

Fiddler's Green — Zenas Randall Bliss, Medal of Honor

BY LARRY FRANCELL

Zenas Randall Bliss, no kin to Captain William Bliss, son-in-law of General Zacary Taylor, for whom Fort Bliss in El Paso is named, is the only soldier that I can find who served at Fort Davis both before and after the Civil War. Fort Davis, which was founded in 1854 and abandoned in 1861, with the beginning of that war, was then reestablished in 1867 as the post-war army returned to the West.

That six-year period of upheaval and conflict was a gap only bridged by Zenas Bliss. "The Reminiscences of Zenas R. Bliss, 1854-1876" is

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

202411.98"
August2.96"



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.



SRSU's Aragon talks bucking horse breeding program

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Rodeo is synonymous with Sul Ross, and since rodeo coach C.J. Aragon took the helm, the program has seen some big strides since its humble beginnings when it birthed the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. From a team of seven to over 30 and three national corporate sponsors, Sul Ross rodeo is back on the map.

One of these strides is the creation of a bucking horse breeding program managed by Aragon, and Sul Ross Ranch Manager Rod DeVoll, along with the help of student-athletes.

A major factor in developing this program

was being able to find good bucking horses. "We couldn't find good practice bucking horses for our rodeo team. Sure, we could find the problem horses that were mean and were hurting riders, but that's not what we wanted. We needed good stock for our team to practice on, so we went in search of good breeding stock," Aragon said.

The program has built a pen of bucking horses from the likes of top stock contractors such as Rafter G, Harry Vold, and Cervi. This pen of horses is dog-gentle but does their job when asked.

"You can walk up to these horses on any given day in the pen and they're



Sul Ross Rodeo Coach C.J. Aragon talks about two of his breeding mares used to produce the first year of bucking stock for the rodeo program.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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Bucks football off to a running start



Senior Iden Lujan carries the ball away from their opponents the McCamey Badgers. The Fightin' Bucks held their first scrimmage of the season against the Badgers this past Friday night and will travel to Pecos tomorrow to take on the Eagles in their second scrimmage before the regular season begins.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

Alpine City Council discusses fee increases

BY KERRY LAIRD
Contributor

The Alpine City Council gathered for their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, in the City Council Chambers. All members of the council were present, with Ward 1 Council Member Reagan Stone attending via Zoom.

Prior to discussion items, Mayor Catherine Eaves created a meeting-format change to streamline meetings and make them more accessible for those in attendance as well as for those who watch the recorded meet-

ings. She said the longer meetings, typically with discussions that go off-topic, lose focus on city matters. She added that such time limits are common in similar meetings across the state and beyond.

Changes in meeting format included a three-minute limit per council member for discussion and action items, with a two-minute additional follow-up, per council member, after everyone has had a



Megan Antrim, Alpine City Manager

chance to speak on the issue.

During the first discussion item, Council Member Stone went over his allotted three minutes. When Mayor Eaves announced he was over his time limit, Stone called for a parliamentary inquiry, asking City Secretary Geoffrey Calderon how a time limit could be imposed by the mayor without a vote from the council.

Calderon said the may-

or runs the meeting and can implement any restrictions she sees fit, but the council can request a vote to reject such changes.

Stone made a motion to discuss the time limits, and Ward 3 Council Member Darin Nance seconded. Each council member gave a brief statement. When it was brought to a vote, the Council rejected the limits by a vote of 3-2, with Ward 2 Council Member Eva Martinez and Ward 4 Council Member Lucy Escovedo in favor of the limit.

Back to the discussion items, the formation of an Alpine Chamber of Commerce (CoC) garnered full support from the table. Both Mayor Eaves and the councilors applauded the effort to provide focused support for Alpine businesses through a CoC organization.

The proposed CoC would support the businesses in town similar to the way the Tourism Council supports tourism. Council Member Martinez said that during city events, some of the busi-

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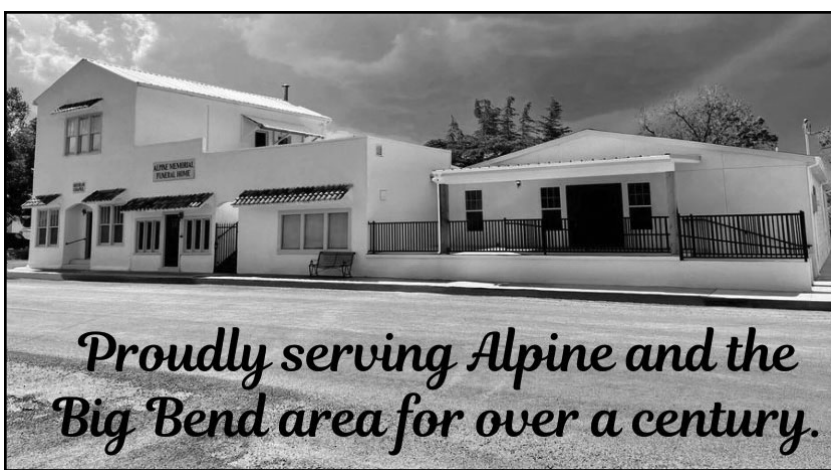
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OBITUARIES

Joe Clayton Bedell

Clayton prided himself in being a West Texan. He was born a West Texan, grew up a West Texan, and died a West Texan, and he wouldn't have had it any other way. Clayton Bedell, 66, of Alpine, died suddenly at home of a suspected aortic aneurysm rupture on August 10. We know that he was met at Heaven's gate by his beloved son, Patrick Bedell.

Joe Clayton Bedell was born in Marfa to Sam and Fredda Bedell on January 10, 1958. His father was a ranch fore-



man, so he had the joy of growing up on the Henderson, the Chillicothe, the Ryan, the Dipper, and the Hippo ranches. He attended school in Valentine and later, in Marfa. He graduated from Sul Ross State University and worked

at the Ft. Davis National Historic Site. He later became a state probation officer in Weatherford, and then a U.S. Federal Probation officer in Grand Junction, Colorado. He started his own successful business as a commercial weed sprayer for the oil and gas companies in western Colorado and eastern Utah. He did guide elk hunts while in Colorado with his set of pack mules and canvas tents complete with wood-burning stoves. He once told a realtor, "I'm looking for a place where I can't see any rooftops."

Clayton was preceded in death by his parents Sam and Fredda, his brother Danny Bedell, his sister Sharon Bedell Harral, and his son Patrick Bedell. He is survived by his wife, Kim Russell Bedell, granddaughter Jessica Bedell Neal (Daniel) of Kansas City, Missouri, grandsons Matthew and Jacob Bedell of Tulsa, Oklahoma, nieces Kimberly Harral Wilson (Matt) of San Antonio and Lana Bedell Richardson (Sam) of Brownwood. Nephews Sam Adam Bedell (Eren) of Lubbock, Cody Harral (Crystal)

of Canyon Lake, Colter Bedell (Taryn) of Seminole, stepdaughter Hannah McKinney of Palisade, Colorado, sister-in-law Kaprece Bedell of Snyder and cousin Lou Brown Tanner (Wayne) of Odessa, plus many great nieces and nephews and numerous friends. Clayton loved the family reunions that we recently started having and enjoyed teaching the younger ones about cooking. He had just moved back home to West Texas for retirement so that he could be around his family and his friends. He will be

missed by so many who loved his wit, his humor, and his beautiful smile. He had the knack of adding laughter to almost any awkward situation.

Graveside service will be held on Saturday, August 31 followed by his Celebration of Life BBQ at his barn/shop at 107 Wild Cherry Rd., Alpine. The exact time is to be determined at a later date.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home, and gifts and condolences may be left at www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Hortensia Celaya

Hortensia Celaya, 82, of Fort Stockton passed away on August 15 in Fort Stockton.

Prayer service for Hortensia will be held at 7 p.m. on August 16 at Heritage Funeral Home of the Big Bend, 301 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on August 17 at Heritage Funeral Home of the Big Bend with Hermano Alvaro Navarrete of Iglesia del Dios Vivo officiating. Burial will follow at East Hill Cemetery in Fort Stockton.

Hortensia was born in Alpine on March 15, 1942, to Gustavo and Ysidra Portillo. She married Castulo Celaya of Marathon on June 12, 1958, in Alpine. In the early years of their marriage, they traveled back and forth from Texas to Arizona for fieldwork. During these years, she started a family that would continue to grow, not only in number but also in love. Once they settled in Fort Stockton, she began working as a caregiver for both children and the elderly. She loved and welcomed all. Her home was open to everyone, and she became



"Mom," "Grandma," and even "Memo" to the many who entered. She listened, gave advice, and shared the power of having the Lord in our lives. "I'm praying for you." "Leave it in the Lord's hands." "The Lord never gives you more than you can handle." These words of comfort and her faith are what truly defined her. Her family was her greatest source of joy. Each one of them knew how deeply they were loved. Family was everything to her.

Hortensia is preceded in death by her husband Castulo Celaya, daughters Marcela Moya and Anna Celaya, son Castulo Celaya Jr., granddaughter Gabriella Allyse Rodriguez, great-grandson Ezekiel Nathaniel Gonzalez, and sisters Celia Coronado and Luciana Leyva.

She is survived by daughter Teresa Celaya, Willie (Lilia) Celaya, Rosa (Lupe) Lara, Janie Celaya and Steve Amaya, Lupita Celaya, Ricardo (Amanda) Celaya, Christina Celaya, Timothy Salyers, Amanda Celaya, sisters Mage Ybarra, Esequia Flores, Cora Muniz, Flora Leyva, and Celica Liberman, and brothers Peter Portillo, and Gustavo Portillo, Jr.

Pallbearers will be Willie Celaya, Ricardo Celaya, Joseph Celaya, Justin Porter, Lupe Lara, Steve Amaya, Frank Coronado, Jesus Olivas, Jonathan Portillo, and Bobby Coronado.

The family of Hortensia wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, words, and acts of love we have received. And to PCMH Hospice: Courtney, Krisha, Elva, and Michelle, from the bottom of our hearts, we love you and thank you!

Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of the Big Bend in Fort Stockton. If you want to send your condolences to the family, you may sign the guestbook at www.heritagefuneralhomeofthebigbend.com.

Memorial Service

For friends and family of Peter W. Woodruff, who passed away last month, please join us for a Memorial Service to celebrate Pete's life. We will gather on Saturday, September 14 at 3 p.m., at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home at 209 W. Sul Ross Ave., Alpine.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The South Side Historic District in Marathon, Brewster County Texas will be considered by the State Board of Review for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its hybrid online meeting on September 28 at 9 a.m. A copy of the draft nomination is posted on the THC website: www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting.

We invite you to attend a public information meeting to discuss the nomination process and its implications for property owners. The meeting will take place on September 12 at 6 p.m. at the Marathon Community Center 106 NE 3rd Street. Any person may submit written comments, especially regarding the significance of the property and whether or not it meets the National Register criteria for evaluation.

Verbal Boundary Description of South Side Historic District:

Roughly bounded by the Southern Pacific Railroad to the north; Avenue A South to the west; Avenue G South to the east; and West 6th Street South and East 7th Street South to the south.

Listing in the National Register does not impose any restrictions, and owners of private properties nominated to the National Register may concur or object to the nomination in accordance with federal regulations (36 CFR 60).

Any owner or partial owner who objects to listing may submit a written statement attesting to ownership of property within the boundary and objection to listing to the THC. Such statements must be notarized or comply with 28 U.S. Code § 1746 (Unsworn Declarations Under Penalty of Perjury). A non-notarized letter of objection must include one of the following statements:

• If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

• If NOT executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

Submit comments and letters of objection by [date prior to SBR meeting] to:

Joseph Bell
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote, regardless of the quantity or size of properties in the district are owned by that party. If a majority of private property owners object to the nomination, the district will not be listed; however, the THC shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register.

For information about the National Register of Historic Places program in Texas, including a copy of the nomination, please visit the THC website: www.thc.texas.gov/nrh. Persons without access to the internet may request a copy of the nomination by calling the THC at 512-463-5853.

Legion Auxiliary installs new officers



The Big Bend Post 79 of the American Legion Auxiliary recently installed their new officers for the 2024-2025 year. Pictured are President Sara Herman, Vice President Judy Stokes, Secretary Denna Parham, Treasurer Linda McAnally, and Chaplain Sara Bow.

Courtesy photo

Marathon Public Library partners with TransPecos Banks to benefit Marathon ISD

Marathon Public Library is partnering with TransPecos Banks to provide all school supplies needed by students and teachers in the Marathon Independent School District (MISD) for the 2024/2025 school year, according to Dara Cavness, Marathon Public Library Director. Marathon Public Library began its school-supply program for MISD in 2016. Since that time, the library has partnered with businesses, foundations, and individuals in an effort to support the school district while also helping students and their families. "We are grateful for our partnership with TransPecos Banks and its financial support to help make this program possible in the 2024/2025 school year," said Cavness. "Thanks to TransPecos Banks, we are helping build a strong foundation for a successful school year for both students and teachers."



Pictured holding some of the school supplies from the Marathon Public Library and TransPecos Banks partnership are Marathon ISD teachers Melissa Barlow, Sandra Hansen, and Pam Hernandez.

As importantly, TransPecos' gift helps ease the 'back-to-school' financial burdens on parents and teachers." The library will deliver over \$5,000 of supplies to all students and teachers. "Each year, the bank looks for ways to help and give back to their local communities,"

said Johanna Wells, the Deposit Relationship Development Manager at the TransPecos Banks, Alpine branch. "We are excited to collaborate with Marathon Public Library and help support the students and teachers at Marathon ISD," said Wells. "It's a wonderful way

to foster learning and help ensure educational success for all Marathon students."

For more information contact Dara Cavness at 432-386-4136 or by email at director@marathonpubliclibrary.org or Johanna Wells at 432-236-0488 or by email at ajwells@transpecos.bank

Courtesy photo

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, the City of Alpine will hold a Public Hearing regarding the FY 2024-2025 Budget and Tax Rate to receive citizens input. The FY 2024-2025 Budget contains proposed expenditures and revenues from the general fund, airport fund, enterprise fund, capital expenditures and tourism/hotel occupancy tax funds.

The hearing will be held at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at 803 W. Holland, Alpine, Texas 79830.

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Lochhead Cattle Company wins the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

This Big Bend Ranch Rodeo is in the books, and took place recently, with 12 adult ranch teams and 10 youth teams.

The Lochhead Cattle Co. from Terrell was the winner of the adult rodeo this year, while the winner of this year's Big Bend Youth Ranch Rodeo was Little EC Ranch from Perrin.

Members of the adult team included Cash Lochhead, Tallan Miller, Colt Carter, Marshall Ayer, Cinch Rodgers, and Frances Lochhead. Members of the youth team included Hoyt Damall, Trevor Thompson, Klay Ruddy, Levi Littlefield, and Waylon Denmark.



Winners of the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo 2024- Adult team Lochhead Cattle Company and youth team Little EC Ranch.

Photos courtesy of Hadley Anne Kibbe

COUNCIL • FROM 1

nesses did not feel included. "A Chamber of Commerce will represent all the businesses in the community," she said.

In addition to city events, a CoC would also provide, for example, a consolidated list of available services for both residents and visitors, steering valuable business toward locally recognized companies who pay their dues.

"It's great we're talking about economic development from a lot of different angles," said Council Member Nance. "I'll be interested in how the city can support this as well."

Ward 5 Council Member Rick Stephens supported the idea, recognizing the challenges of funding and management for such an organization.

"I think it's the right thing to go do," he said, "but we have to get some leaders in place."

The property tax rate and appraised values were also on the agenda for discussion. City Manager Megan Antrim announced a 96% collection rate, which is a reduction that is in step with surrounding communities.

City Manager Antrim was seeking a consensus. However, Mayor Eaves suggested giving the Councilors 24 to 48 hours to digest the information before trying to reach a consensus.

The city manager said the 3.5 percent is actually a reduction in property taxes collected, which means taxes have gone down. Property values may have increased, but there are also more properties to tax.

The next item of interest on the agenda up for discussion involved the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. The City Manager presented a proposed balanced budget for discussion. The budget included an increase

in revenue.

Recommended increases in the proposed budget included utility fees, sewer rates, city employee salaries, overtime for city employees, and funding for retirement, all in step with the nationwide inflation.

New positions listed in the budget include a records clerk, a police officer, and Public Works department employees. Other expenditures include nine replacement vehicles on vehicles with leases that are past the extended date (no new vehicles) and a new loader.

The city manager also listed multiple projects in the proposed budget: a water line replacement in Sunny Glen, to be contracted out; continuation of wastewater treatment plant improvements; the gas department working toward smart meter replacements; and continued improvements to the Visitor Center.

Next, the city discussed increases in utility fees and setting the rates and fees for city utility services for the next fiscal year. Water, wastewater, sanitation, and gas are all due for increases.

There will be an increase in costs for meters, meter boxes, and labor for the installation of standard taps.

If a customer thinks their water meter is malfunctioning and requests a meter test, the city will provide the meter test for free. However, if the meter passes the test, meaning the meter is functioning properly, and the resident insists on a new meter, the resident will be responsible for the cost of equipment and a minimum of one hour labor.

In addition, the sewer rate will increase by two dollars from \$15.50 to \$17.50. The slight increase

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

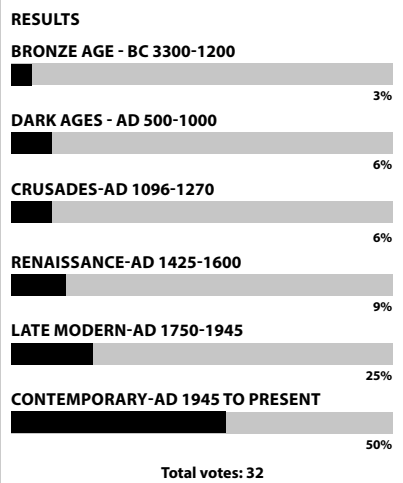
If you could live in any of these times in history, which would it be?

- 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

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

RESULTS

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



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.



Sul Ross State's vision for a stronger tomorrow

When I visit with members of the Alpine community, we often discuss the role Sul Ross plays as an economic driver for this area and concerns around enrollment fluctuations since the height of enrollment of 2,500 in 1996--or, most recently, 2,100 in 2016. I am usually posed with statements like, "If we could only get back to those enrollment numbers, things would be headed in the right direction, the economic outlook of our community would improve, and we could fill empty downtown buildings with bustling new businesses."

As we look to the future, let me assure you that up here on "the hill," we have every intention of growing our enrollment with innovative strategies, many of which I have outlined in this column -- enriching partnerships with our local ISDs, adding new academic programs, our transition to NCAA Division II Athletics, investing in our championship rodeo program, reworking our scholarship opportunities, and improving the student experience is chief among them.

Enrollment and retention are our top priorities. Every

discussion and every decision we make at Sul Ross State is centered on how we can best achieve those goals.

In 1996, the total enrollment of Sul Ross State University, including Alpine, and at our campuses in Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Uvalde, was 3,383. That is our highest recorded total in 30 years.

There were 866 students at RGC and 2,517 at Alpine. The Alpine number is the one I want to break down a little further. There were 1,817 undergraduates and 700 graduate students enrolled here. It's hard to say where those undergrads lived, but we intuitively know that many were commuter students as housing availability on campus was limited at that time.

Currently, Lobo Village residence halls will accommodate 600 students, and we are fast at work to make Fletcher Hall, with 150 beds, ready and available for Fall 2025. As we look toward additional undergraduate growth, we will look at the feasibility of ad-



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ
Sul Ross president

ditional on-campus housing options. In the intermediary, any additional students beyond the 750-bed capacity would need to find private rentals, which, based on recent internal estimates, may support 400 students.

Most of the 700 graduate students were here for limited amounts of time on weekends or during summer terms while they worked toward school principal and superintendent certifications. These programs are now available 100% online, not only at Sul Ross, but at virtually every university across the state. Any effort to return these programs to an in-person modality would result in those students choosing the convenience of online programs at other universities. Except for a couple of more hands-on graduate programs, all of our master's degrees are available online. This is the appropriate response to the current consumer preference, supply, and demand that is now the norm in graduate education.

While we are hard at

work on growth, we must design sensible and sustainable enrollment-growth solutions that recognize our physical limitations, like increasing our dual-credit population and expanding online course offerings, which don't appear, on the surface, to provide additional economic activity to this community. However, this holistic approach to course offerings will increase overall enrollment, which will increase our tuition revenue and our formula funding from the state. These additional financial resources will allow for an improved student experience, both on campus and off, and provide resources to support and expand on-campus programs.

Sul Ross and the greater Alpine community are tied at the hip. When Sul Ross is vibrant, so is the community.

I know everyone's interests and concerns are sincere. I appreciate all the support for our Lobos. Together, we will get there!

Now, let's welcome back our Lobos to campus this week. It's set to be a fantastic fall!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SRSU, Alpine Lions Club Gun Show Violates State Law

After speaking to legal counsel at the Texas State University System, it's crystal clear that the Big Bend Gun and Knife Show, planned for Labor Day weekend, will violate state gun laws and Sul Ross State University policy by inviting illegal carry events onto campus including open carry, unlicensed carry, and long gun, assault weapon carry. Since those events are banned on Texas college campuses, the gun show must be immediately canceled by the SRSU administration. Further, if President Hernandez doesn't act, the event will allow weapons of war, like the AR-15, to be sold to criminals in daylight. Only by mandating back-

ground checks can we prevent legal gun purchases to individuals who have raped, assaulted children, or been convicted of other violent felonies. Still, the gun show in question isn't legally allowed on campus in the first place.

In accordance with SB 11, only concealed carry of handguns by people or law enforcement who have a license to carry handguns in Texas are allowed on a university campus, and all private individuals' handguns must remain appropriately, legally stored or concealed on any visit to the campus. State law punishes all open carry on campuses as a Class A misdemeanor for CDL license holders and a third-degree felony for non-license holders. As noted in SRSU policy, "The Campus Car-

ry or Concealed Handgun Policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors; and individuals and organizations doing business on or on behalf of Sul Ross State University." State law makes no exceptions.

These new findings come after I developed a resolution which, if passed, would have requested the Alpine Lion's Club to require background checks at the annual event. The resolution was met by a MAGA gathering and Mayor Eaves who urged me to drop the issue because it's too divisive. Now, I'm proud of a tenure that serves increasing public access, transparency, and civil discourse, therefore I will not stand idly by when leaders are willing to defend an illegal

and dangerous event. Further, the Alpine Mayor has floated that I'm doing this for fame or future political aspirations. I'll remind her that I've been an advocate for marginalized communities for over 15 years. My heart and service to Alpine is grounded in facts, not personal attacks. This is about gun safety and common-sense laws -- an issue that many in Alpine have made clear as we near another West Texas mass shooting, tragic anniversary. Our leaders should stand for: Uvalde, May 24, 2022, 19 children and two teachers killed, El Paso, August 3, 2019, 23 killed, 22 injured, and Odessa, 8 killed, 25 injured.

Our leaders should follow state law, be on the right side of history.

Reagan Stone
Alpine City Councilor

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John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
202-224-2934

Ted Cruz
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4306
202-224-5922



Heard on the STREET

What advice would you give your younger self?



El Coach:
Save money.



Alex Hucke:
Stop drinkin', and don't smoke.



Sandy Lane:
Everything is going to get so much better. Just you wait and see.



Cynthia Hornsby:
After law school, go straight into being a law professor.



Kenneth Garcia:
Have more faith in yourself and not others. Trust in you.

www.alpineavalanche.com

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August 24 Big Bend Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas, 1 p.m. in the AEP Room at the Alpine Public Library, the group will hold their August program with speaker Cody McCollum of the Big Bend Fungi Company. All are invited to attend. For more information contact fondag@sbcglobal.net

August 24-25 FREE Movie Showing, 3 p.m. at First Assembly of God-Alpine. Movie is "Home Safe," and there will be popcorn and bottled water served. All are invited.

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.

August 30 Friday Night Lights Jackpot, 5 p.m. at the S.A.L.E. Arena. Barrel racing, breakaway roping, and team roping events. All proceeds go towards supporting the Sul Ross Rodeo Team. For more information go to the Sul Ross State University Rodeo Team Facebook page.

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Moon Pie.

This sweet little tabby was found as a stray with her two siblings in Alpine. She has had her spay surgery, is fully vaccinated, and is ready for her forever home.

She has a loving personality and elegant tabby looks.

Tabby is not a breed, but a coat pattern. Tabby cats can have many different coat colors, including brown, gray, orange, or black. They also have five unique patterns: mackerel, marble cake, spotty, and ticked. All tabby cats have a distinctive "M" on their forehead, and some have stripes on their cheeks and around their eyes.

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

your environment.

Consider volunteering to walk dogs or give play time to the puppies or cats at the shelter.

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

Join us for Meow 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.

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

September 6 Holy Angels Cemetery Association Enchilada Fundraiser, Serving begins at 3:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall to benefit the upkeep of the Holy Angels Cemetery. Plates are \$10 each and will include enchilada, rice, beans, salad, dessert, and a drink.

September 28 National Public Lands Day, FREE entry to Big Bend National Park.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

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

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

American Legion Auxiliary

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

Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbccorale.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 x 301.

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.

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HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
2020 Cash Expenditures
December 31, 2023

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals for 2023
Additional land preparation				200		600						4,000	\$ 4,800
Contribution to Our Lady of Peace Plumbing fund												1,000	\$ 1,000
Well Service and Repairs and Parts								28,620				5,337	\$33,957
Electric Power for water wells	276	246	219	189	153	285			237		439	331	\$ 2,375
Labor			200	200		800	100	500			400	200	\$ 2,400
Equipment													0
Supplies			350	338			736	475		671	965	101	\$ 3,636
	276	246	769	927	153	1,085	1,436	29,595	237	671	1,804	10,969	\$48,168

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF **HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (HACA)** IS GOOD AND IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ALONG WITH THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**.

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HONOR • FROM 1

probably the best first-hand account of army life on the Texas frontier. This is especially true of his pre-War account which takes up the majority of the narrative.

Bliss, born in Rhode Island, entered West Point when he was fifteen years old. Graduating 41st in the class of 1854, he was immediately sent to Texas, arriving as a Second Lieutenant at Fort Davis in October 1855, a year after the fort was established.

What he found there was a primitive post hundreds of miles from civilization, writing, "At Fort Davis we had at first

to depend entirely upon the subsistence department for our food. There were no settlements in the state within two hundred miles and the only Mexican settlement was Presidio del Norte, which was one hundred miles south in Mexico, and they had nothing to sell, except watermelons and Mexican sugar." The nearest subsistence depot was San Antonio.

The living quarters were barely habitable, Bliss writing, "Mine was about fifteen feet square and six feet high from the floor to the cross joints that would have supported the ceiling if there had been any." The roof was canvas, and the only



Larry Francell, Contributor

window glass was in the commanding officer and quartermaster's quarters who had paid for delivery from San Antonio. Candles of poor quality provided illumination at night, and entertainments

were few.

When Federal troops left Texas in May 1861, Bliss was captured and spent almost a year as a prisoner of war before being exchanged. Initially appointed colonel of a Rhode Island regiment, he rose in command to Major General of Volunteers participating in the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Siege of Vicksburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, the Siege of Petersburg, including the Battle of the Crater. At Fredericksburg, Bliss was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In October 1863, while on leave, Bliss married Martha Nancy Work, and at the end of the war

he chose to remain in the Army, reverting to the rank of major in the 39th Infantry. By 1870 he was back in Texas. In March 1873 he was back at Fort Davis in command of the post three times, the longest tenure from September 1873 to April 1874.

Fort Davis had changed. As he reported, the post "had been entirely rebuilt since I last saw it in 1861. All the old quarters and barracks had disappeared and had been replaced by new stone quarters and adobe barracks." A civilian settlement had grown up near the fort, and life was much more pleasant. He found the climate delightful with cool sum-

mers and mild winters writing, "My wife kept a record of the temperature during the summer of 1873 and from June 1 throughout the summer the temperature was not above 84 degrees in the shade."

Zenas Bliss's second tour of duty at Fort Davis was much more enjoyable than the first. He would be promoted to Colonel to command the 24th Infantry in 1879 and retire as Major General in 1897, serving a month shy of 47 years, and the only soldier to serve at Fort Davis both before and after the Civil War. He and his wife are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

SRSU • FROM 1

friendly and looking for treats. Once they're in the bucking shoot, they put their game face on. They know what their job is. They get in there, buck their eight seconds, and then they're done for the day," Aragon remarked.

The program, in its infancy, has a good group of yearlings that have already been in the chutes for practice bucking. A dummy is strapped to these young horses, and they turn them out to see how they do. "One of our yearlings, the smallest of the bunch, bucks just like his mother. He's never been around her when she was bucking, but when we put him in the chute, he turned and bucked to the right, just like she does," said Aragon.

These young horses are conditioned and worked with starting very young so that once they're ready to hit the chutes to learn

their jobs, they're not hard to work with. "You don't want to wait until a horse is five or six years old and fully grown to begin working with them. By that time, they can be unmanageable and hurt you if they're not used to being handled. We start working with them around six months or so. By the time they're ready to walk into a chute with a rider on their back, they're easy to handle and not as big a danger to our athletes or themselves," Aragon added.

Aragon says his current bucking herd is 40-strong, and the growth of the herd going forward will depend on the rodeo team size. "Right now, we have a good size team, and 40 horses is a good number. If the team numbers increase, we will of course need to increase the size of our herd. If they decrease, then we may cut back."

At about year four, the

initial yearling herd will be ready for full-on rodeo action. Fed well and kept healthy, these horses have a career span of easily 20 years or more. Aragon's goal is to take these good mares and breed them with some of the top bucking stallions in the business, to create a herd that tops anything in the region and beyond.

Besides creating a great herd of practice bucking stock, Aragon likes the fact that his team members get to see and work in a behind-the-scenes aspect of the rodeo game. "These athletes will get the full experience of rodeo with the addition of this program. Bulls are easy to come by. Good bucking horses are not. With this new program that we've started, the athletes will learn how to approach these animals from start to finish. They will get the experience of working with a young horse, who you



Yearling bucking stock, produced by the Sul Ross Rodeo program.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

can't just throw a rope over their neck or walk up and halter like you can a seasoned horse. They'll get to learn the patience involved in starting these young horses on their journey to hopefully becoming great in a few years. That kind of experience is invaluable to someone who wants to

rodeo, and especially one who wants to make a career of this sport."

"In 20 or 25 years, after I'm gone, I hope this program has produced some top-of-the-line bucking horses. Horses that could be NFR contenders for some stock contractor, and the money made from the possible sale of any of

these horses put into an endowment for our rodeo scholarships. These scholarships are what help keep our rodeo program strong. They help with our recruitment of talented athletes, and having this breeding program be successful should just add to our appeal," Aragon concluded.

COUNCIL • FROM 3

will help toward covering the estimated \$4 million in repairs still needed at the wastewater treatment facility. There will also be a \$1 increase for natural gas services to help with the upkeep of facilities.

The resolution passed unanimously. All increases will become effective October 1.

The next item on the agenda passed unanimously, with Councilor Nance abstaining, approving the recommended Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Grant Awards from the HOT Committee. The HOT Committee is appointed by the Alpine City Council.

Among the listed recommendations, the HOT Grant Awards, totaling \$400,000, will be used to enhance sites such as Kokernot Field, The Ritchie, and Granada. The funding would be supplemental in nature. The city will reimburse qualifying businesses for money spent to make improvements.

Director of Tourism Chris Ruggia addressed the council as the HOT Committee chair.

Beyond historical significance, Ruggia said "the position of the structure within the community" carries value when considering funding usage for future enhancements.

"The only thing that we require is that they put on the project that they said they were going to do," said Ruggia.

The resolution passed unanimously, with Nance abstaining. Nance recused himself from the vote to avoid a conflict of interest because he is on the Art Walk Board.

The final item up for action at the meeting involved a payment of \$47,840.00 from the Texas Class Capital Improvements Reserve

Fund for the city's required matching amount for the Texas Department of Transportation mobility project. It passed unanimously.

Councilor Nance said it will bring bike lanes throughout the entire area.

"It will dovetail nicely into our mobility program," he said. "I'm hopeful for

this grant to provide some really good information to go on from here. We need corridors that folks can walk through, for bicycles."

The next regular meeting of the Alpine City Council is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., September 3, in the Council Chambers.

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 Stock#24126T
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 Retail Customer Cash \$3250 AND Retail Bonus Cash \$1750 **OR** *Retail Bonus Cash \$1750 AND
 *Summer Sales Event Customer Cash \$900 PLUS
 *0% APR @ 36 months, 2.9% APR @ 48 months, 3.9% APR @ 60 months, 4.9% APR @ 72 months

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 *Summer Sales Event Customer Cash \$900 PLUS
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2024 FORD F-150 4X4 SUPERCREW STX
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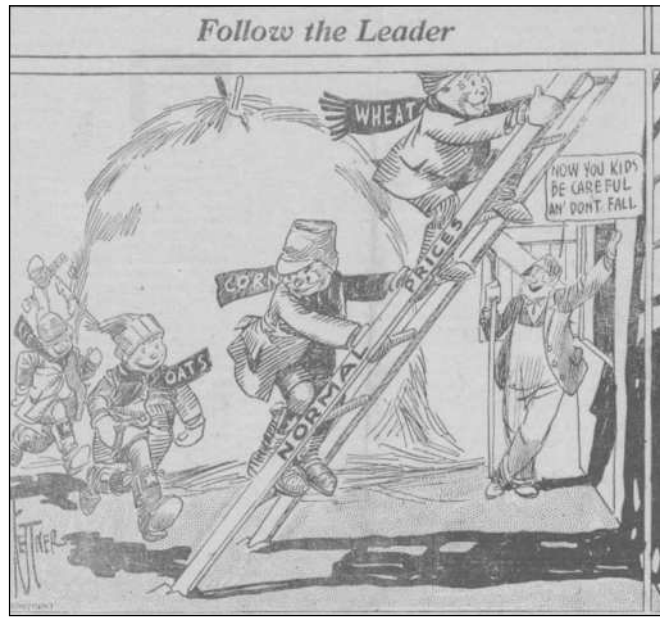


August 2, 1917

Mr. Will H. Mayes, the former dean of the Department of Journalism at the University of Texas is a weekly contributor to the Avalanche. Mayes writes The Passing Day column.

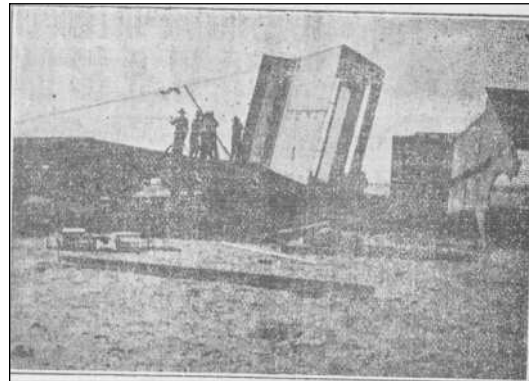
August 24, 1922

Indicative of commodity pricing today, this cartoon sketch helps relay the idea of inflation, by representing the cost of oats, corn, wheat, and other grains increasing.



August 22, 1918

The local Metal Products Association received a box-car load of metal furnaces last week. These furnaces will be a part of the new Smelter which is under construction.



August 3, 1922

Barney Oldfield, earned the title of "Master Driver of the World" in 1903, after a series of car racing victories. Oldfield was able to earn these victories and this title thanks to his study of tires, what they're built out of, and how they are constructed. Now, Oldfield has become the "Master Tire Builder," building and selling his tires to racers all across the nation.

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

Cedar bark beetles, the scourge of trees after weather extremes

Dear Neil: My redcedar tree started off with one branch that looked like it was dying, and since it seems to have spread. Any idea what this could be?

I would almost guarantee you that it's the work of cedar bark beetles. They have killed thousands of eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) this spring and summer. You'll probably see pencil-lead-sized holes in the bark and, as the bark falls away, you'll probably also see the tunnels of the larvae exposed just beneath the surface. Frankly, I've never seen them attack red cedars like they have this year. Arborists and entomologists have told me that it's probably due to the extremes in winter cold weather the past three years coupled with high summer temperatures last year along with prolonged drought in late summer the past

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

two years – just a convergence of bad conditions. It has been far more common on trees in native stands and unirrigated landscapes. Once impacted, trees are difficult to salvage.

Dear Neil: You frequently recommend a "glyphosate only" herbicide, but I've been unable to find a product that does not have some other ingredient. Can you mention a brand name?

Ask for the "original Roundup." It will have glyphosate as its only

active ingredient. It will have water and inert ingredients, but no other herbicides combined with the glyphosate. You'll need to look at the fine print on the label to find that information. Other brands on the market are also "glyphosate-only." Talk to a Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional or a veteran hardware store or feed store employee. They will be able to show you one or more that they handle. The good thing about glyphosate products is that they kill grasses and other weeds very effectively without contaminating the soil. They have no impact on plants' roots.

Dear Neil: I found a butterfly bush and some autumn sages at prices too good to pass by. Should I plant them now in these really high temperatures or put them in pots and wait until spring

to plant them into the ground?

Let's meet in the middle. I'm assuming they're already in pots. You could re-pot them into slightly larger pots to give them some fresh potting soil. That would make it easier to keep them watered now until mid-fall, then you could plant them into your perennial bed. I hate to see you try to carry them over until spring. That's a lot of time during which bad things can happen to plants in pots. The second choice would be to go ahead and plant them now. They were probably out in the weather where you bought them, so they should be well acclimated to it. They may need a light trim to help them adjust, and you'll want to water them by hand for the first six or eight weeks to be sure they don't dry out before they get rooted into the new soil.



TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 national gemstone of Australia

5 TXism: "busy as ___ -armed fry cook"

6 children

7 TX Matson who won gold in shot put in 1968 Olympics (init.)

8 last name of Dallas City Hall designer

9 TXism: "changes his ___ often as he does socks"

15 "Foard County ___" (newspaper)

16 TX Michael Johnson won gold here in 1992 (4 x 100 relay)

19 James Bond's code number

21 bye in Mexico

22 TXism: "couldn't hit the side ___" (poor shot)

27 depend on

28 in Lubbock County on U.S. 62 & 82

29 most mature fruit performers

30 first two initials of 8-across designer

33 27th governor, familiarly (2 wds.)

36 irritate or annoy

37 this Jeff of Houston Oilers committed suicide in 1993

38 delighted

39 state north of the Red River

41 TXism for "your"

42 48-across is a ___ city

45 decline, decrease

46 star Paul of Texas-based 1963 film "Hud" (init.)

47 members-only warehouse store: "___ Club"

48 Yemen port city

49 TXism: "___ fiddle string"

52 sharpened

53 also called "off-the-rack" or OTR

54 Dallas Stars leag.

55 a fancy Brooklyn coffee

DOWN

1 White ___, Texas

2 Hawaiian taro dish

3 county that is north of Ector and south of Gaines

4 French-based musical (2 wds.)

8 unskilled laborer

9 TXism: "got too ___ fire" (spread too thin)

10 first two letters of U.S. tax agcy.

11 she was wife of Gov. Connally (init.)

12 TXism: "was around when the ___ only sick" (old)

13 Alan of "The Aviator" about TX Hughes

14 dirt

15 Perryton is a city in ___ Texas

16 cowboys wear big ___ buckles

17 TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't ___ in Texas"

18 highest academic honors go to ___ cum laude graduate

20 extremely

22 TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ a holler"

23 small lie

24 TXism: "useless as perfume on ___"

25 "beer ___" (big stomach)

26 Austin band: "___ at the Wheel"

28 TXism: "___ take a faith healer to fix it" (poor condition)

31 J.V. "___" Sikes was an A&M star in the 1920s

34 TXism: "mighty fond ___"

35 "___ low, sell high"

37 TXism: "busy as ___ -armed paper hanger"

40 TX Trini's "If I ___ Hammer"

43 arithmetic

44 "Hook ' ___!"

50 TXism: "fresh married" (___ wed)

51 "in the year of our Lord" abbr.

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Sports

Bucks begin preseason with strong outing against McCamey

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine High School Fightin' Bucks started the preseason Friday, August 16, against the McCamey Badgers with great performances by both the junior varsity and varsity squads. While there were no winners or losers in the scrimmages, the Bucks's defense swarmed and their offense hustled, making McCamey look more like prairie dogs than badgers.

The teams played the event in a 10-10-8 format, with each squad getting 28 offensive plays, playing defense while the op-

posing team played their 10 (or 8) offensive plays. McCamey took the first offensive possession during the varsity scrimmage.

"Our defense played extremely well on Thursday evening," said Alpine Head Coach Andy Smith. "We wanted to see our student-athletes get the call, fit in their gaps, get off blocks, and run to the football. They did just that. They were physical and tackled extremely well."

McCamey scored only once against Alpine's first-team defense. There was a mistimed jump for a pass on the outside. Coach

Smith called it an "easily correctable" mistake. Otherwise, the Bucks' defense had McCamey's quarterback scurrying like a squirrel to find an easy nut, but purple and gold closed in on the run and pass at every turn.

"Our defensive coaches will continue to work on the fundamentals and techniques to improve our skills," said Coach Smith. "The entire group played extremely well. Logan Smith, Darius Portillo, a freshman, Alec Ramos, and Zeke Guillen—this group played extremely



Junior Dae Hardwick played well on both sides of the ball, showing off one of the many weapons Alpine Head Coach Andy Smith has at his disposal for the 2024 Fightin' Bucks season.

Photo by Felipe Fierro.

See BUCKS • 9

Alpine volleyball teams compete at Best of West Tournament

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

See VOLLEYBALL • 9



The AHS Varsity volleyball team proudly displays their medals from the recent Best of the West tournament in Wink.

Courtesy photo

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1:15-1:45pm Jeremy McCarroll Band
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3:00-4:00pm Julio Torres
4:15-5:45pm Rick Ruiz
6:00-7:30pm Pecos River Band
7:45-9:15pm Zauna
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Fightin' Buck and Lady Buck Sports Schedule

LADY BUCK VOLLEYBALL
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 (Vars. only) TBA
Aug. 27 Van Horn vs Alpine
F @ TBA, JV @ 5 p.m., V @ 6 p.m.
Aug. 29-31 Fillie Festival Tournament-Denver City TBA

FIGHTIN' BUCK FOOTBALL
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.
Sept. 6 Alpine vs Fort Stockton JV @ 5:30 p.m., V @ 7 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY
Aug. 24 Tall City Invitational (HS/MS) @Midland-Hogan Park
Aug. 31 Crane Invitational @CraneGolfCourse
Sept. 6-8 Port Aransas (Varsity) @Port Aransa Beach

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ZANE PERKINS

Freshman, Zane Perkins, demonstrates a great work ethic and has gained valuable experience in his first 2 varsity cross country races this season.

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BUCKS • FROM 8

well and had several QB pressures along with some deflected passes.

“Lee Leeland read his keys well, and everything he did was fast. He was playing fast. He was physical when attacking potential blockers and ran to the football. He tackled well in space.”

Alpine’s defensive backs took advantage of numerous low snaps from the center to McCamey’s quarterback. When the young Badger QB recovered from a low snap and somehow managed to throw the ball, the Bucks secondary punished receivers with brutal open-field tackles.

After a few big hits, McCamey receivers began looking over their shoulders for Bucks defenders, dropping passes left and right. Coach Smith applauded the secondary for

their excellent work.

“This is the strength of our team,” he said. “We covered well, and we were tackling well in space. Iden Lujan, J.P. Valenzuela, and Dae Hardwick made some tremendous tackles and hits in space. Isaac Fierro came up with a big interception.”

Coach Smith spoke glowingly of his defensive line, as well, saying Davian Fierro continues to dominate the inside. Seth Dutchover maintained a major presence in the backfield, rolling off blocks to make tackles. In all, the Alpine defense stayed hot throughout the night, with few exceptions.

“We stayed fairly simple throughout the scrimmage,” said Coach Smith. “We did not stunt, slant, or blitz. We did not disguise coverages in the backend of the secondary. We wanted to see our kids

line up and run our base defense. I’m extremely excited to watch this unit grow throughout the upcoming weeks.”

Even though referees blew the whistle to kill the play immediately upon turnovers, it didn’t stop Junior Defensive Back Dae Hardwick from pulling a gem out of the air for a clean interception.

“There was a lot of momentum going into offense—if [the referees] didn’t call it off,” said Hardwick. “But yeah, it felt great for the team, for me. It was a great moment.”

The Alpine offense dominated the Badgers for much of the night, moving the ball up and down the field with ease.

“We threw and caught the ball extremely well,” said Coach Smith. “Devon Rojo and Iden Lujan commanded the offense. They checked and audibled

plays when we needed to. Dae Hardwick, J.P. Valenzuela, and Ethan Flores ran crisp routes. Logan Smith ran the football well between the tackles and showcased why he will be one of the top running backs in Region 1 in class 3A.”

The first play during the Bucks’ first offensive possession resulted in an interception, but senior Devon Rojo shook it off and scrambled for about 20 yards the next play. Coach Smith said the quick recovery is a result of a short memory.

“Bad things will happen throughout a game, and it is important for quarterbacks to move on to the next play,” he said. “He did just that and played extremely well after that initial play.”

During one series in the scrimmage, the Bucks scored once and then scored again, but the sec-

ond was called back and spotted for a loss of yardage because of a holding penalty. Undaunted, the Bucks went into the endzone a third time—in three plays. There hasn’t been that much chain movement in Alpine this year since the local prisoners worked the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store.

“We are continuing to throw and catch well,” said Coach Smith. “This has improved tremendously from last year. Our student-athletes invested a lot of time in the spring and summer with seven-on-seven and running routes/catching footballs. This will be a huge benefit as we move forward throughout the season.”

Alpine standout Logan Smith, running back, punched the ball into the endzone multiple times, surely giving the Badgers defense sleepless nights after the matchup. Smith

showed his power on a number of plays, carrying three defenders on his back to gain yardage before being brought to the ground.

“It felt good,” said Smith. “It felt good to get a touchdown again. Glad to get the season going.”

The Bucks travel to Pecos this week for a scrimmage against the Eagles football program on Thursday, August 22, in the final pre-season scrimmage of the fall. JV will scrimmage at 5 p.m. in Pecos at Eagle Stadium, and varsity will begin at 6 p.m.

“This week’s theme is ‘Doesn’t Matter, Get Better,’” said Coach Smith. “It applies to the ‘Win the Day’ theme. It does not matter what happened the day before or how well or how bad you did. It does not matter, get better. You either get better, or you get left behind.”

Heat a big factor for cross-country runners

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

A small group of the Alpine High School Cross Country team traveled to Jim Ned this past weekend to compete in the Warpath Invitational. Three members of both the boy’s and girls’ teams represented Alpine at the meet.

The Runnin’ Bucks competed against teams from divisions 2A to 6A from across the state.

Alpine Cross Country head coach Cory Cason said, “The heat has been a factor so far this season. These morning races at Jim Ned were

no different.”

Varsity runners Emy Hernandez, Molly Garrett, and Colette Fowlkes competed against 112 other runners, and all three were able to bring down their race times by a full minute.

“Bringing those times down a full minute was a great improvement and indicates that the girls are getting their race legs under them,” remarked Cason.

Hernandez placed 29th out of the field of 115, Garrett placed 31st, and Fowlkes came in at 54th place.

For the boys’ team, Hatfield Cason, Zane Perkins, and Clegg

Fowlkes represented the Runnin’ Bucks against 129 other athletes.

“Hatfield had a rough start in this race. He had a fall off the line but was able to grind it out and fight his way to the front to end the race with a third-place finish behind Jim Ned and San Angelo Central athletes,” Cason exclaimed.

Next week, both the middle school and the high school teams travel to Midland to compete in the Tall City Invitational on Saturday, August 24.



Emy Hernandez and Molly Garrett were two of the three girls’ Cross Country Team members who competed at the Warpath Invitational this past weekend at Jim Ned.

Courtesy photo

VOLLEYBALL • FROM 8

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 build-

ing 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.

AMS Volleyball mastering skills



The Alpine Middle School volleyball team worked on different skills during the first week of school. Their first game is scheduled for Thursday, September 5 against Wink. Both the seventh and eighth grade A and B teams will play, with both B teams scheduled to play at 5 p.m. while the A teams are scheduled to play at 6 p.m.

Courtesy photo




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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of Lorenzo M. Lara**, were issued on August 13, 2024, under Docket No. PR03175, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Lorinda Ann Gonzales.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Lorenzo M. Lara, Deceased
c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law
LAW OFFICE OF ELIZABETH J. LEWIS, PLLC
P.O. Box 101
Marathon, Texas 79842

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 August 14, 2024

Lorinda Ann Gonzales
By: *Elizabeth J. Lewis*
Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Representative

CAUSE NO. PR-03177

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **JAMES MICHAEL SMITH, Deceased** § **IN THE COUNTY COURT OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS**

§ SITTING IN PROBATE

PUBLISHERS AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein is the PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS for the publication in the ALPINE AVALANCHE of the Notice to Creditors on August _____, 202

/s/ Robert E. Steele
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Alpine ISD
704 W. Sul Ross
Alpine, Texas 79830

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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
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SENIOR Spotlight

HOPE DOMINGUEZ


In what activities did you participate in high school?
 I played all four years of volleyball, basketball, cross country, and track. I also did two years of powerlifting and one year of softball. I also took a three-year CNA (certified nursing assistant) program as well as three years as a Bible camp coordinator. Also, student council, athletics leadership, and NHS.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
 I would say my favorite teacher/coach would have to be Mrs. Cason. She has been coaching me since I was in 7th grade and until now. She has always been very motivating and never fails to leave a smile on my face! I am very grateful to be able to say that she has coached me all these years!

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
 My favorite moments would have to be the ones I shared with my family and friends these past four years and of course, all the trips I take with my teams. Being in many different groups has led me to make friendship connections with many great people!

What are your plans after high school?
 After high school, I plan to attend college and study nursing. I also want to try and start working with my CNA certification while I am studying to help me make more connections with my studies.

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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

Abiding

BY CLARK NUSSBAUM
 First Assembly of God, Alpine

Struggling in your everyday life? Well, there is hope that is found in Jesus Christ. He tells us in John 15 that if we abide in Him, He will abide with us: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." We must come to the realization that we can do nothing outside of Him. He is asking us to abide in Him because it is our choice. Once we agree to surrender to Him, then He will fulfill His promise to be in us by His Holy Spirit that will guide and direct us constantly.

Once you have decided to abide in Him, there are three things you should do to maintain that relationship. The first one is to read the Bible. The Bible is God's Word to us, with many purposes to assist us. Throughout the Bible, we are told that everything may cease to exist, but His Word will last forever.

The second one that you should do is pray. Religious people try to make this

some extravagant wording that nobody understands. Remember that the Heavenly Father wants a relationship with you. To have a great relationship with someone, you must talk to them. Otherwise, the relationship will fall apart. That is what prayer is about. It is talking to the Father, spending time with him, and listening.

The third one that you should do is be in fellowship with like-minded followers of Christ. We, as humans, were created to be social beings. In Genesis, we read that the Father would come in the cool of the evening to fellowship with Adam and Eve. In Acts 2:42, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and prayer. Luke 4:16 reads, "And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read." Even Jesus practiced the idea of attending service on a regular basis. Shouldn't we all follow His example?

I challenge you to consider abiding in Jesus Christ and let him transform your life. Read the Bible, pray, and be in fellowship with fellow followers of Christ. Carry on to the prize set before us!

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Creamy, savory, one-pot pasta cooks in less than an hour

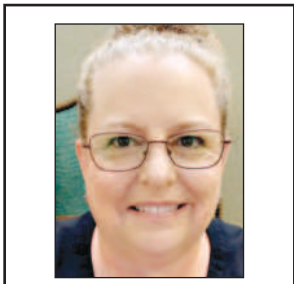
There's nothing much more satisfying than a creamy and savory bowl of pasta. Except for one that only requires one pot and is ready in less than an hour.

Tangy cheese, earthy mushrooms, and sweet leeks combine with cream, lemon, and white wine to create a rich sauce for this pasta lover's dream.

In just 30 minutes, your friends and family will think you spent hours on this dish.

And any type of short pasta will do. Penne, casarecce, or pipe rigate are all great choices, as are other short-pasta options.

Take note of your pasta cooking times for this dish, however, as you



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

will need to stop cooking it just shy of al dente—around three minutes.

Another great thing about this one-pot wonder is that you can switch up the herbs for an entirely different flavor, as well as the type of mushrooms you use. You also should use fresh herbs, if possible, because they're just better for this type of dish.



White Wine Pasta with Mushrooms and Leeks

Courtesy photo

As for the wine, well, a nice sauvignon blanc or pinot grigio will do. Have leftover wine? No problem. You can always freeze wine in ice trays to use at a later date. That's right, it freezes. Just

think of the possibilities.

So, when time is short, but you want something that packs a punch with flavor, whip up this one-pot creamy pasta dish and end your crazy day on a satisfying note.

ONE-POT WHITE WINE PASTA WITH MUSHROOMS AND LEEKS

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound of cremini mushrooms, trimmed and sliced
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 medium leeks trimmed and thinly sliced (white and green parts only), about 1 1/2 cups.
- 4 medium garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 1-pound short pasta, such as penne, casarecce, or pipe rigate
- 3 cups of water
- 1 1/3 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for serving
- 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- plus 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oil in a large saucepan (Dutch oven) over medium-high heat.
- Add mushrooms and cook, stirring often, until all liquid has evaporated — about 12 minutes.
- Add butter, stirring until melted.
- Add leeks, garlic, and 1 teaspoon of salt; cook, stirring often, until leeks are tender—four to five minutes.
- Stir in pasta, water, stock, wine, and remaining salt.
- Increase to high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, until about three minutes short of al dente (check cooking time on package).
- Stir in cream and simmer until sauce evenly coats pasta—about three minutes.
- Remove from heat.
- Stir in cheese and herbs, lemon juice, pepper, and zest.
- Divide pasta evenly among shallow bowls and serve topped with Parmigiano-Reggiano.

MEET THE BUCKS: ALPINE ATHLETES GREET THEIR FANS



Alpine Fightin' Bucks football team players Tae Hardwick, Iden Lujan, Logan Smith, and Devon Rojo were introduced last Wednesday night during the Meet the Bucks ceremony at Buck Stadium. In their final season as Buck football players, these four seniors will be tough contenders throughout the season.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



The Alpine Varsity volleyball team was full of smiles at last Wednesday night's Meet the Bucks ceremony.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

The AHS cheerleaders performed stunts and cheers to pump up the crowd last Wednesday night during Meet the Bucks.



Photo by Kara Gerbert

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