

Tourism Council OKs \$1.8 million budget

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Tourism Council held their regular quarterly meeting on Monday, August 5 at 1 p.m. in the Val Clark Beard Office Complex. Council member Carol Peterson was absent, while council member John Price of Lajitas Golf Resort joined the meeting via Zoom and board member Barbara Trammell of Study Butte joined via phone. Visitors included Montie Mudd, Chris Tschacher, and Pct. 2 Commissioner Sara Colando.

Council president Bill Ivey called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and the first order of business was to entertain a motion to ap-

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

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



Roberts brings heritage, spirits to Marathon

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

In the heart of Marathon where the desert landscape meets the horizon in a breathtaking panorama, Cody Roberts is bringing a new spirit to life. Desert Ghost Distilling Company seeks to capture the essence of the region while infusing the town with a fresh, vibrant energy.

"We're not just targeting tourists," said Roberts. "We're putting down roots and want to be part of the community. We don't manufacture to wholesale. The only way to get our product is to come visit us and spend time in town."

Located in the old Los Muertos building next to Gage Spa, Desert Ghost Distilling Company will

have a tasting room and offer hand-crafted mixed drinks, appetizers, and charcuterie boards featuring traditional meats, smoked cheeses, and wild game. Roberts added that down the road, they plan to serve dinner.

"We'll launch with a four-year-old bourbon, a Texas whiskey, and a vodka," said Roberts. "I want to work with anyone we can," said Roberts. "There are a lot of smart people here with great products that we can do some great things with."

Plans for future product lines are already in the works. He wants to add a gin, and he said they have planted blue agave in Lajitas in anticipation of offering a tequila down the road.

Steeped in History, Aged to Perfection

Roberts, who is a registered member of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma where he grew up, has ties to the Far West Texas region that go back more than 140 years. He found a diary that belonged to Benjamin Franklin Roberts, his 4th-great grandfather, in an old US cavalry saddlebag that proves it.

The saddlebag belonged to his paternal grandfather, who was a rodeo cowboy. It was part of an exhibit on loan from the Roberts family to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. When Roberts' grandfa-



The new Desert Ghost distillery sits on the main street just East of the historic Gage Hotel in Marathon. Owner Cody Roberts is pictured here with a bottle of one of his first products

Photo courtesy of Desert Ghost Distilling Company

See ROBERTS • 6

Alpine youth enjoy the last days of summer



A group of Alpine boys beat the heat and take advantage of the last days of summer at the Alpine municipal swimming pool just prior to the kick-off of the new school year beginning August 13.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

City Council runs marathon meeting, discussing housing, water bills, and more

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

The City of Alpine held its regularly scheduled city council meeting on Tuesday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. All members of the council were present.

No one spoke during the public comments section of the meeting.

During the public hearing section of the meeting, there were two items up for comment. Item A was a public hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. None of the members of the audience spoke.

The second item under public hearings was to obtain citizens' views and comments regarding Resolution 2024-08-04, a reso-

lution amending Appendix B: Building Service Fees, which will set the rates and fees for City Building Services for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. No one commented, so the meeting moved to public presentations and proclamations.

While there were no presentations, Mayor Catherine Eaves made a proclamation to recognize August 19 as National Aviation Day. The proclamation, presented to Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport Supervisor Abel Hinojos by Mayor Eaves, read in part the acknowledgment of aviation as a critical component of the economy and as a way of life. Of the many benefits a local airport provides, Mayor Eaves mentioned the control of wildfires.

During community in-



Megan Antrim, Alpine City Manager

terest items, Mayor Eaves noted that August 13 is the first day of school for Alpine Independent School District. Also, the Texas Department of Transportation construction will begin in the 5th Street area.

"Keep an eye out for kids," she said.

Ward 1 Councilor Reagan Stone reminded those in the council chambers that this past Saturday was

the three-year anniversary of the El Paso shooting, adding that the gun show loophole has not been closed, which makes it possible for felons to purchase a gun.

Ward 2 Councilor Eva Olivas announced that Eva's Hair Salon will offer free haircuts to students, without an appointment, on Saturday, August 10.

Ward 5 Councilor Rick Stephens said that enrollment at Sul Ross State University is up and that the dorms are full. He also congratulated crews on the great work repaving the roads in Alpine Country Club Estates, which is part of an ongoing city-wide effort. Finally, he noted that the placement of the flashing-light stop sign at Ave. B, which he said he purchased, will help now

that Sul Ross students are returning to campus.

With the exception of items E and F, six items on the consent agenda passed unanimously. They included:

Approval of July 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes

Approval of the appointment of Jesusita "Susie" Gonzales to the Place 2 (Hotelier) position on the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee

Approval of the excused absence of Councilor Darin Nance from the July 16, 2024, regular City Council meeting

Approval of the excused absence of Councilor Stephens from the July 16, 2024, regular City Council meeting

See COUNCIL • 3

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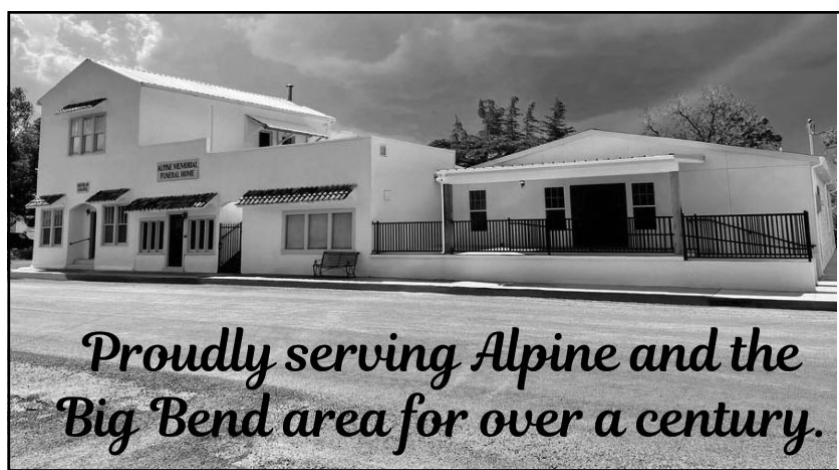
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OBITUARIES

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Lucila "Lucy" Garcia

The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I want

Lucila Lujan Garcia, lovingly known as Lucy, entered her eternal home on August 4. Born August 31, 1939, right here in Marfa to Dora and Andres Lujan, the youngest of seven children, survived by her sister, Mageli Venegas, Lucy leaves behind a lasting mark on her native town.

I will fear no evil for you are at my side

A student of segregation at Blackwell School, she, but last month witnessed the establishment, via bipartisan legislation signed by President Biden, of Blackwell School National Historic Site as the newest of our national parks. Following school she married Armando Garcia, the boy from two blocks away, on January 5, 1957, remaining so until death's temporary partition. Lucy was a dedicated Army spouse to Sergeant Garcia, joining him in posts in Fort Hood and Hawaii, and awaiting him Stateside during deployments to Germany and Southeast Asia in the lead-up to the Vietnam War. She passed at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso.

You set a table before me...my cup overflows

Lucy had four children of her own and was "Mom" to many more. She is reunited with her two eldest, her sons, Glenn Lujan and Edward Samuel, and is survived by her loving daughters, Deborah Falknor and Brenda Garcia. Though she lost two children she gained a daughter-in-law Leticia Garcia and a son-in-law, Dr. Kenneth Falknor; five grandchildren, Aaron Garcia, Andrea Estrada, Dr. Marco Garcia, Jon Michael Fierro, and Steven Garcia; two great-daughters-in-law Maria Teresa Garcia and Dr. Roxanna Perez, and six great-grandchildren, Diego and Sammy Estrada, Selena Fierro, Emile Garcia-Perez, Lucero "Lucy" Garcia, and Elora Garcia-Perez.



Aug. 31, 1939-Aug. 4, 2024

A brilliant cook, Lucy got her chops helming the Marfa favorite, Mando's, in the 1970s; her homemade tortillas, fideos, enchiladas, burgers, and chicken fried steaks are fondly remembered. She shared her hearth and home running a day-care during the subsequent four decades, having a hand in shaping a generation-plus of Marfa's children, all of whom lovingly called her "Mom." After the military service, her husband, Armando entered the insurance industry and with hard work, took Lucy around the world to the likes of Denmark, Switzerland, Brazil, France, and Mexico. One of her proudest accomplishments was in visiting the three Cristo Rey's in the America's: Rio de Janeiro, Guanajuato, and El Paso. Her refrigerator became adorned with pictures of all of her kids, and postcards of the places they had been in this beautiful world. She was a proud supporter of her kids and of Marfa schools, celebrating all of their life moments, from elementary Christmas recitals to junior and high school sports, quinceañeras, conferrals of degrees, to births of their own children.

The only team to rival her love of the Short-horns was the Chicago Cubs. A lifelong fan, first tuning in from afar on the radio, then later on the WGN television broadcasts, and in-person to Spring Training in Arizona, she finally visited the friendly confines of Wrigley Field in Chicago in 2016, the very year the Cubs broke the Curse of the Billy Goat and won their first World Series since 1908. Go Cubs Go!

Lucy forged her own minor star through the Marfa-based film-

ing of the 1956 classic, Giant. The access to actors and sets allowed to locals gave Lucy opportunities for auto- and photographs that became prized the world over. She appeared in the documentaries including Return to Giant, and Children of Giant, the latter of which further details Blackwell School. Her photographs of James Dean garnered interviews with newspapers including the Times of New York and Los Angeles, and the Dallas Morning-News, and fan mail from Indiana to England.

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come

The Rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 8 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marfa, where she was a life-long member, holding a vigil mass for her son Sammy since 1980, and for Glenn since 2014. The funeral will be Friday, August 9 at St. Mary's at 10 a.m. Lucila will be interred at the feet of her sons at Merced Cemetery, in Marfa on a later date.

Please join our family and friends in celebrating Lucy's lovely life.

Pallbearers will be her beloved grandsons and great-grandsons: Aaron Garcia, Dr. Marco Garcia, Jon Michael Fierro, Steven Garcia, Diego Estrada, and Sammy Estrada.

Funeral services are entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home. Condolences may be left at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

James Horatio Torres

James Horatio Torres of Alpine made 50 adventurous trips around the Sun before he was called home on July 02, in El Paso, surrounded by his loved ones. James earned his wings and flew into the palms of Jesus Christ.

James was born into a pioneering family in Alpine on May 24, 1974. The only son of Elva Torres, grandchild to Horacio & Paula Torres, great-grandchild to Mama Jane Arriola Torres, and great-great-grandchild to Antonia and Gerado Arriola. James received his Holy Sacrament at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, where he was a lifelong member. James graduated from Alpine High School and then attended Sul Ross State University and San Antonio College.

Our Beloved James was an only child, but he grew up with all his cousins whom he loved like brothers and sisters, growing up in a tight-knit family. In high school, he played for the Alpine Fightin' Bucks when they almost went all the way to the state playoffs during the 1992-1993 school year. Their record still holds to this day a 13/0 season. During this school year, the Bucks also had a great baseball year. James loved football & baseball and his favorite team, win or lose, was the Dallas Cowboys. James was blessed to go see them play several times in his lifetime. James had the opportunity to fly in hot air balloons over Taos, NM, he rode in an old historic train from Alpine to Van Horn, he went fishing, camping, hiking, and skiing, in some of the most beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers in Texas, northern New Mexico,



and southern Colorado.

His other passions in life were laughter, telling jokes, BBQs, music, being outdoors, and teaching those around him what he knew. He was very artistic and loved to work with his hands, working on yards, and building things. He was a great artist and always enjoyed helping others. He always advocated for those in need, especially the elderly, children, the homeless, the oppressed, and those who depend on others. James always counted his blessings. James was a proprietor who owned "Brewster County Lawn Services."

Our beloved James leaves behind in mourning and brokenhearted, his mother Elva, and his aunts and uncles: Laura Torres, Irma & Cruz Lechuga, Lolly Torres, Jerry Torres & Dara, Lydia Torres, Billy & Irene Torres, Pam Torres, Marta Torres. Also, his cousins (who were like brothers and sisters): Billy Jack, JoJo, & Victor Torres, John & Cruz Lechuga, Stephanie & Charles Melendez, Kim Torres, Amanda Torres, Kristen Hardwick & Tomei Gonzalez as well as several other nieces, nephews, cousins, great-aunts, and great-uncles, and his good friends, Maddie & Julie Morton, and his emotional support kids, Blue & Chico. James, our hearts are broken, we love you and we

miss you, and we will keep you in our hearts and in our prayers until we meet again.

James went on to join his beloved grandparents Paula & Horacio Torres, Uncle Raul (Magoo) Torres, great-grandmother; Mama Jane, Aunt Kathy Torres, and all his family and friends who had gone before him. James now belongs to all the ages.

James will now go and complete his Baptismal Vows.

The Memorial Holy Rosary: will be recited on August 24 at 10 a.m. by Our Lady of Peace Rosary Group, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine.

The Memorial Mass of the Resurrection: to be celebrated by Fr. Edroud Jean, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine at 10:30 a.m. on August 24.

The Committal of Ashes: will follow at Holy Angels Catholic Cemetery where he will be laid to rest between his beloved grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, please carry out an unexpected & unsolicited act of kindness for someone in need in his name or a donation to The Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the Bereavement Committee at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, or a dog shelter of your choice.

Prayer for the Organ Donors

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For more obituaries, please see page 10

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COUNCIL • FROM 1

Approval of a resolution amending Appendix C: Animal Services Fees for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Approval of the Texas Municipal League (TML) Intergovernmental Risk Pool Cyber Liability and Data Breach Response Interlocal Agreement

Item E, a resolution approving the renewal of the city's telecommunication and broadband contract with Big Bend Telephone, met with discussion before unanimous approval. Item F, which also received unanimous approval after minimal discussion, covers the fiscal year 2024-2025 Health Reimbursement Arrangement managed through Total Administrative Services Corporation.

Moving to the information and discussion items, the council and members of the audience settled in for the longest portion of the meeting, with seven topics scheduled for discussion.

Discussion on the property tax rate and appraised values/tax roll, Item A, yielded a change in "value-discrimination" between the city and Brewster County, said City Manager Megan Antrim.

Councilor Stone mentioned that the taxable income is lower compared to last year.

City Manager Antrim responded, "That's what we're all trying to figure out," adding that a clarification should be available within two months.

Item B, a discussion on the next steps for the Comprehensive Plan, prepares the city for future development, offering guidance for growth, aesthetics, annexation, and housing needs, among other items, mentioned by Councilor Stephens.

He noted that 20 years ago, when Sul Ross had a full campus, 1,000 students lived off campus, adding that the current housing situation in Alpine would not support that kind of short-term population influx from students.

"Build, build, build, build," said Councilor Stephens, adding that construction of new living spaces, especially in areas where there is no current development, will lower housing prices.

The Comprehensive Plan garnered much discussion in the council chambers, but it was recognized that citizen involvement would be paramount for a successful plan.

"Community engagement is the biggest thing," said City Manager Antrim, adding that the council will need to include town halls to get community input.

While Councilor Stone mentioned that town halls don't draw out citizens, and the council members are elected by the people to make those decisions, Councilor Stephens noted that town halls in the past have resulted in crowds of more than 100 people.

"People will show up if we give them some meat to chew on," he said.

The cost of a fully developed Comprehensive Plan ranges from \$24,000 to \$150,000, depending on the scope, said the City Manager. However, there are many strategic plans already in place, which could become part of a new Comprehensive Plan.

"We don't want a paperweight plan that we won't follow," said Councilor Stephens, adding that the city needs a plan that will be beneficial for short-term, as well as long-term, use.

Moving to Item C, a

discussion on changes to water billing ordinances, Councilor Stone mentioned the "weird" bills showing up in people's mailboxes, some of which add up to outrageous amounts unexpected by consumers. Both Stone and Antrim said the complaints have been numerous.

Difficulties faced by residents, as well as the Alpine Water Department, include accurate meter readings, line breaks that lead to exorbitant bills, account adjustments, and estimations.

City Manager Antrim noted that estimations are allowed, though they are performed infrequently. Councilor Stone said there are a lot of ideas that could alleviate the water woes for residents and the Water Department, including year-round estimations.

"If the city can make some progress in the next month or two, then we can show people we're making progress and coming up with solutions," Stone said.

For Councilor Stephens, educating consumers is critical when it comes to ensuring accurate water bills and water consumption monitoring.

Alpine Utilities Interim Director Johnny Marquez addressed the council, stating that water leaks, sewer problems, and personnel absences are some of the main reasons for estimations.

"We can't plan for the unknown, and that makes sense," said Councilor Nance. He followed up by asking why the city doesn't subsidize automatic water meters, which would put the homeowner in greater control of their water consumption.

"The ones that complain the most are the ones that have the beautiful green lawns, said Marquez, still at the podium.

The City Manager, who was part of a "smart" water meter pilot program in 2017, said the city should push toward smart meters, stating it would be a "huge improvement in our community."

Moving back to the discussion on unexpected high water bills, some of which can exceed \$2,000, Councilor Stone suggested a 12-month forgiveness policy, wherein a homeowner faced with such a bill could have the bill "forgiven" by the city once in a 12-month period.

Stephens said people would take advantage of such a plan, and it would put too much of a strain on the Water Department to keep up with who has received what and when.

"Conceptually it makes sense," he said. "Practically, it's a big challenge."

Antrim added that the accountability breakdown for water bill discrepancies and other water-related issues came to 80% customer and 20% city.

After a brief recess, the Council moved on to Item D, a discussion to use a third-party company to help manage short-term rentals in Alpine. The idea is to hire a company that would perform "data scrapes" across 10,000 websites to determine which short-term rental owners in Alpine are advertising—and which of those are operating without a permit and are out of compliance with the city ordinance on hotel occupancy taxes.

Addressing members of the Council, Alpine Building Services Permits and Code Enforcement Authority Jessica Isley said that new software would facilitate processes and streamline services for both her department and short-term rental owners.

Director of Building Services Robert Rückes, who was attending training out of the area, spoke on the subject via Zoom, stating that one third-party provider who offered a demonstration of their software's capabilities would come at a bare minimum cost of \$3,500 per year. This level of service would provide on-demand reporting and daily monitoring of websites.

At \$21,000 per year, the services offered include a public-facing portal and a 24/7 call center that could, for example, handle complaints from neighbors living near short-term rentals.

Councilor Stone suggested that it would be good to look at other companies, as well, especially those currently used in other Big Bend communities.

Ward 4 Councilor Lucy Escovedo said she would like to keep the service "in-house" if possible, saying that money spent on an outside company is money that the city would not be able to give to its employees for their hard work.

In the end, Stephens estimated that 40 to 50 short-term rental property owners are not paying the hotel occupancy tax.

Item E up for discussion involved the council agenda-setting process. Brought by Councilor Stephens, the item opened discussion on making council members aware of items being included in future city council meeting agendas.

Stephens said there is no "mechanism" for what is on the next agenda, making it difficult for councilors to know what needs to be added to the agenda.

Antrim suggested a read-only program that would make the next city council agenda available to councilors well before the next meeting but said there was a concern about violating the Texas Open Meetings Act if two or more councilors discuss an item on the agenda if given early access.

Item F involved a discussion on home businesses, ensuring alignment among the city council regarding two home businesses that will be pursuing home business operations in Alpine.

Ordinance 2016-10-03 changed Appendix C Zoning, sections 20 and 21, to allow the use of the conditional-use permit, also referred to as the special use permit, for homeowners to receive approval to operate home businesses. Exhibit "A", Schedule of Districts Section II, "R-1," states that home occupations are subject to the approval of home occupation provisions and excludes retail sales and retail sale or service food in any form.

"We want to promote and support these businesses as long as they comply," said Stephens.

Stephens' statement to help home-based businesses received a consensus among the council.

Escovedo added, "We're here to help our community, not to make it hard on them."

However, there were concerns about creating a balance between allowing home businesses to operate and maintaining the sanctity of neighborhoods.

"Opening it up to all commercial businesses will harm the integrity of a neighborhood," said Isley, addressing the council.

Stone suggested that moving successful businesses out of their houses may fill up the downtown area, which has many vacant buildings.

The final item for discussion involved the fiscal year 2024-2025 draft budget. Through the general

fund, increases in the budget would include items such as city employee retirement, software updates, overtime compensation, and city vehicle replacements.

Antrim noted that the largest expense is a new loader, a heavy equipment machine used in construction to move or load materials, that will cost an estimated \$200,000.

After a second brief recess, Mayor Eaves asked for a vote to extend the meeting beyond 9 p.m., which was approved unanimously. The meeting continued into the eight action items on the agenda up for approval by the council.

Item A involved an order for a special election on November 5 to submit to the qualified voters of the City of Alpine certain proposed amendments to the existing Home Rule Charter; designating the place at which said election is to be held; making provisions for the conduct of that election and other provisions and relating to the purpose of the order; providing for conduct of the election; and providing an effective date.

Escovedo proposed an amendment to extend council terms to four years, so they align with County Commissioners, as well as national elections. The council tabled the suggestion for later discussion.

Stone made a motion to approve Item A, and Escovedo seconded. Item A passed unanimously.

Item B involved the approval of the first reading of Ordinance 2024-07-01, an ordinance authorizing the vacation, abandonment, and sale of the unimproved portion of South 5th Street, lying between Lot 5, Block 1 and Lot 10, Block 2, of Ferguson's Second Addition. The location is directly

behind Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church.

Marquez, addressing the council for a third time, suggested not selling the property because of numerous utility service lines, including main lines, running through the property.

"We don't really know what all is down there," he said.

Isley stated that the individuals who want to buy the property own adjacent properties, and the land in question would allow them to re-plot for a larger, connected property.

Stephens brought up that they would be able to build on the property, over the lines, at any time. This would prohibit necessary access to the city in case a line breaks. While it was mentioned that the people who wanted to buy the property agreed not to build on the property, there was concern as to what may happen in the future.

"What happens if they sell it?" said Stephens.

All Council members voted against the item, and it failed.

Item C would remove the provision that provides the ability for the city council or the Planning & Zoning Commission to initiate a spot zoning, or non-contig-

uous, zoning designation, with exceptions, amending the application fee from \$250 to \$350.

Stone moved to approve the item, and Stephens seconded. The item passed unanimously.

Item D, which was also approved unanimously, created an ordinance memorializing the city ward designations for properties annexed into the city limits of Alpine. Currently, some new properties have no ward designation, so they do not have access to local representation.

After the vote to approve Item D, Stone noted that registered voter numbers, at some point, should be "equal across the board."

Item E, which was approved unanimously, put forth a resolution of the city council amending Appendix B: Building Service Fees, setting the rates and fees for City Building Services for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Ideally, the fees cover the fees for services provided by Alpine Building Services, but Rückes said history shows the fees do not cover all expenses.

Stephens added that, in regard to Dark Sky com-

See COUNCIL • 6



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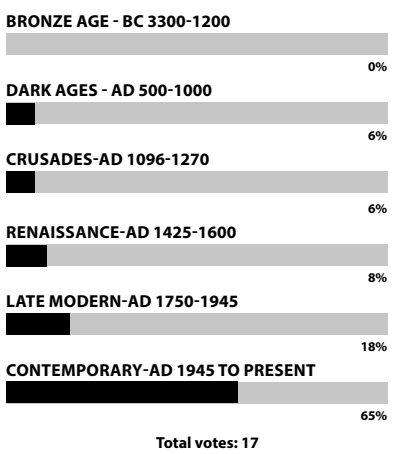
Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

IF YOU COULD LIVE IN ANY OF THESE TIMES IN HISTORY, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

RESULTS



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

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- Bronze Age- B.C. 3300-1200
- Dark Ages-A.D. 500-1000
- Crusades- A.D. 1096-1270
- Renaissance- A.D. 1425-1600
- Late Modern- A.D. 1750-1945
- Contemporary- A.D. 1945 to present

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

STAFF



J.T. Maroney

Publisher

publisher@alpineavalanche.com

Kara Gerbert

Managing Editor

kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

Shelley Maroney

Office Manager

shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

432-837-3334

www.AlpineAvalanche.com

Facebook: Alpine Avalanche

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Starvation of Rural Schools

With the start of a new fiscal year, Alpine ISD, like many districts across Texas, faces an uphill battle, compounded by our state's ongoing underfunding of public education.

Alpine ISD continues to grapple with significant financial constraints. Stagnant state funding, which has remained frozen since 2019, is a key factor. Meanwhile, the costs of running a school district continue to rise dramatically. Insurance premiums increased by 7% in just one year. Safety and security costs surged by 16% over the last three years. Food costs have ballooned, as well. While each of these expenses is money well-spent, these increased costs in the face of no new funding translate to a tightening grip on our already stretched budget.

Compounding these financial pressures are demographic changes in our community. The number of school-aged children in Alpine has declined in recent years, potentially due to a reduction in young families who can afford to live here. For instance, our recent graduating class of 80 Fightin' Bucks contrasts sharply with an anticipated incoming kindergarten class of just 55 students. This differential results in a \$300,000 decrease in state funding, an additional hit to our financial stability.

The expiration of federal

ESSER funding, which had been propping up Texas school districts amid state divestment, has further exacerbated the problem. In other areas, Alpine ISD has been hit with a substantial funding shortfall of \$1.3 to \$1.5 million annually—13% to 15% of what we're supposed to receive according to state formulas. With such significant gaps and no new funding in sight, the only option left is to cut staffing. This means larger class sizes, fewer programmatic offerings, and a leaner educational experience for our students. The delicate balance between maintaining quality education and managing fiscal responsibility becomes increasingly difficult to sustain.

Our 2024-25 budget process was a grim reminder of the constraints we face. Initially, we were staring down a \$1.8 million deficit. To address this, we were forced to make tough decisions: eliminating positions through attrition, consolidating Pre-Kindergarten classrooms, cutting vehicle-renewal purchases, and rescinding one-time stipends and retention payments for staff. These measures are not mere budgetary adjustments; they are stark reminders of the sys-

temic issues at play.

Alpine ISD is not a wealthy district. We rank in the bottom 2% in Texas in school funding. In our quest for financial sustainability, we are left to grapple with the consequences of a funding formula that hasn't

kept pace with the needs of rural districts like ours. It is particularly frustrating to witness the state's record surpluses—accumulated, in part, by underfunding public education—while rural districts struggle through deep budgetary cuts.

This is an intentional starving of public schools by a state government that has deprioritized education even amidst its financial prosperity.

Despite these challenges, there is hope. Our path forward in Alpine ISD involves increasing funding through various means, improving internal efficiencies locally, and advocating at the legislative level to change the context of statewide public education funding.

Additionally, philanthropies are increasingly stepping into the gap, helping school districts navigate unmet needs during these challenging times. Recently, for example, the Prentice & Alline Brown Foundation made an extraordinary \$575,000 donation to Alpine

ISD, committing to fund 17 critical projects across the district. This generous contribution addresses urgent needs like school supplies and playground upgrades—essential projects that have been long denied due to persistent underfunding.

However, while such donations provide crucial relief, and we are so grateful to receive them, they are not a cure-all. The broader issue remains: our state's funding formula is fundamentally flawed and fails to account for the unique challenges faced by districts like Alpine ISD.

We must confront the uncomfortable truth: the state of Texas, despite enjoying record surpluses, has neglected its constitutional duty to adequately fund public education. The result? A system where rural schools are systematically starved of the resources they need to thrive.

Legislative advocacy to address these issues is crucial—our state leaders must understand the profound impact of their decisions and be held accountable for the well-being of every student in every Texas zip code.

Here in Alpine, we will not back down from advocating for a just and fully funded public education system for all Texans. The future of our children depends on it, and we've never been a community to shy away from a just fight.



DR. MICHELLE RINEHART
Superintendent,
Alpine ISD

Wondering, should I try being trendy

"Style icons always change, and they usually inspire my haircuts more than anything else" — **Maya Hawke** — American actress and singer-songwriter.

A haircut isn't something I think about a lot these days. Because a small crop is easier to take care of, they're a minor thing anymore.

If I look in the morning mirror and the old guy looking back at me has hair over his ears, he's off to Boyd's Barber Shop in Center for a trim. Boyd does a good job, and the haircut comes with the latest politics, public opinion, and what's happening in town.

Sitting in a barber chair is also a reminder of Saturdays spent as a kid reading Popular Mechanics magazine while sitting in a barber chair at Chris Durant's shop in Mount Pleasant. Getting my flat top trimmed just in time to make the matinee next door at the Martin Theater. No appointment. Just go in, take a seat, find something to read, and wait for the barber to call, "Next."

Hairstyles have trended since then. I see long hair, short hair, hair on top of the head, and shaved on the sides. I see artistic designs sculpted in hair. I see green hair, purple hair, blue hair. Sometimes, different colors and cuts on the same head. Attempts at being trendy. Sometimes, it's fun to be

classified as trendy. But if you're like my Uncle Bill, my mother's baby brother, you simply pick one hairstyle and stick with it. Because what goes around comes around. Uncle Bill is 89 and wears his hair

just like he's always worn it. In a style that was trendy when he adopted it as a youngster. But Uncle Bill didn't change with new styles coming along. He stuck with the ducktail haircut he's sported since he was a kid in the late 1940s.

Over the years, the ducktail has been trendy, then faded away only to return a generation later. And I hear it's coming back again.

In case you missed it, the ducktail is a men's haircut style first popularized during the 1950s. It was also called the duck's tail or sometimes simply D.A., which is an abbreviated reference to another name derived from the south end of a northbound duck. And that's all I'm going to say. You'll have to figure out the rest on your own.

The hairstyle's origin is credited to Philadelphia barber Joe Cirello, who said he invented it in 1940. History records that he called the combed-back hair held in place on the back of the head by pomade 'The Swing,' after the music style of the day.



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

After becoming a fad with young males in the early 1950s, it was sometimes associated with those discontented with authority during the era.

Think James Dean in the movie "Rebel Without a Cause."

In any case, Uncle Bill adopted the look early in his life and stuck with it. After Elvis Presley, poodle skirts, and custom Mercurys in the 1950s came the British Invasion in music, the Vietnam War, and the "one giant step for mankind" in the 1960s. Through it all, Uncle Bill kept his haircut despite being told he was "out of style" as the 1970s approached.

Did it bother him? Nope. He continued to comb his hair back in a ducktail fashion, just like he always had, like "Kookie" on the 1950s television series "77 Sunset Strip."

The first revival of ducktails came with the 1950s comeback in the 1980s. Mainstream marketing utilized 1950s cars and music to sell new products. Flat tops and ducktails were back in vogue. Uncle Bill was back in style—again—but oblivious to it all because he never abandoned his original hairstyle.

And now, with hints of another comeback for D.A.s, Uncle Bill will find himself back in style. Again. Even in shades

of gray, his hair is combed back on both sides to meet in the back, just like it was in the 1950s.

Uncle Bill has always been my hero. But I've never gotten caught up in being trendy and never styled my hair in a ducktail cut. The flat top was my style from junior high and halfway through my senior year of high school when I let it grow to a late 60s length. After helping the ag major cowboys at East Texas State University defend the flagpole from which a group of hippies tried to remove the flag... When it was over, I went to the barbershop. I left with a "conventional" haircut.

The only change in the years since has been color. And I didn't make that change; time and raising kids did it for me. "My hair is turning gray," I bemoaned to my barber one day in my late 40s. Comb and scissors still clicking away, he replied, "Just be glad it's not turning loose."

Today, I'm still blessed with hair to comb, although gray. But I'm wondering if I should try being trendy, like Uncle Bill.

There may be enough to cover that place in the back where it's getting thin.

— Contact Leon Aldridge at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns are archived at leonaldridge.com

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8 Chess Club, 7 p.m. Sul Ross University Center
August 8 Alpine Public Library, 10 a.m. Toddler Time, Diamond Painting at 4 p.m., and Zumba at 6 p.m.
August 8 Silver Sneakers, 10:30 a.m. at the Sunshine House
August 8 Open Mic Night, 8:30 p.m. Railroad Blues
August 8 Marathon Songwriters Festival, at the Gage Hotel. Visit <https://www.marathonsongs.com> for more information.



August 9 Alpine Public Library, 9:30 a.m. Yarn Art and Coffee, Tinkercad Open Lab 10 a.m.
August 9-10 Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, 7 p.m.
August 9 MIDNIGHT MAD-

NESS, 12 a.m. Buck Stadium
August 10 CDRI BBQ and Fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center.
August 10 Chats on Asian Philosophy, 11 a.m. to noon Alpine Public Library
September 28 National Public Lands Day, FREE entry to Big Bend National Park.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.
Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and

Brown St.
American Legion Post 79 meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.
American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.
Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.
Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at [Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu](mailto:alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale.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, 101 W. Ave E.

the ALPINE AVALANCHE

Heard on the STREET

What is your favorite way to beat the heat?



Sylvia McIntosh: I go swimming in this heat. I don't know about the pool, but I'll go to my kid's splash pad.



Zane Perkins: Usually, there are three things I like to do: play the piano, compose music when I can get the ideas, and watch TV.



Neil Trammell: Dip my palm leaf hat in a beer cooler and sit in the shade with a breeze.



Gee Angel: Stay inside in the AC.



Michelle Plean: Stay inside in the cool.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Ziggy our POW. Ziggy is playful, cute, and cuddly, everything you would want a kitten to be. He loves to wrestle, play, and tumble with his siblings. He is most adorable and waiting for his forever adopter to come scoop him up! 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. 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. Follow Alpine Humane Society on Face-

book for updates on an Adoption Event sponsored by Spoiled Pets on Saturday, August 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join us for Meowly Hour at Alcove Social (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, August 27, 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.



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NOTICE OF ESTIMATED TAXES AND TAX RATE ADOPTION INFORMATION

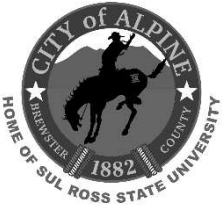
Visit Texas.gov/propertytaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information regarding the amount of taxes that each entity that taxes your property will impose if the entity adopts its proposed tax rate. Your local property tax database will be updated regularly during August and September as local elected officials propose and adopt the property tax rates that will determine how much you pay in property taxes.

You may also access the Brewster County site directly using the following link:
<https://brewster.countytaxrates.com/tax>

Property owners have the right to request the information from the assessor of each taxing unit for their property. You may request their contact information from your local Tax Assessor-Collector listed below.

Sylvia Vega, Tax Assessor-Collector
 107 W. Ave. E 1
 Alpine, Texas 79830
 432-837-2214

Taxpayers can also register for Truth in Taxation updates by visiting brewster.countytaxrates.com/tax. You will then search for your property and click view. Once on this page, you will click the "Register to receive Notice of Estimated Taxes" button in the top right-hand corner. You will then enter your information, agree to receive email notifications, and then click confirm.


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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, SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

ROBERTS • FROM 1

ther passed away, his family retrieved the artifacts from the museum. Inside the saddlebag, Cody found the diary.

It turns out, that the 19th-Century Roberts spent time bootlegging around Lajitas, trading whiskey with Comanches and U.S. Cavalry soldiers, while moving cattle and horses throughout the region.

“The diary talks about going up and down the Comanche trail—and through Marathon,” said Roberts.

Written in the diary was a quote that captures the spirit of Far West Texas: “To inhabit this place means you’re tough, determined, and one lucky bastard.” That’s where Roberts gets the name for the Desert Ghost flagship spirit: The Bastard Bourbon.

The family recipe passed down over more than 175 years, was rediscovered by

Roberts when he found the diary. He said he began to try and replicate the recipe 10 years ago, but he didn’t get serious about it until five years ago.

“We currently have a two-year supply of cask strength, four-year-old bourbon that is still aging in barrels in Bastrop,” he said, but it’s the distilling in the desert where the magic will happen. “We are truly aging ours year-round,” he said. “Every spirit is aged in barrels in the desert.”

Roberts copyrighted the term “desert-aged,” which will appear on every bottle of Desert Ghost spirits. The Desert Ghost label captures the beauty and majesty of the region, with Santiago Peak rising at the top and a Rio Grande-inspired cutting that meanders with the color of the spirit.

Desert Ghost uses a 50-gallon copper pot still, which makes all production small-batched, yet big on taste. “Desert-aged”

in custom-made, charred white oak barrels allows the spirits to endure a 60-degree, daily temperature fluctuation for rapid aging, creating a smooth and complex tasting experience.

One bourbon Roberts plans to offer will be infused with locally harvested honey. He revived the Big Bend Honey Company from the 1930s and 40s, diving even deeper into the history of the region.

Roberts said his unique method of infusing the bourbon with the honey requires a thorough process that results in a rich flavoring. Desert Ghost will also offer whiskey-flavored honey, which is sure to be a delight in morning coffees across the Big Bend and beyond.

The distilling process is a fascinating combination of science, art, and tradition that dates back thousands of years. It starts with mashing grains like barley

or corn, which are mixed with hot water to convert starches into sugars.

This mash is fermented with yeast to produce alcohol, then heated in a copper still to vaporize and condense the alcohol into a purer form. This new spirit can be aged in barrels to enhance its flavor before being bottled.

At Desert Ghost, Roberts carefully oversees each step to ensure every bottle reflects the spirit and beauty of the Big Bend Region. Using high-quality ingredients, Roberts is dedicated to producing premium spirits while staying true to the rich heritage of Far West Texas.

A Warm Welcome

When it came time to find a home for the new distillery, Roberts knew the location had to be special. When he found the empty Los Muertos building for sale, he knew it was an exceptional location, a spot where he could launch the

Desert Ghost brand and raise a family.

“Ever since we moved to Texas, we came down to Big Bend,” said Roberts. “Finding the right home that fits the brand, but also has a community around it, has been the biggest challenge by far. We just fell in love with Marathon.”

Roberts said there will be a soft launch around the time of the full moon in September, also known as Comanche Moon. The official launch will take place around Texas Independence Day in March 2025 and will include a music festival. Roberts, who plays guitar, says music is an important part of his life.

“Having local artists to play events at the distillery will be key,” he said. “We have a great patio that’s perfect for sunsets. So far everyone has been extremely helpful, and happy we’re here. We’re adding jobs, which is number one,

and we’re adding another location in town for people to recreate and dine.”

While lounging in the tasting room, patrons will be able to view historical artifacts from the Roberts family, showcasing the rich history of the region and its connection to Desert Ghost.

In a region where water is often referred to as liquid gold, Roberts knows a thing or two about water quality. He learned about it working for the Environmental Protection Agency and has degrees in environmental science and chemistry.

“We could have put another distillery in Austin, but it just didn’t feel right,” he said. “This feels right. When we found this building in Marathon, everyone I showed it to thought I was crazy, but it just felt right.”

TOURISM • FROM 1

prove the meetings from the last meeting. A motion was made by council member Linda Walker with a second from Price. The motion passed.

Ivey next moved down the agenda to the action items, skipping the reports and updates from partner organizations to return to them later in the meeting.

The first action item on the agenda was the discussion and approval of the 2025 budget. Walker, the marketing committee chair, began at the end of the budget and worked forward, going over every line item and commenting and explaining those line items that were increased or decreased.

The first items that were discussed were the staff and executive director salaries. All three received a 5% cost of living increase in this budget, with the exact figures being supplied by the Brewster County Treasurer, Julie Morton.

Line item 30 on the budget was the Marathon and Study Butte Visitor Center projects. The marketing committee set aside a total of \$160,000 for the future staffing of these two visitor centers to be set aside by the county treasurer in a

separate line-item account.

Barbara Trammel questioned initially what the money was for, and what it would be spent on, but was reassured after Walker and Morton explained how this money was going to be handled going forward. “The committee and I wanted to make sure that once these two visitor centers were built, we would be able to pay the people who would be staffing these buildings as well as be able to help pay utilities on them. By earmarking this money now, we can assure that we have this covered,” Walker said.

Trammel also questioned the amount of \$45,000 that was set for both the Marathon and Big Bend Chambers of Commerce. “In the past, some of this money has not been spent wisely, and I just want to make sure that it is being spent in accordance to how it is supposed to be used,” Trammel stated. Walker as well as Big Bend Chamber director Montie Mudd told Trammel that both chambers were now required to send their budgets to Brewster County Judge Greg Henington before they could be approved on the council’s budget.

The committee also increased the amount for

the trash roll-offs that are placed beside the current visitor kiosks during Spring Break both in Study Butte and in Marathon. This was increased to include the possibility of placing more roll-offs at other times of high visitor traffic. A discussion ensued about the abuse of the receptacles by locals, which has happened repeatedly since the council started placing them at the visitor kiosks. Items such as mattresses, tires, toilets, and other household junk and trash have ended up in the roll-offs, filling them up before the visitors can access them. Mudd told the council that a group of the chamber members went around the area speaking to locals about waiting until after Spring Break was over to utilize them if needed. She said that it helped quite a bit in curtailing the extra trash.

Also seeing increases were the line items for association membership fees, public relations, advertising, the State Fair, and consumer and travel shows. Both Walker and Executive Director Robert Alvarez noted that prices of everything have increased due to inflation.

After going over the entire 36-line items of the budget, Ivey entertained a motion to approve the

budget for 2025. A motion was made by council member Wendy Little of Texas Mountain Trail with a second from Trammel. The board passed the \$1,812,490 budget to be presented to the Brewster County Commissioners Court at their next meeting.

Next on the agenda was a report from the Big Bend Chamber. Mudd told the council that their next meeting would be held today at 6 p.m. at the Red Patillo Community Center in Study Butte. She also told the board that the upcoming September 12 meeting would be the chamber’s annual membership drive and the election of new officers. Mudd has served for four years as the director and has termed out.

While there was no report from Big Bend National Park due to a scheduling conflict, Alvarez told the council that he’d met the new park superintendent and that he believed she would be a great partner for the council.

Little gave her report about the Texas Mountain Trail, telling the council that they hosted 44 people associated with the trails last week including directors from Austin as well as the different trail directors across the state, and that everyone had a great time

visiting Big Bend as well as at the Gage.

The second action item on the agenda was nominations for the vacant seats on the council. Thus far, five nominations had been made, with a sixth made by Walker, nominating Mudd as one of the candidates. Ivey said, “We will decide at the next meeting who we will place in these open seats, so if you have any nominations, send them to me or Robert so that we can note those folks. There will be an executive session, where the executive committee determines and votes on who will fill these vacant seats.”

The third item was an update on the visitor center construction, to which Ivey stated that Henington seemed to be off and running with these. The commissioner’s court had already approved the architect firm, which was the same firm that built the emergency center in South County, so he was familiar with not only the area but the best way to tackle the project.

Mudd commented, saying, “I met with the Judge and the architect a few weeks ago, and the architect told me that he should have the drawings completed around the middle of August or so.”

In a final report, Public Relations and Social Media manager Aaron Garza presented the board with a handout about the social media reach for July. He also told the council about a few of the familiarization (FAM) tours that he has led over the summer as well as one that was coming up during November.

After his report, Ivey entertained a motion to adjourn, which was made by Little and seconded by Walker and approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Brewster County Tourism Council was set for Wednesday, November 13 at 1 p.m. in Marathon.

COUNCIL • FROM 3

pliance, there should be no charge or permit fee because the city wants people to comply with the new law, which is set to take effect in June 2025.

Item F, a resolution allocating expenditure of \$39,250 from the Hotel Occupancy Tax fund for Post Oak Preservation Solutions, LLC, to conduct a study. The results of the study will be submitted by Post Oak to a National Register of Historic Places. It would also provide the establishment of a Downtown Historic District that is recognized at the Federal and State level.

The action item also involves the submittal, by Post Oak, for a National Register of Historic Places for Kokernot Baseball Field. The recognition would allow business owners to apply for and receive Federal and State grant funding without action by the City of Alpine.

Additionally, Post Oak Preservation Solutions will work closely with Historic Alpine at no cost to the City of Alpine, other than the expenditure of the HOT funds, so that building owners and the city are aligned in the outcome. The item passed unanimously.

A resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2025-2029

Capital Improvement Plan also received unanimous approval.

The final item on the action items list was a resolution requesting support from state representatives and the Texas Legislature to pass a bill authorizing the city to transition from May General Elections to November General Elections.

Stone suggested that the move from May elections to November would lead to an increase in voter turnout, but his comment did not move the other council members to change their vote. The measure failed 2-3, with Stone and Escovedo as the minority ayes.

During city council member comments, Olivas thanked the audience who remained in attendance throughout the marathon meeting, where yawns and

stretches indicated the late hour.

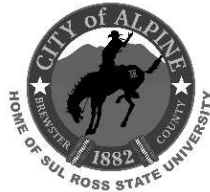
Stone ended the comments section with a reference back to the final agenda item and the call for a move to the November elections.

“I do wish we would have expanded democracy and voter turnout, but I do enjoy working with you all,” he said.

The council convened into executive session at 9:36 pm, just a bit over the four-hour mark from when the meeting began, to discuss the possible sale and/or acquisition of property for long-term overall city goals and planning, including city-owned structures.

The next regular meeting of the Alpine City Council is scheduled for 5:30 pm, August 20, in the council chambers.

www.alpineavalanche.com



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING ON AUGUST 26, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

REPLAT 2024-08-01: A REPLAT APPLICATION TO ALLOW THE APPLICANT, SARA BOW, TO REMOVE INTERNAL LOT LINES AND REFLECT UPDATED OWNERSHIP OF A CITY ALLEY THAT WAS PURCHASED BY THE APPLICANT. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF NORTH 4TH STREET AND EAST AVENUE E AND IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOTS 6, 7, AND 8, ALONG WITH A 15.67 FOOT WIDE STRIP OF VACATED ALLEY LYING ADJACENT TO AND EAST OF SAID LOTS, ALL OUT OF BLOCK 3, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF ALPINE, AS SHOWN IN SUBDIVISION PLAT ON FILE IN VOLUME 2, PAGE 97, DEED RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 11805. THE CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY IS C-2 BUSINESS DISTRICT. IF THE REPLAT IS APPROVED THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION WILL REMAIN C-2 BUSINESS DISTRICT

ALL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. COPIES OF THE APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N 13TH STREET, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. AND 5:00 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM OR AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:
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Cup of Daily Soup
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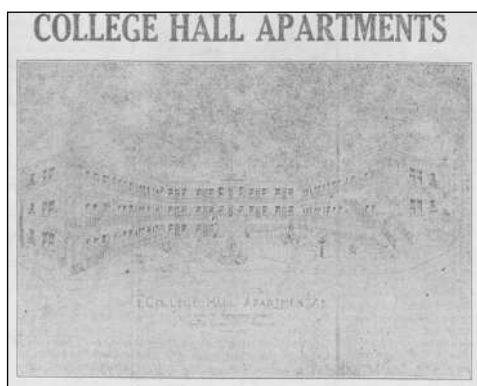
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August 24, 1928

Mr. Geo W. Kirchner of San Angelo is the owner and manager of a new \$100,000 property addition to Alpine. Kirchner is building College Hall Apartments that will be three stories tall and contain 104 rooms specifically for Sul Ross students. Construction began this week, and the building will be able to house approximately 200 people within the seven two-room apartments and the 22 four-room apartments.

Photos courtesy of the Archives of the Big Bend at the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and the Portal of Texas.

August 12, 1927
The Alpine Kandy Kitchen carries everything you need to take care of that sweet tooth. Creating their own homemade candies as well as ice cream and other well-known brands of sweet treats, Shirley Scales will make sure that your dessert or candied gift is just what you're looking for.



August 5, 1927
The Alpine Beauty Shoppe is your one-stop shop for all your beauty needs. Carrying a full line of Kolos Toilet Requisites as well as having the very latest permanent wave machine in the area. Mrs. Walter Garnett and her team can take care of all your beauty and barbering needs.



G. W. BAINES,
Active V.-Prest. and Cashier

August 19, 1927

G.W. Baines, Vice President and cashier at the First National Bank here in Alpine can take care of all your banking needs. Since 1904 it has been the leading financial institution in West Texas. Baines' experience in lending and financial planning will help you with all your financial needs, whether it be personal, business, or even real estate.

Dying mountain laurel could be caused by a number of issues

Dear Neil: We have several clusters of Texas mountain laurels. They have been doing quite well for some time, but one trunk of one just checked out hurriedly two weeks ago. Another in the back of the photo shows darkened and curling leaves and is heading in the same direction. What's going on, and is there anything we can do?

I do not know for sure. Inspect the trunk of the infected stem closely right at the interface between healthy and browned tissues. That's where you'll find the source of your problem, whether there's some type of injury, canker, or gall. The most common insect pest of Texas mountain laurel is the caterpillar of the Genista moth, but they strip the leaves entirely instead of turning them brown. Poorly draining soil in a year of heavy rainfall and also extreme cold would impact the entire plant, not just an isolated trunk. Without being able to

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry



see the exact transition area on the trunk I can't get more specific.

Dear Neil: We had a Bradford pear that suddenly fell over in a brisk windstorm last March with no warning at all. It could have fallen onto our house, into the neighbor's fence, or over our landscape, so at least it chose the least damaging place to come down. I knew these trees don't last long, but I didn't realize they could fall without warning. I thought your readers might want to know.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your pho-

tos from last spring. My bet is that the tree is still gracing you with hundreds of root sprouts coming up all over your yard. Your joys will continue on for a while. Don't let any of those develop. They will look harmless at first, but they'll be Callery pears, the rootstock of Bradford pear. They have a much more open growth habit than Bradfords, but the two huge negatives of Callery pears are that they bear long thorns on their stems, and they bear tiny little pears that birds find delicious. They will consume them and plant the seeds in the process. The plant will become invasive wherever there's enough moisture for the seedlings to grow. There

are several entire states that have banned Bradford and all other ornamental pears entirely because all of this happens.

Relative to your specific tree, notice in your one photo how many trunks are clustered together. They do not form good unions between one another and that's why the trees decay and split. There is almost no way around it.

Dear Neil: I planted a 3-in-1 pear tree three years ago at our place in South Texas. It's only had one blossom on it so far, so it's sluggish in that regard, but it's also very yellow. I have tried adding iron, and I have sprayed it with fungicides and regular fruit tree sprays. Nothing has helped. What am I doing wrong?

Not to make you feel bad, but the first mistake was buying the multi-variety grafted tree. That's a gimmick, even though you bought from a well-respected source. The different varieties aren't always com-

patible. What you are seeing is iron deficiency, and that's probably an issue with the tree's rootstock and its inability to cope with alkaline soils. It can't pull iron out of the soil and into the plant's system. You can always identify iron deficiency by its place on the plant: most conspicuous on the newest growth first. The older leaves farther down on the stems will remain dark green. The iron-deficient blades with dark green

veins, then eventually turn almost white, then brown. You have a match on all fronts. Most gardeners will try to apply iron either to the soil or as a foliar spray. Be careful: Iron can stain masonry and painted surfaces. Plus, it rarely works. You're better off switching to other crops that won't need the copious amounts of iron. If you still want to plant a pear, opt for the variety Orient, long known to be one of the most dependable for the Texas climate.

- ACROSS**
- oil rich countries
 - Patricia of Texas-based film "Hud"
 - "-farty" (pretentious)
 - made a run for it
 - San Antonio Zoo has several of these (2 wds.)
 - ambulance services (abbr.)
 - Galveston County town (2 wds.)
 - TX Ernie who was "Mr. Cub" (init.)
 - New England chowder
 - TXism: "_____ a bug in a rug"
 - TXism: "from womb _____" (lifetime)
 - TXism: "at the drop of _____" (impulsive)
 - rose stalk
 - t-shirt size
 - TX Gary Morris hit: "The Love _____ Me"
 - planting dirt
 - LBJ Supreme Court nominee, Fortas
 - in the 1990s, it was easy to find one in Texas (2 wds.)
 - TX Ronnie who sang with Brooks
 - long, narrow cut
 - in Columbus, TX: "Tate-_____ Brandon House"
 - TXism for "fellow"
 - enjoyed a meal

- TX Bobby, co-founded the Black Panther Party
- unoriginal, trite
- "tit for _____"
- "in _____" (work well together)
- TXism: "sticks like _____ a road"
- Cuero's Turkeyfest race: "Great _____ Gallop"
- Gulf game fish
- dove sound
- TXism: "_____ mad as a wet _____"
- poem of praise
- TXism: "attacked like conventioners _____"
- how shearers charge? (2 wds.)
- cowboys are big _____
- in Callahan County on I-20
- 37th governor, Shivers
- tidy
- Neil Diamond's "_____ I Said"
- late Texas singer, Gilley (init.)
- live music TV show: "_____ City Limits"
- with "S2," name of a security system

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1701

- TXism: "he's lower than pond _____"
- Army inspector, e.g. (abbr.)
- in 1991, IRS sold some of TX Willie Nelson's property to pay this (2 wds.)
- "_____ Mission" is oldest in Texas
- smokestack
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the _____"
- TX Roy Orbison's "_____, Pretty Woman"
- golf ball holders
- sirloin and brisket are cuts _____
- TXism: "he wouldn't know how to _____ stick horse" (dude)
- frock (2 wds.)
- TXism: "gave me a _____ and dance" (runaround)
- Texas country singer, Stuckey
- TXism: "he's a _____ nuff Texan"
- star of "Bandit Kings of Texas," Lane
- former San Angelo festival: "Fiesta _____"
- "mister" in Mexico in Brown County on U.S. 67 & 84
- taxi cost
- illegal motion by a Ranger pitcher
- corporate raider, TX _____ Pickens
- how unhappy fans showed disapproval

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Sports

Cowboys triumph in playoff thriller

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys have advanced to the Pecos League Mountain Division Championship after a nail-biting three-game series against the Tucson Saguaros that concluded with an electrifying walk-off victory in extra innings on Saturday night at Kokernot Field.

Game One: Tucson Saguaros 4, Alpine Cowboys 1. The series opener on Thursday night saw the Alpine Cowboys struggle to find their rhythm. Despite a valiant effort, they managed only a single run against the Saguaros' strong pitching. Head Coach Sean Persky reflected on the game, stating, "We just didn't hit. We were playing from behind the whole game. We had bases loaded three times in the ninth but just couldn't capitalize. It was a rare off-night for us." Tucson's pitching staff effectively shut down Alpine's powerful lineup, and despite a late offensive surge in the ninth inning, the Cowboys fell short, giving Tucson an early edge in the series.

Game Two: Alpine Cowboys 15, Tucson Saguaros 11. Friday's game was a thrilling rollercoaster of emotions, as both teams' offenses exploded. Tucson jumped to an early 6-1 lead, but the Cowboys refused to back down. Kyle Rodriguez's home run in the early innings was a catalyst for Alpine's comeback. "It got ugly pretty fast, but we felt we were within striking distance,"

SCOREBOARD

Game One

Tucson Saguaros 4,
Alpine Cowboys 1

Game Two

Alpine Cowboys 15,
Tucson Saguaros 11

Game Three

Alpine Cowboys 5,
Tucson Saguaros 4
(10 innings)

Persky said. The Cowboys' determination shone through in the bottom of the sixth inning when they staged a dramatic rally. With two outs and one runner on, Alpine scored nine runs, transforming an 11-3 deficit into a 12-11 lead. "That was the turning point. It was an up-and-down game, but we ended on the uphill," Persky noted. The Cowboys added three more insurance runs in the next inning and managed to hold off Tucson's attempts to rally, securing a crucial win and leveling the series.

Game Three: Alpine Cowboys 5, Tucson Saguaros 4 (10 innings). Saturday's decisive game was nothing short of a classic, filled with intense moments and strategic plays. Alpine's starter delivered six solid innings, allowing just one run and keeping the game tight. The Cowboys took a 3-1 lead early on, but Tucson fought back, tying the game in the seventh inning. The Saguaros then took a 4-3 lead in the eighth, putting pressure on the Cowboys. However, with two outs in the ninth, Taylor Darden's clutch single drove in the tying



Cowboys players high-five one another after their WIN against the Tucson Saguaros.

Photo by Julie Meyers

run, sending the game into extra innings. The tension at Kokernot Field was palpable as the game extended into the tenth inning. Alpine's defense came up big, turning a crucial double play to keep Tucson at bay. Then, in the bottom of the inning, Matteo Avallone stepped up and delivered the walk-off single, sealing a dramatic 5-4 victory for the Cowboys. "Having this kind of game at home, especially in the playoffs, is always exciting," said Persky. "We have the talent and chemistry to win another championship. It's win now or go home."

Throughout the series, standout performances were key to Alpine's success. Josh Rego's stellar defense, including two

double plays that got the Cowboys out of jams, was instrumental. Alec Cruz, who pitched the final two innings of Game Three, earned the win with one strikeout while allowing just one hit. Coach Persky praised his team's resilience and determination. "This team has accomplished a lot and achieved a lot," he said. "We have a lot of offensive firepower, with players like Taylor Darden, the league MVP, and Josh Rego, the hitter of the year. Their contributions have been invaluable." Persky also highlighted the team's defensive prowess, which played a crucial role in the series. "Our starter in the final game gave us six solid innings, and our de-

fense stepped up when it mattered most," he added. "From turning double plays to making clutch pitches, everyone contributed."

With a remarkable 47-5 season record, the Cowboys are set to host the Garden City Wind for Game One of the Pecos League Mountain Division Championship Series on Tuesday, August 8. Despite the delay due to the weather, the excitement among fans and players is palpable. "We haven't been able to get out of the first round of playoffs since 2019 when we last won a championship," Persky remarked. "This team has the chemistry and talent to go all the way."

The Cowboys' journey

to the championship has been marked by historic achievements. They boasted the longest win streak in franchise history and the best winning percentage. Eleven players earned All-Star honors, including standout performances from Drake Angeron, AJ Folds, and Humberto Vela. The team's .400-plus hitters and league-leading 3.54 ERA highlight their dominance this season.

Fans are encouraged to pack Kokernot Field and support the Cowboys as they continue their quest for glory. With the team's resilience, talent, and determination, the Alpine Cowboys are poised to add another chapter to their storied legacy.

Go Cowboys!



The Alpine Lady Bucks work on fundamentals as well as a way to become a cohesive team during two-days practice with Coach Christopher Virdell (left) and Head Coach Adrian Smith.

Courtesy photo

Volleyball team ready for exciting season

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

As the Alpine Lady Bucks Volleyball gears up for the new season, the excitement is palpable among players, coaches, and fans alike. Head Coach Adrian Smith, entering her second year with the program, shared her enthusiasm and insights during an interview on the progress of the team and what to expect in the upcoming weeks.

"We're on day two of tryouts, and everything's just going great," Coach Smith said. "All the kids are working hard. Everybody's super excited." The team is currently preparing for a series of scrimmages that will set the stage for their first official competition next Tuesday.

Last season, the Lady Bucks reached the Regional quarterfinals, marking a highly successful run. Coach Smith

aims to build on that success this year. "We have very high expectations. We want to be able to transition that success into this season as well," she said. The new district realignments and division splits have introduced fresh challenges, but the team is training hard to meet them head-on.

The Lady Bucks will be scrimmaging on Friday at Andrews and on Saturday at Green-

wood in Midland. These scrimmages are vital for the team as they work with different rotations and positions, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. "The scrimmages allow us to really work with different rotations, different positions with kids," Coach Smith explained. "It gives us an opportunity to explore and expand our rotations."

See VOLLEYBALL • 9

Sports Schedule

LADY BUCK VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 9 Scrimmage vs Andrews (T) TBA
Aug. 10 Scrimmage vs Midland Greenwood (T) TBA
Aug. 13 Alpine vs Wink/Fort Stockton (FS) TBA
Aug. 15-16 Best of the West Tourney-Wink TBA
Aug. 20 Alpine vs Midland Trinity F @4:30 p.m., JV @5:30 p.m., V @6:30 p.m.
Aug. 22-24 Nita Vannoy Tourney-San Angelo (Varsity only) TBA

FIGHTIN' BUCK FOOTBALL

Aug. 15 Scrimmage vs McCamey

(H) JV @ 6 p.m., V @ 7 p.m.

Aug. 23 Scrimmage vs Pecos (T) JV @ 5 p.m., V @ 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 29 Midland Greenwood vs Alpine JV @ 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 30 Wellington vs Alpine (in Abilene) V @ 7 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (TENTATIVE)

Aug. 10 West of the Pecos (HS) @ PecosHighSchool
Aug. 16-17 Jim Ned Warpath Invitational (HS) @JimNed H.S.
Aug. 24 Tall City Invitational (HS/MS) @Midland-Hogan Park
Aug. 31 Crane Invitational @ CraneGolfCourse

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MOLLY GARRETT

Sophomore Molly Garrett is coming off of a great 2024 distance track season. She has been building mileage over the summer in preparation for a successful Fall cross country season.

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Sul Ross football embarks on new journey

BY PETER DINDINGER
Contributor

Forty-nine years ago, the Sul Ross State football program wrapped up its final season in the Lone Star Conference before joining the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1976.

The LSC was loaded in 1975 with programs that are now competing at the Division I level such as Tarleton State, Abilene Christian, Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston State.

Fast forward to 2024 and the LSC is still a competitive league from top to bottom.

On Thursday afternoon, July 25, inside the McKinney Independent School District's Community Event Center, the LSC announced its pre-season poll along with players to watch.

The Lobos received 42 points as they were ranked 10th while Central Washington had 20



Vicente Luevano evades a lineman from Howard Payne University last season.

Courtesy photo

first place votes to sit atop the poll.

Angelo State and UT Permian Basin were ranked second and third, respectively.

Sul Ross State might be barred from competing in the NCAA postseason, but it can still compete for a chance to win a conference title this fall.

The Lobos last captured LSC titles in 1950 and 1965.

Senior wide receiver Vicente Luevano along with senior defensive back Quincy Blair were named players to watch for the upcoming season as kickoff is days away for the Lobos.

Luevano earned sec-

LSC PRESEASON POLL

1. Central Washington
2. Angelo State
3. UT Permian Basin
4. Texas A&M-Kingsville
5. Midwestern State
6. West Texas A&M
7. Eastern New Mexico
8. Western Oregon
9. Western New Mexico
10. Sul Ross State

2024 SCHEDULE
(All times are listed in Central Standard Time. Home games are in bold)

- vs. West Texas A&M (Thursday, Aug. 29) (6 p.m.)
- at Eastern New Mexico (Saturday, Sept. 7) (7 p.m.)
- vs. Wayland Baptist (Saturday, Sept. 14) (1 p.m.)
- vs. Western Oregon (Saturday, Sept. 21) (1 p.m.)
- at Texas A&M - Kingsville (Saturday, Sept. 28) (7 p.m.)
- at Midwestern State (Saturday, Oct. 12) (7 p.m. CST)
- vs. Western New Mexico (Saturday, Oct. 19) (7 p.m.)
- ***HOMECOMING***
- at Angelo State (Saturday, Oct. 26) (6 p.m.)
- vs. Eastern New Mexico (Saturday, Nov. 2) (1 p.m.)
- at Central Washington (Saturday, Nov. 9) (8 p.m.)
- vs. UT Permian Basin (Saturday, Nov. 16) (noon)

ond-team American Southwest Conference honors last fall after tallying six touchdowns and catching 36 passes for 549 yards.

Blair, a fifth-year player, ranked second on the Lobo defense with 51 total tackles while he grabbed two interceptions.

"We're very humbled that the Lone Star Conference accepted us and we're definitely excited to take the next step and compete at a higher level. Our guys have been just electric this offseason about moving up. It's definitely going to be a transition, but we're excited to get the opportu-

nity that these guys have been craving probably for the last few years. This is one of the toughest Division II conferences in the nation. There's definitely going to be a step up in talent. It's one of the toughest transitions out there, but we're going to go up and give it everything that we've got," said Head Coach Barry Derickson.

"Everybody's pretty excited about it. We get to play a whole new conference. Just being able to expand our competition field is really exciting. I'm excited for this year. We got a lot of people returning on offense," Luevano said.

"I've seen everybody that's come into our program grow and mature. We're just building chemistry, molding together to be probably one of the best defenses next year. We have a young group of guys from last year coming back," said Blair

Sul Ross hires new head baseball coach

BY PETER DINDINGER
Contributor

As Sul Ross State embarks on a new challenge with the transition to NCAA Division II and the Lone Star Conference, the Lobo baseball program is getting a new leader.

Having coached across all levels in the NCAA including high school and minor league baseball, Caleb Abney will now be taking over the helm.

Abney served as the head baseball coach at Lancaster Bible College from 2021-2023, a Division III program in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He will replace Ely Gallego who spent the last two seasons as the head coach.

"It is an honor to join Sul Ross athletics and to be trusted to lead the baseball program into this new era of excellence in Division II competition," Abney said. "I am so grateful to Amanda Workman and the rest of the athletics staff. They have been exceptional in this process and I am looking forward to rewarding their belief in me.

"I am excited to collectively chase uncommon excellence for the baseball program, and to help guide and push these young men to realize their highest potential — as people, as students, and as championship-caliber baseball players."

Abney has an extensive coaching career which began at the high school level as a varsity head coach at Westminster Christian Academy in Watkinsville, Georgia.

The Kennesaw, Georgia native later received an opportunity to coach at his alma mater, Cov-

"I am excited to collectively chase uncommon excellence for the baseball program, and to help guide and push these young men to realize their highest potential — as people, as students, and as championship-caliber baseball players."

— Caleb Abney, the new SRSU Baseball Head Coach

enant College, in Lookout Mountain, Georgia where he served as an assistant coach.

Abney took his talents to the Division II level at King University in Bristol, Tennessee as an assistant coach.

For five months, he also was a volunteer assistant coach at Division I Austin Peay State in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Along the way, Abney was the hitting coach for the Watertown Rapids in Watertown, New York from 2017-2018 in the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League.

In addition, he also was the head coach of the Staunton Braves of the Valley Baseball League, a high-level collegiate summer league, in 2021.

Abney relishes the opportunity to take on a new challenge in a competitive Lone Star Conference that features Angelo State, a program that has played in the national title game for the last two seasons.

"I love meeting challenges and seeing what I'm made of and challenging others around me to see what they're made of," he said. "The excitement around the



SRSU Baseball Head Coach Caleb Abney

transition up to a higher level is super intriguing and exciting to me."

Abney has been very fortunate to have worked for three different Major League Baseball organizations.

His first opportunity came with the Atlanta Braves as he served on the business side, working as a marketing trainee and ticket event team supervisor.

In 2015, he worked in player development as a video intern with the Tampa Bay Rays' Single-A affiliate Bowling Green Hot Rods.

Four years later, Abney served as the hitting coach for the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels, the Single-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

Abney got to see firsthand how the best players in the world carried about their lives on the path to the show.

He's been able to take all the things that he's learned by implementing it into his coaching style at the college level.

"Just seeing that in three different organizations provides you a more diverse understanding of what those organizations are trying to do," Abney said. "It just broadens your scope of weapons that you can use to make a program better."

Alpine's Baseball Tradition

Indeed, Alpine might be located in the heart

of football country, however, baseball has deep roots that have been ingrained in the community for decades.

The Lobo baseball program has had its fair share of success.

Since 1996, Sul Ross State has qualified for the postseason seven times, making its last trip to the conference tournament in 2023.

"We are excited for coach Abney to take the reins of our baseball program. He stood out from a very competitive pool of 56 candidates," said Sul Ross State Athletic Director Amanda Workman. "His experience stretches across all three levels of the NCAA as well as several Major League Baseball organizations.

"His emphasis on developing players both on and off the field and his enthusiasm for Sul Ross State University made him an excellent candidate. He is a great addition to our staff and the Alpine community."

As a player, Abney was named academic all-conference four times during his career at Covenant College from 2007 to 2011 as a first baseman.

He hopes to turn some heads this coming spring by making some noise in the LSC and shocking the opposition.

"I would love to find a way to get the most out of those guys and find a way to inspire them to work in smarter ways to realize their greatest potential," Abney added. "There's no reason that we shouldn't belong. I have every reason to believe that we're going to be successful in the conference from the start."

VOLLEYBALL • FROM 8

The highlight of the upcoming week is undoubtedly the dual match on Tuesday in Fort Stockton, which has become a highly anticipated season opener. "We hosted it last year at Alpine, and it was super exciting," Coach Smith recalled. "All the games went to five, and it was great competition for our program. That's why we kept it on the schedule." This year, the dual match will be held at a larger venue, the Bill and Virginia Williams Special Events Center, to accommodate the excitement and enthusiasm it generates.

Coach Smith emphasized the importance of foundational fundamentals in developing a high-caliber, deep play-off program. Last year was about setting these fundamentals, and this year the focus is on advancing them. "Going into the second season, you've got that foundational level of fundamentals set. The next step is to start progressing those into a more advanced level," she said.

August is a crucial month for the team as they enter tournament season. With games on Tuesdays and tournaments from Thursday to Saturday, the Lady Bucks will have ample opportunities to develop team chemistry, skills, and competitiveness. "Tournament season really sets the tone going into district play," Coach Smith noted.


One of the key aspects of the program is its focus on overall success, not just at the varsity level. "Our freshmen and JV team were also undefeated district champs last year," Coach Smith highlighted. "We really focus on the aspect of a high-caliber program, not just a high-caliber varsity team."

As the new season approaches, the Alpine Lady Bucks are ready to build on past successes and strive for even greater achievements. With dedicated athletes and a committed coaching staff, the community can look forward to an exciting and competitive season.

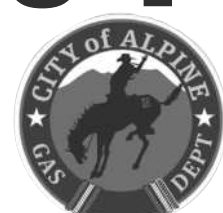
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OBITUARIES

Monica Burkholder

It is with heartbreak and sadness that we announce that Monica Lee Pannell Bowden Burkholder died peacefully on August 1 in Cibolo. Monica was born February 12, 1969, at Big Bend Memorial Hospital in Alpine to Dr. Bob Pannell and Dr. Mary Sue Kimmey Pannell. She is preceded in death by her mother, Sue, and is survived by her father, Bob of Boerne; husband Steve Burkholder, sister Angie Pannell Mullins (Jerry); all of San Antonio; daughters Taylor Bowden-Gray (Austin) of Knoxville, TN, Sarah Bowden of Shertz and Shannon Bowden of



Seguin; and her niece Katie and nephew Scot of San Antonio. She also leaves behind her best lifelong friends Christine, Denise, Heather, Jamie, and Marcy, all from Alpine.

Growing up in Alpine, Monica made many lifelong friends and was a proud Fightin' Buck. In high school, she was active in band, excelling at

the French horn and later led the AHS band as Drum Major. Monica was active in One-Act-Play and debate competitions, was an integral part of the Lady Buck golf A-Team and helped lead the team to win the state championship in 1987. After graduating from AHS, Monica attended San Angelo State University where she was a member of Tau Beta Sigma - Delta Tau and obtained a Medical Technology degree in 1992, relocated to San Antonio, where she married her first husband, Eric Bowden who she had many happy years with along with their three daughters. Monica

continued to live in San Antonio and worked as a cytopathologist until her passing.

Monica had a rich life filled with family and she cherished her time with all of them. Her three incredible daughters, Taylor, Sarah, and Shannon were her absolute pride and joy. They were the light of her life, and they inherited her warmth, humor, and contagious energy. Monica had a knack for turning even the most mundane moments into adventures, and her daughters continue to spread her spirit and joy in everything they do. Monica and Steve were married on New Year's Eve in

2013. Monica was Steve's sweetheart and sunshine, and he will forever cherish the time they spent together.

Monica was adored not only by family but also by many friends. Finally, she was referred to as "Momi-ca" by many who she held dear in her heart. She was the light and life of every party, and it only took one look from Monica to bring laughter to a room. Her quick wit, infectious humor, and directness made her a memorable character in every room she entered and every life she encountered. Whether she was cracking jokes or sharing a new "Pannellism", Mon-

ica's presence was always met with hilarity. Monica was blessed with many talents and had many hobbies including hiding around the golf ball, participating in the orchestra, playing blackjack, watching and identifying birds, traveling with friends, singing karaoke, supporting the Spurs, watching Schitt's Creek on repeat, and relentlessly quoting Nandor the Relentless.

We'll remember Monica long after she's left us with smiles and laughter. Rest easy, Monica knowing you've left us with countless happy memories and a spirit that will continue to brighten our days.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010974001

APPLICATION. Marathon Water Supply & Sewer Service Corporation, P.O. Box 322, Marathon, Texas 79842, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) No. WQ0010974001 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 200,000 gallons per day via surface irrigation of 40 acres of land. The domestic wastewater facility and disposal area are located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the intersection of US Highway 90 and US Highway 385, near the city of Marathon, in Brewster County, Texas 79842. TCEQ received this application on March 5, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Marathon Public Library, 106 Northeast 3rd Street, Marathon, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-103.26193,30.195882&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105,

P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Marathon Water Supply & Sewer Service Corporation at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Sarah Fernandez, Jacob Martín, at 325-695-1070.

Issuance Date: April 16, 2024

Yvonne Reyes

In Loving Memory & with deep sadness we announce the passing of our beloved daughter & sister Yvonne "Dancing Queen" Reyes of Alpine on July 5, in El Paso, at the age of 59 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Yvonne was born in Van Horn on October 21, 1964. She never gave up on her faith in the Lord, stating, "Miracles do happen". In the end, the cancer spread rapidly to where the treatments were not effective. We thank her team of doctors & medical staff for their efforts at the University Medical Center of El Paso.

Yvonne, a 1984 graduate of Alpine High School was a mainstay of Pizza Hut for over 30 years, won Best Waitress in the Big Bend area in 2010 & was recognized as August 2021 Team Member of the Month at Porter's, now Lowe's store.

Yvonne had a passion for dance that lit up her life & those around her. Her positivity, generosity & beautiful smile touched the lives of many she met. Yvonne's love for dance was matched only by her love for her family & friends.

She leaves behind a legacy of love survived by her Mother Estella G. Reyes, Father Marin Reyes, and Sisters Nancy Sue Stoltz (George) & Eunice Reyes of El Paso. Debra Jimenez &



Stacey Reyes of Ft. Stockton; sole brother Marin Reyes Jr. (Urn-bearer) of Alpine. Numerous nieces & nephews from West Texas & the Permian basin area: Felixshia Nicole Stoltz (Urn-bearer), George Anthony Stoltz, George Eric Stoltz, Liza Eileen Ramirez (Lector), Benito Matthew Jimenez (Godson/Urn-bearer), Briana Shanelle Day (Lector), Tristen Ilias Hernandez (Urn-bearer), Richard Antonio Hernandez Jr. (Urn-bearer), Micaela Macy Castelo, Nevaeh Julia Reyna (Urn-bearer), Ruben Marin Reyes. Along with being a great aunt to five nieces & one nephew.

Also survived by numerous uncles, aunts & cousins: Isabel Garcia (Mary), Jose Feliciano Reyes (Yolanda), Anselmo Reyes, Emma Vega (Eduardo) & Adan Reyes (Karen). Godchildren Nadyann Natividad Sendejo (God-daughter/Lector), Dominic Alexander Scott (Godson/Urn-bearer).

Yvonne was preceded in death by her grand-

parents Elfida & Tony Garcia, Leonor & Jose Reyes, her brother Eric Reyes, her aunts Soila Rivera, Juanita Reyes, and Patricia Llanez, uncles Manuel Reyes, Jose M. Reyes, brother in Loves Benito Ruiz Jimenez, Richard Hernandez, Michael David Castelo, cousin Diana Llanez & godson Ismael Javier Vega.

Yvonne's family is grateful for the outpouring of support & donations by family, friends & coworkers helping her with medical care & services. A special thank you to Dennis Baca, Ruben Rios, Anna Martinez Lazo, Rory Contreras & The El Paso Intelligence Center Watch Unit (EPIC).

Rest in peace, dear Yvonne. Your spirit will continue to dance in our hearts forever.

Details of services are at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church:

Rosary & Eulogy on Friday, August 16 at 7 p.m.

Church mass on Saturday, August 17 at 11 a.m. Burial following at Holy Angels Cemetery. Afterwards a celebration of Yvonne Reyes's life at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church Parish Hall.

Services are entrusted with Sunset Funeral Home of Americas 9521 North Loop Dr. El Paso, Texas 79907



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COA-GAS DEPARTMENT-PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

Big Bend Ranch Rodeo celebrates cowboy heritage

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

The 2024 Big Bend Ranch Rodeo is set to bring excitement and tradition to Alpine at the S.A.L.E. Arena on August 9 and 10. Hosted by Hunter Industries and Flying W Ranches, this event is a testament to the enduring spirit of the working ranch cowboy.

A unique rodeo experience

Ranch rodeo events showcase the daily tasks of working ranch cowboys. From Ranch Bronc Riding to Cattle Doctoring, the skills displayed are a direct reflection of the cowboy lifestyle. Unlike pro-rodeo cowboys, these participants work the land and cattle every day, preserving a heritage that dates back generations.

The WRCA, established in 1995, aims to celebrate and maintain this way of life. Winning teams from sanctioned rodeos earn a spot at the World Championship Ranch Rodeo, highlighting their exceptional skills and raising funds for the WRCA Foundation.

The youth performance on August 10 offers a glimpse into the future of ranching. Young cowboys and cowgirls compete in



A member of the Mellard Ranch youth rodeo team picks out a calf for the team branding competition held at last year's Big Bend Ranch Rodeo at the Sul Ross S.A.L.E arena.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Team Branding, Trailer Loading, and more, vying for a spot at the WRCA Youth Finals in Amarillo.

Don't miss the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo Trade Show, managed by the Sul Ross Rodeo Team. All proceeds benefit the SRSU Rodeo Program, supporting the next generation of cowboys and cowgirls.

Join us at the S.A.L.E. Arena for a weekend filled with cowboy grit, heritage, and heart-pounding action!

EVENT SCHEDULE AND TICKETS

AUGUST 9


WRCA Adult Performance - 7:00 pm

AUGUST 10:

WRCA Youth Performance - 11:00 am

WRCA Adult Performance - 7:00 pm

Tickets are \$10 each, and children 12 and under can attend for free. Tickets will be available at the gate before each performance. No pre-sale or online tickets are available.



ALEXA RENTERIA


In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in Sports Medicine, Marching/Concert Band, Academic UIL, Cross Country, and National Honor Society.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
My favorite teacher is Coach Cason. She has always pushed me to become a greater version of myself and was someone I felt I could talk to and rely on. I will definitely miss her!

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
Going to the Caprock Tournament with the other basketball managers was an amazing experience! We became so close and had so much fun. Thanks for the opportunity, Coach Hardwick!

What are your plans after high school?
I plan on attending Texas State University in San Marcos, beginning a long journey toward becoming a Physical Therapist.

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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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Devotional Page

The practicality of politics

BY PRIEST MIKE WALLENS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marfa

During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, the delegates found themselves at a stalemate. That was when Benjamin Franklin, who was outspoken about his non-Christian beliefs, made a surprising proposal. Henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven — and its blessing on our deliberation — be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the Clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.

The convention, unlike Franklin, was comprised of many devout Christians, but they overwhelmingly rejected his suggestion. Despite history's attempt to deify the founders, we must remember that they were politicians. As such, they often elevated the practicalities of governing above religious devotion.

As such, the delegates would never agree on which prayers to use or which denomination's clergy to invite because of their religious diversity, and the last thing they needed was to add religion to the heap of divisive issues they were already facing.

Ultimately it was the practicality of politics that kept faith out of the Constitutional Convention and the U.S. Constitution itself. The delegates in Philadelphia had produced an utterly secular document

to govern the new country.

In Acts 24, Paul also experienced the practical challenges posed by politics. For two years he was imprisoned by two different Roman governors in Caesarea—Felix and Porcius Festus. These men are asked to judge between Paul and his Jewish accusers, but neither was truly interested in questions of faith and theology. They were interested, like the delegates at the Constitutional Convention, in political stability. The Roman governors were not against Paul or "The Way" of Christ, nor were they seeking to promote or protect him. They did what was politically expedient out of self-interest—they avoided the controversy altogether.

It is clear from his numerous encounters with the governing authorities in Acts that Paul did not put his hope in politics. Instead, his hope was rooted in the God who is never indifferent toward his people. It's a lesson many of us need to be reminded of in these politically charged times. Even Christians can easily slip into the cultural currents that emphasize politics and leaders as both the cause of and the solution to, all of our problems. But Acts 24 reminds us that putting our ultimate hope in politics is not only idolatrous but it's also guaranteed to disappoint us.

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



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LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Retail Dealer's On-Premise License by Michelle Nicole Minto dba Bock Burger, to be located at 601 E. Ave E, Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. Owner of said establishment is Michelle Nicole Minto.

NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commissions for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retailer Permit by XKH Hospitality LLC DBA The Lazy Bear Saloon, to be located at 100 Terlingua Ranch Road, Alpine, Brewster County, Texas 79830. Officers of said corporation, Sandra Garza, Manager/member

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL PERMIT NO. WQ0014349001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Alpine, 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014349001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 900,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on December 11, 2023.

The facility is located at 2418 North State Highway 118, Alpine, in 79830 County, Texas 79830. The treated effluent is discharged to unnamed tributary, thence to Alpine Creek, thence to Musquiz Creek, thence to Coyanosa Draw, thence to Hackberry Draw, thence to Upper Pecos River in Segment No. 2311 of the Rio Grande Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for unnamed tributary and Alpine Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 2311 are primary contact recreation and limited aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-103.644722,30.398055&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Alpine City Hall, 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Alpine at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Eddie Molinar at 432-837-3301.

Issuance Date: July 17, 2024

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas



AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACIÓN DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TPDES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES MUNICIPALES RENOVIACIÓN PERMISO NO. WQ0014349001

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. Ciudad de Alpine 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830 ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) una renovación para autorizar Ciudad de Alpine Wastewater Treatment Plant que autoriza la descarga de aguas residuales domésticas tratadas a un flujo promedio diario que no exceda los 900,000 galones por día. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el December 11, 2023.

La planta está ubicada en 2418 North State Highway 118, Alpine, Texas 79830 en el Condado de Brewster, Texas. El efluente tratado es descargado al El

El efluente tratado se descarga a un afluente sin nombre, de allí a Alpine Creek, de allí a Musquiz Creek, de allí a Coyanosa Draw, de allí a Hackberry Draw, de allí a Upper Pecos River en el Segmento No. 2311 de la Cuenca del Río Rio Grande. Los usos no clasificados de las aguas receptoras son no significativos usos de la vida acuática para sin nombre

afluente y Alpine Creek. Los usos designados para el Segmento No. 2311 son no significativos, navegación y recreación sin contacto.

El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha completado la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha preparado un borrador del permiso. El borrador del permiso, si es aprobado, establecería las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar. El Director Ejecutivo ha tomado una decisión preliminar que si este permiso es emitido, cumple con todos los requisitos normativos y legales. La solicitud del permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el borrador del permiso están disponibles para leer y copiar en 100 N 13th Street, Alpine, Texas. La solicitud (cualquier actualización y aviso inclusive) está disponible electrónicamente en la siguiente página web: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-103.644722,30.398055&level=18>

AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

COMENTARIO PUBLICO / REUNION PUBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todo los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. **A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.** Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado". Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y porqué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo puede conceder una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios. Si ciertos criterios se cumplen, la TCEQ puede actuar sobre una solicitud para renovar un permiso para descargar aguas residuales sin proveer una oportunidad de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

ACCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO. El Director Ejecutivo puede emitir una aprobación final de la solicitud a menos que exista un pedido antes del plazo de vencimiento de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o se ha presentado un pedido de reconsideración. Si un pedido ha llegado antes del plazo de vencimiento de la audiencia o el pedido de reconsideración ha sido presentado, el Director Ejecutivo no emitirá una aprobación final sobre el permiso y enviará la solicitud y el pedido a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o mas de las listas de correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos de el solicitante indicado por nombre y número del permiso específico y/o (2) la lista de correo de todas las solicitudes en un condado específico. Si desea que se agregue su nombre en una de las listas designe cual lista(s) y envía por correo su pedido a la Oficina del Secretario Principal de la TCEQ.

Todos los comentarios escritos del público y los pedidos una reunión deben ser presentados durante los 30 días después de la publicación del aviso a la Oficina del Secretario Principal, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or por el internet a www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información personal que usted proporcione, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física pasarán a formar parte del registro público de la Agencia.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA. Los comentarios y solicitudes públicas deben enviarse electrónicamente a <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, o por escrito a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Cualquier información personal que envíe a la TCEQ pasará a formar parte del registro de la agencia; esto incluye las direcciones de correo electrónico. Para obtener más información sobre esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al Programa de Educación Pública de la TCEQ, sin cargo, al 1-800-687-4040 o visite su sitio web en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener información adicional del Ciudad de Alpine a la dirección indicada arriba o llamando a Eddie Molinar al 432-837-3301.

Fecha de emisión: 17 de julio de 2024

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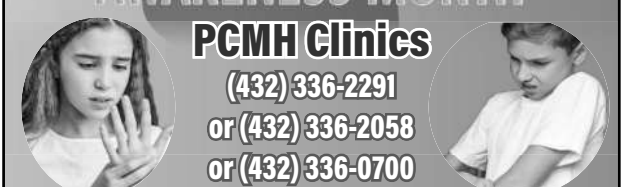
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Welcome back teachers!



The Alpine Fightin' Buck Band and Colorguard welcomed Alpine ISD teachers back to school Monday morning as they began in-service for the 2024-2025 school year.

Courtesy photo

Texas Farm Store Trailer

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CHEF MIKE ROBINSON

MICHELIN-STARRED CHEF,
RESTAURANTER, AND HUNTER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024
7:00 PM

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