hear trucking route concern

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners court met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 9. During this meeting, local resident and the trucking company, Trails and Logistics, owner Jackson Wilbourn stepped forward to share with the court his concern for the need for a trucking loop route for larger commercial vehicles to utilize in order for them to avoid the downtown route.

Wilbourn cited the issues they can cause for traffic, the difficult turns for large trucks and R.V.s, the low height of the railroad overpass, as well as the wear that the vehicles put the city streets through. Wilbourn does not believe that this would affect the regular tourist traffic that goes straight through town, as a loop usually increases the time of your trip because of the added distance.

See COUNTY • 6



County commissioners discuss matters with one another after the recent court meeting on Tuesday. Pictured, right to left, commissioners Jim Westermann Pct. 1, Sara Colando Pct. 2, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, and commissioners Ruben Ortega Pct. 3, and Mo Morrow Pct. 4.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Making milestone memories



Alpine Fightin' Buck Jace Canaba achieved a high school career milestone in basketball this season, by hitting the 1,000 points mark. Achieving this point ceiling takes dedication, practice, determination, and the ability to stay healthy. Pictured with Canaba is his family, from left, brother Jayden, mom Gloria, Jace, dad Troy, sister Annika.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

## Big things coming for desert bighorn sheep

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

In collaboration with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) is embarking on a multi-faceted project focused on desert bighorn sheep. This project will examine the interactions, competition, and disease risks among desert bighorn, mule deer, and aoudad.

The Avalanche spoke with Dr. Justin French, the big game specialist at BRI about the project and what they hope to learn about these three ungulate species that coexist in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas.

Native desert bighorns were wiped out of their native Trans-Pecos

mountain ranges by the 1960s, but before that efforts were already being made to curtail unregulated hunting and the introduction of domestic livestock which competed for resources and exposed the native sheep to disease. The establishment of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) by TPWD allowed for sanctuaries for the native desert bighorn, where they could also focus their efforts on captive propagation of the species to increase their numbers.

Pen-raised desert bighorns were first introduced to the Sierra Diablo WMA of Culberson and Hudspeth counties, in June 1973. Following

See BIGHORN • 6



Desert bighorn ram

Photo courtesy of BRI

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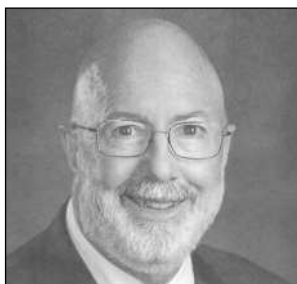
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# OBITUARIES

## David Lendell Cockrum



With sadness, we announce the passing of David, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and teacher on December 21.

David Lendell Cockrum was born in St. Louis, Missouri to E. Lendell and Irma Cockrum. His formative years were spent in Tucson, Arizona, where he later completed his doctorate in social psychology at the University of Arizona.

During his studies, he met Sally Kilborn, whom he married in 1971 following his active-duty service in the United States Army. He continued as an Army Reservist until 1976 when he retired as a captain. It was in Tucson that Sally and David started their family, welcoming their daughter Dana before embarking on a new

chapter in 1974 by relocating to Alpine. It was there that their son Chris was born and completed their family.

David's legacy is deeply rooted in his distinguished career spanning four decades at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. He started as an instructor of psychology in 1974, began leading the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences in 1983, and eventually assumed the role of vice president for academic affairs in 1990. He was named Provost Emeritus in 2010 and continued teaching two courses per semester for

an additional six years. In 2016, David and Sally moved to Victoria where David assumed the role of interim Provost at the University of Houston - Victoria. He officially retired in July 2019.

Beyond his professional career, David was very active within the Alpine community. He served as chairman of the board of High Frontier, contributed as a member and president of the Kiwanis Club of Alpine, was a charter member of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, and served as president of the Brewster County child welfare board. His impact also stretched statewide, as he took on the presidency of the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, among numerous other roles and responsibilities.

David's life was one of dedication to his profession, his community, and most of all to his

family. His intelligence, patience, good humor, and kind heart will be remembered and cherished by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

David is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sally; daughter Dana Cockrum Kasling; son Chris Cockrum and his wife Marie; grandsons Graydon Lendell Kasling and Anderson David Kasling; his brother Ward Cockrum and his wife Magdalena; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Steve and Sue Kilborn; and nieces and nephews Mike Kilborn, Steve Mechtel-Kilborn, Sara Kilborn-Gagne, Eddie Olson, Andrew Cockrum, and Ana Alicia Cockrum.

David was predeceased by his parents, E. Lendell and Irma Cockrum, and his sister Sandra Sue Cockrum. A memorial service will be held in the spring in Alpine.

Should you wish to honor David's memory with a memorial contribution, we have compiled a list of meaningful organizations and institutions that deeply impacted his life:

CurePSP: David battled progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), a rare neurodegenerative disorder, and donations to CurePSP support research efforts dedicated to finding a cure for this condition. <https://info.curepsp.org/ways-to-give>  
 Hospice of South Texas: As David's illness progressed, the compassionate care provided by Hospice of South Texas greatly impacted our family. Contributions to this organization support their exceptional care for patients and families facing similar challenges. <https://hospice-vic.org/donate/>

Sul Ross State University: David's 42-year

tenure at Sul Ross State University marked a significant chapter in his life. Donations in his honor can continue to support the institution he dedicated much of his career to. <https://www.sulross.edu/giving/>

University of Houston - Victoria: In his three short years at the University of Houston - Victoria, David's contributions were impactful. Contributions to the university in his memory can further the growth that David helped put in place.

<https://www.uhv.edu/alumni-friends/donors/>

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club: Known by his call sign N5DO, Dave's passion for ham radio was an important part of his life. Donations to the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club honor his legacy in the ham radio community and support its ongoing activities.

<https://bigbendarc.org>

## Double-teamed



Zane Wash tries to find an open player during a game against Fort Stockton earlier in the season, as he is surrounded by two of the Panther defensemen.

Photo by Shawn Yorks



## Jose Martinez Reyes

Jose Martinez Reyes, Jr. 77 of Alpine passed away on August 21, in Fort Stockton.

Jose was born on November 18, 1945, to Jose Martinez Sr. and Leonore G. Reyes in Marathon. He married Gloria Gonzalez from Denver, Colorado, and had two children: Christina R. Jennings and Felipe Reyes, both living in Colorado. He was grandfather to seven grandkids

and great-grandfather to three great-grandkids.

He enjoyed cowboy movies, music, and get-togethers with family and friends. Most of all, he loved to dance. He will always be missed by his family, relatives, and many friends. If you knew him, you know he had so many nicknames given to him by family and friends with whom he had shared special memories.

Jose is preceded in death by his parents, Jose and Leonore Reyes, sisters Juanita Reyes, and Zoila Rivera, and brother Manuel Reyes. He is survived by brothers, Marin, Feliciano (Yolanda), Anselmo, and Adan (Karen) Reyes, and sister, Emma (Edu-

ardo) Vega, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Service will be held on January 20 at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church Alpine with a Rosary at 9:30

a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m. and burial at Holy Angels Cemetery. Following, a lunch will be held at Our Lady of Peace parish hall.

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# Tri-County voter promoters looking for volunteers

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Tri-County Voter Promoters are in need of volunteers to help register voters for the 2024 Democratic and Republican primaries. This group that serves Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties will begin registering voters this month.

These voter promoters set up shop in front of public locations such as grocery stores, post offices, and libraries in the tri-county area to promote voting because they believe that voting is your voice and that your vote counts. Not only does the group register new voters, but they can also assist voters in making sure they are still registered and show them how to check their voter status at the Secretary of State's My Voter Portal



website.

The Tri-County Voter Promoters are a non-partisan organization, registering all comers to expand the voter base, with special attention to young voters and Spanish speakers with low registration rates.

January 1 was the first

day Texans could request an absentee ballot, and February 5 will be the last day to register to vote in the primary election. Early voting for the Democratic and Republican primaries begins February 20 and ends March 1. The last day to register to vote by mail

is February 23, and election day for the primaries is set for March 5.

For more information on voting and on how to become a volunteer with the Tri-County Voter Promoters, contact Roy Morey at 432-426-0122 or email [remorey@bigbend.net](mailto:remorey@bigbend.net).



Wall Street Journal reporter Elizabeth Findell, left, interviews Jeanine Bishop and Vicki Gibson about hospitality and tourism in the Big Bend area.

Photo by Tracy Biskamp/Mobile Comunidad

## Mobile Comunidad founders find national recognition

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Recently, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) interviewed Jeanine Bishop and Vicki Gibson, founders of Mobile Comunidad about the region's hospitality and tourism industry. The focus was on the nonprofit group's upcoming Mountain View Hospi-

tality Academy in Fort Davis, whose goal is to train more locals in serving the needs of tourism in the region. Their plan is to utilize a partnership with another nonprofit and Cornell University to create the tourism academy. The article, by Texas reporter for WSJ Elizabeth Findell, ran on Christmas day.

# Making progress



Construction workers are making progress on the Alpine Public Library remodel. After the demolition of the old awning and porch, a new slab was poured and completed just prior to the holidays. Construction on the firewall required for the build is now underway.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

# Permian Basin Area Foundation opens scholarship cycle

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Permian Basin Area Foundation (PBAF), whose mission is to facilitate the creation of permanent charitable funds in partnership with numerous donors, has announced the opening of the 2024-2025 academic year scholarship application.

PBAF is a strong supporter of local groups, including Alpine ISD, and over the course of last year awarded more than one million dollars in scholarships to area students. These funds are made



possible with the generosity of multiple donors to PBAF's scholarship fund that supports local stu-

dents' pursuit of higher education. Students and counselors may view eligibility and selection criteria for scholarships on the PBAF website. The application opened on January 1 and the deadline to apply is March 31.

Educations Programs Officer, Sherri Heiting said, "Applicants are required to complete only one online application which will then place them in a pool of scholarships for which they may qualify. Sounds easy, but it will be very important to read all instructions carefully and submit the application on time."

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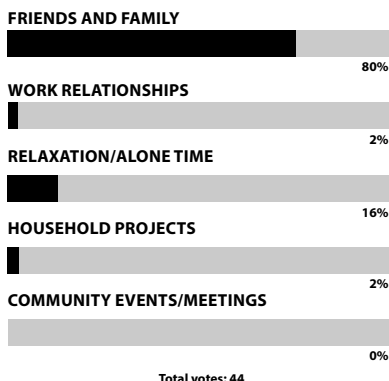
# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WILL YOU DEDICATE MORE TIME TOWARDS IN 2024?**

#### RESULTS



### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

**Which of the following will you dedicate more time towards in 2024?**

- Friends and Family
- Work Relationships
- Relaxation/Alone Time
- Household Projects
- Community Events/Meetings

Vote for this week's poll online at: [www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://www.AlpineAvalanche.com)

## LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

Send your letters to [kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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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.



## Finding freedom and resilience in the high desert

Since the dawn of the information age, the way we communicate and live has undergone a transformative journey. Many sought hope and prosperity in big cities like Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin, attracted by the economic opportunities and comforts the big city provides. However, a different kind of allure beckons from the high desert region - the desert's call.



**CONLEY RASOR**  
Guest column

The high desert is a region of beauty and inherent challenges. Making a living here is not at all normal or easy; it demands adaptability, resilience, and a diverse skill set. This rugged landscape acts as a crucible, refining those who dare to embrace the adventurer within. It's an environment that tests one's spirit, often sending the

unprepared back to the safer, more verdant urban centers. Yet, for those persistent and resilient enough to withstand its trials, the desert unfolds its hidden majesty, rewarding them with a profound connection to nature and the untamed.

Life in this region is a drastic change from the bustling urban centers. Here, time follows its own rhythm. Community bonds are stronger, with people knowing each other on a more intimate level, united by the shared experience of desert living. It fosters a sense of mutual respect, born from the understanding that survival and success in this region is a collective endeavor.

The recent technological advancements, particularly the widespread availability

of fiber internet, have played a pivotal role in reshaping the high desert experience. This connectivity enables residents to work remotely and maintain links with the broader world while soaking in the unique beauty of their surroundings. It symbolizes a new era of freedom - a departure from the traditional allure and promises of economic prosperity big cities provide. In the high desert, the value of personal connections and community spirit outweighs the convenience-focused lifestyle often promoted by major retailers like Target and Walmart.

This shift is evident in today's world, where technology often dictates the pace and style of life. The high desert offers a compelling alternative: a life balanced between the advancements of the modern age and the timeless rhythms of nature.

The story of the high des-

ert and this region is a testament to the human spirit's resilience and adaptability. It's a narrative of individuals hearing the desert's call and responding with courage and determination. In doing so, they discover not just the beauty and challenges of this unique landscape, but also a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

As we move further into the 21st century, the high desert stands as a beacon of inspiration. It shows us that even in an age dominated by technology and urbanization, there are places where one can live in harmony with nature, where community and personal connections are valued, and where the human spirit can find its true expression. This is the promise and allure of the high desert, the singular reason why people like you hear and answer its call.

## Preaching the gospel of small-town living

*"I say that half your life is spent trying to get out of a small town and the other half trying to get back to one."*

— Kelly Cutrone, American publicist, television personality, and author.

The preacher's sermon on Sunday centered on a prevalent problem in America today. Shrinking church attendance. Congregations dwindling in some places to the point that small-town churches are closing their doors.

During the sermon, it crossed my mind that houses of worship are not the only ones facing that fate. Many small towns are shrinking as well.

I love small towns. And I love small churches. But just to clarify, I don't consider Center a small town. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the city's population in 2021 was 5,133, down from a peak of 5,879 souls in 2009. The same source tags Joaquin at 728, Tenaha at 991, Timpson also at 991, and Shelbyville with a population of 221. Salute! Now we're talkin' small towns.

Small Texas towns I frequented before coming to Shelby County included places like Kress, Nazareth, and Happy. And yes... there really is a Happy, Texas. Population 613. I don't know how happy the community of Happy is. But I had an uncle who was a coach in Happy at one time. We called him the Happy Coach. He was also a coach in Naza-

reth, population 312.

All of these small-town gems are located in the Panhandle region of Texas. All places where relatives on Mom's side of the family lived and places we visited frequently.

Mom's side of the family all had the "traveling gene." I grew up believing "family" and "road trip" were synonymous terms. Five minutes notice was sufficient preparation time for a three-day trip. Christmas, summer vacation, sometimes for no reason at all, we were headed to visit unless they were coming in our direction. Many of those were trips to Kress.

My recollection of Kress as a kid is a veritable "wide spot" in the road located in Swisher County between Plainview and Tulia. The current census for the small farming community says it was down to 608 in 2021 after peaking at 817 in 2000. A small town where everybody knows everyone. Where, if you need help, half the town is there in five minutes. And a place where if you can't remember what you did Tuesday three weeks ago, don't worry. Someone does.

Traveling U.S. 87 took motorists through Kress, passing Lawson's Cafe and the Phillips 66 full-service station on the way. We joked about missing Kress if you blinked. Until one night, Mom blinked. Despite having been there many



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

times in the dark of night, she drove right through Kress—yep, flat missed it.

Being the eldest child with front-seat "shotgun" privileges, I asked, "Where are we going, Mom?" In her delayed reaction style, she replied after a pause, "To Kress... where do you think we're going?"

I broke the news to her about the one streetlight she passed a ways back. Directly across the road from the grain elevators. The turn to her sister's house. After one of her go-to terms of frustration that she always denied using, she had her '54 Chevrolet turned around, heading back toward Aunt Amy's house.

Small communities are great for times like the Saturday night I arrived in Kress with an ailing alternator on my car. The next morning, a phone call from my uncle to the local parts store owner who lived nearby... in small towns, everybody lives nearby... was all it took to get a new alternator. On a Sunday morning.

Sunday in Kress, we all went to church. Walking together. The Church of Christ was just a couple of blocks away. In small towns, everything is just a couple of blocks away in one direction or the other. My uncle worked at Taylor Evans Farm Supply, just a block north of my aunt and uncle's house if you cut through the alley.

The church was a couple of blocks south, and the only grocery store in Kress was, you guessed it, a couple of blocks east in "downtown" Kress.

Kress has changed like small towns everywhere. My aunt and uncle, who lived their entire married life in Kress, passed away some years ago. My cousins graduated from Kress High School—go, Kangaroos! Then scattered to different parts of the state.

I saw on Facebook last week that the unofficial population of Kress is reportedly down to 500 and something. And my cousin told me that the Church of Christ in Kress closed its doors a few years ago, once taking attendance could be done using the fingers on one hand.

So, what did the preacher offer last Sunday as a solution to declining church attendance? Mainly for those of us attending to do as the Bible instructs. Spend more time inviting others. Sharing our faith with others. Expressing our love for the fellowship of kindred hearts.

"Maybe," I thought as we turned to page 29 in the hymnal to sing "I Surrender All" for the invitational song, "those of us who spent time getting back to small towns should be spending more time preaching the gospel of small-town living."

Before someone misses our hometown community when they blink.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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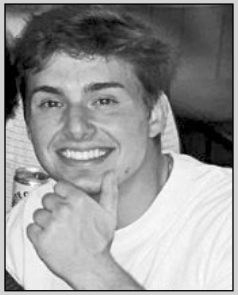
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# Heard on the STREET

*What is a bad habit you would like to replace with a good one?*



**Joey Brinsmaid:** I would like to trade procrastination for promptness. Definitely.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 13 SRSU Guided and Informative Hike,** 9 a.m. A guided hike open to the public up Hancock Hill will be themed "general hike" led by Alex Hettena, Bill Adams, and Maureen Frank from the Borderlands Research Institute.

**Jan. 16 Fee Free Day,** Fort Davis National Historic Site

**Jan. 18 Hike with a Homeless Dog,** Davis Mountains State Park 10 a.m.

**Feb. 3 SRSU Guided and Informative Hike,** 9 a.m. A guided hike open to the public up Hancock Hill themed "Big Game" will be led by Justin French, Big Game Specialist for the Borderlands Research Institute.

**Feb. 10 Valentine's Day PJ Story Time,** 6 p.m. for ages 4-12 at the Alpine Public Library.



### 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](http://aa-intergroup.org).

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

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

**American Legion Auxiliary**

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

**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 Choral 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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbccchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbccchorale.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.

**Exercise Classes,** at Sunshine House, 402 E. Holland Ave. Tuesdays-yoga and balance, Thursdays-strength and conditioning. 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free to all. Contact Cindy at 512-423-2409 for more details.

**GED tutoring,** at Alpine Pub-

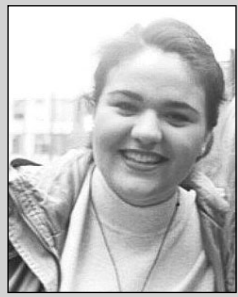
lic Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

**Hike with Homeless Dogs,** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Thursday at Davis Mountains State Park in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x 301.

**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.

## Hiking into the new year



**Lina Stafford:** Well, I usually have lazy Saturdays and Sundays, and that's not a bad thing, but I do it in a way that doesn't make me feel rested. So, maybe productive weekends? While relaxing peacefully?



Around 36 participants showed up at the Davis Mountains State Park on New Year's Day to participate in their "First Day Hike" event.

Photo courtesy of DMSP

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Hazel. This sweet gal has been at the shelter since November 2023. She was found stray, but it seemed like someone cared for her at some point. She appears to have had surgery on one of her legs. She has another back leg with a paw that curves under and will be having surgery to remove that leg to improve her quality of life at the first of the year.

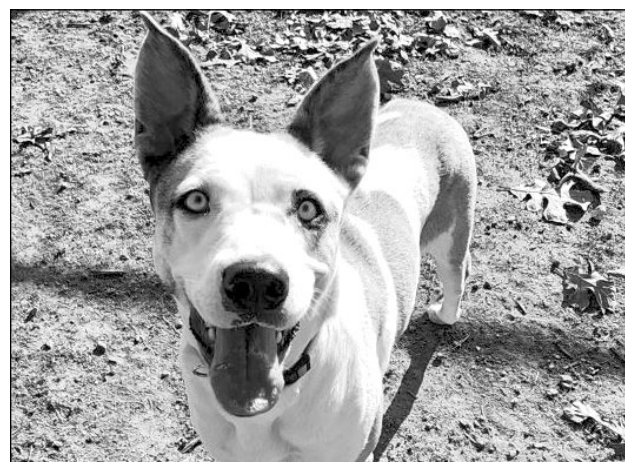
Her handicaps do not slow her down; she can run, jump, and play with the best of them. She is house-trained. She will hold it until her time in the yard but will definitely make it known that she wants out. She does well on a leash but prefers not to have one. Her beautiful blue eyes will surely stop you in your tracks when you meet her.

In cold weather, ensure your outdoor pets have adequate shelter out of the wind. Using straw (not hay) or wood shavings in outdoor housing is ideal. Never use blankets as they become wet

and will freeze, putting your pet in danger of frostbite or worse. Wood shavings are very affordable at local farm retailers. Alpine Humane Society has a limited number of bales of shavings at our Pet Pantry for those who are unable to purchase them.

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. 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](http://PetFinder.com) or [www.alpinehumane.org](http://www.alpinehumane.org), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



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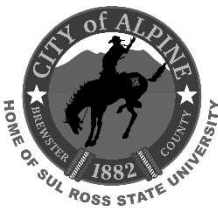
[alpineretirementhomes.com](http://alpineretirementhomes.com)  
Or call: 432-837-2259



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALPINE ISD'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Alpine ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 in the Alpine High School Band Hall located at 300 East Hendryx, Alpine, Texas. Entrance to the Band Hall is located on Fighting Buck Avenue.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Alpine ISD's rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST Report), the State's Financial Accountability System.



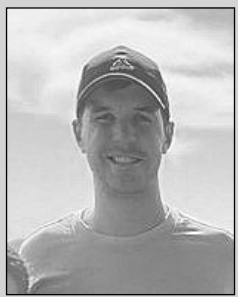
### NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED 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.

**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.

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



**Ben Gully:** Overindulging in junk food and fast food and choosing food that makes me feel good. Unfortunately, that is a combination of money and convenience, not just eating what tastes good. So, I'm not sure how that'll go this year.



**Lynn Adrien:** I'd trade social media for literally anything else.



**Jackson Mudd:** I would want to trade watching TV for reading more this year.

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COUNTY • FROM 1

The court thanked Wilbourn for bringing the issue and possibilities to their attention and that they would put it on a future agenda for further discussion.

Next, Pct. 2 commissioner, Sara Colando, announced that the annual "Pea-off" held in Terlingua on New Year's Day was a great success and that it was able to raise close to \$4,000 for the Terlingua school graduates.

The court also approved two updates whose funds will come out of the county project fund during this meeting. The installation of keypads for the South Brewster County Emergency Services building for the security entry sys-

**P**ct. 2 commissioner, Sara Colando, announced that the annual "Pea-off" held in Terlingua on New Year's Day was a great success and that it was able to raise close to \$4,000 for the Terlingua school graduates.

tem and the contract with Lexipol were both approved. The keypad installation is the same one that was adopted earlier last year for the Brewster County courthouse and will cost \$13,594.32 from the fund. The Lexipol contract was ap-

proved for \$5,000 for the purpose of writing grants on behalf of Emergency Services.

In other news, Joan Johnson, Tom Mangrem, Kevin Urbanczyk, and Ambrosio Valles who are members of the Brewster County Groundwater District Board had their two-year terms renewed. These are four current members of the board which has seven total seats.

In other news, the county's historic fund will be utilized again for the old jail. While the air-conditioning unit was being replaced, it became apparent that the roof also needs repair. The court approved the proposed amount of \$6,786.35 for the repairs.

The courthouse grounds will also be seeing some improvements soon, as the court approved to double the budget for the project from \$15,000 to \$30,000 also from the historic fund.

In this week's meeting, the court also gave final approval for a contract with GovOS, an online property alert service that will be available to all residents who own property in the area. This contract was discussed in a previous commissioner's court meeting and the contract was updated to reflect a lower annual cost for the first two years.

The next regular commissioner's court meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23.

BIGHORN • FROM 1

this, Elephant Mountain WMA, just south of Alpine received 20 bighorns in February 1987. Since these initial placements, more of the native sheep have been introduced to the Sierra Vieja Mountains in Presidio County, as well as to Black Gap WMA in southeastern Brewster County. The large majority of all of these animals have been fitted with radio collars.

"We have several hundred animals GPS collared across five different study areas in the Trans-Pecos, and these data collars generate crucial information that allows us to understand the details of how these animals interact and identify for us ways in which we can perform achievable management practices," said French.

The first part of this project will focus on how many aoudads a mule deer population can coexist with. With large numbers of aoudad in the Trans-Pecos, they occupy a substantial amount of native mule deer habitat. Aoudads compete for resources when their numbers are this high, so they must be managed to keep them from outcompeting the mule deer.

"We are comparing indicators of competition between mule deer and aoudad in two mountain ranges with high aoudad densities. We will remove a large portion of the aoudad population in one of the study areas while leaving the other study area alone. We will then watch for competition as the treated population rebounds," French stated. This particular portion of the study should indicate what level of aoudad abundance reduces the competition to acceptable levels for the mule deer and will give managers the information needed to set their goals for the management of the aoudad by balancing the economic benefits with the needs of the mule deer.

According to French, researchers have been seeing an increase in bacterial pneumonia in desert bighorn populations, so the second portion of this project is to determine where they may likely see differ-

ent hot spots of disease transmission. "While both bighorn and aoudad are highly susceptible to pneumonia caused by the bacteria *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* or *M. ovi* for short, aoudad seems to be more resilient to the disease, which makes them a disease carrier," French said.

"Since both species tend to prefer the same habitat and contact between them is common, we want to determine where disease transmission occurs and is most likely to happen. We are using GPS collars to better understand the social dynamics of the herds and to discover if their interaction happens during breeding seasons and herd formation and break-up, or if it is happening at other times during the year. This should allow us to determine where disease transmission between the two species is most likely to occur."

The third and final portion of this project is how best to leverage the available technology to provide management tools and information for identifying the where, when, and how to manage the other two portions of the study.

Both TPWD and BRI are utilizing not only collars, but also satellite imagery to track resource availability along with habitat quality for all three species. This allows researchers to determine where overlap occurs within the habitat which in turn will help them discover areas of possible disease transmission and competition. Overpopulation of any one species decreases the ability of the area to support healthy animals.

"Along with the collars and satellite imagery we are also utilizing airborne forward-looking infrared (FLIR) that helps us determine safer and more precise methods of estimating animal abundance over large areas. Each of these technologies is becoming more affordable and accessible, so we are looking forward to seeing how these can be leveraged to provide information to managers, landowners, and stakeholders going forward," French concluded.

SRSU • FROM 1



Graduate students enrolled in the new Master of Arts in Anthropology will be provided opportunities like these students pictured here, to conduct anthropological studies in the greater Big Bend region.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross State University

if they already possess a graduate degree, and are looking to increase their knowledge of Spanish, they may seek a Graduate Certificate in Spanish for Professions. The certificate is an online course and the first of its kind in Texas. It will focus on a basic knowledge of Spanish vocabulary, language, and scenarios students are likely to find in their selected professions.

The College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Sciences will be offering a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Supply Chain Management. This is a 30-credit master's degree focusing on supply chain management, by learning to manage a broad range of activities including controlling, planning, executing, and acquiring raw materials and production through distribution to the final customer.

Students who already hold a graduate degree or those who do not may apply for a 12-credit Graduate Certificate in Supply Chain Management to expand their knowledge and skills in the tools of logistics,

transportation of goods, and overall supply chain management concepts.

Also falling under this same college, is an Undergraduate Certificate in Interior Design and Construction. This 27-hour certificate is being offered to students wishing to pursue a shorter credential than a bachelor's degree. This one-year course is designed to provide students with the necessary tools to begin an entry-level position in the field of interior design, architecture, or construction with an emphasis on residential design and construction, light commercial construction, or kitchen and bath design construction.

The College of Education and Professional Studies is offering two master's degrees along with a graduate certificate. The graduate certificate is a certificate in Border Security and Management. This certificate requires a bachelor's degree, is self-paced, and is completely online. It is designed to offer a customized professional development opportunity to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Border

**T**he College of Education and Professional Studies is offering two master's degrees along with a graduate certificate. The graduate certificate is a certificate in Border Security and Management.

Patrol, and Customs and Border Protection. It is an ideal addition for federal, state, and local emergency management officials, law enforcement, and members of the military as well as those connected with DHS, USBP, and the CBP.

The two master's degrees being offered are a Master of Science in Forensic Science and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in International Trade. The Forensic Science degree program will require 30 credit hours, with half of those credits required and the other half selected in the concentration area elective courses

being offered by different majors such as Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, Computer Science, as well as biology and chemistry. This degree may be of interest to those already employed or seeking employment in crime laboratories, medical examiner's offices, or law enforcement. One area of concentration offered in this program will be digital forensics with an emphasis on cybercrime.

The Master of Business Administration with International Trade program requires 30 credit hours focusing on international trade, which is estimated to be a \$30 trillion business and will only increase. Graduates with an emphasis in international trade are employed across 95 different industries, holding jobs such as those in administration services, computer and electronics, and oil and gas. This concentration allows the student to more readily comprehend world trade which will enhance their MBA degree. For more information contact the provost by email at provost@sulross.edu.

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**Restaurant Guide**

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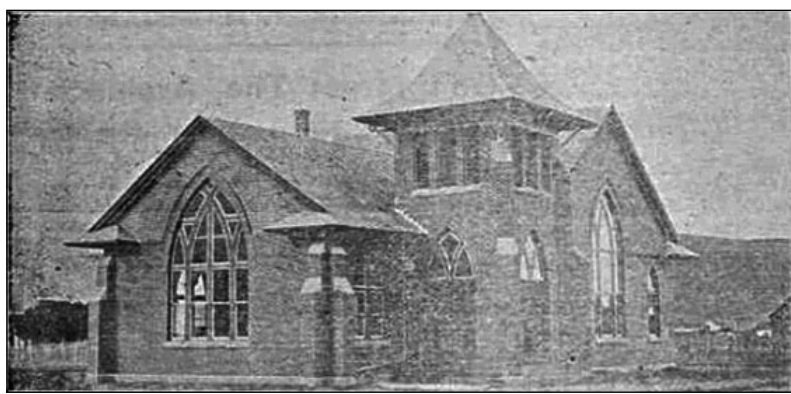
## LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND  
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Alpine Avalanche

**March 9, 1911**

Pictured here, is the beautiful 1st Presbyterian church building with large and intricate windows and wide steeple.



**February 9, 1911**

The Alpine Normal School has been made into a permanent institution. Having secured some of the best educators in the state, the school has become one of only 50 Summer Normal Schools in the state.



**February 16, 1911**

Rich in minerals, Brewster County is reported to be a miner's paradise and could have the potential to be the richest mineral territory in the country.



**February 9, 1911**

Hon. J.D. Jackson is the president of the board of directors of Alpine's Summer Normal School. Jackson is uniquely qualified for this position because of his experience as president of the board of trustees of the public schools.

*Photos from Alpine Avalanche archives at Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Sul Ross State University.*

# Heat sources pertinent to plant protection in greenhouses

**Dear Neil: I have a 3-year-old Meyer lemon tree that I have protected for the winter with a large 8x6x8ft. collapsible greenhouse. It has two large "windows" on the sides and two large zipper doors at each end that I leave open in the daytime, and then zip closed if temperatures are going to drop to 45F. If it's going to drop to 32F or colder, will I need to provide a heat source? The tree and greenhouse are in full sun, and it gets very warm very quickly in the morning when the sun hits it.**

It sounds like you have made a very good provision for your tree. It may eventually outgrow that space, so you may end up having to trim it a bit to fit. Or you might be able to raise the greenhouse with some kind of base. Yes, you will need a type of heat source. A small electric heater might work but be careful that it doesn't make contact with the plastic cover or structure and that it doesn't blow directly onto the plant's foliage. I assume the plant is too heavy to hoist onto a plant dolly and roll into the garage for the coldest of nights. Lightbulbs alone won't work. Even the old incandescent bulbs don't put out that much heat. Remember that LED lights

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

don't put out any heat. Is it possible to position it adjacent to a window or door of a heated garage? You could rig up some kind of attachment that would be weather-proof. That would allow you to open the door or window just enough to let warm air into the greenhouse. Without seeing your layout it's difficult to give you more specific suggestions.

**Dear Neil: A reader said they put down a "weed barrier?" Back in Minnesota we put down heavy-duty plastic sheeting and covered it with rock. The weeds stayed away. Thoughts?**

If you're talking about black polyethylene plastic film, that's not a good plan. Granted it will stop weed growth, but it also traps

water during periods of wet weather. There is no passage of air (oxygen) through it, so the soil simply cannot dry out. If you've ever walked on Texas clay soil under those circumstances, you know how spongy it can become. The weed barrier products have been designed to allow air and water movement into and out of the soil.

**Dear Neil: I have moved into a house with a wonderful bed of asparagus. Unfortunately, it is overrun by equally "wonderful" bermudagrass. Is there a product I can use to eliminate the bermuda without killing the asparagus? I'm willing to take a year off harvesting if necessary.**

There is no way to kill bermuda at this time of year short of digging it out by hand (and foot). Once it all starts growing, however, you could use a glyphosate-only herbicide to kill the active bermuda. That would be late April and May. By then your asparagus harvest would have run its course. You should cease cutting spears six or seven

weeks into their production. Your secret will be to use a 2-gallon pump sprayer so that you can direct the herbicide precisely onto the bermuda. Keep it off the asparagus stems. I use a large piece of cardboard as a screen. I hold it in my left hand while I spray with my right hand. (I'm right-handed.) The glyphosate weedkiller is inactive in the soil so it will not harm the roots. That's why I specified "glyphosate-only." The manufacturer has also packaged products that combine glyphosates with other active ingredients that do soak into the soil and enter plants through their roots. Those are the products you want to avoid.

**Dear Neil: We have an abundance of red oak seedlings growing in tandem with Ashe junipers. Can**

**they successfully be separated, and the oaks then brought into our landscape?**

That's going to be really tough, if not impossible. Especially if all the oaks look like the example in your photo. You would destroy the oaks' root systems. You would be far better off if you could hunt for small saplings 12 to 18 inches tall. You'd be able to capture all their roots and hold the soil intact around them by digging them with a sharpshooter spade. Do so now while the trees are dormant. Water immediately after you replant them.

**Dear Neil: We have three large Turk's cap plants. When should they be cut back, and by how much?**

As with most perennials, you want to prune Turk's cap only once its foliage has been killed by the first freeze. Depending on where you are, this has been an unusually late winter for that to happen, but it's close at hand for many of us. Once temperatures fall below 30F you can expect the top growth to be killed to the ground. But it will come roaring back in mid-spring, so leave the stems 1-2 inches above grade so you'll remember where the clumps are.

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

**ACROSS**

- 1 TXism: "\_\_\_ as a two-day-old kitten"
- 5 TXism: "sounds like a dry \_\_\_" (bad singer)
- 6 hot tubs
- 7 meaning of Spanish word, "Brazos"
- 8 Texas "High Fidelity" plays the music of "\_\_\_ Speedwagon"
- 9 Guadalupe is a spring-\_\_\_ river
- 12 TXism: "can't \_\_\_ silk purse out of a sow's ear"
- 17 TX Matt who was a pro wrestler
- 19 easternmost city in Texas
- 21 national citizen (2 wds.)
- 22 shaped clay
- 23 Texas-based Mary Kay is present in this Chinese country
- 28 "Bear" or "Berra"
- 29 TX Janis died of a drug over\_\_\_
- 30 "Anytime" country singer, Eddy
- 31 Texas film "Lone Wolf Mc\_\_\_"
- 35 some confuse \_\_\_ with a raven
- 36 place with coin-operated washers and dryers (2 wds.)
- 42 TXism: "plain \_\_\_ face"
- 44 TX George Foreman was one

**DOWN**

- 46 attached wood slantwise
- 48 mountie "Do-Right"
- 49 opposite of 21-across (abbr.)
- 50 space agcy. in Houston
- 51 on the side of a ship sheltered from the wind
- 52 "Dead" Smith in the Texas Revolution
- 53 "\_\_\_ of society"
- 54 fruit pastries
- 56 Calhoun, who was the "Domino Kid"
- 57 TXism: "critter corral"
- 58 actress Madigan of 3-down

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

- 12 female parent, informally
- 13 TXism: "mean as \_\_\_"
- 14 before KDEI, in Port Arthur
- 15 TXism: "tie up the loose \_\_\_"
- 16 this RB Tommie was on 2 Cowboy Super Bowl teams
- 18 "for sale" abbr. often
- 20 this Ames was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel"
- 23 16-down init.
- 24 noted Notre Dame coach, Parseghian
- 25 Peru native people
- 26 "do your \_\_\_"
- 27 TXism: "got \_\_\_ arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- 32 int'l security org.
- 33 commercial
- 34 \_\_\_ Pepper
- 36 "Santa \_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"
- 37 pork \_\_\_ (meat)
- 38 TXism: "dull \_\_\_ week's news"
- 39 TX Lois Chiles, before acting
- 40 car's wheel shafts
- 41 golf ball support
- 43 Ranger announcer, Eric (init.)
- 45 TX Yarborough, a U.S. senator (init.)
- 47 communal location in a nursing home
- 48 Donald Duck's girlfriend
- 55 Cowboy Hall-of-Famer, Aikman

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# Sports



Coach Christopher Virdell guides the Lady Bucks during a recent game.

Courtesy photo

## Lady Buck's smart start to the new year

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Lady Bucks have returned to district play with a bang after the Christmas and New Year holiday, winning their home game with the Stanton Buffalos 43-31, on January 2, and an away game against the Tornillo Coyotes 80-24, on January 5.

Fans at Tuesday's district challenge between the Lady Bucks and the visiting Stanton Buffalos saw Alpine's basketball squad knock off Stanton by a count of 15-3 in the

**Sports Schedule**

**FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL**  
Jan. 16 Presidio\* vs Alpine JV 5 p.m. 9th Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.  
Jan. 19 Alpine vs Compass\* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.

**LADY BUCK BASKETBALL**  
Jan. 16 Presidio\* vs Alpine JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 19 Alpine vs Compass\* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.  
*\*Denotes District Game*

first quarter, adding 6-2 in the second, 10-17 in the third, and 12-9 in the fourth.

"The Stanton game was a big win for the girls. They came in un-

defeated so far in the district and we knew it was going to be a fight. The girls played an excellent defensive game, holding them to five total points in the first half," said Christopher Virdell, head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks.

Novah Carrasco led the team in scores this game, collecting 18 points total from her seven field goals, nine three-point shots, and two free throws. Evelyn Smith also brought the scoreboard up with her fellow teammates, having four field goals, a rebound,

three steals, and three turnovers.

"The girls played fast and aggressively; we were able to execute our transition game very well. I was very proud of the girl's overall effort and focus. Last year was a close and very tough game with them. We came in prepared to stop their post player and run the court every chance we could," said Virdell.

With the victory, Alpine upgraded its record to 5-14 on the campaign. The Lady Bucks would

See LADY BUCKS • 13

## Bucks continue winning streak

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

So far this year, the Alpine Fightin' Bucks have brought their best to the district competition. The Bucks defeated the Stanton Buffalos 58-41, and the Tornillo Coyotes by a smashing 71-34.

"District games are always tougher. Since the tournament, I feel like we've begun to hit our stride, especially on the defensive side of the basketball," said head basketball coach for the Bucks, Aaron Hardwick.

During the home game with the Buffalos, the Bucks had a minor lead in the first half and slowly widened the gap in the second, especially in the final quarter. Alpine led on the scoreboard in every quarter, with 11-10 in the first, a 16-12-point lead in the second, 13-12 in the third, and a whopping 18-7 in an exhausting and decisive fourth quarter. The Bucks had four turnovers in this game, 13 offensive rebounds, and 24 defensive rebounds as well as 22 steals.

Jace Canaba led the Alpine team on the scoreboard during this game, gaining 19 points with seven field goals, five free throws, and five



The Bucks' Alec Ramos attempts a free throw against Stanton during their recent win over the Buffalos.

Courtesy photo

steals. Evren Martinez and Daedrick Hardwick tied in their scores, each putting up 11, with Ferris Daley nearly meeting them with 10.

With the Tornillo Coyotes, the Bucks took the lead immediately in the first quarter, 15-7. Each team gained nine points in the second quarter, but Alpine rebounded in the third by scoring 30 points to the Coyote's eight. Lastly, the Bucks maintained their distant

lead in the fourth quarter with 17-10 points.

The Fightin' Bucks only had three successful free throws during this game but with eight three-point field goals, 22 two-point field goals, and 26 turnovers, and 23 transition points, they had the game in the bag. The Bucks showed off their offensive and defensive strength during this game, with 37 total rebounds, 22 steals, and 18 deflections. Canaba led this game

## Lady Lobos fall to East Texas Baptist, roll past LeTourneau

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Beginning last Thursday and continuing over the weekend, the Sul Ross Lady Lobos met up with East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) in Marshall followed by LeTourneau in Longview. The Thursday evening game did not go the way the Lobos wanted, as they fell to the Tigers 71-80.

The first quarter would see the Lobos trail by eight points, and fall behind more in the second, but would rally with an 8-0 run to close the gap to within two points. Goals by Emily Bunger and Cheyanne Bonilla would be followed by a free throw from Victoria Aguayo that would help the Lobos and eventually put them up by two over the Tigers. ETBU would tie up the game at 35 a piece before Bonilla would hit a three-pointer and put Sul Ross in the lead.

Kayley Diaz would increase the Lobo lead by five thanks to a jumper in the paint, and the Tigers would end the first half behind the Lobos by three.

At the start of the third, the Lobos would

again trail ETBU by five, but Bonilla would hit her second three-pointer of the game to close the gap to two. Aguayo and Marley Rokas would close the gap to one with a series of free throws, but the Tigers would use a 4-0 run to take the lead again by five.

Sul Ross would capitalize on a 7-0 run to rally back that would include another three-pointer from Bonilla, a layup from Bunger, and two free throws from Jema Padilla. With just over four minutes left on the clock, this would put Sul Ross up 55-53. Unfortunately for the Lobos, their lead would diminish when ETBU took a 5-0 run to take the lead back by three before Ariana Escalante would tie up the game with a three-pointer, bringing the score to 58-all with less than two minutes remaining. The Lobos would close out the third quarter with a pair of free throws from Ti'Miah Jackson-Allen and a layup from Escalante.

The final quarter would see two lead changes early on, with the Lobos breaking a

See LADY LOBOS • 12

## Hitting the links



Local golfers took the time to hit the course and improve their game despite the chilly temperatures.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**DAE HARDWICK**

Dae Hardwick is starting to hit his stride, after overcoming some injuries sustained during the football season. In his last outing vs Tornillo, Dae was 3 assists shy of a triple double 15 points, 10 rebounds, 7 assists.

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   §  
 BREWSTER COUNTY               §            DATED 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Brewster County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on December 12, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will, on the first Tuesday in **February, 2024**, the same being the 6th day of said month, at the Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W. Ave. E, in the City of Alpine, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day beginning at 10:00 AM, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Brewster and the State of Texas, to-wit:

TXB21258, Account No(s). 108000110005020200(26406), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. LOUISE BRUEGGMANN, 20.00 acres, more or less, being the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the West 1/2 of Survey 5, Abstract 651, Certificate 678, Block G-11, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated July 17, 1937, from Texas Big Bend Land Co. to Louise Brueggmann, in Volume 87, Page 295, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$14,000.00

TXB21262, Account No(s). 109000120013024830(26646), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. EMETERIO M DAGDAGAN, 40.00 acres, more or less, being the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 13, Block G-12, GC & SF RR Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated November 24, 1975, from Terramar Corporation to Emeterio M. Dagagan etal, in Volume 211, Page 328, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$24,000.00

TXB21263, Account No(s). 103000040209275000(25448), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. JAN-KEVIN VESEY, 40.00 acres, more or less, being the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 209, Block G-4, as described in deed dated November 23, 2011, from Robert L. Smith II Estate, Zana L. Smith, Administrator to Jan-Kevin Vesey, in Volume 275, Page 760, Official Public Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$13,200.00

TXB21271, Account No(s). 018000150021200010(24563), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. W H DAVIS, The Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 out of Survey 21, Block 15, G. H. & S. A. Ry. Cop. Land, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated January 2, 1915, from F. C. Bennett to W. H. Davis, in Volume 33, Page 310, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$12,000.00

TXB21273, Account No(s). 973500030008000000(11730), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. TERENCE CHAMBERLIN, Lot 8, Block 3, North Heights Addition, an addition to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Envelope 63, Plat Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$77,261.00

TXB22301, Account No(s). 032002150010794000(14122), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. CLYDE E. THROWER, AKA CLYDE EDWARD THROWER, ET AL, 5.00 acres, more or less, being Tract F-794, Section 10, Block 215, T & ST L RR Co. Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 3, Page 13, Map Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$2,500.00

TXB22301, Account No(s). 103000040232290000(25771), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. CLYDE E. THROWER, AKA CLYDE EDWARD THROWER, ET AL, 40.00 acres, more or less, being Tract 290 in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 232, Block G-4, H.E. & W.T RR. Co. Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 210, Page 424, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$13,200.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Brewster County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Battling for control



Alpine Lady Buck Karolina Castillo struggles with a Kermit player for control of the ball at Tuesday's game against the Yellow Jackets.

Photo by Joh Covington

**SENIOR Spotlight VANESSA WELCH**

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I've participated in UIL, FFA, One Act, and color guard.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite teacher was Mrs. Crump because of how she never gave up on a student.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment was my sophomore year homecoming bonfire.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
My plans are to join the Air Force and become a weather engineer.

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## Devotional Page Pursue peace

BY REV. STEPHEN WHITE  
First United Methodist Church

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)

An argument broke out at the diner. Disagreements were common at Tuesday breakfast, but this was becoming a doozy. The guys hadn't gotten this into it since the one over college baseball. But Electric cars? There were strong feelings about that. The idea was crazy to one group. There had always been gas engines.

Actually, they had to argue that out first. Carl pointed out that there were lots of diesel engines that weren't gas engines, and Sam the engineer proposed "Internal combustion," and everybody voted that down since they all knew when they said "gas" it meant all kinds of gas, and Sam should keep his "air is a gas" to himself.

Then it got ugly when Bob's son from college started. They bombarded his "green technology" with power curves, torque ratios, and acceleration. There was just no way an electric car could stand up to a gas one in a streetcar, much less in something that needed performance.

By now, people were starting to pay up

and clear out. This was getting loud and disturbed the peace of morning coffee. The new folks coming in weren't even saying "Hello" anymore. They didn't want to get drug into this holy war. When John said, "Well, one of them electric cars could never pull nothing like a real car." It seemed like it was over.

Branden had sat at the table and listened patiently. He hadn't said a word, but in the hostile silence that came after John's announcement he inserted two little words: "I did." "What?" "I did." Everybody waited in a different silence.

"You remember when I got mud all over my car pulling John's wife's car out of that mess? My new mini-SUV is a hybrid." And the argument was over. Now they were excited about this new thing. They found out about mpg's and costs and range on a tank of gas. And it's a little tank. Maybe it could work. They left electric tractors for another day.

This is how our lives in Christ are. We can argue and fight and run everybody off, or we can just live our lives as disciples, what's known as holiness, and let that end the discussion. And let your holiness speak because no one knows what your new hybrid can do if you leave it in the garage.

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I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.  
~ Philippians 4:13

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407 E Lockhart #2 3 BR / 1 Bath Rent \$1200.00/mo + Deposit 432-249-0293

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**HELP WANTED**

Opening - Immediate opening for an Automotive Technician. Some experience is required. Pay based on experience. Contact Powers Automotive to schedule an interview. (432)-837-3914

Help Wanted apply in person at Celebration Liquor 704 W. Holland.

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I buy cast iron skillets please text or call 512-963-7533

Want to buy old Colt pistols and old Winchester Lever Action rifles. Daytime phone #: 432-294-2094. Nights/weekends: 432-364-2234

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**GARAGE SALE**

net, round oak table, retro floral kitchen chairs, books, linens, huge set Desert Rose China, large set midcentury China, glassware, kitchen appliances, patio furniture, rugs and lots more! Vintage! Sat/Sun, Jan. 13/14, 9-3



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**NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit and Late Hours Certificate by Holland BevCo, LLC d/b/a Ole Crystal Bar, to be located at 410 E. Holland Avenue, Alpine, Brewster County, Texas 79830. The Manager of said company is Deandra Allen.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Alpine Storage at 234 E Brown Ave., Alpine TX is having an online auction. The property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

The sale will be held at www.storageauctions.com beginning Friday January 26 at 11:45 AM. Auction bidding will conclude Friday February 2 at 2:00 PM.

Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale upon payment in full from the tenant. Tenant's property may be redeemed prior to sale upon payment of all sums due to Lessor.

Property being sold includes contents of the unit listed below.

Bobby Daye Wright A-3 Household  
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Greenhouse Grown

Village Farms is looking for a full-time **Human Resources Assistant.**

The candidate's responsibilities include providing support in the areas of recruitment, employee orientation, employee relations, personnel file management and attendance tracking. Required Skills: Ability to handle confidential data, excellent organizational skills, working knowledge of MS Excel, Word and Outlook, strong interpersonal and communication skills. Bilingual (Spanish) is a must. Benefits and 401(k) available. Interested candidates should email or fax resume to 432-375-6241, aanderson@villagefarms.com or call 432-729-3071 ext. 601 for more information.



Village Farms is seeking a detailed oriented individual to join our team as **Shipping/Receiving Clerk** for our Marfa 2 location.

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties.

**Requirements:** Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal, and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

**Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607**

**or fax resume to (432)375-6241.**

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



Greenhouse Grown

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# Catching some air



Ferris Daley exhibits a little hang-time during the Alpine Fighting Buck's warm-up prior to their game against Kermit on Tuesday night.

Photo by Joh Covington

## LADY LOBOS • FROM 8



Marley Rokas chases down a loose ball during an early season game against Western New Mexico.

Photo by Kara Gerber



### Notificación de Reunión Pública con Opción Presencial Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT) Programa de Mejoras de Transporte Rural 2025- 2028 Distrito De El Paso

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT) – Distrito de El Paso llevará a cabo una reunión pública virtual en línea con una opción presencial para el Programa de Mejora del Transporte Rural 2025 - 2028 (Rural Transportation Improvement Program o Rural TIP). El propósito de esta reunión es proporcionar información y solicitar comentarios sobre los proyectos de transporte que pueden llegar a su área. El Distrito de El Paso incluye los condados de El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster. El Programa Rural TIP incluye todos los proyectos que agregarían capacidad a las vías y los proyectos de importancia regional que se financiarán dentro de un Distrito de TxDOT durante los próximos cuatro años, incluyendo aquellos elegibles para financiamiento federal. Esta reunión ofrece al público la oportunidad de revisar y comentar acerca de las prioridades propuestas. El Programa Rural TIP es el primer paso hacia la producción de un Programa Estatal de Mejora del Transporte (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program o STIP).

El público tiene dos opciones para participar en la reunión y obtener más información sobre los proyectos en los condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster. Las dos opciones presentarán la misma información:

#### Opción Virtual

##### Reunión Pública Virtual

Condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster

Accesible a partir de  
**el martes 30 de enero de 2024**  
a las 4 p.m. (CT)

Visite <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html> y busque los condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster.

#### Opción Presencial

##### Casa Abierta al Público

Condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster  
a las 4 p.m. (CT) hasta las 6 p.m. (CT)

**martes, 30 de enero de 2024 en Van Horn**  
El Capitan Hotel,  
100 E. Broadway, Van Horn, Texas 79855

**miércoles, 31 de enero de 2024 en Alpine**  
Centro Cívico de Alpine (Alpine Civic Center),  
801 W Holland Ave, Alpine, Texas 79830

**jueves, 1 de febrero de 2024 en Presidio**  
Centro de Actividades de Presidio (Presidio Activity Center),  
1200 East O'Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845

Las reuniones del Programa Rural TIP están siendo realizadas en conformidad con el Título 43 del Código Administrativo de Texas, Sección 16.102, el cual brinda una oportunidad para que la comunidad ofrezca comentarios con relación al programa. La misma información, incluyendo una breve presentación, exhibiciones que explican cómo funciona el Rural TIP y los proyectos que se incluyen en éste programa, estarán disponibles para su visualización en cada reunión pública.

Se invita a todos los miembros de la comunidad a asistir a cualquiera de las opciones de reunión ofrecidas y proporcionar comentarios por escrito sobre el programa propuesto. Los comentarios deben tener sello postal o ser recibidos para el 16 de febrero de 2024 a: TxDOT El Paso District, Attn: Rural TIP; 3301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso, TX 79928; o por correo electrónico [Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov](mailto:Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov), Atención: Rural TIP.

**Adaptaciones especiales:** La audiencia pública virtual y opción presencial se llevarán a cabo en inglés. Si necesita un intérprete o traductor de documentos, debido a que el inglés no es su idioma principal o tiene dificultades para comunicarse efectivamente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si necesita un intérprete, traductor o tiene una discapacidad y necesita asistencia, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para satisfacer sus necesidades en la medida posible. Si necesita servicios de interpretación, traducción o es una persona con alguna discapacidad que requiera una adaptación para participar en la audiencia pública virtual, favor de comunicarse con Lauren Macias-Cervantes, Oficial de Información Pública (Public Information Officer o PIO) de El Paso, al (915) 790-4200 a más tardar a las 4 p.m. CT, del **22 de enero de 2024**. Tenga en cuenta que se requiere un aviso con anticipación, ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden tomar más tiempo para que TxDOT los coordine.

## TRANSPORTE EN SU COMUNIDAD

PROGRAMA DE MEJORAS DE TRANSPORTE RURAL (Rural TIP) 2025 - 2028

### AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA VIRTUAL CON OPCIÓN PRESENCIAL

El Distrito de El Paso realizará una reunión pública virtual con opción presencial para proporcionar información y solicitar comentarios sobre los proyectos de transporte que pueden llegar a su área.

El 2025-2028 Rural TIP incluye toda la capacidad adicional y los proyectos de importancia regional que se financiarán como parte de un Distrito de TxDOT durante los próximos cuatro años, incluyendo aquellos elegibles para fondos federales. Esta reunión ofrece al público la oportunidad de revisar y comentar acerca de las prioridades propuestas. Es el primer paso en el camino hacia la producción de un Programa Estatal de Mejora del Transporte (STIP).

Las juntas del Rural TIP están siendo realizadas en conformidad con el Título 43 del Código Administrativo de Texas, Sección 16.102, el cual brinda una oportunidad para que la comunidad ofrezca comentarios con relación al programa. La misma información, incluyendo una breve presentación, exhibiciones que explican cómo opera el Rural TIP y los proyectos que se incluyen en éste programa, estarán disponibles para su visualización en cada reunión pública.

Se invita a todos los miembros de la comunidad a asistir a cualquiera de las opciones de reunión ofrecidas y proporcionar comentarios por escrito sobre el programa propuesto.

Los comentarios deben tener sello postal o ser recibidos para el 16 de febrero de 2024 a: TxDOT El Paso District, Attn: Rural TIP; 13301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso, Texas 79928; o por correo electrónico a [Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov](mailto:Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov), Attention: Rural TIP.

Para más información visite [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), y busque "Hearings and Meetings"

#### OPCIÓN PRESENCIAL

Los condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster  
a las 4 pm. (CT) hasta las 6 p.m. (CT)  
**30 de enero de 2024 – Van Horn**  
**31 de enero de 2024 – Alpine**  
**1 de febrero de 2024 – Presidio**

#### OPCIÓN VIRTUAL

Disponible después de las  
4 p.m. (CT) el 30 de enero de 2024  
Visite <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html> y busque los condados de Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio y Brewster.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ERIC RALPH ZEITLER, Deceased, were issued on 12/15/2023, in Cause No. PR03149, pending in IN THE COUNTY COURT OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, to: Kurt Vernon Zeitler

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Kurt Vernon Zeitler, 13204 Mountain View Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87123-2048 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

# Sul Ross men fall on the road

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

With an 8-7 record after last week's games, the Sul Ross Lobo men would fall to both the Tigers of East Texas Baptist University and the YellowJackets of LeTourneau. The Lobos are 1-4 on the road, proving they're comfortable at home, but these two conference losses are tough additions to their record this season.

Last Thursday evening the Lobos took to the court in Marshall, in a close game against the Tigers of ETBU. The Lobos would begin the first half with a 2-2 tie followed by an 8-2 run, to lead by as much as six. Omar Ibarra would capitalize on a steal and put up four points followed by a layup by Tyler Jackson for

the Lobos to lead 10-4.

The Tigers would rally, however, and cut their deficit down to four when a jumper by Manny Flores off a defensive rebound by Deveraux Minix would help put Sul Ross up by six.

ETBU would follow this up with a couple of three-pointers to trail by one with just over eight and a half minutes left in the first half.

The Lobos' Gabe Sanchez would hit a three-pointer to bring Sul Ross ahead by four before the Tigers took advantage of a 5-0 run, to lead the Lobos 20-19 with just over five and a half minutes to go. Jackson would score three points to put the Lobos back up by two after a slam dunk and a free throw, but in the last minutes of the first half, the Ti-

gers would close it out with a 6-0 run to lead the Lobos by four.

The Tigers came out in the second half, clawing their way up the scoreboard to lead by nine early on. Sul Ross would cut this to three on a 6-0 run with four points added from Cailean Ables and a layup by Jackson. The Lobos would keep this energy flowing connecting on an 11-0 run with a dunk by Bryce Harris, who would add five points to the Lobos' score, putting them ahead by six with just over 10 minutes left in the second half.

In a back-and-forth lead change in the final six minutes of the game, Sul Ross held on to a marginal lead at just under the six-minute mark, but ETBU would use a 4-0 run to take a two-point lead over

Sul Ross, and although Ables would tie up the game at 45-all with less than three minutes on the clock, a 5-1 streak by the Tigers would put them in the lead for the final minutes of the game, beating the Lobos 46-50.

On Saturday, the Lobos would meet up in Longview against the LeTourneau YellowJackets, and although three of the men would hit double-digit scoring during the match-up, Sul Ross would ultimately fall to the YellowJackets 76-89.

The Lobos began way behind in the first half of the game, trailing by 17 after LeTourneau began the contest with a 6-0 run. The Lobos were able to drop the deficit to 12 with just over four minutes to go in the first half with goals

by Bryson Laird and Hayden Peterson, but going into the second half, the Lobos would fall further behind when the YellowJackets grew their lead to 21.

About mid-way through the second half, Sul Ross would again cut the deficit to within 12 points, with a layup from Gabe Sanchez until the YellowJackets went up by 18.

Sul Ross was unable to close the gaping deficit, despite a 6-0 run, five of those by Laird, only coming to within 13 after a 4-0 run at the end of the game.

The Lobos are back home at the Gallego Center this Saturday at 3 p.m. to take on Howard Payne and then they will hit the road once again to challenge UT Dallas in Richardson on Thursday evening.

## LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

then travel to Tornillo to play the Coyotes in a 3A Region I District 4 challenge on Friday, January 5. The Coyotes come into the challenge with a record of 1-14. And Tornillo had just lost 65-20 in their recent district challenge against Kermit.

"The Tornillo game is always tough when you play in Tornillo," Virdell said.

According to the coach, the girls handled the long bus ride and the atmosphere to the best of their ability. The Lady Bucks hit hard in every quarter, leading 20-6 in the first, 18-9 in the second, 28-5 in the third, and 14-4 in the deciding fourth.

Hope Dominguez and Novah Carrasco kept the scores up, gaining their team 15 and 23 points respectively. Altogether, the Lady Bucks had 33 field goals, two three-point shots, and 23 offensive rebounds as well as 21 defensive rebounds.

They were able to create a lot of defensive

pressure and score off easy baskets from turnovers. And while Dominguez and Carrasco had double-digit scoring, every player on the team scored points. According to Virdell, it was a great opportunity to get experience for girls with lots of playing time.

"I was very pleased with their defensive effort during that game. We were aggressive to the pass and attacked the boards very well. Both were great games for us coming back from the break and coming off tough games played at the Caprock," said Virdell.

On Tuesday, the Lady Bucks had another district home game against the Kermit Yellow Jackets. The Lady Bucks would topple the Yellow Jackets 52-44.

The next game for the Lady Bucks will be on January 16, against the Presidio Blue Devils in another district home game.



### Notice of Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Option Texas Department of Transportation 2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program El Paso District

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) - El Paso district will conduct an online virtual public meeting with an in-person option for the 2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP). The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on which transportation projects may be coming to your area. The El Paso District includes the following counties: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster. The Rural TIP includes all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding. As such, this meeting offers the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

You have two options to participate in the meeting and learn more about projects in the El Paso district. Both options will present the same information:

Virtual Option	In-Person Option
<p><b>Virtual Public Meeting</b> Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties</p> <p>Can be accessed beginning: <b>Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024</b> at 4 p.m. (CT)</p> <p>Visit <a href="https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html">https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html</a> and look for Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster or Presidio Counties</p>	<p><b>Public Open House</b> Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties at 4 p.m. (CT) until 6 p.m. (CT)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024 Van Horn</b> - El Capitan Hotel, 100 E. Broadway, Van Horn, Texas 79855</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024 Alpine</b> - Alpine Civic Center, 801 W Holland Ave, Alpine, Texas 79830</p> <p><b>Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 Presidio</b> - Presidio Activity Center, 1200 East O'Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845</p>

The Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to *Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102*, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the Rural TIP. The same information including a short presentation, exhibits explaining how the Rural TIP operates, and projects that are included in it will be available to view at each public meeting.

All community members are encouraged to attend any of the meeting options offered and provide written comments on the proposed program. Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Feb. 16, 2024 to: TxDOT El Paso District, Attn: Rural TIP; 13301 Gateway Blvd. West, El Paso TX 79928; or by email to [Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov](mailto:Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov), Attention: Rural TIP.

**Special Accommodations:** The virtual public meeting and in-person option will both be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person option, please contact Lauren Macias-Cervantes, El Paso Public Information Officer, at (915) 790-4200 no later than 4 p.m. CT, **Jan. 22, 2024**. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

### TRANSPORTATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY 2025 - 2028 RURAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Rural TIP NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING WITH IN-PERSON OPTION

TxDOT El Paso District will conduct an online virtual public meeting with an in-person option to provide information and receive comments on which transportation projects may be coming to your area.

The 2025-2028 Rural TIP includes all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding. As such, this meeting offers the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

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All community members are encouraged to attend any of the meeting options offered and provide written comments on the proposed program. Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Feb. 16, 2024 to:

TxDOT El Paso District,  
Attn: Rural TIP; 13301 Gateway Blvd.  
West, El Paso, Texas 79928 or by email  
to [Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov](mailto:Adriana.Rodriguez@txdot.gov),  
Attention: Rural TIP.

For more information visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)  
and search "Hearings and Meetings"

#### IN-PERSON OPTION

Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis,  
Brewster and Presidio Counties  
4 to 6 p.m. (CT)  
**Jan. 30, 2024 - Van Horn**  
**Jan. 31, 2024 - Alpine**  
**Feb. 1, 2024 - Presidio**

#### VIRTUAL OPTION

Available to view after 4 p.m. CT on **Jan 30, 2024**  
Visit <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html> and look for Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties.



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# All the flavors without all the hassle

## *A simple twist on chicken cordon bleu*

If you've ever had the privilege to partake in chicken cordon bleu you know how delicious it is. It's the perfect marriage of chicken, ham, and cheese all wrapped up in a golden crust. Sounds good, right?

The dilemma many people have is the preparation. You see, chicken cordon bleu takes a chicken breast and stuffs it with ham and cheese, then breads it much like fried chicken and then fries it to a golden brown. It can be quite a bit of work. But there's an easier way to get all these delicious ingredients together without the stuffing and the breading that is involved in the original dish.

Chicken cordon bleu casserole is the way to get all the great flavors of traditional chicken



### HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

cordon bleu without all the work. You still use the breadcrumbs and all the other great ingredients, but you layer it in a casserole dish instead of making it individually. This allows you the ease of making sure any of your side dishes are not neglected, because once this casserole is assembled it goes into the oven and you have around half an hour to kill.

This dish gives you all the "French" without the

pretention.

So, what pairs well with chicken cordon bleu? Immediately my mind goes to green beans or asparagus. Cooking either of these two vegetables as a side dish pairs well, but they can sometimes be hard to come by when they aren't in season. Another option is roasted brussels sprouts or carrots. Even a side salad full of greens or flavored or wild rice will go nicely with this casserole. Anything that helps break up the richness of all these proteins will work.

Therefore, if you're scratching your head about something different to bring to the dinner table this winter, look no further than this easy take on a French classic to bring warmth and comfort to family and friends.



Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole

Courtesy photo

## Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole

**Ingredients:**  
 3 ounces of prosciutto  
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
 1 cup chicken broth  
 1 cup whole milk  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt  
 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces  
 8 ounces cubed ham  
 4 cups shredded Swiss or mozzarella cheese, divided  
 1 cup panko bread-crumbs  
 Chopped parsley for serving

**Directions:**  
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
 Coat a 13 x 9-inch baking dish and a rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.  
 Arrange prosciutto on a prepared baking sheet in an even layer with no overlap. Bake until crispy, 10 to 15 minutes. Let cool.  
 Meanwhile, in a large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour and let bubble until light golden brown and toasted, about two minutes.  
 Pour in broth and milk and simmer, whisking occasionally, until thickened, four to six minutes. Whisk in mustard, salt, and pepper.  
 Stir chicken and ham

into the sauce. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until chicken is cooked through 9 to 11 minutes. Stir in two cups of cheese and immediately transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish. Top with the remaining two cups of cheese.

In a small bowl, add cooled prosciutto, and crush with the handle of a wooden spoon. Crush into fine crumbs, mix with panko bread-crumbs, and spread mixture evenly over the dish.

Bake until filling is bubbling and crumbs are golden-brown 30 to 35 minutes. Top with parsley if desired and serve.

## Alpine students place at the first Texas major



Alpine FFA and Brewster County 4-H showers represented our community well at the Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo this past weekend in Odessa. Alpine FFA member Kylie Maroney won senior showmanship with her goat and placed third in class three with the same animal. Brewster County 4-H member Wyatt Renfroe won the junior showmanship and placed fifth in class three with his goat. Rynn Matthews won reserve showmanship in her junior class.

Photo by J.T. Maroney



Alpine native and Miss Rodeo Sandhills Aspen Wash helps in the ring this past Saturday for the Texas Finewool Breeders Association annual finewool lamb show in Odessa.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

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