

AESB moves forward despite recent loss

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Emergency Services Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Aaron Rodriguez conducted the meeting after the recent loss of Chairman Paul Loeffler.

All members of the board were present as were guest Carla Spencer and Alpine Volunteer fireman Alex Montemayor.

After the meeting was called to order, Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Board member Albert Benitez

See AESB • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024.4.37"
July0.15"



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.



Wilson will once again lead the AHS band

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Local musician and band director Chuck Wilson first began his career at Alpine ISD in 2002. He resigned from Alpine ISD in 2021 and began teaching at his alma mater Sul Ross State University (SRSU) that same year. Wilson has now returned to Alpine High School as their 2024-2025 band director.

Wilson's role at SRSU differed some from his high school role, but he was still heavily involved in the music he loved. "While I was at Sul Ross, I had the opportunity to teach future music

educators like me. I taught brass instrument techniques, music composition, individual instrumental lessons, as well as being able to mentor inexperienced directors and directing the Pep Bands at SRSU," Wilson said.

When asked what prompted Wilson to come back to Alpine ISD, he told the Avalanche that throughout his music career, he has had the opportunity to work with music students from all over Texas as well as throughout the United States but he said, "That experience has been challenging and very rewarding, however, the students in Alpine hold a special place with me because they respect each other, they work hard,



Chuck Wilson, Band Director.

and the families support their students in Alpine."

Wilson has also had the opportunity to work with students from the age of six to 90 and says the only difference is the depth of

music theory they are able to discuss together. He says he teaches to where each student is so that every student can be successful.

Wilson's goal is to try and learn and improve from all of his experiences, this includes his time at the high school level, the university level, as well as others. The one thing different about his return to AHS is the new band hall. "I have not had the opportunity to work in that environment. The focus of a student-centered program is not new, nor is striving to help students be the best they can be in all ar-

See WILSON • 6

Birdies rain or shine



One of 56 teams to compete at this year's Legends golf tournament, Bret Darter and Brian Harper who traveled all the way from Austin, line up a putt for a chance to become a Legends champion. Despite some much-needed rain, the two-day annual tournament concluded as scheduled Sunday evening.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Bar-SR-Bar reunion slated for this weekend

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

This year's annual Sul Ross Ag and Rodeo Association reunion is scheduled for Friday, July 19 through Sunday, July 21 with most events occurring at the Everett E. Turner Range Animal Science complex. This yearly reunion hosts a domino tournament, goat roping, team roping, a poker tournament, a golf tournament, and a barrel race, breakaway roping, ribbon roping, goat tying, and pole pending competition with proceeds benefitting scholarships for the Sul Ross State University Agriculture and Rodeo programs.

Activities kick off on

Friday at 1:30 p.m. with the 42 Domino tournament. The entry fee is \$50 and the tournament is a blind draw.

At 4 p.m. there will be an arena social at the SALE Arena followed by the goat roping at 6 p.m. Books for the goat roping will open at 5 p.m. and entry fee is \$20 per man for 2HD/PA1. Enter up custom buckles will go to the average winners. Buckles will be rewarded to the team that entered within the first 150 entries or 6 p.m., whichever comes first. If entered after 6 p.m. or after the first 150 teams, winners will only receive prize money.

See REUNION • 6



Todd Griffin and Cleat Stephens were the winners of last year's Exes team roping out of 88 teams and were presented with these custom saddles during the awards ceremony.

Courtesy photo

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OBITUARIES

Joe L. Dutchover

Jose Luis Dutchover, Jr. aged 71, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his children on July 2 in New Mexico.

Joe was born to Jose Luis and Margarita Dutchover on December 1, 1952, in Marfa. He graduated from Fort Davis High School in 1972 and went on to get a Certificate in Telecommunications from Texas A&M University. He worked for Big Bend Telephone in Alpine afterward. Joe always had an adventurous nature and followed his dream to travel the



West living in many different states throughout his life, Wyoming being one of his favorites.

Joe is survived by his mother Margarita, sisters Norma and Lorraine (Chrispy.) His children, Samuel, Eric, Joshua, Adam, Vanessa (Cody), Joseph, Jennifer (Stacy),

Deiderich (Tia), and Jessica, as well as 12 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his father Jose.

Daddy's last years were filled with adventure and laughter while doing what he loved most; spending time with his children and grandchildren fishing, relaxing on the front porch reminiscing about the good times, riding his Harley, and dancing to his favorite country music. His life was a testament to love, relentlessness, and most importantly family. You will be great-

ly missed every day until we see you again. You will always be remembered, our sweet Daddy.

A graveside service will be held on July 27 at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Fort Davis.

The family would like to sincerely thank Angels Care Hospice in Alpine as well as Alamogordo Home Health and Hospice for their special care. The family has entrusted their loved on to the care of Alamogordo Funeral Home. Donations can be made in his name to Sunshine House, Inc. in Alpine.

Anita O. Losoya

Anita O. Losoya, born on August 28, 1945, in Alpine, bid farewell to this world on June 6 in Houston. Anita earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sul Ross State University. She continued to broaden her horizons by enrolling in business courses, post-graduation.

One of Anita's proudest accomplishments was the refurbishment of a colonel's home in Fort Davis. Her attention to detail and creative flair breathed new life into the historic residence, leaving a lasting mark on the community and showcasing her talent for restoration.



Beyond her professional endeavors, Anita found joy in simple pleasures. She liked cats and was interested in genealogy and antiques. Anita's love for reading earned her the title of a bookworm, diving into books of all sorts. Gardening also held a special place in her heart, nurturing plants and flowers

with care and tenderness.

Anita is preceded in death by her parents Abel and Anita Losoya and her brother Leonel Losoya.

As Anita embarks on her final journey, she leaves behind cherished memories that will forever be treasured by her siblings Lola Rios, Abel Losoya, Ruben Losoya, Joe Losoya, and several nieces and nephews.

Anita O. Losoya will be fondly remembered by family and friends. May she rest in eternal peace.

Services will be held for Anita at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine on July 20 starting with visitation at 9 a.m., a

Rosary at 10 a.m., and a Memorial Mass at 10:30 a.m. Interment is to follow at Holy Angels Cemetery.

Services for Anita O. Losoya are entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home. Condolences may be left at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

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Arts Council gets donation



On July 10, Artwalk Alpine donated a \$24,421.62 check which were the proceeds from the recent music and silent auction fundraisers held for artists who lost work in the downtown fire this past May. Pictured are Artwalk founding members Keri Blackman and John Davis, Executive Director of Artwalk, Lance Johnson, president of the Big Bend Arts Council, Jan Moeller, director of the Big Bend Gallery, Amanda Calhoun, and member of the Big Bend Gallery and faculty director of the Sul Ross Art Club, Gregory Teagarden.

Courtesy photo

Costumes make the play at theater camp

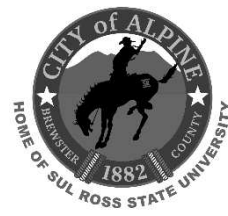


Young and aspiring thespians work on creating their masks during Sul Ross' summer youth theatre camp. The students are separated into two groups during the day with one group working on the art portion while the other works on performance dynamics and then they switch places after a short break.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Big Bend Regional Hospital District Medical Enhancement Grants

BBRHD is now accepting grant proposals for the Fall FY2025 Medical Enhancement Grant program. The deadline to apply for funding will be on August 30, 2024 for the fall grant cycle. Brewster and Presidio County entities providing healthcare or other related services, consistent with the mission and objectives of the Hospital District may be eligible to apply. The grant application package and additional information are available at www.bigbendhealth.org or call 432-837-7051.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEM:

SPECIAL USE PERMIT 2024-08-01: A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, MICHELLE MINTO, TO PURSUE A RETAIL DEALER'S ON-PREMISE LICENSE/PERMIT THROUGH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR ALCOHOL SALES AT THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, BOCK BURGER. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED 603 E. AVE E. THE PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD IS SANDRA BAEZA. THE PARCEL ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 10628.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 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 APPLICATION. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION 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.

Sul Ross hosts hands-on cyber camp

The Sul Ross State University Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Department, in partnership with the University of Scranton-Pennsylvania, offered a Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Investigation Camp for area high school students in Alpine July 9-11.

Through hands-on, active learning experiences and lessons by both university professors and professionals working in the field of cyber intelligence and cyber security, 13 students from Alpine, Fort Davis, Marfa, Del Rio, Presidio, Terlingua, and students from Scranton schools, with whom the Alpine campers collaborated, had a unique opportunity to explore possible career paths in this emerging, dynamic and in-demand sector.

During the training, students learned about the basics of cybersecurity, cybercrimes and profiles of cybercriminals, cyberlaw, cybercrime investigations, cryptocurrency investigations, artificial intelligence investigations, and deep-fake detection.

The curriculum included lectures, hands-on ex-



Campers were presented with a certificate of completion by Dr. Oguzhan Basibuyuk, professor and chair of the Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice.

ercises, case discussions, a tour of SRSU's data center, computer simulations, and a capture-the-flag competition. Classes were taught in Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity Lab. The group "Blue Gatorade," consisting of Sul Ross campers Bowen Corbin

(Fort Davis), Zachary Noll (Big Bend), and Edgar Reyes (Del Rio), won third place among 15 groups from the University of Scranton and SRSU competing in the capture-the-flag competition on the last day of the camp.

In addition to instruc-

tors from Sul Ross, the University of Scranton, the University of Miami and Boston University, staff from the SRSU OIT office and the Alpine FBI office also participated as instructors in the camp.

For more information, email oguzhan.basibuyuk@sulross.edu.

Courtesy photo

Breaking in a new partner



Alpine Police Sergeant Valerie Kettani breaks in her new K-9 partner "Prada" after their certification with JIREH K-9, who also donated "Prada" to the Alpine Police Department.

Courtesy photo

Hospitality school announces no-cost training

Area learners aged 16 through adult will now be able to gain professional hospitality training at no cost, thanks to the generosity of foundations, donors, and area businesses who have provided significant financial support to the Mountain View Hospitality Academy.

"We are so excited to make this announcement!" said Jeanine Bishop, Director of the Academy and Co-Founder of Mobile Comunidad, the nonprofit organization that developed the program. "We knew we would be able to offer professional development to those seeking a career path in hospitality and tourism at an affordable price, but we didn't anticipate this turn of events which has resulted in a no-cost model for learners."

The Academy hosted an open house in a meet-and-greet format for area employers, prospective learners, and the community-at-large at the Lodge on Monday, July 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. Additional instructors are also being sought for immediate hire. Training is provided for these flexible positions that start at \$25 per hour compensation.

Bishop said that after about six weeks of

training, those graduating from the Fort Davis-based Academy will be ideally placed to immediately gain career-path positions with local, regional, national, and even international employers, noting that hospitality skills are some of the most portable a learner can obtain.

According to the Census and other data sources, hospitality and tourism are the main economic sectors of the Big Bend and TransPecos Region. "There has long been a disconnect between the available workforce and the employers in need of staffing in this industry," Bishop said. She added that the Academy is working with both sides of the equation, learners, and hospitality businesses, to fill well-paying job opportunities with professionally educated workers.

The Academy includes partnerships with the London-based education nonprofit, Saira Hospitality and the eCornell Program of Cornell University, a recognized leader in hospitality education. Graduates of the Academy will receive certificates from eCornell, as well as guaranteed job interviews with

the partnering hospitality employers of the region.

It is estimated that at least 100 job openings will be available by the end of the year in the area of Jeff Davis, Brewster, and Presidio Counties, with existing, expanding, and new hospitality properties, Bishop noted.

The Academy is based at Mountain View Lodge and Cafe at 501 SH-118 in Fort Davis and will include opportunities for hands-on experience at that commercial operation. Laptops and tablets will be provided for learners who do not have their own. Classes will be presented in a hybrid mix of in-person and digital courses, facilitated and supplemented by local guest speakers with experience in hotels, motels, restaurants, bars, campgrounds, and other related businesses.

Learners wishing to participate in the Academy's first session should visit the Academy program section of the website mobilecomunidad.org to complete the interest form. A high school diploma is not required to attend the courses.

Mobile Comunidad is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that aims to provide accessibility to

healthy food, technology, literacy, healthcare, and economic stability through community engagement, and collaborative partnerships. Donations to the organization or the Academy can be made by visiting the donate section of the mobilecomunidad.org website.

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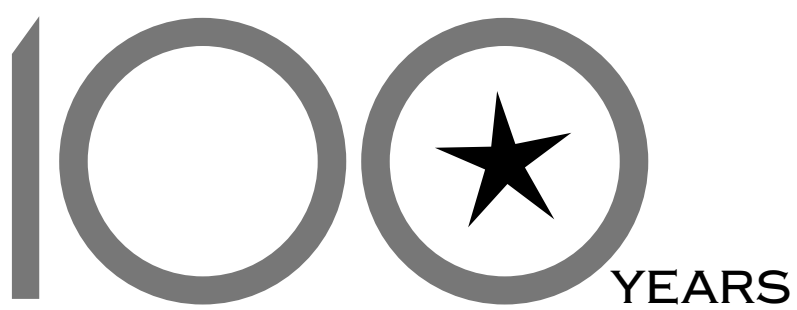
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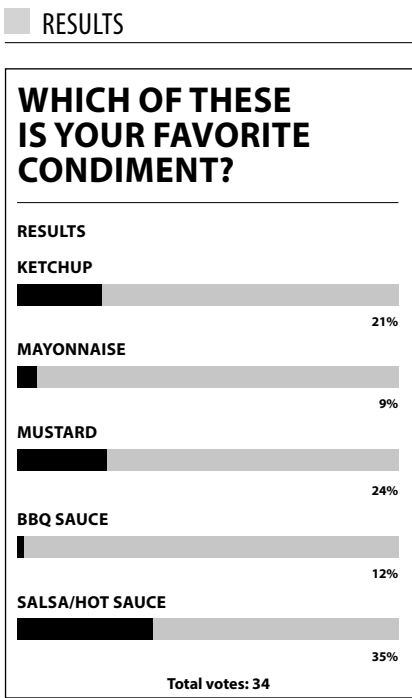
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Which of these is your favorite condiment?

- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- BBQ Sauce
- Salsa/Hot Sauce

Vote for this week's poll online at: www.AlpineAvalanche.com

LETTERS

Send us your letters. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed. Send your letters to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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Climate change within the Big Bend

Climatologists at Yale University have described climate change in Texas as a battle between the “Haves and the Have Nots.” To the south, with the Gulf of Mexico warming, “huge influxes of moisture” are bringing more rain and flooding. However, the dry desert air in the West is producing droughts with much less moisture. Mexico is experiencing a severe, ongoing drought that, according to the National Weather Service, could be partly responsible for the drought experienced here in Jeff Davis County. Our drought persists, with half of the county suffering from severe drought, and the other half from extreme drought. (See <https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/jeff%20davis>)

Noted scientists at the Borderlands Research Institute’s 2024 Water in the Desert Conference have predicted an annual decrease in rain in the Big Bend with direct impacts on our water supplies. Without big conservation efforts, many regional aquifers could be depleted in future years. While acknowledging the need for changes in how we use our water, each of us can be a responsible part of the conservation solutions. What We Can Do: We should take water conservation seriously and help with local conservation efforts. With regional towns and counties leading the way, we could start with what “the settlers used to do” -- catch rainwater in

our tanks and cisterns for outdoor and home uses. We could require (or recommend) the use of low flush toilets; plant native plants, cacti, and drought tolerant trees, with rocks and stone for landscaping; use buffalo grass that greens out with the rain and goes dormant when none appears. New construction designs could use gray water for outdoor needs. All these options would extend our water supplies. They could become part of a permitting process for construction or, as a start, offered as recommended options with new permits. As the changing climate brings new challenges to people, it also brings

challenges for wildlife, including our 500 native bird species. Borderlands Research Institute and Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation (TBC) have written booklets on “Water for Wildlife” that are available online. TBC has placed a very helpful guide on water conservation at area libraries: “Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond” by Brad Lancaster. This publication provides details about what landowners can do to harvest rainwater to benefit people and wildlife. Using these readily available tools, and with new conservation efforts and planning and involvement by county and community leaders, we citizens can practice water conservation, and hopefully live in this beautiful region for many years to come.



MADGE LINDSAY
Guest Columnist

The real reason we need more prayer

“The trouble with our praying is, we just do it as a means of last resort.”

— Will Rogers (1879 - 1935) American vaudeville performer, actor, and humorous social commentator.

“More old coffee drinkers solving the world’s problems, and more prayer. That’s what this country needs.” Record that as the official declaration of one seasoned group of aging caffeine consumers. The one in which I hold charter member status. That need intensified last weekend for a country already severely in need of more time on its knees. Moving one step deeper into the abyss of discord, miscommunication, and intolerance for differing opinions. And coming at a time when we thought things could not get any worse before another misguided soul stepped into the limelight and proved us wrong. “We need to get this oncesrong nation back into pews. Where preachers remind us, that prayer is needed,” touted one of the coffee faithful. “Before it’s truly a last resort.” “Some of that ‘ol’ time religion,” another concluded. “Preachers that preach the Bible.” “Anyone besides me ever tried that,” I jumped into the fray. “Preaching a sermon?” Everything got quiet. All eyes turned in my direction. It

occurred to me that maybe I should have just taken another sip of hot coffee and added another “amen.” “Well,” I quickly tried to recover. “It just so happened that the preacher at the small country church where I was a member needed to be gone one Sunday. He asked if one warm body wanted to step forward and fill the pulpit in his absence, and everyone else stepped backward. That’s how it happened that I was ‘called.’ Not by the spirit, but by default.” With the best message I could cobble together, I stepped to the pulpit the following Sunday morning and placed one hand on each side of the podium. Not to look authoritative or anything like that, you understand. It was to keep my hands from shaking and my knees from folding. Recalling an associate preacher at a large church in Abilene many years ago, I began by borrowing one of his lines. “I am not the regular minister. The regular minister is out of town this morning, which makes me the irregular minister.” I chuckled, remembering how his comment made people laugh—unlike the rows of blank stares I received when I tried it. So, still hang-

ing on for dear life, I jumped off into my notes. Which were more personal stories than book, chapter, and verse. I’ve always admired preachers who can blend personal experience with scripture to deliver a message with personalization and meaning. Often, small-town country preachers, are adept at imparting earthly wisdom backed by the word. Like the elderly East Texas preacher, I knew who suggested that it was good for the soul to spend 30 minutes exercising, “taking care of our earthly bodies.” He followed his own teaching, too. Exercised himself, he did. By walking several miles, a day. Usually with a cane pole over his shoulder. While the minister swore his walks were “for his health,” we noticed that he generally walked in the direction of a fishing hole. Perhaps the old preacher’s best suggestion, however, was to “make two or three good friends among the old folks while you’re still young.” I always wondered, though, why most of the advice for young men comes along after we’ve passed that point in life when our obituary will no longer contain the word “untimely.” Last week’s coffee shop conversation about prayers and preachers also reminded

me of my daughter, Robin. Some years ago, she called me with a sampling of “down to earth” views on churchgoing gathered from bulletins and signs. “One preacher up in Tennessee,” she chuckled, “said if a church wants a better preacher, it can get one by praying for the one it has. Another,” she added, “said some church members who are singing ‘Standing On the Promises’ are merely sitting on the premises.” Another was advice sorely needed today. “We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers and judges.” But the best might have been an Ohio minister who shared how “I turn my troubles over to God every evening. He’s going to be up all night anyway.” When all the coffee was gone and all the issues sufficiently solved for one day, our coffee drinkers club adjourned for the day. Resolved in agreement as to how one thing might, in fact, be the best sign of the need for more prayer. Before it really becomes our last resort. That is thinking that things just can’t get any worse before sitting down to watch the nightly news. — Contact Leon Aldridge at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns are archived at leonaldridge.com



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you
My husband and I volunteer at the Alpine Animal Shelter, which allows us to observe the work of the compassionate staff who care for the shelter animals and rescue other animals in our community. The shel-

ter is often short-staffed, and the staff overworked, but they do an amazing job of keeping the facilities spotless; the animals fed, watered, and healthy; and providing opportunities for the animals to socialize with others. Staff are often called away to retrieve hurt,

lost, or abandoned animals. Many of these animals are taken to local veterinarians for treatment and later adopted or reunited with their owners. My husband and I wish to thank all of the Animal Services staff for their critical work in caring for animals in our community

and the compassion they show to them. Please thank them when you see them in town and consider volunteering at the shelter. The dogs and cats would love to walk or play with you!
Carolyn Rose
Alpine, Texas



Heard on the STREET

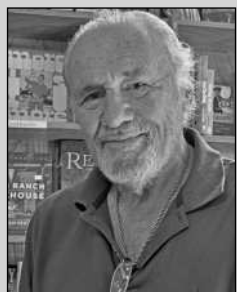
What was the last great book you read?



Julie Green : It was "Edge of the Crazy's" by Jamie Harrison.



Val Salas Ibarra: The last great book I read was "Like Water for Chocolate" by Laura Esquivel



David Busey : The last one I read was "The Obstacle is the Way" by Ryan Holiday



Woodrow Pinkerton: The last great book I read was the Bible.



Robert Kerner : The last one I read was "The Return of the Gods" by Jonathan Cahn

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 18 Alpine Public Library**, 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time, 6 p.m. Zumba
- July 18 Walking Club**, 4:30 p.m. at the Gallego Center
- July 18 Evie Dorsey**, 7 p.m. music at The Ritchie
- July 18 Chess Club**, 7 p.m. at the Sul Ross University Center
- July 19 Alpine Public Library**, 9:30 a.m. yarn art and coffee, 10 a.m. Tinkercad Open Lab.
- July 19 David Forsyth**, 7 p.m. music at The Ritchie
- July 19 Sul Ross ANRS Exes**, 1:30 p.m. activities begin with the domino tournament, followed by the Arena social at 4 p.m., and goat roping fundraiser at 6 p.m.
- July 20 Sul Ross ANRS Exes**, 9 a.m. activities begin with the alumni roping, followed by the business meeting at noon,



an open roping at 1 p.m., and at 1:30 a poker tournament at the Rio Raton Card Room, and awards and silent auction from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Museum of the Big Bend.

- July 20 Huston Sonhouse**, 6 p.m. music at The Ritchie
- July 21 Sul Ross ANRS Exes**, 9 a.m. golf tournament at Alpine Country Club and 9 a.m. barrel racing, breakaway roping, ribbon roping, goat tying and pole bending at the SALE Arena. A farewell reception begins at 4

- p.m. at Skelton's Runway.
- July 23-August 2 (Tuesdays) Summer Reading Program**, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Alpine Public Library for ages 6-12. Each session begins with 30 minutes of playful exercise followed by a popsicle break followed by themed reading and activities.
- July 24-27 Viva Big Bend**
- July 27 Kaleena Ramos Memorial Golf Scramble**, Three-person scramble with tee times at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Prizes, 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and food served all day. Proceeds benefit the Kaleena Ramos Sul Ross scholarship.
- August 9-10 Big Bend Ranch Rodeo**
- August 10 CDRI BBQ and Fundraiser**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center.

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, 306W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.
- American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306W. Sul Ross Ave.
- Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place**, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101W. 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 bbccchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.
- 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 Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.
- Hike with Homeless Dogs**, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x301.
- Kiwanis Club of Alpine**, noon to 1 p.m., first and third Wednesdays at the American Legion.
- Late Night Game Night**, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101W. Ave E.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet baby Zip. This adorable tuxedo kitten came into the shelter with his two siblings and was a little shy at first but has learned to snuggle and accept love. From what we hear, he is a young gymnast and can roll and tumble with the best of them!

Tuxedo cats are called that due to their elegant black and white markings, although they can be any breed and their coats can be short, shaggy, long or silky.

Some people think they are more intelligent than other cats. William Shakespeare, Beethoven, and Sir Isaac Newton are all reputed to have been tuxie owners. Who knows the level of artistic and scientific advancement these kitties inspired? Let Zip inspire you!

Please spay and neuter your pets and keep them responsibly contained in your environment.

Consider volunteering to walk dogs or give play time to the puppies or cats at the shelter. Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer.

Join us for Yappy Hour at Alcove Social (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, July 30, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. We receive a percentage of the proceeds.

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 p.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week 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. If you find a stray or injured pet, call the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.



SENIOR Spotlight

SIERRA RUCKMAN

In what activities did you participate in high school?

The activities I participated in included volleyball, band, powerlifting, track, softball, Academic UIL, student council, athletic leadership council, student advisory committee, and National Honor Society.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite (former coach) was Mr. Vickers. He was always doing whatever he could to make sure we succeeded and could always make us laugh no matter

the situation.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?

My favorite moment of the last four years was when we were on a powerlifting trip and Sarah suggested we play "Tony Llanez."

What are your plans after high school?

I hope to attend Angelo State University. I am undecided on a major for now, but I plan to work toward being in law enforcement after I get a degree.

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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Alpine will receive bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project until **4:00 PM on August 15, 2024** at 100 N. 13th St., Alpine, TX 79830. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at **4:00 PM on August 15, 2024** at 100 N. 13th St., Alpine, TX 79830.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: The project consists of the rehabilitation of Clarifier #1 and six (6) existing sludge drying beds. The replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment and concrete repairs are included for Clarifier #1. Replacing media, underdrain piping, and liner, and concrete ramp, runners, and walls repairs are included in the scope for the sludge drying beds.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for Bid/Contract Documents may include hard copies for pick up, mail out, or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606. Cost for hard copies of the Bid/Contract Documents will be \$100.00 for 11x17 Plans or \$0.00 for Digital Download. Contractors must purchase a set of Bid/Contract Documents from Jacob & Martin, LLC to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Alpine or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts and subcontracts.

SAM.gov registration is required to Bid. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. This will be verified upon receipt of bid and prior to the award. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises, and Historically Underutilized Business firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The City of Alpine reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Alpine for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award, to City of Alpine by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The City of Alpine is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

City of Alpine Catherine Eaves, Mayor July 18th and 25th, 2024

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REUNION • FROM 1

Saturday's events kick off at 9 a.m. with the Alumni roping at the SALE Arena. Books will open at 8 a.m. and the draw will be at 9 a.m. Competitors must be a graduate to enter. Enter one draw four, enter the open and draw all five. Entry fee is \$300 per man or woman (4HD/PA1), and a custom trophy

saddle will be awarded to the average winners and custom buckles to the reserve champions. At noon, the exes association will have their business meeting at the Range Animal Science building followed by the #10 open roping at the SALE Arena. Books open at 1 p.m. with the draw at 2 p.m. Enter one draw or three or enter open and draw all four. Entry fee is \$300 per

man or woman (3HD/PA1). Entries into the open roping are open to anyone and capped at #6. Ropers must have a current Global Classification Card to win money and prizes. If the winners do not have current cards, the prize money will go to the next team or be donated back to the scholarship fund. Buckles will be awarded to the average winners as well as the family incentive win-

ners. Family incentive requirements are that one team member must be a graduate and the other must be an immediate family member such as a parent or sibling of the graduate. For those not wishing to enter the open roping, a poker tournament will be held at the Rio Raton Card Room at 2305 FM 1705 beginning at 1:30 p.m. A silent auction and

awards ceremony will be held later that evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Museum of the Big Bend. Sunday morning activities begin at 9 a.m. with the annual golf tournament at the Alpine Country Club. The barrel race, breakaway roping, ribbon roping, goat tying, and pole bending competitions coincide with the golf tournament. Exhibitions begin at 9 a.m. and

are \$10 a run. The open 4D and Youth 3D begin at 11 a.m. Entry fees for the open are \$80 for two entries; for the youth, it is \$40 for two entries on two head. This takes place at the SALE Arena. The weekend closes out with a farewell reception at Skelton's Runway. For more information visit their website at www.sulrossexes.org or call 432-234-8252

AESB • FROM 1

made the motion to approve and a second was made by Stacey Wood. The motion passed unanimously. Next on the agenda were reports from the board members. Board secretary Rusty Moore did not have a report but did comment, saying "With the loss of Paul, I just would like to continue moving in a forward direction with this board. I would like to ask that we focus on the future, as that is what Paul would want."

The next report was on the financials by board treasurer Stacey Wood. Wood told the board that their bank balance was healthy and that it was sitting at \$58,908.13 before the costs of fire calls and training from June.

Vice Chairman Rodriguez told the new fire chief James Etchison that if there were any purchase orders needed to go ahead and request those, and that the board would take care of them. Rodriguez also said to give him a call if anything was needed and they would work to see that it was taken care of.

Next on the agenda was the report from the AVFD officers, in which Chief Etchi-

son had a lengthy report that covered multiple agenda items. Etchison provided the board with the payroll for June and told the board that going forward, new recruits would have to attend meetings for at least a month before any pay was received. "Those members on that list that are highlighted in yellow are on a probationary status. They have not been voted into the department. Going forward, anyone on a probationary status will be there for at least a month. I want to make sure that they are truly interested in being a part of the department and that they want to become an asset to the community before they receive any type of monetary compensation," Etchison said.

Etchison also presented to the board a welcome packet he had created for new members and what was required of them as well as what the department was about. He also noted that on the payroll sheet he presented for the month of June, former AVFD member David Neet, who is currently charged with multiple counts of arson for brush fires spanning more than a year, was listed in red. "He was to be paid \$110, but since his incarcer-

ation and the fact you can't receive money while in jail, he will not be paid," Etchison stated.

In other news from Etchison, he noted that there were multiple calls for a lift assist from a location that the department receives multiple calls from on a regular basis. He told the board that the department did not respond to all of the calls because, for many of them, the person refused local transport. He said that only two crewmen would be and are being sent to respond to this address going forward.

Etchison also reported to the board that there had been a strange flare-up at the Judy's Bread and Breakfast location recently, where apparently a part of the structure that had been buried in the debris had received just enough oxygen to get it started again. This was quickly extinguished.

In response to recent brush fires, Etchison said that there had been no brush fires since Neet was incarcerated. "He happened to be out of town on July 4, but when he returned on July 5 there was another brush fire, and that is when authorities were able to catch him," Etchison said.

Further information from

Etchison included information about recent fire school training that he and other members of the department were involved in, repairs for some of the vehicles that were still needed and required a specialty company to perform, and he submitted the invoice for the delinquent purchase order to Motorola for radios that were received in 2022 but that were not paid for. "I was able to track down the purchase order, and while the county received an estimate, they never received an actual invoice, so it was never paid. Now there is an invoice so this can be taken care of," added Etchison. He also told the board that he and his new lieutenant Alex Montemayor had submitted six grant applications for everything from equipment to vehicle grants, and promotional materials. Thus far they have been approved for one of the six grants in the amount of \$6,000 for recruitment purposes for which they would like to purchase materials such as banners and perhaps a nice tent and plan to work on promoting a junior firefighter program.

Next on the agenda was a short discussion about the closed account from the

AVFD. Etchison had tracked down bank statements and other paperwork and told board treasurer Stacey Wood that he would scan them and get those to her.

Rodriguez then made a motion to approve the June calls, drills, and stipends for the department. The motion was seconded by Benitez and the board approved them unanimously.

Finally, a brief discussion about the replacement of the two vacant seats on the board ensued. Both seats were to be appointed by Brewster County, and board secretary Moore discussed that he believed that Brewster County Judge Greg Henington would take into consideration the board's suggestions for the vacancies and allow the board to vote them on to the board. Meeting guest Carla Spencer was one of the suggestions Moore had to fill one of the vacancies.

Moore then told the board that he was requesting an executive session. Before the executive session was entered into, the board then set the next meeting to be held on August 22 at 5:30 p.m. and then moved into the executive session at 7:13 p.m.

WILSON • FROM 1

as. I'm also cognizant of the parent's goals as well as the district-wide goals that will still be a part of the program. My plan is to continue to build on success and use some of the equipment that is new to the program," stated Wilson.

Wilson says there will be a lot of energy and enthusiasm going into this year and that the first step to getting the fall marching season going and ready for the UIL competition is to see where the students are and perform to their strengths all while improving in other areas.

While Wilson is unable to tell exactly how each section of the band is looking going into this school year, he recognizes that there are some strong musicians in the different areas of the band. "Based on the results from the solo and ensemble contest, we have some strong musicians in both brass and woodwinds. We will all begin working together beginning July 22 at 10 a.m. and then I'll work with the color guard at 2 p.m. I will have a better understanding of our strengths and what areas need a little work after this," said Wilson.

With the success of the middle school band under the direction of Ms. Azar, Wilson says the push for continued growth from the middle school students will only add to the high school program. "The benefit of having Alpine as my home has allowed me to keep up with the success of the middle school band and their program, as well as the high school program," he added.

"Alpine has some of the best kiddos in the world, and I am honored to have the opportunity to work with them again."

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 ALPINE

July 12, 1946

The Alpine Cowboys face off against Chihuahua City, one of the premier baseball clubs in Mexico for a three-game series. This is a special match-up to be held at Kokernot Field here in Alpine.

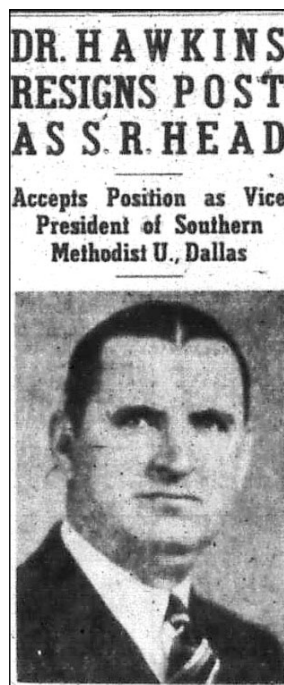


July 12, 1946

Mr. J.T. Bell, formerly from Cotulla will assume his new position as an instructor of Agriculture and College Herdman on September 1. Bell is part of the expansion of the Department of Agriculture that is being undertaken to meet the growing demand of students majoring in Agriculture at Sul Ross.

Photos courtesy of the Archives of the Big Bend at the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library

July 12, 1946
 New Chief Justice, and former Secretary of the Treasury, Fred M. Vinson was selected by President Truman to head the Supreme Court.



July 5, 1946

Dr. R. M. Hawkins, president of Sul Ross College has announced his resignation effective September 1. Dr. Hawkins has taken a position as the Vice-President at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Pre-emergent at the right time the only way to eliminate crabgrass

Dear Neil: How can I eliminate crabgrass in my lawn? I've had a small patch of it in the past, but this year it is rampant. Why would there be so much now?

Crabgrass is an annual grassy weed. It germinates in early spring, grows, and begins producing seed by early summer, and it continues growing and reseeding until frost. Just to be sure we're talking about the same grass; it is light to medium green in color. It produces short runners 8-12 inches long. The seed heads are borne above the grass, and they somewhat resemble helicopter rotors. If that's what you're seeing, it has probably taken hold in bare spots left over after droughts the past couple of summers. There is nothing you can apply now to kill the existing crabgrass without killing your lawn grass as well. You'll need to prevent its germination next year

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry

by applying pre-emergent herbicide granules (Halts, Balan, or Dimension) a week or so before your average last killing freeze date and again three months later.

Dear Neil: A year before my father died, he gave me a mulberry tree seedling from Georgia. My mother made a heavenly jam from its parent tree. My tree is now eight years old and has never produced a single fruit. Will it ever do so? It has grown well, but I am so hopeful to have fruit.

Be patient. It's not un-



common for fruit trees that have been grown from seed to take that long to start producing. They invest most of their early years simply in growing to their mature size and form. Mulberries are just a bit odd in the way they produce their male and female flowers, but one of the next several springs will probably start producing, and it will never stop again. I have yet to see a seedling mulberry tree that didn't eventually

have thousands of fruit. Of course, it will grow best in full or nearly full sunlight. Hopefully, it has that.

Dear Neil: When do we trim oleanders? Mine have gotten really leggy. The past winter's cold damaged them, too.

Immediately after their main late spring bloom. It's not too late, but you'll want to do so immediately. Do as little pruning as you can to lessen the chance of soft

new growth and subsequent freeze damage. If there are dead shoots from the freeze like there were after February 2021, those can be removed immediately.

Dear Neil: Should I freeze the seed from a really good peach before I plant it? Someone told me that I would get better results that way.

First and foremost, remember that most fruit crops will not "come true" from a seed that

you plant. It's just the same with us - we are not genetically the same as either of our parents. Hybridizers plant tens of thousands of seeds to find the one good seedling to name and introduce. If you want a quality peach, find out what variety you bought and buy a young tree that has already been grafted to be that variety. However, to answer your question, you do not have to freeze the seed to get it to germinate.

- ACROSS**
- TX Daniels who starred in 1931 "The Maltese Falcon"
 - what a panhandle road does in a winter storm
 - TX Dabney 1987 sitcom: "The Maxwell Story"
 - Houston or Dallas "___ and downs"
 - Alamo commander, Travis (init.)
 - bumper sticker: "No ___ But Texas"
 - Reba sang "___ Life Out There"
 - TXism: "___ Cadillac bumper"
 - one way to spell the capital of Iran
 - TXism: "useless as a screen ___ a submarine"
 - "I ___ news"
 - in Concho County on U.S. 83/87
 - once an apt AM station in Post, TX historic "___ Farm & Ranch" in Corpus Christi
 - a few of the thinnest coins
 - WWII atomic bomber ___ Gay
 - TXism: "green ___"
 - "Popeye the ___"
 - Mayberry's Pyle
 - TX Orbison's early group (2 wds.)

- TXism: "a good man not ___ with" (mean)
- Texas soda: ___ Pepper
- the first stadium with this
- Texas pro teams hear the ___ of the crowd
- "Big Apple" (abbr.)
- Waller of 1949 film "Bandit Kings of Texas"
- TXism: "___ as a bug's ear"
- Grand ___ Opry
- TXism: "the fur ___ flying"
- graduating class members (abbr.)
- TXism for "waitress" (2 wds.)
- Texas was 1st state to see this in 2024
- Luka ___ buzzer with a last second basket
- this Cecil made a mess of bases for Rangers (1987-90)
- TXism: "___ seen' eye to eye" (agree)
- TXism: "you're ___" (interfering)
- ___ gallon hat
- degree held by most Texas profs.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

13 TX Strait's "You ___ in Love" (1983)

14 "Pop ___" was first recorded by TX Nat Stuckey (1966)

15 Texas Pulitzer-winning journalist, Brown

16 "those" in Mexico

18 TXism: "___ argue with a fence post"

20 TXism: "bat ___ eyelash" (blink)

23 George of "The Dirty Dozen" with TX Trini Lopez (init.)

24 golf's hole in ___

25 Sam Houston statue weighs 25 ___

26 gas swell in cattle

27 D-Day, an invasion of ___ forces

32 TXism: "cashed ___ his chips" (died)

33 ___ Pleasant (abbr.)

34 TXism: "size '___ up"

36 Noah's boat

37 TXism: "just a ___-gen" (small amount)

38 Denzel 2004 thriller: "___ Fire"

39 wanderer

40 nail file abrasive

41 TXism: "is the pope Catholic?"

43 TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave ___"

45 former Cowboy Staubach (init.)

47 nonreligious

48 pecan is the state ___

55 actress Harper of Texas-based film "No Country for Old Men" (2007)

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S-1697



Sports

Cowboys dominate All-Star Game selections

Team revels in record-breaking season

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

With a remarkable 37-4 record, the Alpine Cowboys have established themselves as a powerhouse in the Pecos League. Their recent games have been a testament to their superior skill, unwavering resilience, and outstanding teamwork, reinforcing their reputation as one of the league's most formidable teams.

On July 9, the Alpine Cowboys hosted a doubleheader at Kokernot Field, facing off against the Tucson Saguaros. The first game saw a commanding 15-3 victory for the Cowboys, with Dieterich Guertzgen leading the charge. Guertzgen pitched six impressive innings, allowing only four hits and striking out four batters. Despite a tough start for Tucson's Carson McKenna, who took the loss after pitching just one inning, the Cowboys' offense was relentless. Matteo Avallone went 0-3, but James Prockish had a stellar performance, going 3-6 at the plate.

"Being able to reach that milestone [All-Star selections] and pass someone such as Ryan Stevens, who was the original Cowboys Manager, is an honor and a privilege."

— Sean Persky, Alpine Cowboys head coach

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Cowboys edged out the Saguaros with a 5-4 win. Liam Reynolds secured the win for Alpine, while Tucson's Myles White took the loss. AJ Folds and Wyatt Grant both made significant contributions at the plate, with Folds going 1-3 and Grant 1-2.

The Cowboys continued their winning streak on July 10, again at Kokernot Field, with a resounding 16-1 victory over the Tucson Saguaros. Brayde Hirai was the standout performer, earning the win with an impressive display on the mound. Ian Concevitch of the Saguaros took the loss despite striking out four batters over six innings. Khalil Wilson, going 1-1, and James

Prockish, with another 3-6 performance, were key contributors to the Cowboys' offensive onslaught.

The Alpine Cowboys then traveled to Roswell for a series against the Invaders. On July 11, they triumphed with a 15-6 win, thanks to Hunter Reid's solid pitching, which included four strikeouts. Reid allowed just two earned runs over five innings. Jacob Young of the Roswell Invaders struggled, giving up 12 hits over four innings. James Prockish continued his impressive form, going 2-5 with a home run, while Sean Becker chipped in with a 1-4 performance.

The following day, the Cowboys secured a thrilling 15-13 victory, with Johnny Medina leading the way. Jaylen Smith earned the win, allowing no earned runs over two innings. Despite a valiant effort by Roswell's Wilbur Rodriguez, the Cowboys' offense, led by Medina and Prockish (3-6), proved too formidable.



Cowboys Manager Sean Persky breaks records with most all-time wins for the Cowboys. Persky is seen here talking strategy with Peyten Kennard All-Star Player and one of the catchers for the Cowboys.

Courtesy photo

On July 13, the Cowboys faced a setback, losing 12-5 to the Roswell Invaders. Miguel Sierra of Roswell earned the win with three strikeouts over seven innings. Brendan May took the

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See COWBOYS • 9

2024 honoree wins Legends flight



Tim Harper and partner and 2024 Legends Honoree Jim Pogue are this year's Legends Flight champions.

Courtesy photo

Canaba named Sul Ross head volleyball coach

BY PETER DINDINGER
Contributor

After one season of being an assistant volleyball coach, Annika Canaba is now getting the opportunity of a lifetime to follow her dream of becoming a head coach.

Canaba was elevated to the title of head volleyball coach as she follows in her father's footsteps who held the position since 2017.

The Alpine native wrapped up a historic five-year career as a two-sport standout at Sul Ross State in 2022.

"I'm very excited. This is something I've always wanted to do," she said. "The opportunity to do it at home, and not only that but at the collegiate level, is a great opportunity and a huge blessing."

"Ido think that is one thing that's an advantage for me because I'm able to connect with them on a different level because I've been exactly where they are before."

— Annika Canaba, Sul Ross head volleyball coach, on being a former player at the school

She left her mark on the Lobo volleyball program recording 1,315 career kills, the all-time best mark in the program's history.

Canaba was named first-team all-conference in the American Southwest Conference four times while she also earned American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III All-Region honorable mention honors in 2022.

Being just two years removed from being a player, Canaba understands the dynamic of

what it takes to play and succeed at Sul Ross State.

"I do think that is one thing that's an advantage for me because I'm able to connect with them on a different level because I've been exactly where they are before," she added. "I think that we built a good relationship and trust, so I think that's a huge thing going into this is for them being able to trust me and trust that I'm capable of taking on this job."

See CANABA • 9

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Defending champs



Kyle Jerome and Jimmy Small were the defending champions of the championship flight at this year's Legends golf tournament held at the Alpine Country Club's golf course.

Courtesy photo

Presidents flight champs



Lex Carrell and Steve Blackford are this year's Legends presidents flight champions at the golf tournament that was hosted by the Alpine Country Club this past Saturday and Sunday.

Courtesy photo

COWBOYS • FROM 8

loss for the Cowboys, despite striking out two batters over three innings. Jose Sanchez and Jonathan Cavazos led the Invaders at the plate, going 4-5 and 2-5, respectively.

Despite the rare defeat, the Cowboys had much to celebrate. With the win against Roswell on July 12, head coach Sean Persky became the winningest manager in Cowboys history, boasting 177 career wins. Persky's remarkable achievement underscores his significant contribution to the team and the league.

The Cowboys' success extended beyond their regular games, as 11 players and head coach Sean Persky were selected for the Pecos League All-Star Game in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on July 14. The Cowboys had the most All-Stars of any team, showcasing their depth of talent. Players selected included Josh Rego, Drake Angeron, James Prockish, AJ Folds, Taylor Darden, Peyton Kennard, Humberto Vela, Brayde Hirai, Dom Spinosa, Alec Cruz, and Jonathan Fleckenstein.

Coach Persky, making his fourth All-Star appearance in five years, reflected on the honor and the performance of his players. "Each one of them got a chance to play, and

they all performed very well," Persky noted. "Being able to reach that milestone and pass someone such as Ryan Stevens, who was the original Cowboys Manager, is an honor and a privilege."

The All-Star game concluded with a close score of 14-12, highlighting the competitive spirit and talent present in the Pecos League.

The Cowboys aim to bounce back from their recent loss as they travel to Tucson this weekend to face the Saguaro again. With their impressive record and a roster full of talent, the Alpine Cowboys are poised for continued success as they pursue further victories and another championship run.

Restaurant Guide

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Looks of concentration at Legends



Adam Gonzales looks intently at the green as he prepares to hit his next shot while Vimal Bhakta looks on. Both golfers are from Fort Stockton and competed in this year's Legends golf tournament held this past Saturday and Sunday here in Alpine.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

CANABA • FROM 8

Canaba also played for the last Lobo squad that made it to the postseason in 2021. That season Sul Ross State finished 15-10 overall and 10-7 in conference play.

The Lobos were able to advance to the semifinals for the first time since 2004.

The dynamic will be a lot more challenging this coming fall as the Lobos are taking on a competitive slate of teams in the Lone Star Conference at the Division II level.

Canaba plans on making some noise this season.

"I think that they're going to underestimate us and what we do because we're not necessarily the tallest team," she said. "I think we're going to surprise some people and I'm hoping that we make our presence known in the LSC this year."

"It's going to be a challenge for everybody across the board, but it's

"I think we're going to surprise some people and I'm hoping that we make our presence known in the LSC this year."

— Annika Canaba, Sul Ross head volleyball coach

one that I'm definitely excited for. I think we're going to get better because of it as well."

Annika was able to learn a lot from her father, Troy, who had coached her throughout most of her life.

Troy demonstrated a great deal of passion while demanding the best when coaching and he always treated his players as if they were his own by creating strong, unbreakable bonds.

Now, Annika hopes to carry on that same mentality to create a solid team chemistry.

"I think that's one thing that I will carry over and hopefully teach the girls that having that bond and support for each other is extremely beneficial on top of the skill," she said.

Family is everything for Annika.

Not only will she continue to work in the same office as her father, but she'll also be able to see

her two brothers grow and do great things as both of them are involved with the Lobo men's basketball program.

On top of that, her mother, Gloria, who has been her greatest supporter and fan, will continue to watch another Canaba carry on the coaching legacy.

"My family are my best friends. To be able to be around them all the time and be able to support each other in everything we do is going to be amazing," said Annika. "I've always felt great support from the community and people around here."

"To be able to feel support through and through is a huge blessing."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAIDA MORRIS

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

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Best-ever pistachio pudding cake a unique treat

One of my favorite cakes growing up was a pistachio pudding cake. While it was not often that my mom made one for us, besides chocolate anything, it was my favorite. Mostly because it is unique among cakes. Not that cakes aren't able to be made unique, but it just was not your standard everyday cake out of a box, despite the fact it uses a box cake mix.

Granted, if you are a good enough baker that you're capable of concocting your own cake mix rather than those of us who may be challenged in this area, more power to you. It would probably make the cake just that much better, but when it comes to baking, I'll take the easiest route every time.

All of the recipes for this cake that I have found use a yellow cake mix. I must admit, the



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

box yellow cake mix is by far my least favorite. I prefer a white cake mix personally. And while it would change the taste of the cake slightly, it would probably be just as good.

The recipe also calls for walnuts. I like walnuts just fine, but since it is a pistachio cake, personally I would go with pistachios. That is if you can find them. They are at times difficult to find and of course much more expensive than walnuts. The one ingredient I



Pistachio Pudding Cake

found surprising was the use of club soda. Then again, a true red velvet cake uses vinegar, so I suppose it is not that surprising after all.

This is a simple, easy-to-make dessert that is great all year round. Unlike some desserts, it does not adhere to a particular season. In fact,

Courtesy photo

PISTACHIO PUDDING CAKE
Prep time 20 min • Cook time 40 min • Yield 16 servings.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>INGREDIENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 package yellow cake mix (regular size) 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding mix 4 large eggs 1 cup club soda 1/2 cup canola oil 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pistachios <p>ICING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cup cold heavy whipping cream 3/4 cup cold 2% milk 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding mix 2 teaspoons confectioners' sugar 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pistachios | <p>DIRECTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, soda, and oil; beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium for two minutes. Stir in walnuts. 2. Pour into a greased and floured 10-in. fluted tube pan. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from the pan to a wire rack to cool completely. 3. In a large bowl, beat the cream, milk, pudding mix, and confectioners' sugar on high until stiff peaks form. Frost cake. Sprinkle with walnuts or pistachios. Refrigerate until serving. |
|--|--|

because it uses pistachio pudding mix, which is green, it makes a great cake for St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

It would also work well at Christmas time. To make it more festive for that time of year, a little red or green food coloring added to the icing would work just fine.

But I am of the opinion that we should never allow a holiday to dictate what kind of dessert we choose to make or partake in. There is no hard and fast rule to this. Eating ice cream is just fine in December just as pistachio pudding cake is perfect for July.

Devotional Page

Miracles out of nowhere

BY REV. STEPHEN WHITE
First United Methodist Church-Alpine and Marfa

I was listening to a song the other day, and it said; "Miracles are hard to find." It bothered me, and it took me a while to realize why. See, I have been focused for a while now on the beauty around us. We live in these beautiful mountains. Rain has been spotty, but the desert blooms even in its lack. And a big beauty is how the community has rallied around the fire downtown. So, when I heard that Miracles were in short supply I immediately said; "No! There are miracles everywhere. Miracles are abundant."

Yet we feel they are in short supply. This isn't the first time I have heard the formula. "Miracles are rare, but God does them; so, we ask for them, and if we get them, we should be thankful and praise God." But the water pooled in the seas rises and forms clouds and rains on troubled lands in need. Somehow, miraculously, women become pregnant. The more you look at that and understand the odds against it, the more

miraculous it is. And there are sunsets, and stars, and rain, and the color green of the grass after the rain. Miracles.

The problem is we don't see enough solutions to our problems. We want God to rend the fabric of time and space, to break physics and chemistry and biology and fix our stuff. And sometimes God does. Sometimes those healings happen, and sometimes people can reconcile at the deathbed, and sometimes it seems like nothing happens. What is in short supply are not the miracles, but the miracles we want. And the biggest miracle of all is Salvation available to all, everywhere, everywhen, through God's Grace. In an unlikely story, God comes down to Earth to be insulted, humiliated, and killed, to all earthly eyes the biggest loser. But on the third day, the empty tomb gave witness to the power and subtlety of God's plan. And with it Salvation.

So, praise God for the miracles. The miracles that give us what we want, the ones that give us what we need.

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"If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Acts 2: Verses 17-21

verse 17, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"

verse 21, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

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Courtesy photo

Sul Ross earns NCAA OK for second provisional year

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced today that Sul Ross State University in Alpine has met the criteria to advance its provisional status in its quest to transition into Division II athletic competition.

In early 2023, Athletic Director Amanda Workman said the university would apply for DII status, which was approved last July. However, the NCAA requires a three-year provisional timeline during which certain conditions must be met before full acceptance.

On July 1, the Lone Star Conference officially welcomed Sul Ross State to its membership and the Lobos will compete against LSC schools starting this fall, though the university will not gain full NCAA DII status until Fall 2026.

"We have been hard at work, ensuring compliance not just within the athletic department, but academics, financial aid, and facilities," said Workman. "This is a challenging process for all involved but it's absolutely worth our time and effort to ensure success for our student-athletes, coaches, and the institution. We are doing all we can to en-

sure a smooth transition through this three-year process and we're excited with the progress made so far. We are eagerly awaiting Division II competition this fall and welcoming Lone Star Conference institutions to Alpine."

The NCAA visited the Alpine campus in February 2024 to assess SRSU's readiness in areas such as institutional control, sports programs, student wellbeing, staffing, compliance monitoring, recruiting, eligibility, rules education, financial aid, self-reporting, and procedures.

The site visit resulted in some "areas to monitor," according to the NCAA's report, but nothing out of the ordinary. SRSU has already developed a plan to address issues such as updating job descriptions, handbooks, and policies and procedures to reflect DII standards, and establishing communication across departments to ensure student-athlete success.

The NCAA noted several strengths in the report, as well, such as facilities that compare favorably with other DII institutions and the creation of a comprehensive compliance manual with input from faculty and staff.

Alpine FFA attends State Convention

Members of the Alpine FFA attended the 96th State FFA Convention held in Houston this past week. Pictured are Allison Sanchez, Kendyl Hardaway (Area II officer), Kylie Maroney (Alpine FFA chapter officer), Reese Coleman (Big Bend District officer), Evelyn Smith (Alpine FFA chapter officer), and Sophie Janis.



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