

Trans-Pecos grazing lands resources offered to West Texas landowners

BY DR. LOUIS HARVESON
Contributor

The Trans-Pecos region of Texas is an area of incredible biodiversity with more rare and endemic wildlife species than anywhere else in the state. Chihuahuan Desert grasslands are one of the most critical natural systems in the Trans-Pecos, providing important habitat for myriad species from pronghorn to a variety of grassland birds.

The Trans-Pecos is also home to much of the last remaining intact rangelands in Texas, and the region encompasses many large, historic working ranches. These properties are vitally important as key grazing lands for producing food, and the

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

202410.37"
August1.35"



Burn Ban ON

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



Bucks football building champions for 2024

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

There's a lot to be excited about for the 2024 season if you're an Alpine High School Fighting Bucks football fan. Coming off a Bi-District Championship in 2023, Head Coach Andy Smith, who also serves as the Alpine Independent School District Athletic Director, seeks to continue building a program that produces talented student-athletes who are also respectful and hard-working.

"Our main aspect always is to develop great character in our young men," said Smith. "That includes how to be on time, how to battle through diversity, how to say, 'yes sir,' 'no sir,' and 'yes ma'am,' 'no ma'am—how to shake a hand and look someone in the eye with a good grip."

"Those are the kinds of things that we try to teach our kids first and foremost. We're always in that

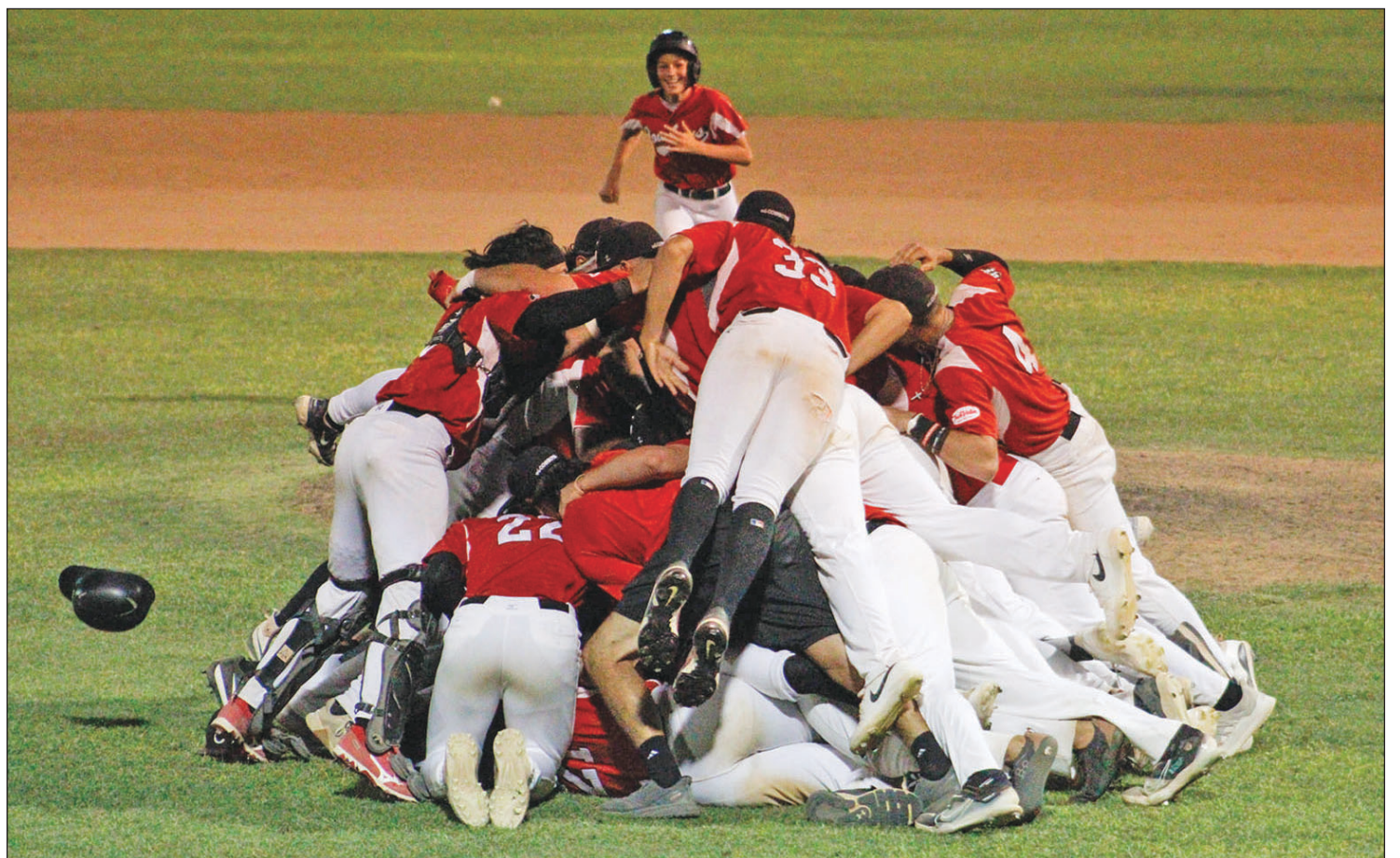
See BUCKS • 6A



AHS Defensive Coordinator and Linebacker Coach Jerry Dominguez works with his linebackers on a drill called "read drill," where they work on base blocks they would see in a game. Alpine Buck David Baca is the player in motion, while A.J. Llanez watches and awaits his turn.

Courtesy Photo

Alpine Cowboys win it all



The Alpine Cowboys took the season by storm and walked away with the 2024 Pecos League Championship after defeating the Pacific Division Champion San Raphael Pacifics at Kokernot Field this past weekend. The Cowboys went 2-0 against the Pacifics during this championship series and this is the 13th championship that Cowboys baseball has won during the history of Kokernot Field. They close out a stellar year, never dropping a single series this season

Photo by Tristian Barragan

County approves order of elections, public hearings for proposed tax rates

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioner's Court held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom. All commissioners were in attendance.

After the call to order, and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting and the minutes from the special meeting, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington moved to the review and approval of the Order of Election for the November general election for county officers.

Democratic Party Chair Mary Bell Lockhart and Republican Party Chair Monica McBride presented to the court the list of county

officers up for election that would be on the November 5 ballot. These elected officials included the Brewster County Sheriff, Brewster County Tax Assessor-Collector, Pct. 1 Commissioner, Pct. 3 Commissioner, County Attorney, Brewster County Constable Pct. 1, 394th Judicial District Judge, and the 83rd Judicial District Attorney.

The order also included the time, dates, precincts, early voting locations, and all other important information regarding the general election. Both party chairs brought to the court's attention that due to new state legislation, there would no longer be any remote early voting unless the county paid for the four

election officials at each location for the entire 10-day early voting period.

"Due to this new legislation, if we were to have early voting locations manned, it would require them to be open the entire time the early voting period was open. This would mean paying four people to man the polling location for 10 days, eight hours a day, at \$12 per hour on top of travel expenses. This cost would be incurred by the county, so to mitigate this new regulation and the costs involved, the only early voting location for the upcoming November 5 general election will be here in Alpine at the Val Clark Beard Office Complex," McBride told the court.

After listening to



Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington

Courtesy Photo

the discussion, a motion was made by Pct. 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega with a second from Pct. 4 Commissioner Mo Morrow. The motion passed unanimously.

The next order of business was to approve Carla Spencer for one

of the two open county positions on the Alpine Emergency Services Board. Vice-Chairman Aaron Rodriguez said, "Carla was invited to attend one of our board meetings, and she came to the last one and said she would think about it. After taking some time to think about it, she decided to accept the invitation." Judge Henington told the court that he'd met with Carla on Monday and that he believed she would be a good fit. In other discussions on the matter, Judge Henington said that there were a few people who had expressed interest in being on the board, including Mary McCallister. No

See COUNTY • 13

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OBITUARIES

Joseph Wilson Kennedy

Joe's hobby was classic cars and trucks from the 1950s and 1960s. Joe was known for his perseverance and ability to analyze and repair plumbing issues as well as many engine issues on old classic cars and trucks. He was self-taught on solar and battery systems. He built a home in South Double Diamond. He and his wife, Cindy, lived there for 28 years, and the first 15 years were off the electric grid. Joseph



Wilson Kennedy, 73, of Alpine died in Ojinaga, Mexico, from a heart attack on August 3.

Joseph "Joe" Wilson

Kennedy, or "JoJo" as his nieces and nephews affectionately called him, was born in Kennard in 1950 to Effie Mae and Fred Wallace Kennedy, who raised 12 children on their 100-acre farm. He loved and respected his parents and their resolve and resilience to make the best of any situation and keep going during life's many trials. He followed his parents' example and displayed a great resolve and resilience throughout his life.

Joe attended Kennard High School. He was drafted into the Army less than a year out of high school on March 3, 1970. His experience in Vietnam increased his enduring strength, tenacity, and survival instincts. He made a close friend while in Vietnam and often talked of him. He was able to find his friend, Sonny Cook, and they reconnected in 2014.

Joe will always be remembered for his meticulous pride in his work and

his stories about cars and growing up on his parent's farm in rural East Texas. In his earlier years, his favorite phrase was, "Don't take any wooden nickels." In his later years, it was, "One day above ground is better than a day below." We couldn't have asked for a better husband, sibling, and uncle, and will miss Joe every day. His memory will live on in the hearts of all those who loved him.

Joe was preceded in death by parents: Fred

Kennedy and Effie Kennedy and siblings: Dorthy Steel, Lydia Jones, Bessie Ely, Clarence Kennedy, Barbara Mills, Eva Harlan, and Fred Kennedy, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and his siblings Claude Kennedy, Clara Ries, Jane Kennedy, Mary Jane Brown and many nieces and nephews.

His memorial service will be held on August 31 at 11a.m. at First Baptist Church at 203 N. 4th Street in Alpine.

Davis Mountains to get more Ponderosa pines

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) began planting new Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*) in the Davis Mountains recently, specifically at the Davis Mountains Preserve (DMP) but also at the McDonald Observatory. TFS planned to plant 350 seedlings with a tree-watering device called a cocoon. The cocoon will test the effect of slow watering on the seedlings' survival rate. The Davis Mountains contain the majority of these endemic stands of pine trees in the state.

Over the past decade, environmental stresses such as drought and bark beetle invasion have killed a large portion of these trees. Compounding this issue were wildfires in 2011 that swept through some of the most productive stands in the area. It is estimated that around 75% of the Ponderosas in the Davis Mountains Preserve have been lost, and the prediction is that more will be lost if nothing is done.

Thanks to a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, reforestation efforts in the preserve began in 2014. After an assessment of 18 stands of pine trees, the TFS made the following recommendations.

Collection of native seed for grow-out and reforestation, thin overpopulated stands, removal of the competing vegetation to reduce drought and wildfire threats, and collect baseline data to monitor the stand's recovery.

Between 2015 and 2016, TFS received a three-year \$200,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service for management prescriptions and initial stand assessment. The stands were marked, and baseline data was gathered in preparation to thin 350 acres.

This site prep experiment allowed for planting over 2,000 seedlings and wildland planting. This planting includes any seedlings that were planted outside the pre-determined research sites.



Members of the Texas A&M Forest Service plant new, seedling ponderosa pines at the Davis Mountains Preserve.

Courtesy photo

Pines that were found with cones were allowed to open up as areas of natural regeneration after TFS sacrificed large areas of grass growth under these trees.

Scarification was completed with hand scraping and the removal of pine needles and other vegetation, allowing for the exposure of the bare soil, and giving the cones a better chance of taking root.

Cones are continuously collected for future plantings, although data shows that seedling survival is below 25%, primarily due to

herbivory from gophers eating the root systems and tender seedlings.

Increasing ponderosas in these areas can lead to increased fire

resistance along with providing a source for future seed collection, as mature ponderosas are well adapted to fire.

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Thank you for the following donations:

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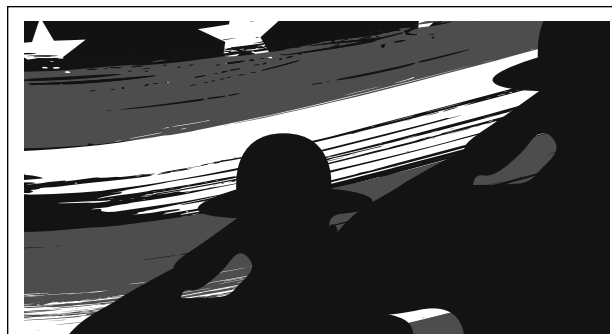
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Brewster County is now accepting proposals from qualified accounting firms for services related to the annual audit of Brewster County.

For more information go to:
<https://www.brewstercounty.gov/page/public-notices>

Contact Greg P. Henington,
Brewster County Judge at
432-837-2412 or by email at
county.judge@co.brewster.tx.us
with any questions.

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- Substance abuse assessment and referral
- Employment assessment and referral

Questions can be emailed to:
vetaff@co.brewster.tx.us
or call at 432-837-6219

Big Bend Regional Hospital District Budget Hearing August 28, 2024

WHEREAS, the Board of Director of Big Bend Regional Hospital District has caused to be prepared an annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on said proposed budget be held on August 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the BBRHD Administrative Office at 105 W. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX 79830

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BRI's Big Game Specialist presents at workshop

TPWD program leader receives special recognition



Attendees at the 30th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop in Redmond, Oregon, (left to right) Jose Etchart, James Weaver, Anthony Opatz, Dr. Justin French, Dr. Levi Hefflefinger, Shawn Gray, Erin O'Connell, Courtney Ramsey, Angela Grogan Patrick, Mike Janis, and Jacob Locke.

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

Dr. Justin French, the Big Game Specialist at the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI), along with BRI's Trans-Pecos Grasslands and Riparian Conservation Initiative Coordinator Mike Janis, recently participated in the 30th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop in Redmond, Oregon. The workshop featured leading pronghorn managers and researchers who shared results, management strategies, and the emerging issues surrounding the fastest land

mammal in the Western Hemisphere. Dr. French presented "Evaluating Barrier Permeability and Highway Crossing Locations of Pronghorn in a Key Restoration Area Bisected by la Entrada al Pacifico Trade Corridor." Janis spoke about "Implementing a Cost-Share Program and Pronghorn Habitat on Private Land in West Texas: Lessons Learned."

According to BRI, pronghorn management and restoration is a significant undertaking that relies significantly on partnerships with other university researchers as

well as wildlife agencies such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which provides oversight in Texas.

During the workshop, TPWD Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader Shawn Gray received the workshop's Special Recognition Award. Gray's leadership focuses on a team-building approach, and he is tenacious in coordinating research, funding, and on-the-ground conservation efforts on private land.

Artist in Residence uses natural pigments



Colleen O'Brien, Big Bend National Park's current Artist in Residence works on re-creating one of the many natural rock formations found within the park's boundaries and around the area.

Photo courtesy of J. Knirsch, NPS

Big Bend National Park's current Artist in Residence Colleen O'Brien brings her own supplies and does not use any soil, artifacts, rocks, or plants from Big Bend National Park. O'Brien, an earth artist, utilizes natural pigments and clay in her work. Recently, she has been spotted around Big Bend, showcasing her open studios. Her artistic research delves into

geomorphology and the passage of time, capturing the earth's topography through paintings and ceramic works. Employing natural pigments, water, and pastels, she creates surface recordings on canvas and forms clay vessels inspired by erosion pathways and natural water formations.

The Big Bend National Park Artist in Residence Program (AiR),

supported generously by the @bigbendnaturalhistoryassoc, welcomes artists of all mediums, such as painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, poets, musicians, composers, and dancers. As the program is located within a national park, participating artists are required to adhere to park regulations, including 'leave no trace' principles and wilderness zone restrictions.



Public Notice

Nominations for voting membership Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group is seeking nominations to fill two new voting positions on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. The positions are as follows:

Economic Development (Rural)
 Term expires December 2025

Economic Development (Rural)
 Term expires December 2026

Conditions of Membership:

To be eligible for voting membership on the Planning Group, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the Bylaws of the Region E Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

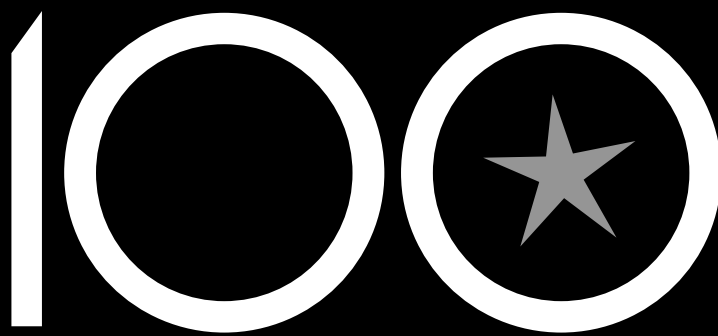
Nominations:

(Nomination letter and a Résumé or biography of the nominee are required) must be received by August 30, 2024, addressed to:

Annette Gutierrez
 Administrative Officer
 Far West Texas Water Planning Group
 8037 Lockheed Drive, Suite 100
 El Paso, Texas 79925

Or By email to: annetteg@riocog.org

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

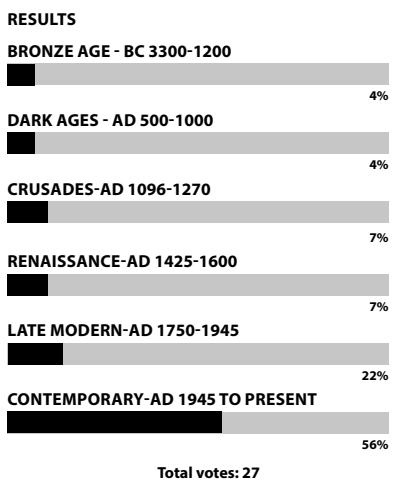
Now the Avalanche asks:

If you could live in any of these times in history, which would it be?

- 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

RESULTS

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



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

LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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

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



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Green, Green Vines of Home

Late summer and early fall signal the monsoon season for West Texas. It is during this time that our area of the state receives the vast majority of its annual rainfall, which is estimated to be anywhere between six to sixteen inches. For those who have been in the area for an extended period of time, there has been a noticeable decline in average annual rainfall years, along with traditional monsoonal weather patterns.

West Texas has received varying levels of rainfall this monsoon season. A drive through the area will show green pastures and dirt tanks full of water within several miles of the drought-stricken country without a tinge of green, with a large portion of the area lying somewhere in between the two extremes. One thing is for

certain though, with any sort of green-up in the countryside, there is always the return of undesirable plant species that help to create that greenish glow. One of the most common and troublesome plant species that plagues the Big Bend region is *Tribulus terrestris*, also known as puncturevine, but most commonly referred to simply as goatheads.

Puncturevine is a perennial plant species with its origin tracing back to southern Europe. The plant features a deep-reaching tap root and proliferates at the first sign of rainfall. The plant features yellow leaves and fruits that form along prostrate vines that can reach up to ten feet from the central tap root. A



LUKE HENDRYX
Ag Agent

single plant is capable of producing up to 500,000 fruits, which in turn each produce up to four seeds. This results in a single plant having the ability to produce 1 million seeds, all of which remain viable in the ground for up to seven years.

Puncturevine is notorious for proliferating in areas of disturbed and barren soil, making management a long and difficult process in West Texas. The best management strategy is prevention. The most effective prevention method is to maintain a thick cover of desirable perennial species that will help to choke out the goatheads. For barren areas, pre-emergent herbicides have also proven effective in aiding in the control of the

plant. Once established, control becomes more difficult, and effectiveness drops rapidly if the plant is allowed to seed out. Mature puncturevine control methods include spot treatment with post-emergent herbicides, burning, or mechanical removal; however, with such large seedbanks, complete control is often a long, arduous process.

Additionally, puncturevine spreads rapidly by means such as truck tires and soles of shoes, thus monitoring high-traffic areas is pivotal in controlling future outbreaks. So, with the recent rains bringing about a welcoming green hue in many parts of the area, it would be wise to tread carefully through the green areas, and remember that "all that glitters is not gold.", and you might track some unwanted visitors home with you.

Appreciate the ones who appreciate what we do

"The same world spins around, I guess some things never change."

— Song lyrics by **Tim McGraw, American country singer, songwriter, record producer, and actor.**

"The newspaper business just isn't what it used to be," a good friend called to lament last week. Like me, he's had that ink in his veins most of his life.

"Yes, it is," I disagreed sharply. "Different tricks with digital and all that stuff, but it's still the same business."

"Enlighten me learned one," he laughed. "I'm not feeling it today."

I reminded him that it's still all about people and what matters most to them. Keeping readers informed and earning their trust. "Schools, taxes, elections, local issues, the economy, politicians, fairs, ribbon cuttings ... Only the names in the news have changed."

"It used to be fun, though," my naysayer retorted.

"It still is," I touted him. "For instance, anyone tell you lately you need to be tougher? Write about 'the way things really are' in this town? Then, the same day, you get a call from a reader who opens up on you, blasting an article you ran last week that 'was too harsh.' Tells you, 'Some things just

don't belong in the paper. It would help if you were a little gentler with the people who live and work here. I'm ready to see some good news for a change, something about what's good about our town."

Been told by anyone from the senior center lately, "You should do more articles about our seniors in the community. They really are your biggest readership, you know. They deserve more coverage."

Then told by a parent who is active in parent-teacher organizations that you should publish more school news. "All you ever have is things about the senior citizen's gatherings and the historical columns about how things used to be. Our future depends on the young people."

"I think I see where this is going," my friend said.

"Anybody walked into your office lately, picked a paper up off the counter, flipped through it before paying, and say, 'Is there anything in here worth reading this week?'"

You want to tell him, "We only had enough advertising for ten pages, but we ran 14 because we value our dedication to delivering all of the news."

But you hold your tongue instead and even manage a



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

smile.

"Does your phone still ring with one of your best advertisers saying, 'Hey, my boy got stopped for DWI last night. You know kids will be kids,' he laughs. 'Do me a favor, will you? And keep his name out of the paper.' We still take a deep breath and say, 'If a name is on the records, it will be in the paper. If it's not on the record, it won't be in the paper. Simple as that and we can't make any exceptions because playing favorites is not fair and balanced journalism, and that's not an option with us.'"

"That's not fair," they still growl. "You're going to ruin his life."

We apologize and suggest that, yes, it really is fair. Because we report fairly.

"You know how much I spend with you, don't you?" he asks. "Well, cancel my advertising. See how fair you think that is." Click.

I reminded my friend that we endured all of that when we first got into this business, and we're still enduring it today. "So, you see, nothing has really changed."

"That's supposed to cheer me up?" he asked.

"No, but what should cheer you up are total strangers who still tell us they like the

paper because we put out a good product. That we do a good job reporting the news. Aren't those still the ones you remember the longest?"

Like the guy at the gas pump a couple of weeks ago, I continued. "Didn't know him from Adam. We made eye contact from opposite sides of the pump. I nodded and said, 'Hello.'"

"I enjoy your columns, and I enjoy reading the paper every week," he said. "Thank you," I told him. And added how much I appreciated his support of the paper.

Then there's the little lady who came in yesterday to renew her "prescription," as she called it. "I just love getting the paper," she smiled. "I wanted to make sure mine was paid up."

I thanked her and told her how much I appreciated her reading the paper.

"So, you see," I told my colleague. "It's still all about people and what matters most to them—keeping readers informed and earning their trust. Only the names in the news have changed."

And more than ever, we appreciate the ones who appreciate what we do.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Biden Harris supporter,

I recently read a strange letter to the editor in the Fort Davis Mountain Dispatch, on August 8, 2024. The letter glorified Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's actions on the economy and their impact on the USA. The writer used the first paragraph to eccentrically define himself.

The second paragraph was used to denounce types of media the writer might disagree with while repeating the pretense of Russian collusion. He referred to the Biden-Harris Administration as the most productive in America since LBJ. He either forgot or chose to ignore LBJ's Vietnam and Biden's Af-

ghanistan, but then I digress. Without going into all of his dubious claims it suffices to say that his listed sources can be categorized as, shall we say, good friends of the U.S. Democrat Regime, leaving the door open for honest fact-checking. Much of what he wrote can be tied to an assertion, "Tell

a lie once and it remains a lie. Tell a lie 1000 times and it becomes the truth". Research on the origin of that statement will show an interesting political alliance. In closing I leave the writer with something to consider; an open mind is a terrible thing to waste.

James R. Le Blanc
Fort Davis, Texas

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15 Alpine Public Library, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Toddler Time, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Diamond Painting

August 15 Davis Mountains State Park, 9-10 a.m. Hike with Homeless Dogs at the Interpretive Center, and 7-8 p.m. What Was That? At the Interpretive Center.

August 16 Davis Mountains State Park, 9-11 a.m. Desert Skills Hike at the CCC Rock Lookout at the end of Skyline Drive, and 2-3 p.m. Fort Davis Tales at the Interpretive Center.

August 17 Davis Mountains State Park, 9-10:30 a.m. Nature



Walk on the Wild Side at the Front Office, and 2-3 p.m. Junior Ranger Academy at the Interpretive Center.

August 17 Alpine Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Alpine Visitor Center 106 N. 3rd Street.

August 17 Live Music in Mara-

thon, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the White Buffalo Bar Patio music by Chris Beall.

August 21 Latecomers at Americana, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. behind the Americana Salon 210 W Ave E, enjoy the music of the Latecomers. BYOB and your lawn chair and tips for the band.

August 22 Alpine Public Library, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Toddler Time, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Diamond Painting.

August 24 Alpine Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Alpine Visitor Center 106 N. 3rd Street.

August 28 Latecomers at Americana, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. behind the Americana Salon 210 W Ave E, enjoy the music of the Latecomers. BYOB and your lawn chair and tips for the band.

September 28 National Pub-

lic 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, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbc-chorale.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

This week the Avalanche asks: If Alpine had a Mount Rushmore, who would be on it?



Gilbert Valenzuela: B.J. Gallego, my dog Archie, my favorite DJ, Dusty Pants, and Amber.



Rosa Milan: B.J. Gallego, Pete Gallego, Nene Espinosa. I can't think of another one.



Lin LeMart: Hoss Cartwright (Dan Blocker), Chief Alchesay, the last Apache chief in this area; Sullivan Ross, and Pete Gallego.



Mischa Vogel: Magoo Torres, Ronny Dodson, Judge Henington, and Anne Callaway.



Linda Murray: Herbert Kokernot, Bud Powers, Harry Carpenter, and Dick Rogers.

PET OF THE WEEK

Scooter was found running loose within the city limits of Alpine. It's hard to believe no one came forward to claim him. Scooter is a small guy with a big personality. He is still very much a puppy. He is a wiggler who moves his whole body in excitement to see you. He loves everyone and does well with children and other dogs. He enjoys chew toys and any treats you have to offer. He also does well keeping his area clean; training him should be a breeze.

Chihuahuas are an ancient breed originating in Mexico. They have a large personality in a small body. They are a long-lived breed commonly expected to live 14 to 18 years.

They love to accompany their owner and can be protective if necessary. They want to please their owner and are smart and saucy.

Meet Scooter for the Clear the Shelters event with half-price adoptions for all shelter pets from August 10 to September 10 at Alpine Animal Services.

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 Facebook for updates on an Adoption Event on Saturday, August 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored adoption for

three cats is offered by Spoiled Pets, a new pet food company. Come meet the developers of the new diet.

Join us for Meowry 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 PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEMS:

ORDINANCE 2024-08-01: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX C – ZONING TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING APPENDIX C – ZONING TO REMOVE THE PROVISION THAT PROVIDES THE ABILITY FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OR THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION TO INITIATE A SPOT ZONING, OR NON-CONTIGUOUS, ZONING DESIGNATION, WITH EXCEPTIONS; AMENDING THE APPLICATION FEE FROM \$250 TO \$350.

ORDINANCE 2024-08-02: AN ORDINANCE MEMORIALIZING THE CITY WARD DESIGNATIONS FOR PROPERTIES ANNEXED INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF ALPINE; PROVIDING FINDINGS OF FACT, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, EFFECTIVE DATE, PROPER NOTICE, AND HEARING CLAUSES.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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 CHANGES. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Education building
406 s sixth street

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)



✝ Are you a visitor to the church who's not Catholic but feels drawn to the Faith?

✝ Are you a baptized Catholic who's never received Communion or Confirmation (missed a Sacrament)?

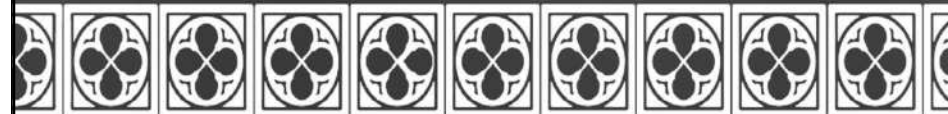
✝ Are you a Catholic who just wants to know more about the Faith?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions you should consider participating in the RCIA Process!

On September 10, 2024, at 6:00pm, WEEKLY classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults a journey of faith - a journey toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Location- Parish Education building, 406 S Sixth street.

Please call the Catholic Church Office for more information 432-837-3304



BUCKS • FROM 1

development stage.”

Smith said helping ninth graders adjust to the new academic and social surroundings in high school is also important. Some student-athletes need help developing interpersonal communication skills and other tools that will help them as they enter adulthood.

“The next part of that is always talking about being tough, and what does ‘tough’ mean,” said Smith. “I think one of the worst things you can tell someone is that you need to grow up, or you need to be a man. Well, a lot of these kids may not have a father figure that can emulate what a man would look like. We have a wonderful staff that can emulate what a good man is.”

Developing Winners On and Off the Field

“When you talk about football, we have a really good defense,” said Coach Smith. “We’ve been genuinely good on special teams. We still need to come along on the offensive side of the ball. We have the opportunity to have a really good football team and compete for a championship. I really can see us being the district champion.”

Coach Smith instills in his players a one-day-at-a-time philosophy that trains them to focus on the task in front of them: Win the Day.

“What we try to do is eliminate all the external factors: what the scoreboard says, what the outside world tells you,” he said. “There are going to be a lot of people that tell our kids that they’re good. There are going to be a lot of people who tell them that they’re bad, too. I don’t know how many games we’re going to win. It doesn’t matter. It’s about winning the day and improving each and every rep. All that other stuff—championships, the scoreboard—will take care of itself.

“Ultimately, 20, 25 years from now, most people aren’t going to remember what the record was in 2024. They’re going to remember how you made them feel. They’re going to remember their friends and the impact they had on one another. We always want that experience to be super positive.”

Smith and his staff have character education classes with the football players twice a week before practice, he said. The lessons are steeped in football tradition, pulling from great thinkers such as D.W. Routledge, one of the most successful coaches in Texas high school football history, and Steven Mackey, creator of the Two Words Character Development curriculum

“We can always talk about improving character, improving culture,” said Smith. “You have to be

intentional about it and put policies and things in place to try and improve the culture.”

What’s in store for 2024?

The Bucks lost eight seniors to graduation, but there are 18 returning for the 2024 season. Smith said they are replacing two offensive linemen and one wide receiver. There are eight returning starters on offense and about the same number on defense.

“The key position we replaced is our linebacker core,” he said. “They were senior heavy. We’re in actuality not going to know a whole lot until we get full pads on and go through our first couple of scrimmages.”

The players to watch include starting quarterback/defensive back Devon Rojo (senior); Iden Lujan (senior), who plays four positions: running back, quarterback, receiver and free safety; Daedrick “Dae” Hardwick (junior), wide receiver and defensive back; starting guard/defensive end Davian Fierro (senior), the District Lineman of the Year in 2023; running back/linebacker Marcus Ramirez (sophomore); and, of course, the inimitable Logan Smith, running back/linebacker, who is now a senior. He had an outstanding 2023 season, running for nearly 1,600 yards and earning the District Offensive MVP for 2023.

The premier football magazine in the state, Dave Campbell’s Texas Football (DCTF), chose the young phenom Smith as the 2024 Preseason District MVP for District 3A D2.

“Another great athlete that plays offense and defense—he led our team in interceptions and, on offense, in receptions—is Dae Hardwick,” said Coach Smith. “Really a great athlete. Probably the best athlete on the team in some regards, in quickness, eye-hand coordination, and catching the ball.”

Smith said the team chemistry is shaping up very well during his second season with the Bucks.

“Predominately in the skill positions, they’re all coming back,” he said. “There’s quite a bit of depth there. We’re still a work in progress.”

Looking at the schedule, Coach Smith said that the pre-district games will be undeniably tough. Wellington, Wink, Sonora, and Fort Stockton will all be a challenge.

“Wellington has really good power,” said Smith. “Wink is going to be state-ranked and in the top ten. Coach Gibson does a phenomenal job. We were able to beat them last year and I’m sure they’ll be ready and prepared for us.”

Sonora (away game), who finished in the top ten last year in 2A, should be an interesting matchup.

“They have lost considerable lettermen, from what

I’ve been told,” said Smith. “But again, Coach Westin does a great job coaching those kids. They’ll be ready to play.”

As for district play, Odessa Compass and Crane may pose the greatest challenges.

“Both have great coaches and athletes,” said Smith. “We play each other twice because of this round-robin thing, so it’ll be interesting to see how it all shakes out. I think Odessa Compass will be improved.”

To prepare for these tough teams, Coach Smith and his staff turn to the tapes.

“During the offseason and the spring, we evaluated all of our opponents and watched film and have an idea of what we’ll go into that week,” said Smith. “As you get later in the year, because of injuries to individual players and other types of things, we take it one week at a time.”

The Bucks offense prefers the run over the pass, but with tools like Devon Rojo, Logan Smith, and Iden Lujan ready to go to work for the team, the Alpine Offense promises to be explosive and exciting to watch.

Playing both sides of the ball, both offense and defense, conditioning players is a top priority. It also allows players to show off their range of talent and abilities. Fans will be happy to know that on the defensive side of the ball, the Blackshirts are back.

“We’ve been selling these t-shirts online that say ‘Blackshirts’ on them,” said Smith. “It has nothing to do with the uniform color. It has to do with an old [football] tradition.”

The University of Nebraska football program began the Blackshirts tradition, which dates back to the 1960s, to honor outstanding play on defense. As one of the most recognizable traditions in all of college football, the black shirt instills fear in offenses, letting opponents know that the pirates of the gridiron are on the field.

Smith started the Blackshirts tradition at Alpine in the 2023 season. He said during practice, all defensive players wear white or purple jerseys. But as they progress and dominate on the field, they “earn” a black jersey they get to wear during practice.

“That’s a big honor,” said Smith. “The defensive captain or the defensive player of the week carries the flag out before the game. Anytime there’s a turnover—we block a kick, we recover a fumble, we score a defensive touchdown, we get an interception—they go and stand on the bench and wave the flag.

“You earn these by having great character, leading by example, displaying toughness and resolve, and playing hard.”

This year, the team expanded the tradition, giving players the chance to vote

for captain. They can elect three.

Then, the coaches designate a “Coaches Captain” who becomes the Black-shirt Captain. The player then has the option to wear the number zero, a number revered in sports because it makes a player easily recognizable on the field and shows that they are an athlete to be feared.

This year’s Blackshirt Captain is J.P. Valenzuela, an outstanding performer who plays both defensive back and wide receiver.

Long prohibited in American football, the number zero has started making a return to jerseys in recent years. The NCAA began allowing the number on jerseys in the 2020 season, and the NFL saw the return of the zero just last season in 2023.

With 36 forced turnovers made by the Alpine defense last season, fans are sure to see the Blackshirts taking over in practice.

Community Support

Texas high school football is deeply ingrained in the state’s culture, often serving as the social and community hub for small towns and large cities alike. The sport goes beyond just a game: It’s a tradition passed down through generations, with Friday nights turning into community-wide events where people gather to support their local teams.

Alpine beats with the very heart of Texas high school football. The game unites the community,

bringing everyone together and showcasing the best young football players Alpine has to offer.

“It starts with our All-Sports Booster Club and the parents who do an amazing job,” said Smith. “They were able to provide \$25,000 in donations to our sports programs. It starts with the dedication of those parents, donating time to run concessions, to make meals and those types of things.”

And then there’s the M.O.B., the Mothers of the Bucks, a group of moms banding together to create memories and meals, decorating locker rooms, and making sure the players and coaches have what they need to have a successful, memorable season.

“That support’s not normal,” said Smith, who has also coached in larger 5A and 6A high school programs. “It’s not like that everywhere, with the great Booster Club and the mother support that we have, donating food and time, cleaning lockers.”

The community support is paramount to the success of the program, said Smith. He ensures that players remember that and respond to it with pride and respect.

“When we come out for a Friday night home game, the kids walk through the stands before they get to the tunnel and run out,” said Smith. “It’s important that when there’s a big crowd, it makes the players feel energized, but we’re also thanking the fans for

being there.”

“You’re going to be able to see a group of kids who have played together for truly a long time, a group of seniors who have gelled and bought into what we’re doing. Barring injuries—hopefully, we stay healthy—we’re going to have a successful, exciting year.”

Smiths focus on fundamentals sets the foundation “Win the Day.”

“Football comes down to really simple things,” said Smith. “You gotta tackle well, you gotta block well, and if you play great defense and you can run the football, you’re going to win most games. I honestly feel that we can be successful, have a great year, and win a championship.”

Restaurant Guide

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

REATA
RESTAURANT

COCINERO: Beef-Chicken-Shrimp
STARTERS: Tortilla Soup Bowl-Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup-Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo-Bacon Wrapped Asparagus-Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup-Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers Carne Asada with Reata’s Cheese Enchiladas-Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries-Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce-Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:
(Your choice of any two items)
Cup of Tortilla Soup
Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup
Cup of Daily Soup
1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich
1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.349422	per	\$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.333287	per	\$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.349422	per	\$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for BREWSTER COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that BREWSTER COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that BREWSTER COUNTY is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024, 9:30 A.M. at the BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM, 201 W. AVE. E. ALPINE, TEXAS. The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, BREWSTER COUNTY is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the COMMISSIONERS COURT of BREWSTER COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal: GREG HENINGTON, BREWSTER COUNTY JUDGE; JIM WESTERMANN, COMMISSIONER PCT. 1; SARA COLANDO, COMMISSIONER PCT. 2; RUBEN ORTEGA, COMMISSIONER PCT 3; MO MORROW, COMMISSIONER PCT. 4

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

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 about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state. The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by BREWSTER COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by BREWSTER COUNTY this year

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.366547	\$0.349422	Decrease of \$0.017125
Average homestead taxable value	\$166,927	\$182,476	Increase of 9.31%
Tax on average homestead	\$611.86	\$637.61	Increase of \$25.75
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,774,194	\$5,109,290	Increase of \$335,096

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

BREWSTER COUNTY spent \$ 148,931 from July 1 2023 to June 30 2024 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender’s office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedures, less the amount of any state grants received. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year’s enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$ 56,597. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000327/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for BREWSTER COUNTY at 432-837-2214 or taxassessorcollector@brewstercotlad.org or visit www.brewstercounty.gov for more information

McGuire re-sentencing trial results in lesser sentence

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Lisette McGuire, formerly of Marathon, was found guilty of the murder of local Alpine resident Aquiles Gonzales in June 2023 in the 394th District Court and received an initial sentence of 39 years. In an article published in the Avalanche back in February of this year, a new punishment trial was set to begin on May 6.

The new punishment trial was allowed due to Judge Roy B. Ferguson’s assessment that the original defense for McGuire was not effective. This new trial was postponed until August 5.

The trial, as previously reported by the Avalanche was to be completely reheard and was held in Fort Stockton last week, with Assistant District Attorney William Parham prosecuting the case.

McGuire and her new council were pursuing a passion plea, which would grant a 20-year maximum sentence, making her eligible for release after serving a 10-year sentence. According to Parham, the jury reached a verdict late on Monday and found that McGuire did act in sudden passion and sentenced her to two years in prison and no fine.

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EST 1891

LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche



August 21, 1924

Mrs. Miriam Ferguson of Temple has set her sights on the governorship of Texas. Ferguson is opposing confessed Klan candidate Felix Robert of Dallas. Ferguson, a member of the Episcopal Church, is a mother of two daughters and considers herself a woman of rare common sense and executive ability. She is being endorsed and supported by the other seven candidates who were eliminated in the primary election.

August 23, 1929

Sul Ross State Teachers College has completed the plans for their new library. The building, which comes at a cost of \$150,000 is designed by Trost and Trost Architects and Engineers out of El Paso. The new building is expected to be finished in time for the 1930 summer session and will house the library, sub-college department, cafeteria, and auditorium in the three-story building.



August 5, 1915

The Baptist congregations of Alpine will host Dr. Caleb Riddley of Atlanta, GA for a series of evangelistic meetings beginning August 15th. Dr. Riddley is considered to be one of the most successful evangelists in the South.



August 23, 1929

Kokernot Springs, donated by Mrs. Ida Kokernot and H.L. Kokernot to Sul Ross will receive an extensive improvement program. When completed, the area will be used by college students and others as a park and a playground. It will adjoin the Alpine golf links, the improvement of which will happen soon.

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

Orchids are slow growing plants, be patient with them

Dear Neil: My wife purchased a lovely orchid recently. It had about an 8-inch white bloom on one of the stems. Over a 6-week period, the bloom shattered, leaving a couple of bare stems about 10 inches tall. With proper care will it rebloom? What would that care be? Should we plant it outdoors to see if it will grow or maybe just buy another one?

I'm going to assume she bought a Phalaenopsis orchid, commonly referred to as a "moth" orchid. They are the ones you most commonly see in flower shops, nurseries, grocery stores, and floral design studios. White has become the most popular color, although they are commonly seen in various shades of pink and lavender as well. I've included a photo of a lavender one I just reflowered in our house for comparison.

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry



They are among the easiest of all orchids for care indoors. Just don't try to grow it in a bed outside. They need temperatures ranging from 60 to 85 degrees F., bright light but no direct sunlight in summer. In their native homes, they grow suspended in trees, not in the ground. That means they need very porous planting media such as fine bark nuggets, coconut fiber, or a mixture containing lava rock.

I have grown as many as eight or 10 at a time and had good results in

getting them to rebloom the following year. The secret is patience. They grow slowly. You can't speed them along. Fertilize them monthly with a diluted solution of a water-soluble, complete-and-balanced food. Keep their planting medium moist, but not wet. Do not allow it to get dry for any extended period of time. They commonly bloom about the same time each winter, beginning with a nub of a new shoot and then a stem that will look like what you had with your flowers this time around. Remember to be patient!

Dear Neil: What is

this little weed? Could the nearby live oak tree be causing them? What can I use to eliminate them without harming my live oak?

You're not going to be happy with my answer. The holly-like leaves are juvenile foliage of live oaks. That's the way live oak seedlings look when they germinate. As the saplings grow taller their newer leaves develop the normal smooth edges. I fear, however, that these are not seedlings from acorns. These are probably sprouts coming up from the root system of the mother tree. If you dig down carefully you will most likely find each of them tethered to a larger root of the main tree. That means that any weedkiller you apply to the sprouts will be taken back to mama. If I'm wrong and you find an acorn and a taproot on each of the trees, you can carefully apply

a broad-leaved weed-killer (containing 2,4-D) with a trigger squeeze bottle to each seedling. But if I'm correct, your only safe means of getting rid of them is to remove them mechanically. That means sending a sharpshooter spade in at a 30-degree angle to sever each sprout two or three inches below the soil line. That would require that you rake the rocks back first, but it

also would give you the option of putting a weed barrier down after you remove the sprouts and before you put the rocks back in place.

I know this is difficult to digest, but it's a message I've had to deliver all my career. This happens with (my estimate) about 15% of our live oaks. Sadly, we don't know which ones until they begin to gift us with the offspring.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

1 TXism: "up and ___ juice" (coffee)

5 the first Texas ___ phone was in Galveston in 1878

6 TX Strait's "All My ___ Live in Texas"

7 Texans Houston and Bass

8 TX saying: "___ riot, one Ranger"

9 "Honeysuckle Rose" actress Irving

12 TX Hagman film: "Getting Away From ___"

17 ___ Wells, TX

19 TX Ann Miller film: "Sugar ___"

21 "entrance" south of the border

22 Pancho Villa: Doroteo ___

23 TXism: "that dog could ___ a panhandler"

28 San ___, TX

29 TXism: "hen fruit"

30 fisherman

31 glossy fabric

35 "___ con Dios"

36 TX Perot started Electronic ___ company

42 George W. before he was president

44 TXism: "you're buying oats for ___ horse"

46 race at annual Bar-B-Q in Brady, TX: "___ Gallop"

15 "L" of former Dallas company LTV

16 TXism: "on my last ___" (tired)

18 stat for Astro Justin Verlander

20 TXism: "___ humid my upper lip is mildeewing"

23 ex-Oiler coach ___ "Bum" Phillips

24 org. of countries to maintain peace (abbr.)

25 Texas ___ Corp. failed to build the Texas "bullet train"

26 1st woman president of TWU: Mary Evelyn ___ Huey

27 "Winnie the Pooh" donkey

32 TXism: "guilty ___ sin"

33 Heisman QB from Texas, Detmer

34 TXism: "the tail ___ wagging the dog"

36 lineal assoc. about Texas Republic

37 TX Charley Pride's "Kiss An ___ Good Morning"

38 this Pat wrote "On Any Given Sunday"

39 TX Debbie Reynolds' first hubby, Fisher ___ detector

41 cut with a saw

43 "Mingo" on "Daniel Boone" (init.)

45 TXism: "that'll ___ nicely"

47 machine pedal

48 saloons

55 TX-born critic Rex

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P-1702

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

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Sports

COWBOYS WIN PECOS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

In a season filled with unforgettable moments, the Alpine Cowboys capped off their record-breaking year by winning the Pecos League Championship, their first since 2019. The Cowboys defeated the Garden City Wind to claim the Mountain Division Championship and then took down the reigning champions, the San Rafael Pacifics, in a thrilling two-game series at historic Kokernot Field. This championship win marks 13 total for the Cowboys Franchise.

Mountain Division Championship: A

Statement of Dominance
The Cowboys set the tone for their championship run by sweeping the Garden City Wind in the Mountain Division Championship. The series began with a commanding 11-0 victory on August 6 at Kokernot Field. Tyler Reistetter was unstoppable on the mound, silencing the Wind's offense while Kyle Rodriguez provided the offensive firepower with a home run. The crowd at Kokernot Field, with its rich history and

unique ambiance, erupted as the Cowboys took the first game.

The second game of the series was a tighter contest, with the Cowboys edging out a 5-4 victory. Alec Cruz stepped up in the clutch, securing the win with a strong performance on the mound. Cruz's ability to maintain composure in high-pressure situations was crucial as the Cowboys held off a late rally by the Wind. Drake Angeron and Peyton Kennard were instrumental at the plate, with Kennard's 3-for-4 performance driving the Cowboys to the Mountain Division title.

Pecos League Finals: A Championship Decades in the Making

With the Mountain Division Championship in hand, the Cowboys turned their attention to the Pecos League Finals, where they faced the formidable San Rafael Pacifics. The Pacifics, the defending league champions, arrived in Alpine with confidence, but the Cowboys were determined to bring the championship back to Kokernot Field.

The first game of the series played on August



The Alpine Cowboys are all smiles as they take the 2024 Pecos League Championship.

Photo by Annika Canaba

10, was a spectacle of offensive firepower. The Cowboys overwhelmed the Pacifics with a 24-4 victory, delighting the 698 fans who packed into Kokernot Field. The Cowboys' bats were on fire from the start, with nearly every player contributing to the onslaught. It was a night when the historic field, built in 1947 by Herbert Lee Kokernot Jr., truly came alive, as the fans cheered their team to a decisive Game One victory.

The second game, played on August 11, was a nail-biter that kept fans on the edge of their seats. The Cowboys jumped out to an early

lead, thanks in large part to Hunter Reid, who not only delivered on the mound but also hit a three-run homer in the second inning. The Pacifics, however, did not go down without a fight. They rallied in the late innings, tying the game on a controversial play in the ninth inning. Jakob Bouhuys cleared the bases with a triple, but the umpires overturned the tying run after a successful challenge by the Cowboys, citing a failure by Bouhuys to check into the game properly.

Cowboys Head Coach Sean Persky reflected on the game's pivotal moment: "Yeah so that

batter, he didn't check into the game. As a result, by him putting the ball in play, that's an automatic out. And then runners, you know, regressed wherever they were prior to that. So that just falls down to, you know, something on the San Rafael side, and just didn't come and check in how you're supposed to. And so that's what took place there."

The Cowboys held on for a 12-10 victory, securing their second Pecos League title and their first since 2019. The final out was met with an eruption of cheers and applause from the fans, many of whom have followed the team for decades.

A Historic Season

This championship is particularly special for the Cowboys, who finished the season 41 games over .500, never losing a series. The season was a testament to the team's resilience and consistency, with multiple players earning league MVP honors. Coach Persky, who claimed his second championship with the team, spoke about the significance of the win: "Every run counts in this league, especially in the championship. So being able to minimize as much as possible was key for us. Yeah, incredible,

See COWBOYS • 9

Midnight Madness brings out football fans

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

The late hour didn't faze the 250 fans in the stands at Buck Stadium who were there for the Alpine High School football Midnight Madness practice under the stars on Saturday, August 10.

Bucks' fans began arriving as early as 11:20 p.m. for the midnight start to practice. People also lined up along the fence to view the drills from their vehicles. The fans in the stands met players with applause when the students departed from the buses, fully padded and ready to work.

"Our community and the outpouring of sup-



Friends, family, and community members turned up this past Saturday for the Alpine Fightin' Buck Midnight Madness football practice to watch how this season's team is shaping up.

Courtesy photo

port towards our school district is what makes Alpine a special place to live," said Alpine Head Coach Andy Smith. "The people in this commu-

nity love their Fightin' Bucks and Lady Bucks. It's amazing that people will stay up late to come watch a football practice, and it is a testament to

their loyalty to the student-athletes."

The junior varsity and varsity teams both participated in the late practice, putting on a show for the people who came out to cheer on the Bucks and see how the team is shaping up for the 2024 season. A combined varsity first and second-team offense took on first-team JV defense for an internal scrimmage later in the practice, and the high-performing players did not disappoint.

Senior Logan Smith proved that he will continue his dominance this year running the ball, and senior J.P. Valenzuela

See FOOTBALL • 9

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Sports Schedule

LADY BUCK VOLLEYBALL
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 Mc-Camey (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
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

JP VALENZUELA #0

JP will be our 'BlackShirts' coaches captain for the 2024 Football season. He has a great work ethic and we look forward to him being a great leader for our football team.

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BREWSTER COUNTY PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

A Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. in the Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom, 201 W Ave E Alpine, Texas. (Public Hearing Dates may be subject to change).

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$401,810 (8.8%), and of that amount, \$187,141.62 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.



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Lady Bucks show determination

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Lady Bucks Volleyball teams demonstrated resilience and promise during their recent scrimmages and dual matches, setting a positive tone for the upcoming tournament season.

Over the weekend, the Lady Bucks participated in scrimmages hosted by Andrews High School and Midland Greenwood High School. These sessions were pivotal for the teams to enhance their communication and on-court chemistry, vital components as they gear up for pre-season challenges.

On Tuesday, August 13, the Lady Bucks faced off against Fort Stockton and Wink in a dual match that tested their mettle. The Freshman team played a close match against Fort Stockton, losing 24-26 and 14-25. The Junior Varsity team faced Fort Stockton and Wink, with scores of 16-25, 19-25 against Fort Stockton and 15-25, 23-25 against Wink. The varsity team had a hard-fought battle, falling to Fort Stockton with scores

of 23-25, 15-25, and 21-25, and narrowly missing a victory against Wink, finishing with scores of 12-25, 20-25, and 25-27.

While the scores reflect challenging matches, the Lady Bucks showcased moments of brilliance, particularly evident in the varsity team's nail-biting 25-27 set against Wink. These encounters provided invaluable experience, allowing the teams to identify areas of growth and strengthen their collaborative intensity.

"The Fort Stockton/Wink Dual Match was a great opportunity for us to prepare for the tournament season," commented the coaching staff. "We're focused on building collaborative intensity throughout competitive play to achieve our overall program goals and success."

Looking ahead, the Lady Bucks are set to compete in the highly anticipated Best of West Tournament in Wink. With the lessons learned and the determination displayed, Alpine's volleyball enthusiasts have much to look forward to as the Lady Bucks continue their journey this season.

COWBOYS • FROM 8

absolutely incredible record-breaking season for the Cowboys."

The Cowboys' victory also carries a deeper emotional significance. Last year, the team lost one of their own, Jared Strait, in a tragic car accident. Coach Persky dedicated the championship to Strait, saying, "It's awesome. I wish Jared was still here for it. I know his family's happy that we're able to get this one. This one is for him."

As the players celebrated on the field, the significance of the moment was noticeable. Kokernot Field, with its rich history and storied

"I wish Jared was still here for it. I know his family's happy that we're able to get this one. This one is for him."
— *Cowboys Head Coach Sean Persky*

past, witnessed yet another chapter of Alpine Cowboys' greatness. The fans, the players, and the entire Alpine community will remember this season for years to come — in a year of unforgettable moments, the Cowboys have added another golden chapter to their storied history in Alpine.

FOOTBALL • FROM 8

showed off quick hands by making some nice catches.

Coach Smith said senior starting quarterback Devon Rojo "threw the ball crisp and sharp." Senior Iden Lujan stepped in as quarterback to also show a commanding control of the offense.

"Midnight madness was the best practice we had all week not only due to the beautiful mountain weather but due to the energy from the crowd," said Smith. "Our student-athletes had the opportunity to showcase to our community the skills and talents they have learned, and this energized them to perform at a high level."

Junior varsity and varsity football begin their pre-season on Friday, August 16, with scrimmages against McCamey High School at home. The junior varsity begins at 6 p.m., and the varsity

game begins at 7 p.m.

Smith said the scrimmage against the Badgers will be the first test for the Bucks.

"McCamey has a tradition of excellence in football, and we look forward to having a great test versus the Badgers," he said. "Scrimmages are great for our student-athletes because they allow us to see them against an opponent in controlled live action and then evaluate the areas of refinement we need to improve."

Support the Bucks before the game and fill your belly at the same time. The All-Sports Booster Club is hosting a Brisket Burger Combo Fundraiser on Friday, August 16, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Buck Stadium concession stand on the home side. The cost is \$12.00, and all proceeds will support all sports at Alpine ISD.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Marathon Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, August 28, 2024 in High School Library/Board Meeting Room, 109 N. 5th Marathon, TX 79842.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$ 0.7552 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax
Approved by Local Voters \$ 0.00 / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	<u> </u> % increase	or	<u>.5872</u> % (decrease)
Debt service	<u>0</u> % increase	or	<u>0</u> % (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u> </u> % increase	or	<u> </u> % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>149,503,096</u>	\$ <u>170,746,303</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>529,190</u>	\$ <u>5,419,221</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>134,228,619</u>	\$ <u>145,629,631</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>529,190</u>	\$ <u>2,631,863</u>

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 0.00

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.81200	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 0.81200	\$ 7,725	\$ 5,969
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.75695	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 0.75695	\$ 8,241	\$ 5,453
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.00000 *	\$ 0.75520	\$ 7,738	\$ 5,620

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 151,589	\$ 162,013
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 77,881	\$ 46,797
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.8120	\$.75520
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 632.39	\$ 353.41
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (278.98)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 0.75520. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 0.75520.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,904,598
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0.00

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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 about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Avalanche Classifieds

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ACCEPTANCE - The publisher wants to do everything that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.

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GARAGE SALE

For Sale - Louis Vuitton handbag, paid \$1500, asking \$100. Contact Mary Ann Blair. (432)-244-1544 or go by 904 E. Ave. J.

See more Classified displays on Page 12.

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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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 TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estates of PHILLIP D. WESTERMAN, Deceased, were issued to QUINN D. WESTERMAN on August 13, 2024, by the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, acting in Cause No. PR03176, styled In Re: Estate of PHILLIP D. WESTERMAN, Deceased, in which Court the matters are pending.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Bulverde, Texas. The Agent for the Estate is w. E. Herman III and the post office address of the Agent is:

W. E. HERMAN III
Attorney at Law
Alpine Law Center
PO Box 252
Alpine, Brewster County
Texas 79831

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this August 13, 2024 .

W. E. HERMAN III
Alpine Law Center
PO Box 252
Alpine, Texas 79831
Tel: (432) 244- 4023
State Bar No. - 09513800
Attorney for the Estate


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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

ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alpine Independent School District is accepting applications for a special education paraprofessional/instructional aide. Will be providing assistance to students under the supervision of a certified teacher. All Instructional aides must hold an Associate degree, 45 hours college credit, or equivalent.

Application Procedure: Submit district application (may be downloaded from <http://www.alpine.esc18.net> under Employment), resume of experience, and credentials to:

Jarrett Vickers
Principal Alpine High School
300 E. Hendryx
Alpine, Texas 79830
E-mail: jvickers@alpineisd.net

Alpine ISD is an E.O.E. – questions concerning application procedure should be directed to (432) 837-7700. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Alpine Independent School District has openings for **two positions** in the **maintenance department** – **full-time campus custodian and part-time (20 hours/week) mechanic/transportation.** Should be self-motivated and take pride in performance of assigned duties. Opportunity to work in a positive environment with good hours and benefits.

Application Procedure: District application may be picked up at 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue or may be accessed on-line at www.alpine.esc18.net under Employment. Return completed application to:

Chayo Gonzales, Maintenance Dept.
Alpine ISD
704 W. Sul Ross
Alpine, Texas 79830

Alpine ISD is an E.O.E. – questions concerning application procedure should be directed to (432) 837-7700. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.



SENIOR Spotlight

JACE CANABA

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

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

my back on and off the court.

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

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

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"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 Blessed Hope

BY SCOTT HUCKABY
Big Bend Bible Fellowship

Our world is reeling from uncertainty, disorder, unrestrained evil, civil unrest, and a growing potential for a world war which, this time, will be nuclear. Life as we know it has never been more at risk than it is today. It seems like mankind is doing everything we can to force God to intervene, which the Bible says He will do.

Most people don't give any thought to the disturbing trends in this world. They are just too painful to even consider. But Bible-believing Christians know that God's intervention is just what this fallen world needs. Due to the selfish nature of all people, it is not humanly possible to create the peaceful utopia everyone desires.

While this world sorely needs the intervention of God, most churches rarely talk about it for a myriad of unsatisfactory reasons. Yet those who recognize scripture as the inerrant Word of God look forward to the end of this age because it includes the rapture of the church. The Bible refers to the rapture as "the blessed hope" in Titus 2:13, and it is when all Christians living and dead receive our eternal, resurrected bodies (see also 1 Thess 2:15-18 & 1 Cor 15:51-52). Christian hope is not just wishful thinking, it is the confident expectation of what God has promised,

and it is based on His faithfulness to His Word.

Along with giving no thought to the return of Jesus, most Christians are ignorant about what life will be like in our eternal, resurrected bodies. There is a vague idea that eternal life will be better than those who have no concept of life after death. But few give it any thought allowing themselves to be preoccupied by the distractions of this world.

The Bible reveals a lot about the blessings of our eternal, resurrected bodies. Jesus showed us what we can look forward to when He rose from the dead. Eternal life will not be some ethereal, spiritual existence; we will have physical bodies much like our current ones, but better (Luke 24:39). We will enjoy food just like we do today (Luke 24:41-43). We will not be subject to pain, sorrow, or death (Revelation 21:4). We will have an ability to travel through the spiritual realm to get around this vast physical universe (John 20:19 in light of John 14:3). And eternal life will not be boring as some suppose because we will be with our Creator-God and He promised we'd reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

Unfortunately, not everyone will go to heaven, only those who believe that Jesus Christ paid their sin penalty when He died on the cross (John 3:16). So, believe today; no one has to be discouraged by the disturbing trends of this world because we have the promise of the blessed hope!

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



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mention was made as to who would be filling the one-year unexpired term left vacant by the late Paul Loeffler. The other open position that would potentially be filled by Nelson, is a three-year term left vacant when former Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore left.

The next item of business was a discussion about the solicitation of a new outside auditor for the county. Judge Henington told the court that the current auditor out of El Paso, GRP, had initially told him that the 2021 audit would be ready by June. "They've since pushed back the date to the end of this month, but I doubt we will even see it then. They used to come out here with a team, and ask our financial officers and employees questions, and do things in person, but they have since switched to email, which takes more time," Henington said. Local accounting firm Singleton, Clark, and Company has already sent a proposal that runs around the same amount as GRP and they will come to the courthouse with a team of people to tackle what needs to be done, according to Judge Henington. "They are not our only option, but they did say they do have some time that they could get to the 2022 audit and have it completed hopefully by the end of the year," said Henington. There was also a need to grant an exemption to purchase the professional services of an outside auditor. A motion was made by Pct. 4 Commissioner Morrow with a second from Pct. 3 Commissioner Ortega to approve both a request for proposals for outside auditor services as well as for the exemption needed for the purchase of the professional auditor services. The motions were approved unanimously.

After the approval of the general bills, budget amendments, and line-item transfers from the Brewster County Auditor, a brief report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of Brewster County Tourism, was given. Alvarez spoke to the court about the tour-

ism council's campaign about the imminent closure of the Basin area in Big Bend National Park for the remodel of the Chisos Mountains Lodge and restaurant. "We are already working on this narrative, making sure that visitors understand that the park is not closed. There are still many other trails and beautiful areas to see and experience and hikes to go on," Alvarez said. He also asked the court for the approval of the \$20,000 contract with the Texas Department of Agriculture sponsorship agreement for the 2024 State Fair of Texas. A motion was made by Judge Henington with a second by Pct. 3 Commissioner Ortega to approve the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item up for discussion was item 24. Judge Henington skipped to this agenda item, calling the court's attention to page three. Henington gave the court several options to cut some of the "fat" from the budget. Included in this were small changes to the ad valorem taxes and sales taxes in the revenue portion of the budget, while the biggest change came in the salary increases. Judge Henington proposed several different options. The first option was no salary increases for elected officials, which would save around \$39,000. Another option was a 5% increase in salaries for the cost of living, a 3% increase in the cost of living, or a \$125.00 per month increase for all employees. After some discussion, in which Pct. 3 Commissioner Ortega stated, "Those of us who are elected have to eat too". The court decided that the flat \$125.00 per month salary increase for all employees, including the elected officials was the best option. This would save the county approximately \$75,000 and put the budget at around a low \$400,000 deficit, similar to last year. The motion to approve the flat salary increase was made by Judge Henington with a second from Pct. 3 Commissioner Ortega and it was approved unanimously.

Finally, Brewster

County Tax Assessor-Collector Sylvia Vega presented to the court the 2024 certified tax roll and tax rate calculations as well as the 2024 tax rate. The taxable value not in protest on the tax rolls was listed at \$1,422,460,379 while the estimated taxable value still in protest was listed at \$39,751,482. New values for 2024 were listed at \$53,557,481 with the total number of accounts being 20,231.

The new county tax rate calculations came in at 0.333287 with a tax levy equal to \$4,873,362 with no new revenue. The county follows the voter approval rate that is 0.349. Both the 2025 budget as well as the new tax rate required public hearings for approval. A public hearing to discuss both the 2025 budget and the new tax rate was set and approved for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Judge Henington to set the public hearing date for August 27 and a second was made by Pct. 1 Commissioner Jim Westermann. The motion was approved unanimously. The court then recessed into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 11:09 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Brewster County Commissioner's Court is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27.

GRAZING • FROM 1

land also provides wildlife habitat and ecosystem services that benefit us all.

Thanks to funding from a federal grant through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) is now offering additional resources for West Texas landowners.

"Thanks to this partnership and new grant funding, we've recently hired a new grazing specialist to assist landowners with grazing management plans and other resources," said Billy Tarrant, who leads BRI's Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement. "We're pleased to bring Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez-Valenzuela on board. He has decades of experience assisting landowners in achieving their land management goals."

Most recently, from 2019 to earlier this year, Dr. Gonzalez was an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, teaching Grazing Management, Rangeland Improvements, Range and Wildlife Principles, and Rangeland Plants. Before that, he worked for 30 years as a researcher in the program of Forages and Rangelands of the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agricolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP). He was Chair of the Aldama Experimental Station and National Leader of Forages and Rangelands. He also served six years as a Professor with the Univer-



Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez-Valenzuela

Photo courtesy of Borderlands Research Institute

sidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas teaching Natural Resources Management, Rangelands, and Forages. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, and his PhD from Texas A&M University.

Along with providing technical assistance to landowners to help them meet their goals and objectives for their properties, Dr. Gonzalez will also serve as a visiting

professor in the College of Agricultural, Natural, and Physical Sciences at Sul Ross State University.

"I'm looking forward to this next chapter of my career, working with young people who are interested in natural resources, and with landowners who care about the rangelands they steward," said Dr. Gonzalez. "My experience has been that landowners want to do the right thing, and what they really need is more information to make their operations more sustainable. It is the grazing plants and the grazing programs that will make sure the land will remain productive for this generation and the next."

More information about resources for West Texas landowners can be found on BRI's website at Land Stewardship-Borderlands Research Institute (sulross.edu)

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AHS alumni attend THSCA



A group of alumni from Alpine High School attended the Texas High School Coaches Association conference this summer. Pictured here are DeeDee DeLaO, Isaac Gallego, Derek Rojo, Matthew Chavez, Monica Salmon, Adam Llenez, Linda Pallanez Morris, Tony Pallenez, Vince Lavallee, Danny Villanueva, Daniel Rojo, Ben Gallego, and Fred Cordova.

Photo courtesy of Monica Salmon

God Bless America

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CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS AMENDED COMBINED BUDGET SUMMARIES				
REVENUE	ADOPTED FY 2023-2024	PROPOSED FY 2024-2025		
NON DEPARTMENTAL – GENERAL	\$ 91,500	\$ 130,000		
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,157,693	\$ 1,250,453		
MUNICIPAL COURT	\$ 50,250	\$ 50,250		
POLICE	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,650		
AD VALOREM TAX	\$ 2,430,873	\$ 2,106,966		
BUILDING SERVICES	\$ 94,000	\$ 94,000		
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 47,450	\$ 47,450		
PARKS / COMMUNITY RECREATION	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500		
STREETS	\$ 70,200	\$ 70,200		
TRANSFERS	\$ -	\$ 288,088		
ALL TAXES	\$ 2,260,000	\$ 2,260,000		
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ -	\$ -		
General Fund Sub-Total	\$ 6,232,116	\$ 6,327,557		
INTEREST & SINKING	\$ 147,909	\$ 51,400		
NON DEPARTMENTAL – ENTERPRISE	\$ 75,000	\$ 135,000		
WATER	\$ 1,961,000	\$ 1,961,000		
SEWER	\$ 750,000	\$ 800,000		
SANITATION / RECYCLING	\$ 2,440,350	\$ 2,454,305		
TRANSFERS	\$ 1,451,545	\$ 1,519,097		
AIRPORT	\$ 800,512	\$ 788,457		
GAS FUND	\$ 2,225,000	\$ 2,395,072		
Enterprise Fund Sub-Total	\$ 9,703,407	\$ 10,052,931		
Tourism Fund - Hotel Occupancy Tax Sub-T	\$ 1,036,963	\$ 830,914		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 17,120,395	\$ 17,262,802	0.82%	
EXPENDITURES	ADOPTED FY 2023-2024	PROPOSED FY 2024-2025		
NON DEPARTMENTAL – GENERAL	\$ 656,800	\$ 712,129		
CITY GOVERNMENT	\$ 151,773	\$ 152,073		
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 614,277	\$ 603,386		
HUMAN RESOURCE	\$ 59,021	\$ 114,044		
FINANCE	\$ 398,639	\$ 392,303		
MUNICIPAL COURT	\$ 107,590	\$ 108,680		
POLICE	\$ 1,425,199	\$ 1,637,250		
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ -	\$ -		
AD VALOREM TAX	\$ -	\$ -		
BUILDING SERVICES	\$ 261,026	\$ 265,640		
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 400,543	\$ 442,031		
PARKS / COMMUNITY RECREATION	\$ 541,341	\$ 552,350		
STREETS	\$ 1,543,353	\$ 1,300,132		
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$ 72,554	\$ 47,539		
General Fund Sub-Total	\$ 6,232,116	\$ 6,327,557		
INTEREST & SINKING	\$ 147,909	\$ 51,400		
NON DEPARTMENTAL – UTILITY BILLING	\$ 429,806	\$ 496,697		
WATER	\$ 2,016,539	\$ 2,054,410		
SEWER	\$ 1,944,686	\$ 2,014,388		
SANITATION / RECYCLING	\$ 2,286,864	\$ 2,303,908		
AIRPORT	\$ 800,512	\$ 788,457		
GAS FUND	\$ 2,225,000	\$ 2,395,072		
Enterprise Fund Sub-Total	\$ 9,703,407	\$ 10,052,931		
Tourism Fund - HOT Sub-Total	\$ 1,036,963	\$ 830,914		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 17,120,395	\$ 17,262,802	0.82%	

WEST TEXAS ROUNDUP

ABSTRACT AND TITLE



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Creamy, decadent white lasagna offers an alternative

One of the go-to Italian dishes for many people, including the cartoon character Garfield, is lasagna. While the standard red sauce and cheesy layered pasta goodness are what folks think of when this classic dish comes to mind, other versions will light up those taste buds in new ways.

One such version of this layered culinary delight is white lasagna. What makes it white, you ask? Well, instead of the typical tomatoey red sauce that everyone is familiar with, white



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

lasagna uses a bechamel sauce, or it can even have a mornay sauce. The only difference between the two is that the mornay sauce is a bechamel with cheese melted into it.

Traditional lasagna may be a treat for most people, but if you compare it to its white counterpart, it is more like the working-man version compared to the Hollywood starlet version or the diner food versus the steakhouse fare.

This creamy, rich, white layered pasta dish is a must at least once in life. And it doesn't have to be boring and plain either. The addition of sauteed portobello mushrooms, onions, and garlic, along with the addition of fresh baby spinach, just makes



Creamy White Lasagna with Portobello Mushrooms

Courtesy photo

it that much more special and delicious.

If you're not into the green stuff, leave out

the spinach, and portobellos aren't the only mushrooms you can use, either. Adding in a few porcinis, white button mushrooms, or even shiitake, will add to the overall richness of the dish.

Regardless of what mushrooms you choose to use, or if you want to

add in those leafy spinach greens, this version of lasagna is not to be missed. So, the next time you want to wow your friends and family with your culinary genius, break out this version of a tried-and-true Italian favorite.

CREAMY WHITE LASAGNA WITH PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 to 1 1/2 packages of cooked or ready-to-bake lasagna noodles
- 2 lbs. chopped portobello mushrooms
- 1 small, finely chopped onion
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 2 sticks of unsalted butter, plus half a stick
- Olive oil
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 2 quarts whole milk
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 1 large plus 1 small carton of cottage cheese or the ricotta equivalent
- 1 large egg
- Juice of 1/2 a lemon
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 2 1/2 cups grated fontina cheese
- 1 1/2 cups grated gruyere cheese
- 1 1/4 cups grated parmesan cheese
- 2 1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Clean and chop portobello mushrooms.
- Finely chop the onion and mince the garlic.
- In a skillet, melt half a stick of butter and around a teaspoon and a half of olive oil.
- Add minced garlic to skillet and stir until fragrant, about one minute.
- Add the onions to the garlic, stir, and cook until translucent, around 2-3 minutes.
- Add the mushrooms and coat with butter and oil, mixing well with the onions and garlic.
- Add salt for flavor and the Worcestershire sauce. Mix well and cook down until mushrooms are soft and the liquid is cooked off.
- Remove from heat, add the lemon juice, stir, and set aside.
- In a small stockpot or large saucepan, melt the remaining butter over

medium heat.

In another saucepan, add the milk and warm over low heat, but do not allow to scorch.

When butter is melted, add the flour and salt to taste, mixing well until the flour is incorporated into the butter, making a roux. Cook, stirring constantly, until the flour taste is gone, but not so long that the roux begins to change color.

Slowly add in the warmed milk, stirring constantly to produce a smooth texture. Add in nutmeg and white pepper and mix well.

Add in the fresh rosemary and thyme and cook on low, stirring frequently, so that it does not burn. Add salt as needed for taste.

For the cottage cheese or ricotta filling, add the Italian seasoning and the egg, mixing well until the egg is incorporated.

ASSEMBLY

In a greased, 9x13 baking dish, add

bechamel sauce to the bottom of the pan until it is completely covered.

Add pasta sheets, covering the length and width of the pan. Top with a bit more bechamel, a layer of cottage cheese or ricotta filling, and sprinkle with some of the mushroom mixture.

Add some of the grated cheese across the top and repeat the layering process until the baking dish is almost full or you run out of pasta.

For the top and final layer, add the remaining bechamel sauce and cover with the remainder of the grated cheese.

Cover the lasagna with foil, place on a cookie sheet in the preheated oven, and bake for 45 minutes. Turn the oven to broil. Remove the foil and broil until the top is browned and bubbly.

Remove from the oven and let cool for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Serve with garlic bread and fresh salad if desired.



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Grammy talent hits the Gage

Grammy award-winning songwriter David Hodges closed out the Friday night performance at the Gage Hotel's dance court during this past weekend's Marathon Songwriters Festival. Hodges was a founding member of the band Evanescence and has written songs for artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Maren Morris, and Christina Perri.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL PROPOSED SALARY CHANGES FOR FY 2025

In compliance with section 152.013(c) of the Local Government Code, The Commissioners Court does hereby give notice of salary and allowances for the Elected Officials of Brewster County. Elected Officials' salaries will be set on Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., as part of the FY 2025 budget adoption process. The public meeting will be held at the Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W. Avenue E, in the Brewster County Commissioners' Court room, Alpine, Texas 79830. The Officials and the proposed salaries are shown below:

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
	2024	2025	
Elected Official	Salary	Salary	
County Judge	\$85,511.16	\$87,111.16	\$1,600.00
County Salary	+\$60,311.16	+\$61,911.16	
State Supplement	+\$25,200.00	+\$25,200.00	
County Clerk	\$60,396.50	\$61,996.50	\$1,600.00
County Commissioner, Pct. 1	\$27,890.39	\$29,490.39	\$1,600.00
County Commissioner, Pct. 2	\$28,090.39	\$29,690.39	\$1,600.00
County Commissioner, Pct. 3	\$37,700.14	\$39,200.14	\$1,500.00
County Commissioner, Pct. 4	\$26,371.80	\$27,971.80	\$1,600.00
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	\$49,651.27	\$51,251.27	\$1,600.00
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2	\$27,690.52	\$29,290.52	\$1,600.00
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3	\$37,700.14	\$39,300.14	\$1,600.00
County Attorney	\$90,196.50	\$91,696.50	\$1,500.00
County Salary	+\$62,196.50	+\$63,696.50	
State Supplement	+\$28,000.00	+\$28,000.00	
District Judge	\$7,841.60	\$7,841.60	\$0.00
District Clerk	\$60,296.50	\$61,896.50	\$1,600.00
County Treasurer	\$60,996.50	\$62,596.50	\$1,600.00
County Tax Assessor/Collector	\$62,196.50	\$63,696.50	\$1,500.00
County Sheriff	\$82,394.86	\$83,894.86	\$1,500.00
Constable, Pct.1	\$18,837.52	\$20,437.52	\$1,600.00

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