

School board approves tax rate, defeasance for early bond payoff

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the AISD administration building. Single Member District 2 representative Joe Portillo and Single Member District 3 representative Nikki Ahrens were absent.

After the meeting was called to order and there were no public comments, a public hearing to discuss the proposed tax rate for 2024-2025 convened. While there were no public comments during the hearing, Alpine

See PAYOFF • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

See page 3

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

202413.74"
October0.00"



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 14 pages

Opinions P.4
Sports P.8-9, 14
Puzzle P.7
Classifieds P.10

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



AESB praises fire chief for outstanding management, leadership

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Emergency Services Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 26, at 5:30 p.m., in the board room at the Emergency Response Center. Board member Albert Benitez was absent due to being on call.

Chairman Aaron Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m., with the first item of business being the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Board member Carla Spencer pointed out a typo in the minutes, one being a transposed monetary amount of \$204 instead of \$240 for an integration soft-

ware called JotForm to be used with Microsoft Teams to upload forms electronically, such as purchase orders, minutes from meetings, and other items.

The chairman also noted that the inventory list was not uploaded as stated.

Rodriguez motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting with the corrections, followed by a second from Treasurer Stacey Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda were reports from board members.

Board Treasurer Sta-



AVFD Fire Chief James Etchison

cey Wood reported that the current bank balance was \$18,498.72.

Chairman Rodriguez added that the yearly funding from Brewster County should be available around October 8 after the first Commissioner's Court meeting of the county's new fiscal year.

He also told the board he was scheduled to be at the Alpine City Council meeting on October 15 to report to the city about all the grants that the board has taken advantage of thanks to the hard work of the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department's Chief James Etchison.

Board Secretary Rusty Moore commented, "I appreciate all the leadership and hard work that Chief Etchison has put into his new position since he was named chief. Not only has he been able to bring multiple grants to the table and training opportunities for his team, but now that he can upload all his paperwork to our Teams platform, I can create a better set of minutes for the board."

Chairman Rodriguez also commented, "Having these training schedules, multiple grants, and progress reports on the firefighters who have completed these training and are in the process of completing more will really help as far as financial

transparency going forward, especially when we present everything to the city council and the commissioner's court.

"Both of these entities want to see where and how their funding is being spent and want to make sure that as a board we are not only being financially responsible but that we are helping guide and support our volunteer fire department."

The next item of business was a report from the AVFD fire chief. Chief Etchison reported to the board that they had received four lift assists last month, all from a resident who regularly re-

See AESB • 6

Bucks Triumph over the Cats



Recently the Alpine Lady Bucks middle school team took on the Wink Wildcats at home making short work with lots of team improvement this season.

Photo courtesy of Alpine Fightin' Buck Sports

USFWS announces the final recovery plan for three endangered aquatic invertebrates

Recovery plan focuses on conserving desert wetlands in Pecos County

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is releasing the final recovery plan for three endangered aquatic invertebrate species that inhabit springs within desert wetlands of the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas: the Diamond tryonia, Gonzales tryonia, and Pecos amphipod—collectively referred to as Diamond Y Invertebrates.

The Diamond tryonia and Gonzales tryonia are tiny freshwater snails, and the Pecos



Diamond Y Spring Preserve in Pecos County is property of The Nature Conservancy, which oversees the protection of the desert spring, its inhabitants, and the other flora and fauna of the preserve.

Photo courtesy of Jefferson Elder

See USFWS • 6

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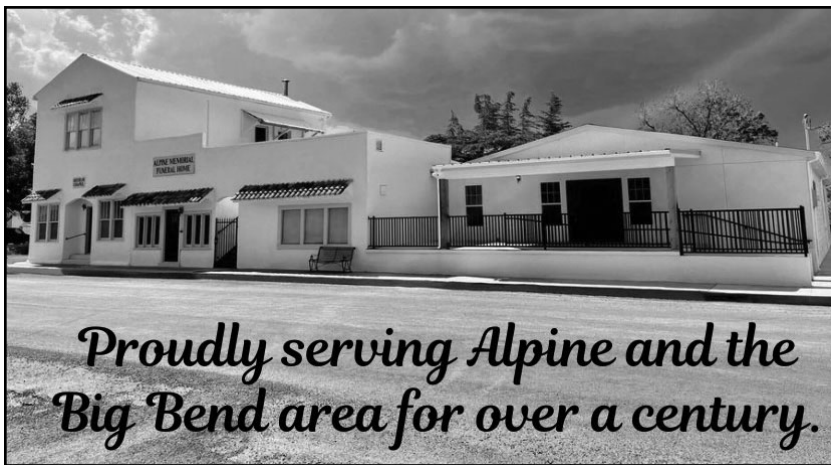
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Family Crisis Center receives Organization of the Year



Big Bend Family Crisis Center was recently recognized as Organization of the Year by the Rio Grande Council of Governments for their work in helping facilitate transportation in rural West Texas. Pictured are Assistant Transportation Director Araceli Acosta and Transportation Director Angelica Gonzalez along with Hudspeth County Judge Joanna Mackenzie.

Courtesy photo

Training for efficiency

First responders from Terlingua Fire and EMS, along with members of the Marathon VFD, and area park rangers train constantly to improve skills and response time to the myriad of situations they can encounter in the Big Bend region.

Photo courtesy of Terlingua Fire and EMS



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Students inducted into the NHS



Marfa ISD held its National Honor Society induction ceremony last Thursday, where 22 students were recognized. Students must carry a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, show leadership in school or community.

Courtesy photo

Foaming around at AMS

Ty Ritchie performed a chemical reaction experiment as part of the STEAM approach to teaching at Alpine Middle School last week. Students explored the chemical changes that took place with the "elephant toothpaste" experiment, which is a chemical reaction in which hydrogen peroxide rapidly decomposes into water and oxygen when a catalyst such as potassium iodide or yeast is added. This results in a foam forming due to the oxygen bubbles being trapped in dish soap.



Courtesy photo

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Control of non-native aoudad to begin October 9

Remote areas of Big Bend National Park to close for wildlife project

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor



Aoudad or Barbary sheep are non-native exotics that have established themselves in West Texas and the Big Bend, creating competition for native desert big horns in terms of forage and access to water. Recently, evidence has indicated morbidity and mortality in the native animals.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

To control non-native populations of aoudads, otherwise known as Barbary sheep, Big Bend National Park (BBNP), in conjunction with Texas Parks and Wildlife, will conduct a survey of desert big horn sheep and remove aoudads using helicopters and staff trained in aerial shooting operations.

For the last several years, the National Park Service (NPS) has continued these measures to protect the desert big horn by reducing the increasing numbers of aoudad that have continued to thrive within West Texas and Big Bend over the past 30 years.

Aoudads are native to the dry mountains of Northern Africa and have established themselves in the area, occupying the same habitats as the park's small population of native desert big horns.

Not only do these non-native species negatively impact the park's natural ecology, but they can also inhibit water access for desert big horns, threaten biodiversity and the health of the native big horns, and impair the park visitor's experience

of the park's indigenous scenery.

Finalized in June 2018, this effort is part of BBNP's long-term, integrated approach to controlling exotic animals and protecting park resources.

The management of such exotics is in keeping with the Big Bend Exotic Animal Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.

The Mesa de Anguilla portion of the park will be closed October 9-10 and the evening before the survey.

Once the survey is completed, the closed areas will reopen. The Rio Grande and Santa Elena Canyon Trail will remain open, but BBNP asks

visitors to follow posted closure signs for all trailheads and roads.

During this time, the Deadhorse Mountains and its surrounding areas, including Dagger Flat Road and Old Ore Road, will also be surveyed for desert big horns and aoudads.

These areas will also be closed the evening before the survey and will reopen once officials complete the survey.

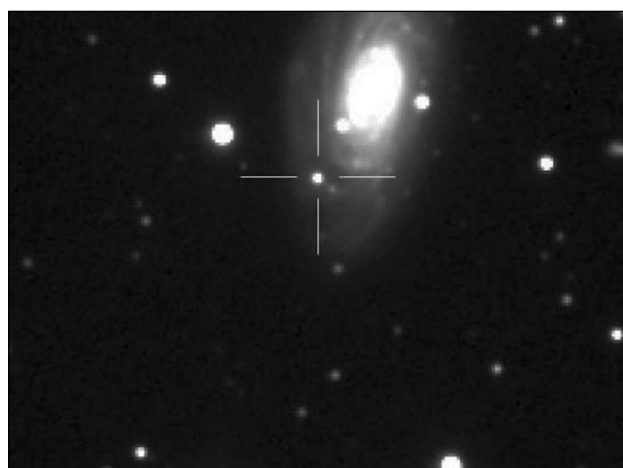
For more information, contact Tom Vandenberg, information officer at BBNP, at 432-477-1107, or Thomas Athens, wildlife biologist, at 432-477-1145. For maps of the closure areas, visit nps.gov/bibe/learn/news/newsreleases.htm.

McDonald Observatory offering live streams

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

Tonight at 8:30 p.m. CST, the McDonald Observatory will be hosting a live stream on their YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram about T Corona Borealis, a binary star that is expected to explode as a dazzling nova in the next few weeks. The program will explain what causes these novas and let you know how or if you can see it as it happens.

They will also host another live stream on Wednesday, October 23, that will be in Spanish about dark matter and dark energy. Tune in to



Supernova 2006bp was discovered by the Texas Supernova Search within two days of its explosion.

Photo courtesy of Robert Quimby, UT-Austin McDonald Observatory

check out more about space and what's happening on Mount Locke, and check out their website for even more information by visiting <https://mcdonaldobservatory.org>

Shorthorn seniors plan for their future



Marfa's high school seniors attended a college fair in Fort Stockton last week, seeking information about their options for the future. They attended the college and career fair held at Alpine High School yesterday, along with seniors from Alpine and Sanderson.

Courtesy photo

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

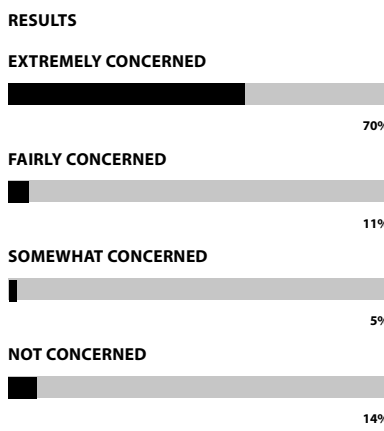
Now the Avalanche asks:
What is your biggest time waster?

- Social Media
- TV
- Books or Reading
- Video Games
- Talking on the phone

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

RESULTS

HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?



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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BOONIEVILLE



Shared Science - "Cowboy Science"

At a Borderlands Research Institute staff meeting recently, one of our researchers commented about some "cowboy science" he had recently conducted—a simple comparison of whether native grasses grew better with or without mulch. He didn't take precise measurements, but he learned that mulch made a difference.

Does the mulch always help? How much mulch is needed? Do some kinds of mulch work better? These and other questions will require some "real" science—controlling variables, using repeatable methods, etc.—but his initial comment reminded me that anyone who is curious can participate in science.

While skilled at research, professional scientists are not always skilled or trained in communication. Academic research is often accused of being locked in the ivory tower of universities. Scientific journal publications are the currency of academia. Still, they are written

for other scientists and not readily accessible to the general public.

In the past decade or so, researchers have been encouraged to spend more time thinking about how their work applies to everyday

life and how to communicate results with those who can apply what has been learned. I am fortunate to teach a graduate-level Science Communication class for Natural Resource Management students this semester. The goal is to give students the tools to share science with a broader audience and the opportunity to practice using a wide range of media.

One of our first speakers was the Avalanche's own Kara Gerbert, who gave students an overview of everything that goes into newspaper journalism. She shared examples of the press release process, deadlines, photos, and what kind of



DR. MAUREEN FRANK
Guest Columnist

information captures readers' attention. Then, I assigned the students to write their own newspaper articles about something related to their research, leaving the assignment fairly open-ended so

they could choose interesting topics.

General George S. Patton's quote, "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity," is one that I try to follow in my teaching. Indeed, my students surprised me with their creative and engaging responses to the assignment. From grasses to rivers to photography to owls, each of the ten articles highlighted natural resource conservation in a fresh, informative way.

These stories will be featured in the Avalanche over the next few months. I hope you take

the time to read through them and learn about the diverse knowledge and skills of our Borderlands Research Institute students. I appreciate Kara for her instruction and for allowing my students to learn by doing.

The final project for this class is also open-ended: students can choose any media and any conservation story to demonstrate what they have learned this semester. I plan to make sure all these products are publicly available somehow, so stay tuned for more details on where you can find this shared science.

In the meantime, have you noticed that plants in one part of your garden grow better than in another area, or wondered why some prickly pear tunas ripen later than others? Observation and curiosity are the heart of science. I hope the work of these students inspires you to see the world with renewed wonder—because anyone can be a cowboy scientist.

My trusted tool to slow life's pace

"Uninvited, he sat down and opened up his mind.

On old dogs and children, and watermelon wine.

— song lyrics by Tom T. Hall

Each of those finer things in life celebrated by the American singer-songwriter nicknamed "The Storyteller" admittedly possesses soothing powers. But my most trusted tool for slowing the pace of life was, for many years, something different.

My grandfather's rocking chair.

I never learned where the furniture, relegated to the front porch before I was born, came from. The chair's origin was one of many things I've wished I'd quizzed my grandmother about. I had a list of questions for her, but many remained forever unanswered that October day in 1993 when she closed her eyes for the last time.

The plain wooden rocker, with arms and a homemade red oil cloth seat cushion, and the high-back cane rocker Granny called hers resided on their front porch for at least 40 years.

Something magical about the chairs beckoned them to the front porch every evening after supper. When John Kennedy occupied the White House, he taunted the value of rocking chairs as therapeutic for back problems. But for my

grandparents, I think it was more than that.

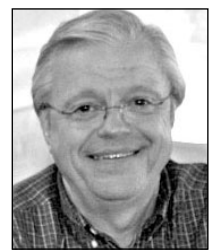
My father's parents settled in northeast Texas long before Kennedy was president. In fact, when they moved to Pittsburg in 1930, Herbert Hoover was in his second year as

president. The railroad brought them to Camo County, where Granddaddy worked for the Cotton Belt. He retired in the early 1950s when steam locomotives were still an occasional sight.

So, it's probably not just a coincidence that the small white frame house where they lived most of their life was across the street from the railroad tracks. With his chair perfectly positioned for a view of approaching trains.

Rocking, talking, and occasionally singing hymns like "Blessed Assurance" were regular activities. And waiting for a passing train when Granddaddy would glance at his pocket watch. And, if the train wasn't right on time, he might declare something like, "The 6:15 is running a little behind schedule today."

My grandfather died in 1967, and with his death, regular after-supper porch sitting also ended. My grandmother lived in the house for another 26 years before joining him, but I don't recall her using the rockers again. Infrequent use



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

and dirt daubers started taking their toll on them by the time Granny moved the chairs inside to the living room.

After she died, my sisters and I picked a few things for memories. Both rocking chairs went to my Hill Country back porch, where they once again waited for company.

My occasional "rocking and thinking spells" were mostly monitoring Hill Country sunsets. But when north winds caused Granddaddy's old rocker to sway gently on some days, I saw him occupying his chosen chair. I thought more than once that I caught a glimpse of a curl of pipe smoke rising above the brim of his hat.

The first night they spent at my house, I settled into his chair and began to rock. I relaxed and wondered if the old chairs really possessed magical powers.

Maybe, but my grandparents' life seemed much more manageable at "front porch time." My rocking was more pronounced when I consulted the chair to work out details of earning a living, rearing children, and other mindful matters.

"Dad, I need a new dress for the banquet," or "Dad, the pickup's making a funny noise, and steam's coming out from

under the hood," were met with one answer. "Give me a half hour and meet me at the rocking chair."

Over time, the rocker became tattered and a little worse for wear, but I couldn't bring myself to replace it. Changing anything about the chair would change its appearance, and I most likely feared its powers as well. For that reason, both retained their "as is" condition while I continued rocking and pondering.

During a move back to Shelby County a couple of decades ago, the relic rockers suffered crippling injuries. Consequently, they were confined to storage intended to last "a few weeks." But I never located that rare "round tuit." They still rest in storage, waiting for their day of restoration.

With a little spare time on my hands, the rocking chairs crossed my mind last week. Maybe it was strains of "Blessed Assurance" reminding me of their need for attention. Or perhaps it was hearing "old dogs, children, and watermelon wine" on the radio.

I really think it was just the same song my grandparents heard when they rocked in the evening—the one calling them from the complexities of a hectic society and reminding them of a simpler time in life

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The U.S. Constitution

The U.S. Constitution may very well have been an attempt to subdue negative traits of human nature, with four of those being greed, despotism, cowardice, and foolishness. There are more, yet these four may be the most harmful. Thomas Jefferson warned that the U.S.

Republic could turn into an "Elective Despotism." John Adams said the U.S. Constitution was written for a "Moral and Religious People." Seeing the growing number of despots, the decline of morals, and a growing contempt toward true Jews and Christians in the U.S., we might deem Tom and John to be prophets.

If God did bless America, then his free will does exist because false Democrats, RINOS, and other reprobates have done a good job of crapping all over God's blessing and the U.S. Constitution. Elections are coming in November. May there be enough true Jews, real Judeo-Christians, and other God-fearing moral people with

clear thinking who will be voting in 2024? May they overcome an assault of the many self-serving control freaks and God-hating ghouls in the USA. Maybe then God will see clearly to bless America once more.

James R. Le Blanc
Fort Davis, Texas

Heard on the STREET

What's something on your bucket list that you haven't done yet?



Zaiden Perkins:
Get to see the aurora borealis.



Sylvia Lujan:
I would go to New York to see my son.



David Cargill:
Perhaps visit Cinque Terre in Italy—I've been before—but this time with my wife and daughter.



Dawn Lacy:
Horseback riding in Banff.



Kenyatis Turner:
I want to visit Japan and South Korea.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 Kiwanis Spaghetti Supper, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Alpine Elementary School Cafeteria. Cost is \$10 and all money raised goes back into the community. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Alpine Visitor Center or at the door.

October 4 First Friday Song Swap, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Far West Guitars at 114 N. 6th Street.

October 4-5: 3rd Annual Big Bend Bluegrass Festival, 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday night, and begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Alpine Civic Center. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://bigendbluegrass.com/big-bend-bluegrass-festival/>

October 5 SRSU Guided Hike on Hancock Hill, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with Dr. Bryon Schroeder for Archaeology of the Big Bend. Registration is required at <https://www.sulross.edu/guided-hikes/>

October 11-14 Big Bend Octane Fest, Noon to 9 p.m. at The Stable Performance Cars 511 W. Holland.

October 11 AHS Homecoming, 7 p.m. at Buck Stadium.

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

October 12 Exploring the Life Cycle of Beef Cattle, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Museum of the Big Bend. RSVP is required to attend. Visit <https://eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-life-cycle-of-beef-cattle-tickets-989066884677?aff=oddtcreator>

October 12 Wild West Night, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Sunshine House. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$5 for kids. Includes raffles, games, silent auction, chuckwagon dinner, and music from Hall's Last Call and Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band. Proceeds benefit the Sunshine House.

October 24-26 Circus-Themed Haunted House, 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Terlingua Ghost Town Crisis Center is hold-



ing its annual haunted house. It includes trick-or-treating and carnival games. Suggested donation is \$10.

October 26-27 Free Movie, 3 p.m. at Alpine First Assembly of God, they will be showing the third movie in "The Perfect Race" series. Everyone is invited to attend, and free popcorn and bottled water will be provided.

ONGOING EVENTS

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 Choral 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 bbcch-rare.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.

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.

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-Bacon 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



SRSU Rodeo sponsor provides training tool

SmartyRodeo, one of three corporate sponsors of the Sul Ross Rodeo Team, provided a horse-saver training tool for competitors such as those who participate in goat tying. This training tool allows student-athletes to practice and perfect their skills during everyday rodeo practice while at the same time protecting their horses from possible injury or exhaustion in the case of older animals.

Courtesy photo

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Leo!
Leo was picked up as a stray. An owner turned up but was not financially able to care for Leo properly, so he was kept at the shelter, vaccinated, neutered, and microchipped.

He loves to play, has done very well in playgroups with other dogs, walks well on a leash, and keeps his kennel pretty clean.

He is a little shy at first meeting but warms up quickly. He would be a great walking, hiking, or camping companion. With a little investment of time to bond with him, train him, and gain his affection, you would have an excellent companion. Meet Leo at the Alpine Animal Services

Shelter today, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.

Alpine Animal Services is overloaded with dogs and cats right now. Please consider volunteering 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.

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.

Alpine Humane Society needs quality items for our silent auction on Dia de los Quesos on Sunday, October 27,

from 4 pm to 8 pm. at the Granada Theatre. Enter your salsa or queso in our contest. There will be food by Cow Dog and several musical acts, including The Swifts.

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 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm, 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.

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AESB • FROM 1

quested the service. He noted that, unfortunately, the resident had also recently passed away and that they'd received no such calls since then. Other calls that the department received included a single brush fire, which, when responded to, was determined to have been caused by someone dumping their ashtray from a vehicle. "When we arrived at the location, there were numerous little burn spots, all with a cigarette of the same brand," stated Etchison. AVFD also responded to a dumpster fire at the Highland Apartments, a vehicle fire on South Hwy 118 when a passenger vehicle collided with a dump truck, and a HAZMAT call of a

possible gas leak that turned out to be just new drywall dust coming through the HVAC vents when the HVAC technicians were working on the system. Chief Etchison also reported to the board that the department was changing the name of the Brush 3 truck to HAZMAT 1. He noted that while it would still conduct all the jobs it was previously outfitted for, the department had transferred all HAZMAT equipment to the vehicle to be the official vehicle for such calls. Next, Chief Etchison reported that the Helping Hands grant was approved to supply the department with used but almost new bunker gear and SCBA bottles. "Everything on our list was approved," he said. "I requested 20

"When we arrived at the location, there were numerous little burn spots, all with a cigarette of the same brand"

—Chief Etchison

helmets, five full sets of bunker gear, and the SBCA bottles." He also told the board about a grant that could be applied for to purchase a new extractor, which is a specialized washing machine unit that removes the harmful chemicals the bunker gear can collect and come into contact with during calls. The extractor would hold four full sets of bunker gear and would cost \$12,000. This grant requested three years of financial information, which could prove difficult to provide since the board was newly established and previous

bank statements would be the only available financial information. Etchison also reminded the board that the department had yet to utilize the \$20,000 PPE grant, and he would like to use a portion of that to purchase gear for 10 wildland firefighters, which he wanted to have certified as the department's "special forces" firefighting team. The team would respond to wildland fires and work alongside the Texas Forest Service or be able to react ahead of the TFS since it takes them some time to get here. These firefighters

would be required to take and complete a pack test as part of their training, which is a three-mile hike carrying a 45-pound pack, and it must be completed in 45 minutes. Full gear for these firefighters would cost between \$10,000 to \$12,000. During the discussion, Carla Spencer commented, "Since we're unsure if we'd be able to get the grant for the extractor due to the acceptance of the financial records, what if we used the PPE grant to purchase the extractor and outfit five wildland firefighters this year, and then next year outfit five more? This way, you will be able to fulfill the department's needs right away." Chief Etchison commented that this would work.

Finally, during his report, Chief Etchison told the board about the fire academy and other training opportunities that were available and presented purchase orders for reimbursable training, hydrostatic testing of SBCA bottles, and reimbursement for a trickle charger. They were approved with a motion from Spencer and a second from Wood. Also approved was a purchase order for a new \$599 air compressor to inflate vehicle tires, as the old one was broken and unable to be fixed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. after the next Alpine Emergency Services Board meeting was set for Thursday, November 7, at 5:30 p.m.

PAYOFF • FROM 1

ISD superintendent Michelle Rinehart, EdLD, discussed the tax rate and explained to the board about the defeasance that they approved last year, allowing the district to save \$4.3 million and pay off the bond for the new high school build 10 years early. After some discussion, the public hearing was adjourned, and Single Member District 1 and board president Eddie Natera opened the regular meeting at 5:50 p.m. The board then passed a resolution to provide for the defeasance of certain outstanding district obligations, including the school bond for the construction of the new high school, with a motion by Single Member District 7 representative Mary McCallister followed by a second from Single Member District 4 representative Jimmy Morris. Passing the defeasance resolution allowed for the interest and sinking (I and S) tax rate to be set at 0.215, which would allow for the payoff of the bond 12 years early with an

overall savings in interest to taxpayers of \$4.8 million. The next item of business was the approval for the proposed tax rate for 2024-2025. For 2024, the maintenance and operations (M and O) were 0.7575, with the I and S tax rate of 0.225 for a total tax rate of 0.9825. For 2025, the board approved an M and O tax rate of 0.7552 and an I and S tax rate of 0.215 for a total of 0.9702 with a motion from McCallister and a second from Morris. This allowed for a -0.30% change in the M and O, a -4.44% change in the I and S, and an overall tax rate decrease of -1.25% from last year. In other news, students and instructors at Alpine Elementary (AES) conducted all their beginning-of-the-year safety drills, including evacuations, fire drills, and lockdown drills, in conjunction with the newly adopted Raptor system, which connects the district administration and AES staff with the county and city dispatch. Fourth graders also completed the constructed response writing involving AES's

reading and language arts curriculum. This was the culmination of a three-week project that was to be submitted to Mrs. Fort for grading. A new group will be formed each week to begin learning the writing process, which is in preparation for the STAAR testing. At Alpine Middle School (AMS), campus principal Mrs. Judith Pardo-Alferez told the board that students were working on their gifted and talented history fair and other projects during their third period, which is a pull-out program with Mr. Portillo. Students also practiced lockdown, fire, and bus evacuation drills on the first school day. Pardo-Alferez also told the board that AMS calls each absent student each day. She said excellent communication with parents about attendance and even home visits had improved attendance. Alpine Hig School (AHS) principal Mr. Jarrett Vickers told the board that all college readiness tests (TSIA2, SAT, PSAT, ASVAB) had been scheduled to be taken at the high school at no extra charge to the students. Previously, the stu-

dents had to travel out of town or to Sul Ross for these tests. Vickers also announced that AHS was hosting a college and career fair on October 2 and that high school students from Marathon and Sanderson would attend. Next, Dr. Rinehart reviewed the report from athletic director Andy Smith, highlighting football player Dae Hardwick with his record receptions and yards, which broke a school record for a single game against Fort Stockton. He was also named Texas Football Player of the Week and voted on by fans. Smith's report also noted that senior volleyball player Jaycee Portillo was recently ranked number one in the nation in digs with 598 defensive digs. In cross-country, the girls' team placed fourth out of 11 teams, and the boys' team placed seventh out of 13 at the Port Aransas meet. Both Hatfield Cason and Molly Garrett had outstanding performances at the Crane Invitational over the Labor Day weekend. Cason beat his true cross-country personal record by 10 seconds,

winning the varsity boys 5K by almost a minute, while Garrett earned 16th place in her first 5K race with a time of 22:52. The next important item was a report from Alpine ISD CFO Chris Valenzuela. Valenzuela told the board that there were no transfers in August from their investment accounts and that the district had just received the CCMR Rural Accelerator grant, which funds Coach Adrian Smith's position at AHS. Valenzuela also told the board that while there were no budget amendments this month, there would be next month due to moving grant money over to the general fund. Next on the agenda was the approval of the consent items, including the regular meeting on August 21 and the special meeting on September 12. McCallister motioned to approve the consent agenda, followed by a second from Morris, with Single Member District 6 representative Dr. Adrian Billings abstaining due to absence. The motion passed 4-0 with the single abstention. The board next approved donations with

gratitude from Manny and Lydia Granado for \$500 to go towards the AHS colorguard in honor of Sage Parsons, a TeamFunded donation from the AHS football fundraiser for \$13,870.80 to be deposited into the football activity account, and a \$650 donation from GumSlingers to AES and Mr. Derek Rojo for a candy challenge he engaged in with funds going towards sports equipment, classroom materials, or other uses as needed. Single Member District 5 representative Haley Babb motioned to accept the donations as presented with a second from McCallister. Finally, with a motion from McCallister and a second from Morris, the board approved the contract for Kokernot Field between the Alpine ISD and Sul Ross State University. The board moved into executive session at 7:12 p.m., and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees is set for Wednesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Alpine ISD administration building.

USFW • FROM 1

amphipod is a small, shrimp-like crustacean. The overall recovery strategy focuses on conserving the desert wetland ecosystem to support resilient populations of the imperiled species. The final recovery plan establishes downlisting and delisting criteria for the Diamond Y Invertebrates, which were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act on July 9, 2013. "Desert wetlands, or cienegas, used to be more abundant in the northern Chihuahuan Desert," said Michael Warriner, Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Service's Austin Ecological Services Field Office. "Multiple springs have gone dry, and now the Diamond Y Spring system is the largest remaining springs still flowing in Pecos County. "The Service is extremely grateful that The Nature Conservancy preserves this important spring and cienega system at the

"The Service is extremely grateful that The Nature Conservancy preserves this important spring and cienega system at the Diamond Y Spring Preserve and aids in conservation efforts for the Diamond Y Invertebrates and other rare species."

—Michael Warriner, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Diamond Y Spring Preserve and aids in conservation efforts for the Diamond Y Invertebrates and other rare species." The northern Chihuahuan Desert cienegas support multiple endemic and diverse communities of spring snails, amphipods, and other invertebrates found nowhere else in the world. Four other federally endangered or threatened species occur on the Diamond Y Spring Preserve, including the Leon Springs pupfish, Pecos gambusia, Pecos sunflower, and Pecos assimineia. Threats to the Diamond Y Invertebrates continue to be diminished water quantity due to groundwater pumping, drought, and water quality contamination. Increased aridity and

warming temperatures due to climate change can intensify these threats. Additional recovery plan strategies for the Diamond Y Invertebrates include addressing threats to the species, improving the understanding of the species to enhance conservation actions, collaborating with partners on habitat management strategies, and engaging in community outreach. Recovery plans are not regulatory. Rather, they provide both a framework for guiding the recovery of species and the criteria to indicate when federal protection may no longer be necessary. The recovery plan aims to safeguard the Diamond Y Invertebrates from extinction. The recovery plan describes actions that

are considered necessary to achieve recovery of the species, establishes downlisting and delisting criteria, and estimates the time and cost to implement recovery actions for the species. The Service received a \$62.5-million investment in Inflation Reduction Act funds to address Endangered Species Recovery Planning efforts that will be implemented over the next several years to benefit more than 300 species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act. This infusion of funding allowed the Service to hire additional biologists to complete recovery plans that are necessary to recover species and remove them from the Endangered Species list. The Service actively engages conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.



JAYCEE PORTILLO

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in volleyball and softball during my four years of high school and am a member of the National Honors Society.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
Every coach I've had has impacted me in some way, but if I had to choose one, I would say Coach Virdell. He has shown me what it's like to be a positive role model by instilling in me the values of discipline and teamwork, shaping not only my athletic abilities but also my character and approach to life's

challenges.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
The bus trips became one of my favorite parts of high school because they were a unique blend of adventure and laughter, allowing me to bond with friends and create unforgettable memories.

What are your plans after high school?
After high school, I plan to pursue a career in physical therapy while competing at the collegiate level as a volleyball athlete.

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Sports

Bucks trample Anthony, start district with decisive win

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks varsity football team dominated the Anthony Wildcats in a 55-18 blowout victory at Buck Stadium on Friday night, September 27. The Bucks put together a strong performance on both sides of the ball, beginning district play at 1-0.

Initially, the school scheduled the game at Jackson Field on the Sul Ross State campus. After a brief delay when the lights at Jackson Field did not work, Alpine went to work from the friendly confines of Buck Stadium to take an early lead.

In the time it would take a fan to go to the restroom, stop by the

concession stand, and get caught up in a conversation with a chatty neighbor, the Bucks put 24 points on the board for a comfortable lead in the first quarter.

"Our kids came out ready to play and started fast," said Alpine Head Coach Andy Smith. "I am proud of the focus of our kids at the start of the game and getting out to an early lead."

Quarterback Devon Rojo led the offensive charge, putting together a stellar performance.

His ability to target multiple receivers and make plays with his legs kept the Anthony defense on their heels all night.

Rojo's legs and arm saved plays from the pass rush, dodging defenders

See FOOTBALL • 14



Bucks lineman Auden Ramirez celebrates the game's first touchdown against the Anthony Wildcats last Friday night. Ramirez put up the first of eight touchdowns by Alpine.

Photo courtesy of Noe Lujan

Cross-country brings home team wins at Kokernot Park

BY COACH CORY CASON
Contributor

Alpine hosted its annual Big Bend Mountain Ramble cross-country race this past Saturday, and runners from all over West Texas came to compete.

The race was held at Kokernot Park, which is a great venue for spectators and a chance for the runners to get in some hill training.

The varsity girls' race started with Emy Hernandez, Hope Dominguez, and Molly Garrett in the top 15 in 10th, 11th, and 13th, respectively. Colette Fowlkes placed 23rd and Alice Saunders 30th, helping the varsity girls' team earn third place behind Midland Greenwood and Wink.

Part of last year's state qualifying team, Hernandez and Garrett both had a strong race, beating last year's BBMR times by a significant amount.

Dominguez also is looking ready to compete well during the upcoming championship season. Jaylynn Celaya was the top finisher for the JV girls, who finished in 10th.

The varsity boys placed fourth as a team, with several boys performing strongly.

Senior Hatfield Cason won the gold in his last appearance at the Big Bend Mountain Ramble by 45 seconds. Freshman Zane Perkins medaled in 19th place, and JP Prieto continues to improve, coming in just outside of medal contention in 23rd.



The Alpine Runnin' Bucks cross-country high school and middle school teams participated this past Saturday in the Big Bend Mountain Ramble at Kokernot Park. All the teams placed in the top five, while some individuals placed in the top 10.

Courtesy photo

Everett Edwards and Clegg Fowlkes rounded out the top five for the varsity boys. Raul Renteria was the top Alpine finisher in the JV boys' division, medaling in 14th place.

Four middle school girls placed in the top 22 in a field of 70 racers. In her first XC season, 8th grader Hallie Wood earned a 3rd-place finish. Kelli Kearns medaled in 12th, with Villanueva and Adams in 21st and 22nd.

The middle school girls placed fifth as a team and are looking competitive for the upcoming district race.


The middle school boys earned second place as a team, with Roman Holguin and Julian Perez leading the Bucks in fifth and seventh, respectively.

Barry Young had a great race, medaling in 13th place. Pompa, Prieto, and Edwards rounded out the second-

place team. The next race for middle school cross-country will be the district championship in

Presidio on October 9, while the varsity competes today at the Odessa Invitational.


ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



EDIE DUBOIS
7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Edie has been making significant improvements on the court since our season began. Over the last week she has exemplified strong team work, hustle, and dedication to continuous improvement.

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Alpine's Peyton Kinkade serves up the ball during the Lady Bucks' recent trip to Denver City where they faced both the Fillies and the Wink Wildcats.

Courtesy photo

Lady Bucks volleyball dominates in district opener against Kermit

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Lady Bucks Volleyball teams opened district play with a commanding performance against Kermit on September 24th, setting the tone for the rest of the season. The entire program, from Freshman to Varsity, showcased confidence and determination, securing a 1-0 record in district play.

The Freshman team kicked things off with a closely contested match but ultimately fell short in the first set, 23-25. They bounced back quickly in the second set, winning 25-18, and carried that momentum into the final set, dominating 15-3 to claim the match victory. Their win reflects their growth and perseverance throughout the season.

The Junior Varsity team followed up with an equally strong performance,

defeating Kermit in straight sets. The JV team edged out a tight first set, 26-24, before pulling away in the second with a 25-19 win. Their ability to maintain composure under pressure allowed them to start district play on a high note.

Varsity displayed the same level of dominance, sweeping Kermit in three sets. They came out strong in the opening set with a 25-13 victory, showcasing their well-rounded skills on both offense and defense. The second set was even more lopsided, with the Lady Bucks winning 25-9, demonstrating their ability to control the pace of the game. Kermit made a push in the third set, but Alpine held firm, finishing the match with a 25-19 win.

Head Coach Adrian Smith credited the Lady Bucks' preseason experi-

ences for their ability to maintain a high level of consistent competition throughout the matches. "The girls have worked hard, and it showed in their performance. They were confident, focused, and ready for the challenge," Smith said.

The Lady Bucks' victory over Kermit brings the Varsity team's overall record to 13-18. Meanwhile, the JV team sits at 9-13, and the Freshman team holds a 6-15 record, reflecting the progress each squad has made as they continue to develop throughout the season.

The Lady Bucks take on the Presidio Lady Blue Devils at home this Saturday before facing Anthony Wildcats next Tuesday.

The Lady Bucks are determined to continue their success as they push deeper into district play, with their sights set on a strong postseason run.

Alpine JV football secures first win of the season against Andrews

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks Junior Varsity football team secured their first win of the season with a dominant performance against the Andrews JV squad on Thursday, September 26, at Buck Stadium. The early 4 p.m. kickoff saw Alpine take control right from the start and never look back, earning a much-needed victory on

their home turf.

The game began with a crucial mistake by Andrews. The visiting team fumbled the opening kickoff, which Alpine quickly recovered. The Bucks capitalized immediately, and on the very first play from scrimmage, Conner Ramirez broke free for a 31-yard touchdown run, giving Alpine a quick 7-0 lead.

This early momentum set the tone for the rest of the game. Alpine's

offense found opportunities, and their defense consistently delivered.

Defensively, the Bucks were outstanding, keeping Andrews in check throughout the game. Standout performances from Emerson Walker, Gage Olivas, and Alex Adams helped the Bucks force multiple turnovers, disrupting Andrews' offensive rhythm and preventing them from

See JV • 14

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PERMIT NO. WQ0012865002

APPLICATION. U.S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 129, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Land Application Permit (TIAP) No. WQ0012865002 to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 23,000 gallons per day via evaporation. The domestic wastewater treatment facility and disposal area are located approximately 3,000 feet southeast of the intersection of Huisache Drive and Rio Grande Village, in the city of Big Bend National Park, in Brewster County, Texas 79834. TCEQ received this application on August 29, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Rio Grande Village Visitor Center, Big Bend National Park, 450 Rio Grande Road, Big Bend National Park, in Brewster County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tlap-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-102.956913,29.18707&level=18>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from U.S. Department of the Interior at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jeffrey Sartain, Maintenance Supervisor, at 432-477-1111.

Issuance Date: October 1, 2024

Fightin' Buck and Lady Buck Sports Schedule

LADYBUCK VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 5 Presidio vs Alpine* F/JV @ 5 p.m.

V @ 6 p.m.

Oct. 8 Anthony vs Alpine* F/JV @ 11 a.m.

V @ 12 p.m.

FIGHTIN' BUCK FOOTBALL

OCT. 3 CRANE VS ALPINE JV* @ 6 P.M.

OCT. 4 ALPINE VS CRANE* V @ 7 P.M.

OCT. 10 ALPINE JV VS COMPASS* @ 6 P.M.

OCT. 11 COMPASS VS ALPINE* (HOMECOMING) V @ 7 P.M.

CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 3 Odessa Invitational @ UTPB

Oct. 7 District Championship (HS/MS) TBA

*Denotes District Games

Avalanche Classifieds

ERRORS - Please check your ad the first day of publication. We are only responsible for the first incorrect insertion of any ad. Publisher's liability for damages resulting from errors in any advertising that it has agreed to publish shall be limited to the amount actually received by the publisher in consideration for its agreement to publish the advertisement in question. It shall not be responsible for

any consequential damages suffered by any party.
DEADLINES - All ads are due in the office by 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday.
HOURS - You may place your ad in person at 704 E. Holland, Alpine, TX 79830 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 432-837-3334.
CANCELLATIONS - All ads may be cancelled for the next publication until 12:00 (noon) on the

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

for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.
PAYMENT - All Classified Ads must be paid in advance.
EMAIL - Send your Classified Ads to the Alpine Avalanche by email at shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com.

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Commercial Zone lot in Alpine - 7th and Gallego Call - 432-386-0363

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Fall Rummage Sale at Hillside Church this Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Huge collection of great treasures including tools, Milwaukee Shop Vac, full size wooden bunk beds, two metal day beds, baby items, lots of clothes and books for the whole family; Holiday decor, baskets, Three dining sets with chairs, aquarium wood-stand with shelves, lots of nice shoes, extra clean King size mattress, small wooden desk, kitchenware and more!. Proceeds will help fund the Annual Live Nativity, shipping for Operation Christmas Child Boxes and Valentine Senior citizen goodie bags. Sale will continue next week Noon to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday and October 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hillside

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP

The State of Texas
 To all persons interest in the Estate of WILLIAM DANNY BATES, Deceased
 Cause No. PR03093,
 in County Court, Brewster County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an application to Determine Heirship in this estate on the 6th day of September 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of WILLIAM DANNY BATES, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

This Application may be acted on by this Court at any call in the docket on or after 10:00 A.M., on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation on the 7th day of October, 2024. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Alpine, Texas, on the 25th day of September, 2024



/s/ Sarah Vasquez
 Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk
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Avalanche Classifieds 432-837-3334

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles Edward Blackley, Deceased, were issued on July 23, 2024, docket number PR03170, in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas to Sandy Stewart. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, c/o Law Office of Sandy Stewart, P.O. Box 298, Fort Davis, Texas 79734. 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: September 30, 2024.

s/s **Sandy Stewart**
 Sandy Stewart

CASE NO. PR03170

IN THE PROBATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT
 §
 CHARLES EDWARD BLACKLEY, § OF
 §
 DECEASED, § BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

I solemnly swear that the above notice was published once in the ALPINE AVALANCHE, a newspaper of general circulation in Brewster County, Texas, as provided in the Texas Estates Code for the service of citation or notice by publication, and the date that the issue of said newspaper bore in which said notice was published was _____.

A copy of the notice published, clipped from the newspaper, is attached hereto.
 _____ Publisher
 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE
 ME by _____ on _____

Notary Public, State of Texas

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1. Publication Title: **Alpine Avalanche**
 2. Publication Number: **014-900**
 3. Filing Date: **09/26/2024**
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P.O. Box 719
Alpine TX 79831-0719 / BREWSTER
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Alpine TX 79831-0719
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 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
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13. Publication Title: **Alpine Avalanche**
 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **09/19/2024**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

general circulation weekly newspaper		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1900	1900
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	238	235
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	202	194
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	1089	1107
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1529	1536
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	8	8
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	29	29
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	100	100
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		137	137
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1666	1673
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		234	227
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1900	1900
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		91.78	91.81

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	104	100
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1633	1636
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1770	1773
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	92.26	92.27


I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **10/03/2024** issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

 Date: **9-26-24**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



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 - Susie Gonzales

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Drop the extra carbs with a crustless veggie quiche

If you're looking for a light and nutritious quiche, try this easy crustless vegetable dish. Made with tangy tomatoes, crunchy zucchini, and fresh herbs, it is perfect for breakfast, brunch, or a light meal anytime.

The recipe does not call for cheese, milk, or meat; if you want it to be truly dairy-free, use olive or avocado oil instead of ghee.

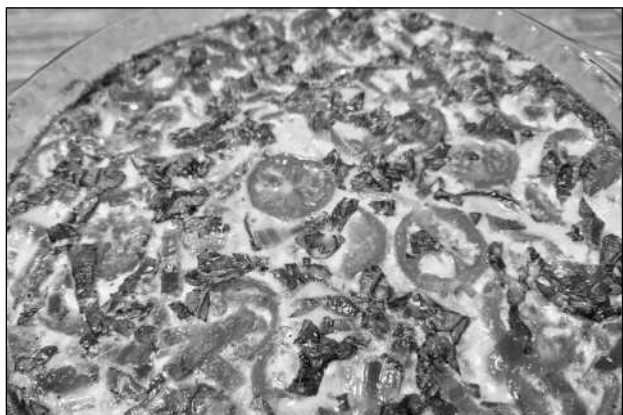
Some of you may be unfamiliar with ghee.



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

Put simply, it is clarified butter. Clarified butter is a type of butter that has



Crustless vegetable quiche.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

been melted to separate the milk solids and water from the pure butterfat.

This process results in a clear, golden liquid that has a higher smoke point than regular butter, making it ideal for various cooking methods like sautéing, frying, and baking.

The term "clarified" comes from the process of making the butter clearer by removing the impurities and milk solids.

It is also quite expensive, so you can use regular butter or olive oil.

If you read this column regularly, you will also know I add some extras to my recipes.

In this case, while I left out the cheese (an actual crime), I added some crispy bacon and mushrooms. I also used ghee to sauté my vegetables and half and half instead of dairy-free milk.

You can use almond, oat, or even coconut milk instead of half-and-half

CRUSTLESS VEGETABLE QUICHE

Next, stir in the minced garlic and sauté for another minute until it becomes aromatic.

Add the zucchini and cook for about five minutes, stirring occasionally until tender but still slightly crisp.

Add the baby spinach to the skillet and cook for one to two minutes or until wilted.

Whisk together the eggs, dairy-free milk, salt, and fresh ground pepper in a large bowl until well combined and slightly frothy.

Stir in the minced basil.

Spread the sautéed vegetables evenly in the prepared pie plate. Arrange the sliced tomatoes on top of the vegetables.

Pour the egg mixture over the vegetables and the tomatoes, ensuring it is evenly distributed.

Place the quiche in the preheated oven and bake for 20-30 minutes, or until the quiche is set in the middle and slightly golden on top.

Remove the quiche from the oven and let it cool for a few minutes before slicing. If desired, garnish with additional basil.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

or regular milk. It wasn't vegetarian or dairy-free, but it was still quite epic when it came to flavor. It was, however, crustless.

And while I do love a good pie crust, I didn't miss it in this instance. The tangy tomatoes,

slightly crunchy zucchini, herbaceous spinach, basil, and mushrooms really enhanced this egg pie.

Add a little garlic and savory onions, and you have a great dish to enjoy.

Whether you follow the recipe verbatim or mix it up a bit like I have,

this easy quiche can be table-ready in as little as 45 minutes and will have everyone standing in line for second helpings.

Grab those free-range eggs, hit the vegetable aisle, and whip up a quick and tasty meal for any day of the week.

Devotional Page Relationships

BY NANCY ANTRIM, VICAR
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Hobbs, NM

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. In the New Testament, we read about our relationships with each other. And these relationships are very important. But they're not the reason that Christianity is described as a relationship.

It is described that way because, at the heart of our faith is our belief that the one who created us, and all that is, wants to have a real, life-giving, loving relationship with us.

The heart of our faith is not a set of teachings and beliefs about God. It is not a set of rules to follow to please God. It is a relationship with God, a relationship that is made possible by the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and a relationship that is made alive in our lives through our faith.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we will ever have. But a close second is our relationship with each other.

Think of what Jesus said about the greatest commandment: To love the Lord our God and our neighbor as ourselves. Or think of the Ten Commandments. The first tablet is all about our relationship with God. The second tablet is all about our relationship with each other. Both relationships are important.

Our first and foremost relationship is with God: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

God is present with us when two or three of us are gathered in the name of Jesus. I believe that when we come together for purposes of worship, God's Spirit is with us.

I don't just mean Sunday morning for church service. I mean, anything that we do together in his name is an act of worship.

This could be coming to a semi-boring committee meeting at church. Worship could also be gathering to meet people's needs in the community.

Any kind of mission, education, and evangelism is a form of worship. Anything that we do where we gather in Christ's name is worship. Even just meeting for fellowship, including coffee hour.

In fact, worship can probably cover just about everything we do together. So, when we gather in Jesus' name, God is there with us. God's relationships with us and our relationships with others are interconnected.

When someone becomes separated from us, it is our responsibility to bring them back into a relationship with us. We are not to reject them because of something they did or said. Remember, Jesus specifically spends time with sinners, gentiles, and tax collectors.

Jesus didn't shun people who were out of a right relationship with the community. Jesus purposely helped people recognize the right way to go.

Relationships matter to God—our relationship with God and our relationship with each other.

These relationships will stand forever, making them one of the most important things we have in our lives.

How firm is your relationship with God? How firm is your relationship with each other?

We are never alone if we are in a relationship with God. He is always there, but are we?

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

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Acts 2: Verses 17-21
verse 17, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"
verse 21, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

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The 'Flying Hawaiian' wins again



Sul Ross' Cameron Haumea, a native of Hawaii, claimed his second win of the season on Saturday at Sul Ross' college rodeo. Haumea won the steer wrestling at ENMU College Rodeo last weekend and then again at the S.A.L.E. Arena with 8.7 seconds on two runs.

Courtesy photo

Get along, little doggies

The Sul Ross State University Rodeo team held their annual cattle drive last Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the University Mall. This one-of-a-kind event is held annually a few days before Sul Ross' fall rodeo starts.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



FOOTBALL • FROM 8

and scrambling backward to avoid a big loss.

Just when the Wildcats thought they had him, his sharp field vision came through, helping him find an open receiver when the play looked like it was breaking down.

"Devon Rojo continues to be a great leader for our team at the QB position," said Coach Smith. "His accuracy with the football has been great, and his leadership skills have benefited our team."

Rojo threw for 344 yards and four touchdowns, also adding two rushing touchdowns to his growing highlight reel.

On the ground, Rojo has also added 136 yards rushing through the first five games. Rojo has thrown for 1,081 yards on the season, with a 60.13% completion rate.

His favorite target has been season standout Dae Hardwick.

Hardwick was again a force on the field, continuing his remarkable season with 12 receptions against Anthony.

Hardwick has now amassed 53 catches through just five games, putting him on track to exceed 100 receptions by the end of the season.

His consistent playmaking ability has been a key part of the Bucks' offensive success.

Hardwick also took snaps for successful two-point conversions, finding Iden Lujan, Izaak Fierro, and Ethan Flores in the endzone with his arm and adding to Anthony's misery.

Throughout the night, special teams played a significant role in the outcome. Alpine capitalized on several key moments in the kicking game, converting the three two-point conversions and kicking a field goal.

The Bucks' special teams unit made game-changing plays by blocking a punt and recovering an onside kick, further extending their lead and ensuring the victory.

Alpine's offense was firing on all cylinders, with Rojo leading the passing game and the team's ground attack complementing his efforts.

Logan Smith had his best game of the season, pounding the Wildcats head-on with 128 rushing yards, including a 21-yard run. Rarely could the Wildcats bring down Smith with just one defender.

He also had 37 yards receiving on just five receptions, which included an amazing catch in the endzone that added fuel to the fire on the bench and in the stands.

"Logan Smith was able to get it going this

game on the ground," said Coach Smith. "He racked up 128 yards rushing with two touchdowns—one receiving and one rushing. This is a testament to the continued improved play of our offensive line."

Defensively, the Bucks contained Anthony's offense, allowing just 18 points as they cruised to their most decisive win of the season.

"The run defense has taken huge strides the last two weeks," said Alpine Defensive Coach Jerry Dominguez. "At half time, the Anthony Wildcats had eight rushes for negative two yards! They ended up with 97 rush yards for the game."

The Bucks defense relentlessly pressured

Anthony's quarterback, keeping him on his heels every time he attempted to pass.

Their aggressive defense also paid off with several key turnovers, disrupting the Wildcat's offensive rhythm and giving the Bucks opportunities to swing the momentum in their favor.

"There are a few things we need to clean up defensively, but the entire defensive staff is really pleased with the improvement we have seen in the last two weeks."

"The boys have been making it a point to improve defensively, and we are really proud of the effort and attitude that this group has been bringing on a day-to-day basis."

This victory marked a pivotal moment for Alpine's JV squad, which had been searching for their first win of the season. With solid play on both sides of the ball, the Bucks showed improvement in execution and discipline, providing a much-needed confidence boost for the remainder of the season.

Now sitting at 1-4, the Bucks are looking to build on this momentum as they prepare for their next test.

They will take on Crane tonight at Buck Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 5 p.m., and the Bucks will be aiming to carry the energy from last Thursday's victory into their home field once again.

As Alpine continues to develop and refine its game plan, the team will rely on the leadership of defensive stalwarts like Walker, Olivas, and Adams and the offensive playmaking of Ramirez, Rodriguez, Celaya, and Martinez. The Bucks hope this victory serves as a stepping stone toward further success as the season progresses.

JV • FROM 9

mounting any significant scoring threats.

The constant pressure applied by the Alpine defense limited Andrews' ability to sustain drives, resulting in several costly mistakes for the visitors.

On the offensive side, the Bucks displayed a balanced attack. In addition to Ramirez's early touchdown run, Alpine received key contributions from Dominic Rodriguez, Camilo Celaya, and Cloud Martinez.

Rodriguez played a vital role in moving the chains. At the same time, Celaya and Martinez added yards to keep the offense in sync.

Despite a few penalties and some stalling drives, the Bucks' offense did enough to ensure their early lead remained firm.

Andrews struggled to find their footing against a strong Alpine defense that never relented. Turnovers and missed opportunities plagued Andrews throughout the game, giving Alpine plenty of chances to maintain their lead and keep the visitors at bay.

Alpine looks to carry the momentum and great start to district play into Crane where they will travel to tomorrow night to face the Golden Cranes.

A win in Crane will keep Alpine undefeated in district and put them in a strong position as they move deeper into the season.

As the Bucks prepare for the Golden Cranes, they'll rely on continued offensive production from Rojo, Hardwick, and Smith. At the same time, their defense and special teams aim to repeat their standout performances.

Kickoff for the game at El Ave Stadium in Crane is at 7 p.m. tomorrow night.

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