

Hospital district applauds AISD CNA program, discusses 2025 budget

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District (BBRHD) met on Wednesday, August 28, at 5 p.m. in their boardroom. Vice Chairman Valynda Henington was absent.

After the call to order and roll call to certify a quorum, the board opened the floor to public comment. Although there was a significant crowd, there were no public comments.

The next item of business was a public hearing to hear citizens' views on the BBRHD fiscal year 2025 budget that will begin this year on October 1 and end on September

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FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024.13.62"
 September.1.64"



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.



County ratifies increase in property tax revenue

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioner's Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 27, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom. All commissioners were in attendance.

The first item of business after the meeting was called to order was a public hearing on the proposed 2025 Brewster County Budget. This included a review of the budget and any public comments. There were no public comments on the budget, but a brief discussion between commissioners ensued.

After no public comments were forthcoming,

Brewster County Judge Greg Henington adjourned the public hearing and immediately opened the public hearing regarding the 2024 tax year rates and related items.

The agenda listed the Maintenance and Operations (M and O) rate of 0.33192 per \$100 value and the Interest and Sinking (I and S) rate of 0.017502 for a total proposed rate of 0.349422. There were no public comments on the 2024 tax rates.

After the commissioners' brief discussion, Judge Henington adjourned the public hearing



Brewster County Judge Greg Henington

on the tax rate and called to order the regular meeting.

Item one on the agenda for the regular meeting was the discussion and adoption or other appropriate action concerning the FY 2025 Budget for Brewster County. After a brief conversation, Judge Henington motioned to accept the FY 2025 budget, which was followed by a second from Pct. 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega. The motion was approved unanimously, and the court approved the adoption of the FY 2025 budget.

The first item of the

agenda, Item B, was the discussion and action to ratify the increase in property tax revenue. Thanks to new property being added to the tax rolls, property taxes increased the newly adopted budget by \$401,810.

With a second from Commissioner Ortega, Judge Henington moved to approve the ratification of the increase in property tax revenue. The motion was approved.

The court's next order was to set the M and O and I and S tax year 2024 rates.

Item A was the discussion and approval of the M and O Tax Year 2024 tax rate to be set at 0.33192. Commissioner Ortega made a motion to

approve it, with a second from Pct. 4 Commissioner Mo Morrow. The motion passed.

Item B was the discussion and approval of the I and S Tax Year 2024 tax rate to be set at 0.017512. Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve, with a second from Pct. 1 Commissioner Jim Westermann. The motion passed.

A motion to approve the total tax rate for the amount of 0.349422 was made by Judge Henington with a second from Commissioner Ortega. The motion passed.

Item C was to adopt the Tax Rate Order. Last year's rate was 0.366547,

See BUDGET • 6

Bucks fought to keep the Skyrockets grounded



In a gritty, penalty-ridden game, the Fightin' Bucks fought hard to keep the Skyrockets out of the endzone last Friday night. Despite impressive plays from Dae Hardwick and Logan Smith, the Bucks struggled against the larger players of Wellington.

Photo by Noe Lujan

Mayor calls to remove councilor Stone, approves action items

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

The Alpine City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. All council members were in attendance.

After Alpine City Mayor Catherine Eaves called the meeting to order, the first item of business was a public hearing regarding Replat 2024-09-01, a replat application to be filed by Sara Bow to remove the internal lot lines and reflect the updated ownership from the

City of Alpine to Bow. This is regarding the recent sale of an alleyway to Bow on the corner of North 4th Street and Avenue E. The current zoning classification is C-2 business and would remain as such. There were no comments on this public hearing.

The second item on the agenda was the first reading of another public hearing to obtain the citizens' views and comments regarding Special Use Permit 2024-08-01.



Megan Antrim, City Manager

The applicant, Michelle Minto, owner of Bock Burger, requested a special use permit to obtain a retailer/dealer's on-premise license through the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for alcohol sales at the subject property. The property owner of record is Sandra Baeza, and the property is located at 603 E. Avenue E. There were also no public comments on this hearing.

The next and final public hearing of the meeting was regarding 2024-09-

04, an ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of Alpine for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal on the city's indebtedness, and adopting the annual budget of the City of Alpine for the fiscal year 2024-2025. There was no public comment on this agenda item.

Changes to the posted agenda resulted in the removal of Item B of the consent agenda, which Ward 3 Councilor Darin Nance requested for

a separate discussion. Nance asked for clarification on Item B, which was the approval of the hangar lease rental rate increase of \$0.01 per square foot ground lease rate at the Alpine Casparis Municipal Airport. With the request for removal for separate discussion, the council had to approve Item B separately from the rest of the consent agenda. Item B of the consent agenda was approved unanimously, as were the other items on the consent agenda.

See MAYOR • 6

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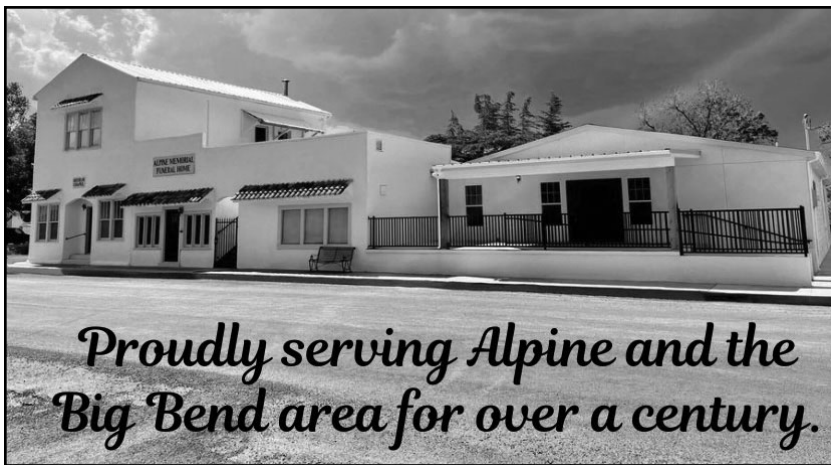
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OBITUARIES

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Juan O. Serrano

Juan "Johnny" O. Serrano, a cherished member of the Marfa community, passed away peacefully on August 26 in his hometown of Marfa. Born on December 27, 1934, Juan dedicated his life to his family and work, impacting those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Johnny was an attendee of Blackwell School and a proud graduate of Marfa High School. His sense of duty led him to enlist in the Army in 1954, where he served as a medic during the Korean War.

Following his honorable discharge from mili-



tary service, Johnny built a reputation for his strong work ethic. His noteworthy career included positions at Rio Grande Electric and Marfa TV Cable. Johnny was best known, however, for his time delivering propane across the Big Bend region. He worked for various companies, most recently retiring in 2017 from West Texas Gas.

A devoted family man, Johnny took immense pride in his children: Johnny Serrano Jr., Michael Serrano, Sylvia Fields (Charles), and Martha Serrano (Robert). He delighted in the laughter and achievements of his grandchildren, Alyssa Alvarez (Nic), Alex Clark, Michaela Amaro (Eduardo), John Michael Serrano (Jenna), and Matthew Fields (Lee), as well as his great-grandchildren, McKenna, Gabe, Lorenzo, Bentley, and Logan. Johnny's greatest accomplishment was undoubtedly his family, with whom he shared countless cherished moments.

Throughout his life, he

found joy in simple pleasures. He was known to be an avid fan of boxing, MMA, and UFC, and he enjoyed relaxing with morning coffee and a Little Debbie's snack cake while catching up on CNN. His warm spirit and kind heart left a significant void in the lives of those who knew him.

Johnny joins his beloved wife of 58 years, Anita Vasquez Serrano; his parents, Julian and Seferina Serrano; his twin brother, Jose "Cookie" Serrano; his brothers, Henry Serrano and Reymundo Serrano, and his sister, Gloria Chavira, in eternal rest.

Visitation was held on August 29 from 9 a.m.

to 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 211 W San Antonio St, Marfa. A Holy Rosary was prayed at 10 a.m., and a Mass commenced at 10:30 a.m. Juan was laid to rest at Merced Cemetery at 11:45 a.m. Pallbearers were Alex Clark, Matthew Fields, Nicholas Alvarez, Eduardo Amaro, John Michael Serrano, and Larry Serrano.

Juan "Johnny" O. Serrano will be remembered for his dedication, resilience, and the love he shared with all.

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

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

William Allen Peters

October 3, 1940 - September 2, 2024

William Allen Peters passed away peacefully at his home in El Paso on September 2. His family is deeply grateful for the eight beautiful months they shared with him following his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in January.

William was born on October 3, 1940, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, to Luke and Katherine Young Campbell Peters. He graduated from Garland High School and earned his business administration degree from Texas Tech University. There he met and married Sherry Kemp Peters, a native of Alpine. This year marked their remarkable 60th wedding anniversary.

After graduation, Bill and Sherry moved to Dallas where he began his career with General Electric. They transferred to Louisville,



Ky., and then to Schenectady, N.Y. where Bill joined the GE corporate audit staff. He transferred to become a GE region manager of small appliances in Naperville, Ill. He later opened a private CPA practice in San Antonio for eight years before the next move took him to Alpine and Sul Ross State University as the auditor and then controller. He closed his career at the University of Texas at El Paso where he was the Director of Audit for 14 years before retiring at 75.

His career in financial auditing reflected his deep values of integrity and honesty, which flowed into every part of his life. William also shared his financial

acumen and spirit of service with his church and the Lion's Club.

As a young man, he played the trombone, bowled, and ran half-marathons. In recent years, William embraced new passions, including woodworking, spending time at the shooting range, collecting ball caps from his travels, reading Bible devotionals, and savoring huevos rancheros for breakfast. He lived an example of a strong work ethic, he provided for his family, and he reminds us to savor life's simple pleasures—including a good steak, hummingbirds, gooey cinnamon rolls, cowboy art, and the sunset view from his home. He gave credit to his mother for inspiring his faith in Jesus which carried him throughout his life.

William is survived by his wife, Sherry; his two daughters, Elizabeth Peters and Emily Kuhnel; son-in-

law, Benjamin Kuhnel; and his grandchildren, Hezekiah and Adeline. William also lovingly supported six foster children as their temporary grandfather.

A graveside memorial will be held Thursday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m. at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine. A celebration of William's life will be held on Saturday, September 7, at 10:30 a.m. at his home in El Paso.

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

Maria A. Klingemann

July 9, 1950 - May 17, 2024 Saragosa, Texas

The Lord called home a humble servant this past week. Maria Amelia Klingemann of Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, was born to Eusebio and Clementina Rodriguez on July 9, 1950. Maria passed away on Friday, May 17, in Odessa. Maria married John Klingemann in March of 1973 in Ojinaga where they lived for a short time before moving to West Texas where they resided for many years. Since the 1980s, she and John lived



in the Terlingua area before moving to Saragosa, where they resided for the last two years. She faithfully served as a member of the local Volunteer Fire Department and the longest-serving member of the Big Bend Church. Maria took pride in raising her children.

She is survived by her husband, John, daughters Daphne Estrada of

San Angelo and JoAnn Klein of Saragosa; her son, John Klingemann of San Angelo; and many grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, in Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine.

The family requests that anyone wishing to send flowers or make donations instead consider making a donation to their favorite charity in Maria's name. The family thanks the healthcare staff at Odessa Regional Medical Center and ContinueCARE for their outstanding care.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Tuesday, September 10, 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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AHS welcomes new counselor

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor



**Amy White -
 Alpine High School Counselor**

For the past 17 years, Amy White has served students in the Big Bend area as a coach, a teacher, and a principal. White began her career in education in Alpine before transferring her talents to Marfa, where she taught and coached and ultimately became the principal at Marfa Elementary. She has now stepped into the role of counselor at Alpine High School.

White began her new position with Alpine ISD in June, and she says the switch to a larger district has been exciting so far.

"There are many pros to my new position. The people I have the opportunity to work with are great. The best thing is that I now can serve the sons and daughters of many of my college classmates, teammates, and friends," White explained.

White has lived in Alpine for decades, and her new role allows her to get to know the students of the town she's made her home.

"If there is any con to my new role, it is that it is simply a new role to me altogether. Having a great principal and administration team supporting me makes this transition much easier," White commented.

"Lifelong learning, not just as a student, but as a teacher and educator, is vital to provide more for the students and the community."

White says she looks

forward to assisting students as they begin to pursue their post-secondary goals.

"Whether they plan to attend college, technical school, or go directly into the workforce, I look forward to assisting these students in their plans. Networking is crucial when students compete for scholarships, college acceptance, or simply improving their day-to-day achievements," remarked White.

While she's still serving students, she said there are a few differences between her current position and her last role as an elementary principal.

"The biggest difference is the age level and

goals for the students. My role now, while still in a guidance position, is to prepare these high school students for their immediate college and career goals. What those goals are will ultimately affect their course load as well as any internships or certifications they may need as they transition to post-secondary education," White stated.

White is thrilled about the challenge of learning the new and different aspects of her new position and says she looks forward to each day; as every day she becomes more comfortable with her new duties, she helps guide the students of AHS toward a bright future.

APD hosts child safety seat certifications



The Alpine Police Department along with other first responders from across West Texas held a training and certification last Thursday evening for Child Passenger Safety Seats. Local APD officers Alexis Armendariz and Karina Legarreta were certified and will be able to assist the Alpine community in the future.

Courtesy photo

SRSU announces fall schedule for Guided Hikes on Hancock Hill

Sul Ross State University has announced the schedule for the Fall 2024 series of Guided Hikes on Hancock Hill. Each Guided Hike is led by a Subject Matter Expert (SME) from Sul Ross State. Themes vary, but participants will learn about the history of Alpine and SRSU and the natural history of Hancock Hill while taking in stunning views. The 1.8-mile hike is moderately strenuous and begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings and lasts approximately two hours.

The fall schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 14, "Trail Work Day." Volunteer work may

include picking up trash, trimming trail vegetation, goathead removal, and repairing structures. Tools and supplies will be provided.

- Oct. 5, "Archaeology of the Big Bend." Dr. Bryon Schroeder, Center for Big Bend Studies
- Nov. 23, "Arthike for Artwalk"
- Dec. 7, "Big Bend Bears." Matt Hewit and Caitlin Pappas, Borderlands Research Institute

The hikes are free and open to the public, though only 12 hikers will be allowed for each event. A reservation is required and can be made online at www.sulross.edu/guided-hikes.

Hancock Hill Guided Hikes are a collaborative effort among the Borderlands Research Institute, the Center for Big Bend Studies, the Rio Grande Research Center, and the Department of Geology.

Watch SRSU's social media channels on Facebook and Instagram for more information soon. Hikes will also be announced on area bulletin boards and through visitor centers. Faculty, staff, and students available to lead one or two hikes per year are needed as volunteer guides. For more information, email guidedhikes@sulross.edu.

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A copy of the Request for Proposals can be found at:

brewstercounty.gov
under Public Notices

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

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ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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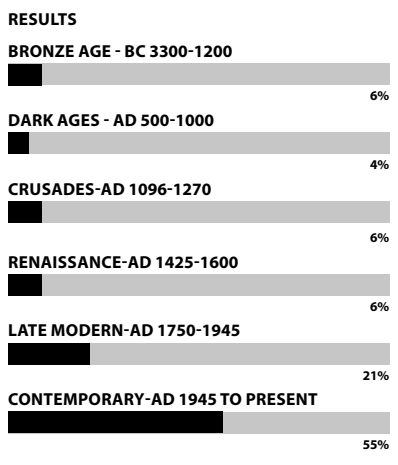
How concerned are you about the upcoming presidential election?

- Extremely Concerned
- Fairly Concerned
- Somewhat Concerned
- Not Concerned

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.

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

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BOONIEVILLE



Where Buck Pride Runs Deep

BY DR. MICHELLE RINEHART
AISD Superintendent

As we start off the 2024-25 school year strong, Alpine ISD is leaning into three themes that exemplify our district this year: #WeAreAlpine, #OwnOurExcellence, and #BuckPrideRunsDeep. Here is a bit more about each of these mantras.

#WeAreAlpine reminds us all that rural school districts are the backbone of their community. Here at Alpine ISD, we educate our community's future citizenry. We serve as a social hub for community-wide events. We preserve and promote Alpine's traditions and heritage. We contribute to our local economy, serving as one of the major employers in town. We support Alpine families with meals, health-care services, counseling, and childcare. We provide facilities for public use, from youth sports leagues to community walking groups. We foster a local identity, embodying the values of our community. We are a school district and so much more.

Alpine ISD has a rich and complex history serving the Alpine community. Formed in May 1907, the Alpine Independent School District has served our community for over 117 years. Integrating Alpine ISD schools in 1969 provided more equitable educational opportunities for our community's children, thanks to the local and state advoca-

cy of Hispanic families in Alpine. Over the past century, our community has worked together to advocate for and build public schools that serve as the pillar and center of Alpine. In so many ways, we are Alpine.

Our second theme for the year, #OwnOurExcellence, is a two-part phrase. First, it focuses on naming and celebrating the daily excellence we see from our students, staff, and families in Alpine ISD.

From Alpine Elementary students exceeding their ambitious monthly reading goals to Alpine Middle School educators fostering students' leadership and character development to Alpine High School students outperforming the state of Texas on every single state assessment metric to our business office earning a perfect financial integrity score for the third straight year, it is empowering to publicly celebrate the great things happening every day in our public schools.

This is even more important now when state leaders are actively (and artificially) ridiculing Texas' public schools in an effort to force Texas taxpayers to back unpopular voucher schemes that would



Dr. Michelle Rinehart,
AISD Superintendent

siphon funding from financially starved public schools into private institutions with no public accountability.

Our people's excellence continues to disprove the false narrative that Texas public schools are failing; we see countless coun-

terexamples of that fabrication every day here in Alpine ISD.

Second, and importantly, another aspect of the #OwnOurExcellence vision is the importance of taking ownership of areas where we don't yet meet the mark. We are an imperfect district made up of imperfect people. As such, there are numerous areas where we are actively working to improve continuously. From early learning mathematics outcomes to kindergarten readiness to post-secondary matriculation, there are areas where we have not yet met our or our community's goals for excellence. This is a responsibility we take seriously.

Owning our excellence means taking responsibility for our success in all areas and doing the hard work every day to become even 1% better. The Alpine Fightin' Bucks Football program's mantra for the year, Win the Day, exemplifies this mindset. If we take

ownership of winning the day, every day, we will build on our daily successes to create even higher levels of impact. To this end, owning our excellence involves celebrating our current successes while also collectively taking responsibility for growing tomorrow's greatness.

Our last thematic phrase for this year is a reminder that #BuckPrideRunsDeep. Alpine ISD is a place of deep belonging. From a student's first day of pre-kindergarten to their final walk across the stage at their Alpine High School graduation, each of our kids is a Fightin' Buck. Many of our students are second, or even third-generation Bucks.

Being a Buck means something. It means being honest, respectful, responsible, compassionate, fair, and accountable. It means being proud of where you come from and making where you come from proud of you. It means being part of something bigger, something special.

As we launch into the 2024-25 school year, we're thrilled to welcome every one of our Fightin' Bucks back to Buck Nation, where, together, we are Alpine. We can't wait to own the excellence that we will grow together this year and see how this will deepen the pride Alpine has in its public schools. Our public schools are just that: ours. We are proud to serve our community and proud to be the Alpine Fightin' Bucks!

Come on, I'll make the popcorn

"Saturday night at the movies

Who cares what picture you see

When you're hugging with your baby,

In the last row in the balcony."

— Song lyrics by the Drifters, 1965

"Is it OK to sit there?"

My question was about finding a place to land and enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee a few Saturdays ago. I was at the Farmer's Market in downtown Center, where Stacy Riley's coffee bar is a new addition to her business. Searching the array of fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, and freshly baked goodies to find a chair, my eyes skidded to a stop on a row of old theater seats resting quietly against the wall.

The quest was a place to sit and enjoy the java, but I couldn't stop staring at the antique seats. A friend joining me for coffee suggested a bistro-style table and chairs strategically situated in the middle of the building, likely there for snacking purposes. While I agreed that choosing not to roost on the row of antiques was the wiser choice, my attention was fixated on the movie house refuges. I couldn't quit admiring them. "Wonder if they might be

for sale," I whispered to myself. I could already picture them in my living room. My eclectic collection of relics I fondly call home furnishings — my refuge from formality, where a unique application of "vintage fēng shui" pieces creates a harmonious balance of well-being and positive energy.

No, I'm serious.

Subtle touches. Like a four-foot-tall working traffic light that once did intersection duty in Nacogdoches and spans half the distance from the floor to the ceiling. A 1957 Mueller fire hydrant weighing more than three refrigerators once graced a street corner in Boerne, down in the Texas Hill Country. A 1920s windup RCA Victor "Victrola" with a genuine 1950s "Nipper" display dog from the well-known Ken Woods collection.

To name a few.

"Yes," I smiled. "The theater seats would go perfectly with the set of drive-in movie speakers slated to be added soon."

Excitement escalated when Stacy shared that the row of four folding wooden seats belonged to someone who purchased them a couple of years



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

ago at a garage sale at the old icehouse where her business is located in downtown Center and never returned to pick them up.

It was meant to be upon learning that the purchaser and I attend the same church and have been friends for many years. Who would have guessed? One phone call and a deal was done.

The seats were headed to my house.

But wait! There was a bonus—a story. An antique is just an object, you understand, but an antique with a story becomes a treasure. Stacy said the theater seats were said to have once provided seating for movie patrons at Center's almost 100-year-old historic Rio Theatre on the downtown square.

The Rio Theatre has a history of its own. It was built and opened in 1926 by the C.P. Smith family and has been in continuous operation since. It was initially named the Shelby but changed to Rio when neon was added. As the story goes, the high cost of neon utilizing fewer letters made "Rio" half the price of "Shelby."

Mike and Nita Adkison bought the Rio in 1975 and

renovated it to keep its vintage appearance and feel. "I recognize this part," Mike said, pointing to a cell phone photo of the seats. "And this part here," he noted of the armrests. "I thought the sides were straight, and these are curved, but that was a long time ago."

"Yep," he finally confirmed, "These seats came from the Rio. Replacing the seats was one of the first things we did when we bought the Rio." Nita's recollection added specifics. "Those are the seats that were in the balcony."

I'll invite friends over to enjoy a cup of coffee and a movie - a movie viewed from seats that, in all likelihood, were once occupied by Center movie patrons watching all-time best movies to grace the silver screen over the years. Gone With the Wind in 1939. Citizen Kane in 1941. Casablanca in 1942. On the Waterfront in 1954. Lawrence of Arabia in 1962. Maybe even the Godfather in 1972.

Y'all come on. I'll even make the popcorn.

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

Heard on the STREET

If you could instantly obtain any ability, what would it be?



Derek Harris: I'd love to be able to speak any language.



Cricket: Probably be able to fly any helicopter or airplane.



Gene Clark: The ability to play and sing music.



Woody Woods: Film star.



Grant Richardson: I would obtain the habit of being more organized. I really want to be able to use my time more efficiently.

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Tigger!

The great thing about Tigger is that he is smart, friendly, and charismatic. Tigger came into the shelter with his brother Tank after repeatedly getting out of their yard. They have done fine at the shelter yards and enclosures, so they should do well in a secure yard. Make sure they interact with their humans and are not just left outside alone all the time—they will do fine!

Tigger walks well on a leash and could be a great walking, hiking, and camping companion. He keeps a clean kennel and enjoys a Kong treat in the evenings; keeping this good guy happy doesn't take long.

Alpine Animal Services is overloaded with dogs and cats right now; please consider volunteering some time to walk dogs, play with puppies in the yard, or interact with the cats. Thirty minutes of your day can make a huge difference to the shelter and

the animals.

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

Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer for the Alpine Humane Society. Support the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery with donated furnishings, décor, and household goods.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. 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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, including enchiladas, rice, beans, salad, dessert, and a drink.

September 7 Boy Scout Fundraiser, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in front of Family Dollar. Troop 41 will have breakfast items as well as desserts to raise funds for camping fees and other expenses.

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

October 11-12 Alpine High Class of 1970s Reunion, Registration closes October 1. For information and registration see



the Alpine High Facebook page.

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 Chorus 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 bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

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

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Hike with Homeless Dogs, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 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.

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §§26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.439205	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.422705	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.498208	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 City of Alpine from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Alpine 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 City of Alpine is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 10, 2024 at 5:30 pm at and on September 17, 2024 at 5:30 pm at City Council Chambers 803 W. Holland, Alpine, Tx.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Alpine 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 Alpine City Council of City of Alpine 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:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: R. Stone, E. Olivas, D. Nance, L. Escovedo, R. Stephens
 AGAINST the proposal: _____
 PRESENT and not voting: _____
 ABSENT: _____

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 City of Alpine last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Alpine this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2023 adopted tax rate \$0.457554	2024 proposed tax rate \$0.439205	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year) per \$100, or (percentage difference between tax rate for preceding year and proposed tax rate for current year)% DECREASE - \$0.018349
Average homestead taxable value	2023 average taxable value of residence homestead \$160,080	2024 average taxable value of residence homestead \$175,697	(Increase/Decrease) of (percentage difference between average taxable value of residence homestead for preceding year and current year)% INCREASE - \$15,617
Tax on average homestead	2023 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$732.45	2024 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$771.67	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between amount of taxes imposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the preceding year and the amount of taxes proposed on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the current year), or (percentage difference between taxes imposed for preceding year and taxes proposed for current year)% INCREASE - \$39.22
Total tax levy on all properties	2023 levy \$2,243,250	(2024 proposed rate x current total value)/100 \$2,255,826	(Increase/Decrease) of (nominal difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year), or (percentage difference between preceding year levy and proposed levy for current year)% INCREASE - \$12,576

HOSPITAL • FROM 1

30, 2025.
Alpine ISD Superintendent Michelle Rinehart, spoke to the board about increasing the allotment for the CNA program at Alpine High School.
“In its third year, AISD has gone from seven students in the first year to now 63. We will have eight seniors this year obtain their CNA certification before graduation. We’re requesting an increase for this program from the budgeted amount of \$52,500 to \$68,000 due to the number of students,” Dr. Rinehart said.

She also informed the board that they are developing regional CTE partnerships with Marfa and Marathon, supported by grant funding. This initiative will benefit Marfa, Marathon, and Alpine students by expanding CTE programs across campuses, such as the CNA

program. If one school offers a program that another does not, students will have the opportunity to participate, enhancing educational opportunities for everyone involved.

Chairman Buddy Cavness commented, “We were really hesitant about helping fund the CNA program at first, but even to our surprise, it has flourished, and the district has done a great job keeping it going and growing the program.”

After the comments for the public hearing, the board turned to old business.

At their last meeting on July 9, the approval of a marketing proposal for the Community Paramedicine Program was tabled until this meeting.

After some brief discussion with the board and an explanation from Executive Director Lynette Brehm, Brehm told the board that she wanted a company called JBS

Consulting to speak with Presidio and the Terlingua Fire and EMS about their paramedicine programs and how they could better advertise those services. She reminded the board that the cost for these services would come from the USDA Grant awarded to the board.

Chairman Cavness moved to accept JBS Consulting as the marketing company for the paramedicine program. Board Secretary Angela Juett approved, and Board Treasurer Regan Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the consent agenda, which included the approval of previous family-related absences. Reed made a motion with a second from District I Director Dr. Laura Portillo for Angela Juett’s absence and a motion by Juett with a second from Portillo for

Reed’s absence. Both passed unanimously.

The minutes from the previous meeting were also approved with a motion by Juett and a second by Reed, along with the approval of the financial reports for June and July, with a motion by Reed and a second by Juett.

Action Item D on the agenda was a presentation of the proposed tax rate levy calculations for Presidio and Brewster counties. A lengthy discussion ensued, with Brehm noting that the Presidio numbers were not final. Eventually, the chairman called for a roll call vote after Reed made a motion stating that the Presidio numbers were not final and that they would have to come back and amend the proposed tax rate approval at the next meeting. Juett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was an update

on the Fiscal Year 2024 Medical Enhancement Grants. Brehm told the board that not all awarded grants had been collected by the recipients and reminded the board that these grants end in September. There was approximately \$100,000 left to reimburse the organizations that were awarded.

In new business, the board discussed the options for a permanent or temporary relocation of the Presidio office and to take action if necessary. After a lengthy discussion, Juett motioned to table the item until the next meeting, with a second from Reed. The motion was approved unanimously.

In some final business, Brehm’s report discussed the discontinuation of Desert Imaging’s mobile mammogram unit, and the board and Rebecca Terrazas from Big Bend Regional Hospital added

to the discussion about the future of mammogram options for the hospital and the Big Bend communities.

Brehm also discussed the growing Indigent Care Program and how many people were unaware that the BBRHD offered this program and that it was one of its primary functions. Brehm said, “There is a big misconception about what we do as the BBRHD. We must look at how we can change this perception through marketing.”

Lastly, Brehm welcomed two new employees to the Presidio office: Denise Carrasco, a grant administrator, and Anna Piñon, who was not present but was introduced as the new patient advocate.

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District’s next regular meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, in Presidio.

MAYOR • FROM 1

Action item A was the only action item not approved by the council. It was the approval of the first reading of Ordinance 2024-09-01, an ordinance authorizing the vacation, abandonment, and sale of .025 acres of city-owned property, a 10-foot-wide strip out of W. Brown Avenue right of way.

The Applicant, Li Feng Ni, requested the purchase of the right of way to obtain a clear title for the sale of the house adjacent to the city-owned property. A motion was made by Ward 5 Councilor Rick Stephens with a second by Ward 2 Councilor Eva Martinez; however, after some discussion, with comments from Councilor Nance about the property being bought and sold previously with no issues on a clear title, the council voted unanimously against the sale of the city property.

Action item B was the approval of the first reading of Ordinance 2024-09-04, the ordinance making the appropriations for the support of the City of Alpine for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025; appropriating money to a skinking fund to pay interest and principal on the city’s indebtedness, and adopting the annual budget for the City of Alpine for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Councilor Stephens made a motion with a second from Councilor Nance.

This was followed by an explanation from Antrim, who informed the council that this budget would increase last year’s

budget by \$12,576, a 0.5% increase from last year’s budget tax revenues. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property is \$13,328. These amounts are based on the city’s proposed fiscal year 2025 property tax rate of 0.439205 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The city’s total debt obligation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget is \$229,785, with \$51,400 secured by property taxes and \$178,385 from the Water, Wastewater, and Sanitation Enterprise Fund. The Maintenance and Operations tax rate (0.439205) will increase taxes on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$16.50. The council unanimously approved this action item.

Action Item C was the approval of the 2024-09-01 resolution to continue the collaborative improvement efforts for 2024-2025 between the City of Alpine and the Alpine Country Club (ACC) to accompany the 2016 lease. Councilor Stephens made a motion to approve with a second from Councilor Martinez. Discussion ensued and included stipulations of the continued collaboration from Antrim, where she informed the council that ACC would be required as part of their lease and the partnership to submit capital improvement plans quarterly to the council. Ward 1 Councilor Reagan Stone commented, “Without making a definitive statement, I think you are probably one, if not the biggest water consumer in Alpine. In the future, I hope we will put policies in place that plan for extreme drought and implement these

measures as needed.” This agenda item passed unanimously.

Action Item D resulted in Mayor Eaves calling for a point of order followed immediately by a request from council members, with a show of hands, to remove Ward 1 Council Member Reagan Stone from the meeting.

The action item was a resolution requesting the support of state representatives and the Texas Legislature to pass a bill authorizing the city to transition from May General Elections to November General Elections. Stone placed the action item on the agenda.

After a motion from Stone and a second from Nance, a pleasant discussion ensued until Stone, who wanted to have final comments on the subject, repeatedly tried to talk over Mayor Eaves as she was calling for a vote. Eaves warned Stone that if he continued after she’d called a point of order, she would remove him from the meeting. When Eaves called for the show of hands to remove Stone, no council member raised their hand for his removal. She then moved on to the vote, which passed with a 3-2 vote in favor of the action item.

Action item E was Sara Bow’s approval of the replat application. Stephens motioned with a second from Stone, and the item passed unanimously.

Likewise, Action Item F also passed unanimously. It was the approval of Michelle Minto’s special use permit for her restaurant, Bock Burger, requesting the ability to sell alcohol at the premises at 603 E. Ave E.

Action Item G ap-

proved the bid proposal for repairs to Clarifier #1 and the drying beds at the wastewater treatment plant. The lowest bid went to Dowtech Specialty Contractors for an estimated \$1,760,481. After a motion from Stephens and a second from Stone, Andy Avecellio of Jacob and Martin presented what would be completed during the repairs. Avecellio’s company secured the bids and ensured that TCEQ approved everything involving the repairs. After some discussion and questions on the project, the council unanimously approved the bid proposal.

Finally, before the council recessed into executive session, Mayor Eaves reminded the council in her executive report that they had approved an ordinance previously on decorum, and that she had read the ordinance at the beginning of the meeting. Eaves asked the council

if they would actually follow what they passed. She also commented that despite rumors, this council had integrity and was not meeting outside council meetings to conduct business. In closing, she reminded the council to be aware that one person on the council does not represent the views of the entire council and that using city emails, letterheads, social media, or any other city-

associated correspondence for personal use is strictly prohibited by law.

With a motion from Councilor Stephens and a Second from Ward 4, Councilor Lucy Escovedo the council adjourned into executive session at 7:27 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Alpine City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m.


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 1, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M

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

REPLAT 2024-10-01: A REPLAT ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, RUBEN LOSOYA, TO AMEND LOT LINES TO PROVIDE CONFORMANCE WITH R-4 ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT OR ABOUT 806 S. CACTUS STREET AND IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS 1.482 ACRES OUT OF THE SOUTH 3.0 ACRES OF THE WEST HALF (W/2) OF BLOCK 2, MEANS ADDITION “A,” BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING ALL OF THAT CERTAIN 1.483 ACRE TRACT DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENT NO. 105626, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD IS RUBEN LOSOYA. THE PROPERTY ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 11311. THE CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY IS R-4 MOBILE HOME DISTRICT. IF THE REPLAT IS APPROVED THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WILL REMAIN R-4 MOBILE HOME DISTRICT.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT 2024-10-01: A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AUTHORIZING THE APPLICANT, PERLA BAEZA, TO OBTAIN A (MALT BEVERAGE) RETAIL DEALER’S ON-PREMISE LICENSE (BE) FROM THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A BEER GARDEN THAT WILL INCLUDE MALT BEVERAGE SALES AT THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT THE PREVIOUS FARMERS MARKET, 107 E. MURPHY. THE PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD IS PERLA BAEZA. THE PARCEL ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 34500.

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

BUDGET • FROM 1

4.67% higher than this year’s rate. This year’s M and O rate increased by 5.11%, but the I and S decreased. The slight increase will add \$16.14 per \$100 valuation for the M and O rate.

Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the tax rate order, followed by a second from Pct. 2 Commissioner Sara Colando. The motion was approved.

In other news, Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator James Etchison requested that the court extend the burn ban for Brewster County for another 45 days beginning September 1. Commissioner Ortega motioned to approve this

extension with a second from Commissioner Morrow. The motion to extend the burn ban passed unanimously.

Commissioners also heard from Texas AgriLife Extension Agent Luke Hendryx. Hendryx reported to the board about an Ag Literacy program conducted at the end of the school year with Pre-K Four through Third Grade, concentrating on Poultry Science. Hendryx went to Alpine Elementary to talk about chickens and set up incubators in classrooms to hatch chickens.

Hendryx also told commissioners about a program in conjunction with the Big Bend Sportsman’s Club to help get hunters

certified through the hunter education program and that it also coincides with AgriLife’s Outdoor Challenge.

Finally, after brief reports from the Rio Grande Council of Governments 911 Coordinator Kayse Muratori, Road and Bridge Superintendent Johnny Salcido, and the Brewster County Treasurer’s and Auditor’s offices, the date for the next regular meeting of the Brewster County Commissioner’s Court was set for September 10 at 9:30 a.m. followed by a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Ortega with a second from Commissioner Colando. The meeting was then adjourned.

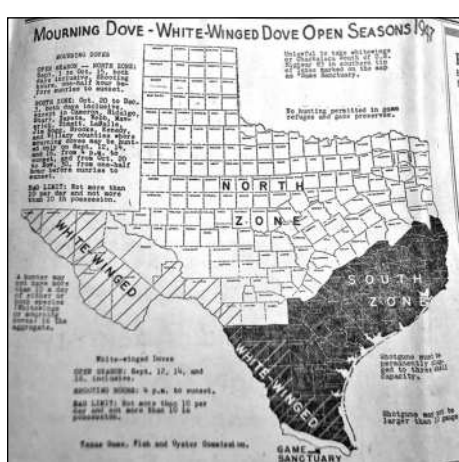
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LOOKING BACK
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SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY



September 5, 1947
 This map depicts the dates for the opening of dove hunting in Texas. White-winged dove season is open in Brewster County from September 12 through the 16, with a 10-bird-a-day bag limit. Shooting times are from 4 p.m. until sunset.

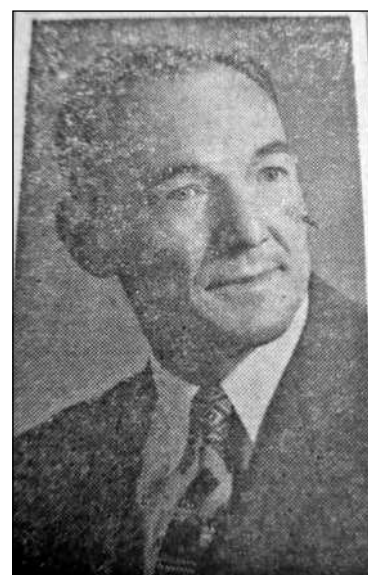


September 15, 1944
 Dr. W. E. Lockhart of Alpine is pictured here with 14 other doctors from Texas as part of the staff in a New Guinea hospital. Lockhart is in the back row with his hand raised, holding the surgery sign.



September 11, 1953
 Ted Otis will be performing in the "Stars and Stripes Forever" movie showing at the Granada Theatre. Otis has been billed as the world's greatest baton twirler and served as a twirling technician at the Sul Ross College band clinic and majorette school this past summer. The movie is based on the life of John Phillip Sousa, known for his composition of marching band music.

September 25, 1953
 Alpine High School will host Young and Company on October 5 at 1:30 p.m. for a matinee performance of magic. Mr. Young and his company are known for distinguished magicians, illusionists, and showmen.



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

Shade and moisture are key to growing Japanese Maples in Texas

Dear Neil, This Japanese maple was planted in April. The leaves look distraught. Am I watering too much or too little?

It looks very healthy. Japanese maples are native to areas where summer temperatures generally stay in the 70s and low to mid-80s. In hot Texas, it's not uncommon for them to show leaf burn on their tips and edges. The secret is to grow them in the shade and always keep them moist. Warning: Your support wires should be several feet higher on the trunk, and the stakes should be much more substantial for a tree with this much leaf canopy.

Dear Neil, I have this vine (see photo) climbing up my Texas mountain laurel. An app suggests that it's a morning glory. How can I eliminate it? It's at the base of the mountain laurel, which has been surrounded by lantana for several years.

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry

Your app served you well. There are some tenacious members of the morning glory clan, many of them perennials that keep coming back vigorously from their roots every spring. Your best bet would be to dig down with a large trowel or sharp-shooter spade and separate the plant from its root system. Let the top die before you remove it from the mountain laurel. Its stems will become dry and brittle. They'll be much easier to break and pull out at that point. Weedkillers aren't going to be of much help because the roots are

extensive, and you'd have a hard time getting enough of the herbicide into the plant's leaves to kill the entire vine.

Dear Neil, my house is less than two years old. I have had trouble getting grass to grow. The house faces north, and I only have about 11 feet between my home and my neighbor's (zero lot line). I have hybrid bermuda, but I don't think I have enough sunlight. The builder also brought in clay soil before planting the grass. The ground gets packed down due to traffic, and I can't aerate due to rocks. Can I build up the soil base by adding better soil each year?

Goodness. Where do I start? First, while you still have summertime sun, measure how many hours of direct sunlight this area receives from late spring through summer and into early fall. Those are the prime growing months. Bermudas need seven or eight hours of direct sun-

light. Zoysias need six or seven. St. Augustine needs six hours. That's to thrive in each case. You might be able to shave one hour off each estimate if an area had no traffic and your measurements were accurate.

Adding soil will not help. Lack of light is a lack of light, and it's unrelated to soil and nutrition. As for the traffic, no grass will be happy in the shade with a lot of traffic. Bermudas hold up better, but we've already ruled it out due to insufficient light. St. Augustine might survive, but it doesn't hold up to traffic. If you have a lot of people walking through, you might go for steppingstones or a gravel pathway with edging and then use a ground cover such as purple winter creeper euonymus. Getting started would cost a bit more, but the frustration factor would be reduced significantly. I've used a lot of it in my landscape.



Japanese Maples

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

ACROSS

- 1 short crazes
- 5 TXism: "I smell ___" (suspicious)
- 6 rattling sound made by unhealthy lungs
- 7 TXism: "that gets my dander up"
- 8 Texan guard Kenyon Green was ___ twice
- 18 TXism: "___ earned his spurs" (achieve)
- 19 TXism: "limp ___"
- 21 Faye of 1978 "Eyes of Laura Mars" with TX Tommy Lee Jones (init.)
- 22 Dallas community college: "Mountain ___"
- 23 "___ it" (do it quicker)
- 24 "___ quarter, call someone who cares"
- 29 camping shelter
- 30 cat with a mane found in zoos
- 31 TX Dabney Coleman 1990 film: "Where the Heart ___"
- 32 TX Jack Johnson defeated "the ___ hope" (1910)
- 34 TXism: "thinking ___ doing"
- 35 swab the floor
- 36 "Staked Plains" in NW Texas: "Llano ___"
- 37 woman's purse (2 wds.)
- 38 of sound mind
- 39 TXism: "I'd have ___ to die" (sick)
- 41 flower bud protector
- 42 "surf the ___"
- 43 TXism: "chucklehead"
- 44 "know-___" (smarty-pants)
- 45 one hour ahead of CST
- 46 not describing Texas
- 47 no longer fresh
- 48 lab cylinder (2 wds.)
- 12 Harris of Texas based 1985 film "Alamo Bay"
- 13 ___ Star, TX in Eastland County
- 14 "this ___ a drill" (real danger)
- 15 former Cowboys coach, Gayley
- 16 in Smith County on highway 135
- 17 "Davy Crockett ___ Forest"
- 20 Oak Ridge Boys sing country and ___ music
- 22 what Gov Abbott did with a bill he didn't like? (2 wds.)
- 24 ___ Bissinger wrote "Friday Night Lights"
- 25 archaic "before"
- 26 "___ in Peace"
- 27 "I can't ___ more bite" (full)
- 28 coaches in frontier Texas
- 29 piece of gossip teller of fibs
- 33 ten-gallon ___
- 34 it's placed at "Lone Star Park" (2 wds.)
- 35 Texas has Bigtooth ___ trees
- 37 TXism: "happy as a kid in ___"
- 38 TX Bobby who co-founded Black Panther Party
- 40 fork prongs
- 41 thrust a knife
- 44 TXism: "cough ___" (pay me)
- 47 Joan of "Gunpoint" with TX Audie
- 49 ___-and-error

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

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Sports

Alpine Fightin' Bucks drop season opener to Wellington, 38-12

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks kicked off their 2024 football season with a challenging road test against the Wellington Skyrockets on August 30 at Hardin Simmons University. Despite a gritty effort and a game that hung in the balance through three quarters, the Bucks ultimately fell to the Skyrockets, 38-12.

The game began with promise for Alpine, as Dae Hardwick set the tone early, returning a punt 63 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to put the Bucks on the board. Hardwick's explosive play energized the team and the Alpine faithful in attendance, showcasing the Bucks' big-play potential.

Wellington responded with a series of methodical drives, relying on their balanced offensive attack to take control of the game.

Alpine's defense, led by a strong showing from linebackers Alec Ramos and Logan Smith, managed to keep the Skyrockets in check through the first half, with the Bucks trailing by just eight points heading into the fourth quarter.

AJ Llanez and Davian Fierro led the offense in tackles, with five and four, respectively, battling to help keep the Skyrockets' running game limited.

The Bucks' defensive backs played a crucial role in keeping the game close. JP Valenzuela made several key tackles, and Dae Hardwick added to his standout performance with an interception and goal-line fumble recovery. Their efforts in the secondary helped limit the Skyrockets' passing game and kept Alpine within striking distance.

Logan Smith was a standout performer for Alpine, carrying the ball for 77 yards on the night and



Fightin' Buck quarterback Devon Rojo searches for an open receiver last Friday night in Abilene against a tough Wellington defense.

Photo by Noe Lujan

scoring on a spectacular 42-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Devon Rojo in the third quarter.

Smith's score brought the Bucks within striking distance, but costly penalties and Wellington's relentless offense in the final quarter allowed the Skyrockets to pull away.

Neither team managed to connect on a field goal PAT throughout the game, with both kickers struggling to find their rhythm under the pressure of tight defensive

battles. The Bucks had a crucial opportunity in the third quarter when they attempted a two-point conversion following Logan Smith's 42-yard touchdown catch, but they were stopped short by Wellington's stout defensive line.

Penalties proved to be a thorn in the side of both teams, with frequent flags disrupting the flow of the game. False starts and holding penalties plagued offenses on both sides, as inconsistent snap counts

led to repeated setbacks and stalled drives.

The penalties cost valuable yardage and sapped momentum at critical moments, making it difficult for either team to establish a sustained offensive rhythm.

"It was a hard-fought game," said Alpine Head Coach Andy Smith.

Looking ahead, the Bucks have a chance to bounce back in front of their home crowd. Alpine will host Fort Stockton in

the home season opener at Buck Stadium tomorrow night in what promises to be an exciting showdown.

Fort Stockton comes into the game with momentum after a strong showing in their opener, defeating Lake View High School from San Angelo in a nail-biter.

Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m., and Alpine will be looking to feed off the home crowd's energy to secure their first win of the season.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MOLLY GARRETT
AHS CROSS COUNTRY

Molly Garrett earned 16th place in her first 5K race with a time of 22:52. 3A girls run the 2 mile but a few invitationals offer a 5K for the girls. Garrett's 7:22 mile pace was an impressive display of her fitness and willingness to challenge herself.

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Alpine welcomes new girl's head basketball coach

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Taryn Johnson is not new to coaching. Before coming to Alpine, she coached at West Mesquite High School outside Dallas, where she taught physical education and was the assistant coach for girls' varsity basketball.

In her new role at Alpine High School, Johnson will teach physical education and exercise science. Her coaching duties include assistant coaching the cross-country and track teams and head coaching the varsity girls' basketball team.

When asked what advantages she brought to Alpine from her previous experience, Johnson said, "I believe coming from a sports-driven metroplex allows me to bring a fresh mindset to Alpine. I have no preconceived limitations on how great our pro-

gram can be."

Johnson's goal for all her students, whether in the classroom or on the court, is to become comfortable with being uncomfortable.

"I hope everyone realizes they can do great things, even if it is scary initially," Johnson proclaimed.

"My motto for this year is, 'Why not us?' It changes every year based on where I am and where the team is. It is very fitting considering some of our kids hold themselves back, fearing things won't work out for them."

This year, Johnson says she will strive to build team confidence.

"Basketball and our running program graduated some major pieces last year, so roles are going to look very different but very promising this year," she said.

"I have the opportunity to shadow Coach Cason,



Taryn Johnson - Girls Head Basketball Coach

who is very knowledgeable, so I'm trying to absorb all her wisdom and help our cross-country and track programs find continued success," Johnson stated.

Coming into a new community and school, Johnson says that her reliance on the staff and administration at Alpine High School has been huge for her transition.

"Everyone has been so

friendly and welcoming. It has helped out so much, and I'm finally beginning to find my rhythm with the new processes and expectations," Johnson remarked.

Although Johnson arrived here via the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area, she is no stranger to Alpine.

"I played basketball at Sul Ross for a year at one point, and I enjoyed Alpine so much. After moving to the city to finish my schooling and begin my career, I was ready to get out of the busy metroplex after a few years," she said. "Taking this position at Alpine High School was perfect. It has allowed me to live free of the busy city yet continue to do what I love," Johnson concluded.

Cason takes gold in Crane

BY COACH CORY CASON
Contributor

Hatfield Cason and Molly Garrett had stellar performances in the 5K at the Crane Invitational over Labor Day weekend. Earlier in the season, Cason ran a 16:16 in Pecos, but the Pecos meet was a road race and was slightly under the 5K distance.

On Saturday, Cason beat his true XC PR by 10 seconds, finishing in a time of 16:29. He won the varsity boys 5K by almost a minute, with Crane's Morales and Monahan's Graves coming in second and third.

Molly Garrett earned 16th place in her first 5K race at 22:52. 3A girls run the 2-mile, but a few invitationals offer a 5K for the girls. Garrett's 7:22 mile

pace was an impressive display of her fitness and willingness to challenge herself.

Sophomore Colette Fowlkes led the high school girls in the 2-mile, cutting her race time significantly. Freshman Alice Saunders, in only her second XC race, improved her time by over a minute. Everett Edwards and Clegg Fowlkes were both successful in improving their 5K times this week as well.

The middle school team is the largest in recent years and brings excitement to the course. The Alpine MS girls placed fifth behind Andrews, two Midland junior highs, and Wink. The girls were led by 8th grader Hallie Wood and 7th grader Georgia Muratori, both placing in the top

20, 10th, and 17th, respectively. Athena Villanueva, Kelli Kearns, and Natalia York helped the girls earn fifth out of 15 teams. Perez, Holguin, and Young led the Alpine MS boys' team, placing 14th, 22nd, and 57th out of 117 athletes. The next middle school race will be in Presidio on Wednesday, September 11.

While the middle school has off this coming weekend, several high school athletes will travel to Port Aransas to compete in its annual invitational and get some beach training in. The girls' team is looking forward to senior Hope Dominguez joining them in her first race of the season, and all are looking forward to challenging themselves on the beach terrain against new competitors.

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Alpine tennis team gears up for a promising season

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine High School tennis courts may be quiet now, but the team is gearing up for an exciting start in January 2025. Head Coach Lauren Martinez, now entering her second season with the team, is optimistic about what lies ahead. With around 14 returning players and a wave of talented freshmen, the upcoming season promises both intensity and growth.

Although the team won't officially begin play until January, Martinez is already counting on the experience of her returning athletes and the enthusiasm of her newcomers.

"We're expecting several freshmen to add intensity to the team," she said. Among the standout freshmen are Emerson Walker, Andynne Ramirez, Lilianna Mendoza, Julianna Kinkade, and Rose DeGuia, who have all demonstrated growth in key skills and a strong determination to win, making them valuable additions to the high school squad.

This season, the team is setting its sights on advancing multiple players to regional and state competi-

tions. Coach Martinez emphasizes the importance of consistent daily improvement and effort.

"This season's goals are to improve every day, point by point," she explained. "Coming to practice every day and giving 110% effort to improve fundamental tennis skills will assist us in reaching these goals."

The team looks forward to participating in key tournaments in Andrews, Reagan County, and San Elizario in the spring when they hope to put their hard work to the test.

Martinez brings a wealth of experience and a passion for the sport. In her 11th year with Alpine ISD, she has dedicated much of her career to coaching young athletes, initially as a cheerleading and volleyball coach at the middle school level.

She played tennis from her middle school days in Fabens and continued through college at Sul Ross State University, where she competed for four years. Now, Martinez is focused on growing the tennis program in Alpine and developing her players' skills and confidence.

With the mix of return-

ing talent and fresh faces, Martinez sees both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. One of the biggest hurdles is boosting the team's confidence, especially when facing unfamiliar opponents.

"There's always room for improvement and growth, and we welcome it with open arms," Martinez noted. "Our players are up for the challenges they face coming into each match, whatever they may be. There's always a struggle with confidence, especially with opponents that we haven't met before, but our players are dedicated and ready to give each match everything they've got."

While every match presents its own set of challenges, she believes her players are prepared to tackle them head-on with dedication and heart.

The community's involvement will be crucial in helping the team reach its goals. Martinez encourages locals to come out and support the players during their matches. She also has her sights set on expanding the program beyond the school year, with plans to introduce a summer tennis camp in 2025.

"I'm hoping this will increase support for the AISD tennis program and grow a love for the sport amongst our students," she said. The camp aims to nurture young talent and build a strong foundation for the sport within the community.

Martinez's message to her team and their supporters is clear: excitement and readiness to begin the season. She's eager to see how the players' dedication translates on the court.

"We will be hosting the District Tennis meets for Middle and High School here in Alpine at the end of April," she said, expressing her hope for strong community turnout and support. "I'm looking forward to our upcoming season and can't wait to get started!"

With a combination of experience, fresh talent, and a coach who's deeply committed to the sport, the Alpine High School tennis team is ready to serve up an impressive season. As the players work to improve every day and take on the challenges ahead, the community's cheers from the sidelines will surely be the perfect rallying cry.

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www.alpineavalanche.com

Alpine Lady Bucks shine in home opener and Fillie Festival

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Lady Bucks Volleyball team has been making waves early in the season, demonstrating their growth and determination in a series of recent matches. Their first home game of the season, held on August 27, saw the Lady Bucks face off against Van Horn, with matches played by the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity teams.

The freshman Lady Bucks showed resilience in a three-set match, securing a victory with scores of 25-20 and 25-14, despite a challenging second-set loss of 17-25. The JV team exhibited strong performance, defeating Pecos in straight sets with scores of 27-25 and 25-11. The varsity Lady Bucks dominated their match against Van Horn, winning decisively in three straight sets with scores of 25-19, 25-12, and 25-16.

The Lady Bucks volleyball program is clearly on the rise, with all three teams executing a quick-tempo defensive system that leverages ball control and speed. This strategy has led to a powerful offensive output, positioning the Lady Bucks as versatile and competitive players in the region.

Following their strong home performance, the varsity team traveled to Denver City for the Fillie Festival Tournament, which took place from August 29 to 31. The Lady Bucks finished second in pool play on Day One, advancing to the final rounds on Day Two, where they secured a commendable seventh place overall. The tournament provided valuable experience, sharpening their skills and preparing them for the challenging district and postseason matches ahead.

The Lady Bucks continued their season with a home game against Odessa



Senior Hope Dominguez exhibits some serious vertical hang-time as she attempts to return the ball against the Van Horn Eagles in last week's home opener.

Photo by Annika Canaba

High on September 3, which was Middle School Night. The freshman and JV teams started at 5 p.m., followed by the varsity match at 6 p.m. The varsity team will next compete in the Sub Varsity Midland Greenwood Tournament on September 13-14, looking to build on their early-season successes.

With an overall record of 5-4 for the freshman, 6-4 for the junior varsity, and 12-10 for the varsity, the Lady Bucks volleyball program is set to be a formidable force as they head into district play. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the team as they strive for excellence on the court.



Notice of Public Meeting

The Alpine Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 pm on September 18, 2024 in the Alpine ISD Board Room located at 704 W. Sul Ross Ave in Alpine Tx. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the tax rate that will be adopted. Public Participation is invited.

Resolution of the AISD Board to Set Tax Rate

Date: September 18, 2024

On this date, we, the Board of Trustees of the Alpine Independent School District, hereby levy or set the tax rate on \$100 valuation for the District for the tax year 2024 at a total tax rate of \$0.9802 to be assessed and collected by the duly specified assessor and collector as follows:

\$0.7552 for the purpose of maintenance and operations, and

\$0.225 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debts.

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Fightin' Buck and Lady Buck Sports Schedule

Lady Buck Volleyball

Sept. 6 Alpine vs Odessa Permian/
Ft. Stockton dual match
F@ 5 p.m.
JV@ 5 p.m.
V@ 6 p.m.
Sept. 10 Alpine vs Andrews
F@ 5 p.m.
JV@ 5 p.m.
V@ 6 p.m.

Fightin' Buck Football

Sept. 6 Alpine vs Fort Stockton JV @ 6:30 p.m.
Fort Stockton vs Alpine V @ 7 p.m.
Sept. 13 Alpine vs Wink
JV @ 6:30 p.m.
Wink vs Alpine V @ 7 p.m.

Cross Country

Sept. 6-8 Port Aransas (Varsity)
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DEADLINES - All ads are due in the office by 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday.

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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.

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.



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OBITUARIES

Matilde Villanueva

Matilde Villanueva, born on June 2, 1937, in Shafter, peacefully departed this world on August 29 in Alpine. Her life, gracefully woven with love, family, and service, will forever be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Matilde dedicated her career to the community, working in the cafeteria at Alpine High School and Morrison's True Value. Beyond her professional endeavors, she was devoted to her family. Matilde's greatest pride came from her family, including her loving husband, Gilberto Villanueva, and her treasured children: Gilbert Villanueva Jr., Marisa Mora, John Peter Villanueva, and Lupita Villanueva-Purvis, grandchildren;



Justin Villanueva, T.J. Zarate, J.P. Villanueva, G.W. Villanueva, Kasey Villanueva, Bianey Villanueva, April Villanueva, John Robert Purvis, Renee Matlock, Joseph Purvis, and Vincent Purvis, great-grandchildren; Raquel Zarate, Lennox Villanueva, Emory Villanueva, Sasha Villanueva, Andrae Villanueva, Amauri Villanueva, Anna Lea Villanueva, and Aniko Villanueva, and her sisters; Nati Chavez and Margie Urquidez. Matilde loved being with her

family.

A woman of many talents, Matilde found joy in sewing and embroidery, often delighting in arts and crafts. She was a Cowboys fan and looked forward to Bingo night.

Matilde's heart was especially devoted to her church community at Our Lady of Peace, where she volunteered her time and served gracefully. This dedication to her faith reflected her deep spirituality and commitment to giving back, which was undoubtedly one of her proudest accomplishments.

She joins her beloved parents, Pedro De La Rosa and Reyes Hernandez-De La Rosa, and her siblings, Pete, Juan, Manuel, Lupe, and Guillermo, in eternal rest.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, September

3, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a Rosary at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial took place the following day, Wednesday, September 4, at 10 a.m., also at Our Lady of Peace. Burial followed at Holy Angels Cemetery in Alpine.

Pallbearers were T.J. Zarate, G.W. Villanueva, J.P. Villanueva, Kasey Villanueva, John Robert Purvis, Joseph Purvis, and Vincent Purvis.

Matilde Villanueva leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion. She will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched.

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



REESE COLEMAN

Senior Spotlight

In what activities did you participate in high school?
Throughout my high school career, I have immersed myself in the FFA serving in multiple offices including, chapter reporter and district secretary my sophomore year, and chapter and district president my junior year. I am currently district treasurer during my senior year. In my junior year, I was inducted into the National Honor Society, and at the end of my junior year I was elected to be a NHS officer, serving as secretary.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
I do not have a favorite teacher or coach. Every one of my educators has helped me grow differently. However, my most helpful teacher has been none other than Mr. Fox. He has "voluntold" me to do numerous things throughout

my high school career and has helped me tremendously with my ability to speak well in public and become a woman who can be a leader.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
My favorite moment in the last four years was leading the homecoming parade on my horse holding the American flag, I felt very patriotic. Mr. Fox allowed me to do this my junior year, and it was definitely a moment I will always remember.

What are your plans after high school?
As of right now my plan for after high school is to acquire my pilot's license. I am currently working on obtaining my private license, but I hope to work up to becoming an airline pilot.

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Devotional Page

Building Muscle with No Protein

BY COLEMAN REIDLING

First Baptist- Alpine

What would you say to someone who told you they were trying to put on muscle by working out but refused to nourish their body with protein? You would probably say, "Look, that won't work. Without protein, you will not build the muscle you desire."

Pivot with me from the body to the soul. Many people admit they would like to grow in their relationship with God. They want God's love and light to fill them and their actions each day. This is admirable! However, many of these same people do not read their Bibles.

Recent studies by Barna and Lifeway reveal that only 11% of Americans read their Bibles daily. A pastor once told me of a man in his church whose wife chided him for not reading the Bible. The man pointed at his pastor and said, "Honey, Brian is my Bible."

See the problem? So many want to grow in faith, yet we omit the very thing that enables growth: taking in God's word daily for ourselves! It is impossible to become a more loving, faithful, and courageous person without regular intake of God's word. To attempt it is like trying to build muscle on a zero-protein diet. It just doesn't work.

If you truly want to grow in God, spend quality time in His book. Can I honestly say that I love someone I never listen to? The same is true

with us and God.

But how can we start? Consider the Four P's. First, prioritize reading the Bible, or it will never happen. There will never be bonus time I can devote to God. We either give God our first and best, or we give Him nothing. Second, patience. Be patient with yourself as you grow as a Bible reader. Yes, the Bible is an overwhelming book to jump into. So, start with a manageable reading plan, like www.first15.org

Beginning a good habit is hard work. Consider asking a Christian friend or pastor to read with you—third, persistence. Once you start, keep going. Don't give up. The enemy of God truly hates when people read God's word. He will want to discourage you: "This is boring, this book is obsolete, you're wasting your time." Don't listen to him. He is a deceiver and the father of lies (John 8:44). Instead, persist in God's word. Fourth and finally, pray. Effective Bible reading needs Spirit-saturated prayer alongside it. As David Watson says, "All Word and no Spirit, we dry up; all Spirit and no Word, we blow up; both Word and Spirit, we grow up."

Are you ready to grow up? Then let's go! Will you start right now with renewed priority, patience, persistence, and prayer? You, your family, your church, and this community will be better for it.

And when it's all said and done, may we join Jeremiah in saying, "Your words became a delight to me, the joy of my heart."

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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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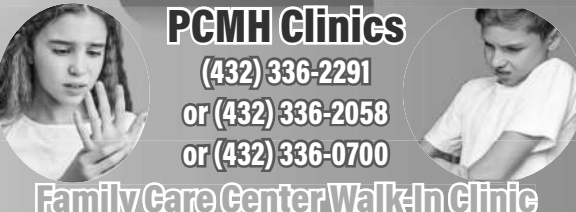
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Heat up Friday Night Lights with homemade chile macho

Living in southwest Texas, hot sauce or salsa is a staple in most households — at least it is in mine. If I do not have at least a couple of diverse types of salsas and/or hot sauce in my refrigerator, my food feels almost naked. Not having a spicy condiment to add to my food is as sacrilegious as not having cheese in my refrigerator.

Now, everyone has their favorite spicy additive to accompany their meals. Some people prefer Tabasco or another Louisiana hot sauce, some enjoy tomato-based salsas, and others prefer what we call chile macho.

Chile macho is unique



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

because it is versatile. It is just as good on tortilla chips as it is as an additive to a pot of beans. It can be spread on top of a plate of nachos or even added to soup. It really is the go-to for spicy goodness. It is simple to make as well. It is complete and consists of tomatoes, onions, jalapenos, and/or

serrano peppers, and a bit of salt.

I have observed chile macho being made in two ways: roasting or boiling the peppers. Roasting them, especially over a wood fire, gives them a delicious smoky flavor that really adds to the whole condiment.

I do not own a wood-fired grill, so I boil my peppers, but I have a secret that allows me to impart that smoky flavor to my chile macho. I use smoked salt. I add this not only to the boiling water with my peppers in it but also after the fact when the tomatoes and onions get mixed with the peppers.

Now, this is not the only secret to making chile macho. To get the precise consistency of the condiment, the peppers must be chopped up with a can. This may sound crazy to some, but believe me, a soup can with the label removed and holes punched in the bottom is the utensil needed to complete a bowl of chile macho.

For my chile macho, I boil seven to 10 jalapenos with smoked salt added during the boiling process. I use one can of petite diced plain tomatoes and chop up half of a medium-sized onion.



Chile Macho

Courtesy photo

Once the peppers have become dull green, I remove them from the boiling water and let them cool enough to handle. Once they are cooled, I cut off the stems and slice them crosswise into about two to three pieces, depending on the size of the pepper. I add all these

ingredients into a bowl, chop up the peppers, and mix the tomatoes and onion using the vented soup can.

Once the peppers reach the desired consistency, I add a bit of the smoked salt and mix it in to taste. Smoked salt is strong, so a little bit goes a long

way. When the chile macho is salted to taste, I transfer it to a glass jar or plastic container and refrigerate it if it will not be used immediately. That is it. Your chile macho is ready to eat either by itself with tortilla chips or as an addition to your favorite food.

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