

*School Board approves playground project, accepts donation*

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. Single Member District 4 Jimmy Morris and Single Member District 1 Eddie Natera were absent. Single Member District 7 Vice-President Mary McCallister led the meeting. After the meeting was called to order and no public comments were made, the board briefly discussed item six on the agenda regarding the delivery method for construction services for the new playground project. This particular project is considered a design-build project in which a specific vendor is chosen to complete the construction.

See BOARD • 6

**INSIDE**



FEATURED

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**Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport**

2024 . . . . .13.74"  
 October . . . . .0.00"



**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.**



**Big Bend's Chisos Basin closure begins May 1**

BY CLAUDIA ARNBERGER  
 Contributor

Thanks to funding from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund, construction work on significant improvements to the Chisos Basin area of the park is expected to begin May 1 and continue for approximately two years. The Chisos Basin area will be closed to all visitor entry as work begins. This includes the Basin Road, lodging units, Basin Camp-

ground, restaurant, NPS visitor center, camper store, and trails within the Basin area. This work will ONLY affect the Chisos Basin area of Big Bend National Park. As significant components are completed, park managers will assess which areas can be safely reopened to regular public access. Big Bend National Park will remain open year-round. It offers over 800,000 acres of canyons, desert, historic sites, diverse wildlife, scenic drives,



Current lodge view in the Chisos Basin.

Photo courtesy of NPS

backcountry roads, and over 150 miles of hiking trails for visitors from around the world

to enjoy. Construction crews will be demolishing the main Chisos Basin

Lodge building and constructing a new lodge  
 See BIG BEND • 6

**Lobos tamed the Mustangs**



Lobos wide receiver Austin Ogunmakin weaves to get by Western New Mexico's defensive back David Miller during Sul Ross' homecoming win over the Mustangs Saturday night, which earned them the Golden Tumbleweed trophy and their first Lonestar Conference win. Sul Ross (1-4) will face the Angelo State Rams (5-0) this coming Saturday in San Angelo

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Sports

**Volunteers survey local bird populations**

BY EMILY BLUMENTRITT  
 Contributor

An incredible variety of birds call the Trans-Pecos home. Over 500 species have been documented across the region, representing 81% of the species known to occur in Texas. Our grasslands are especially important as overwintering habitats for many species that nest farther north in the Great Plains during the summer.

One of the grassland specialists that winters here in the Trans-Pecos is the elusive Baird's sparrow, a tiny bird with a "necklace" of fine streaking that spends much of its time running unseen through the tall grass. Another important wintering bird is the chestnut-col-

ored longspur, which weaves through the sky in acrobatic and chattering flocks. These are just two of the many bird species that depend on high-quality grassland habitat here in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Many of our grasslands support cattle as well as birds, and a healthy grazing system helps grassland habitats thrive. Dirt livestock tanks initially created to support cattle could also support grassland birds. Last winter, volunteers recorded a flock of over 100 longspurs swooping over the water at one tank, twisting and turning together and eventually landing to grab a drink.

Many grassland birds, such as these longspurs, are in serious trouble. As grasslands are de-



Volunteers gather after a successful bird survey at the Mimms Unit. Participants include Sul Ross State University students and Texas Master Naturalists from the local Tierra Grande chapter.

stroyed across North America, grassland bird populations have plummeted. Livestock tanks could be an important bird resource and an

excellent opportunity for landowners to support bird conservation. On a brisk September morning, Alpine and Fort Davis volunteers

gather at Dixon Water Foundation's Mimms Unit in Marfa. Armed with binoculars and

See BIRD • 6

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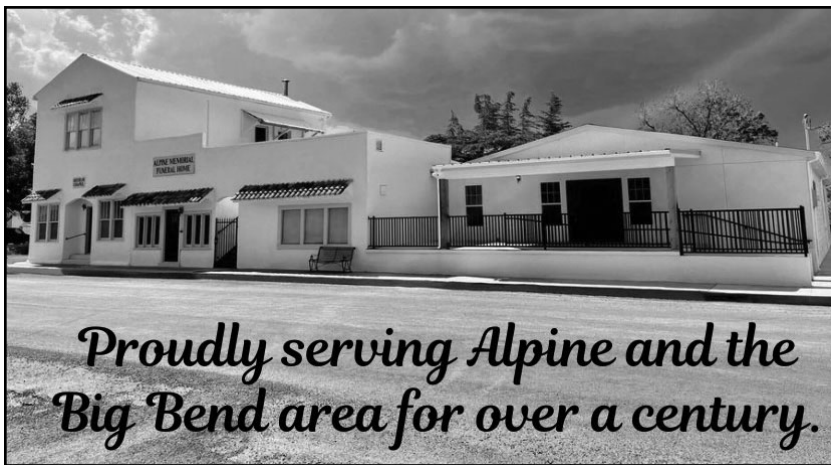
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## OBITUARIES

### Earl Henry Elam

Earl Henry Elam, age 89, of Hillsboro, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 13. A Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, October 18, at Holly Hills Memorial Park in Granbury. A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, October 17, at Marshall and Marshall Funeral Directors Chapel in Hillsboro.

Earl was born on December 7, 1934, in Wichita



Falls to Patrick Henry and Martha Maurine (Scoggin) Elam. He served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Korean Conflict.

Earl began his teaching career at Lubbock High School in Lubbock. There,

he met Eleanor, who was, without a doubt, the love of his life. He later became a professor at Sul Ross University in Alpine, where he worked his way to becoming vice president of academic affairs. Earl was the founding director of the Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross, which allowed students to thrive in their pursuit of education. Earl loved history and was a very active Texas State Historical Society member. After retiring, he continued to work as an editor

at Hill College Texas Heritage Museum in Hillsboro. While at Hill College, his love for history and writing allowed him to publish a book on the Wichita Indians, which was a lifelong dream. He was an active member in the community, including the Methodist Church and the North Texas Airstream Community in which he lived. He and Eleanor were avid travelers and were often away in their Airstream. He loved to talk and share his infinite knowledge ev-

erywhere he went. Above all else, he loved his family! He loved his Lord and frequently stated that he has had a long relationship with Him. As a teenager, he decided to continue to expand his knowledge for as long as he lived, and he did.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor Elam; parents, Patrick and Martha Elam; sisters, Evelyn Allison, Patricia Low, and Anita Elam; granddaughter, Kennedy Reynolds; and son-in-law, Rick Reyn-

olds.

Earl is survived by his children, Karen Havenhill, Karla Elam, and Kasie Reynolds; brothers, Tom and Jerry Elam; grandchildren, Ryan Havenhill and his wife Katherine, Reagan and Reid Reynolds; and one great-granddaughter on the way.

Memorials may be made to First Methodist Church, 315 E Elm St, Hillsboro, TX 76645.

### Rebecca Ann Rooney Esparza

Becky was born on June 2, 1953, in Alpine to Francis Patrick "Pat" Rooney II and Shirley Smith Rooney. She grew up in Marathon and the outreaching surrounding areas of the Big Bend, alongside her sisters Francene and Betty. The girls spent most holidays and every summer on the ranch with their loving grandparents, Mimi and Tata (Mr. & Mrs. F.P. Rooney I). Their days were spent riding donkeys so they could learn how to ride, eventually graduating up to a mule. Once Becky mastered the art of mule riding, Tata gave her the nickname Bec-a-Roo. Mimi was always at arms-length with camera in hand, snapping pics of the girls on every adventure. Each trip was sure to include a picnic, packed by Mimi early that morning, and afternoons spent hunting arrowheads in the wide West Texas terrain. Each of the girls would spend the rest of their lives attesting to how they had the absolute best childhood growing up as a Rooney girl. Pat had three daughters, and he made sure to tell everyone that he was raising



his three girls like boys... and he did. He was a very proud girl dad, for sure.

Becky attended Marathon ISD, and once she started high school, she met her forever love, Sammy. They dated for two years before getting married in 1970. Soon, they welcomed their first born daughter, Elizabeth, born in Alpine in December of 1970. Sam enlisted in the Air Force and moved their little family away from Marathon, temporarily living in Fort Stockton and then on to South Dakota, where he was stationed. Once he exited the military, they lived in San Antonio for a short time, where they welcomed their second daughter, Jennifer, in 1975. West Texas was always home and soon was calling for their return. Sam and Becky left San Antonio and headed back west, settling once again in Fort Stockton. The third child, son Joseph, would soon join

and complete their family in 1979. Sam and Becky lived in Fort Stockton for 29 years, raised their family there, established careers, and developed lifelong friendships there as well. She went to all her kid's sporting events. She was their biggest fan. She loved watching them compete in sports. In 2005, they decided they needed a fresh start and headed further west to El Paso. Becky loved being in El Paso. She became a branch manager at a local bank, and they purchased a beautiful new home that she absolutely adored. Her days were spent decorating her house and loving on their Boston Terriers. Economy changes and better opportunities soon pushed them back out to the Permian Basin area, with Sam finding a new career in the oil field industry. They settled in Crane, where Becky found a position there at the local hospital. As always, she had no problem adjusting, fitting in, and forming more new bonds with those around her.

Sam and Becky began discussing their retirement plan. Their lifelong dream had been to return to where it all began, Marathon, and enjoy their golden years

together. So started the task of building their dream home upon the foundation of her childhood roots. Through blood, sweat, and tears, they built their home (mostly by their very own hands) over the course of the next 10 years. During this endeavor, they discovered and fought through her illness - together. Doctors' appointments, hospital stays, treatments, medications, and tests upon tests. She beat all expectations. She definitely called the shots right up to the very end. She fought a valiant battle for six years. On Tuesday, October 15, surrounded by her family and in the comfort of her own home, Becky succumbed to her cancer. She passed peacefully, surrounded by love.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents, Pat and Shirley Rooney, baby brother Bubba (F.P. Rooney III), as well as her maternal and paternal grandparents.

She is survived by her husband, Samuel Esparza; Daughter Liz Esparza of Austin; Daughter Jennifer Esparza (Charles) of San Antonio; Son Joseph (Joe) Esparza (Betse) of Alpine; Sisters Francene Taylor and Betty Jo Rooney of

Marathon; eight grandsons - Christopher Nussbaumer (Allie), Robert J. "Bob" Nussbaumer (Lauren), Miguel Castaneda (Jessica), Jorge Castaneda, Eden Silvas (Erika), Nicholas Silvas, Joaquin (Jake) Esparza, and Ethan Esparza; four great-granddaughters, one great-grandson, and another great grandbaby due in spring of 2025; numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Becky also leaves behind her extended Esparza family—mother Cruz Rey Esparza of San Antonio;

and siblings by marriage, heart, and a lifetime of mutual love—Linda Esparza Briceno, Roy Esparza (Mariana), Aurora Esparza Garza (Danny), and Ramona Esparza Carey (TC), all of San Antonio.

Graveside services were held on Monday, October 21, at the Marathon Cemetery, and a gathering of loved ones was held afterward at the Marathon Catholic Church Parish Hall. Alpine Memorial Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Alfredo L. Espinosa

Alfredo L. Espinosa, 80, from Odessa, was born February 12, 1944, in Alpine and passed away on July 3 in Odessa. He attended high school in Alpine, and after high school, he joined the Army. Once he completed his service to our country, he returned to Alpine to attend Sul Ross State University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree. His teaching and coaching career began in Crystal City, and he later moved to Odessa and taught at Ector High School and Ector Junior High as a Spanish teacher and coach for over 30 years. There are not enough words to describe how wonderful of a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, friend, teacher, coach, neighbor, etc. he was. No matter how anyone knew or addressed him by either Alfredo, Firo, "Es," Maestro, Compa, Mr. Espinosa, and last but not least, as Dad... he was someone special to everyone. Anyone he would visit or run into, he could eas-



ily start up a conversation. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends. His conversations would consist of words of wisdom, consoling someone, making one laugh, talking about his trips to Las Vegas, Laughlin, Reno, and Ruidoso, Dallas Cowboys, or simply stopping by and saying hello. He has countless numbers of friends and always seemed to make friends everywhere he would go. He had such great love and fire for life, and it showed through his smile. His love and faith for our Lord were undeniable. He would make sure to attend Mass and pray every day. This is one of many beautiful traits that he and his wife, Irma, have passed on to their children and grandchildren. Although we were not ready to see him leave

this world, Our Lord and Savior was ready to call His son, Alfredo L. Espinosa, home. For all of us who knew Alfredo, Firo, Mr. Espinosa, Coach, Grandpa, Dad... we hope and pray he knows he is loved and deeply missed. May he continue to smile in heaven, pray for us all, and rest in heavenly peace. He is survived by his daughter, Norma Jean Espinosa, and son, Robert Espinosa; grandsons, Robert Espinosa, Jr., and Caleb Guajardo; brother, Manuel Espinosa.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Manuel Q. and Esequiel Espinosa; his wife, Irma Espinosa; Brothers: Pablo Espinosa, Simon Espinosa, Juan Espinosa, Modesto Espinosa, Adolfo Espinosa, Leopoldo Espinosa; Sisters: Angelita Olazaba and Isabel Espinosa. Memorial services will be on Saturday, October 26, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine. The Rosary will take place at 9:30 a.m. and Mass at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Holy Angels Cemetery. A Luncheon will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks everyone to donate to one of his favorite charities, St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The Espinosa family says thank you to all family and friends for their condolences and prayers. A Big Thank You to Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral and Staff.

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## New winter hours for Boquillas crossing

The Boquillas Port of Entry, located in Big Bend National Park, will begin its winter schedule on November 4. The crossing will be open five days a week, from Wednesday through Saturday, and closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Pedestrians can access the port between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. During the transition from the summer to winter schedule, the port will be open on November 1 through November 3 but closed on November 4 and November 5. It will re-open on

Wednesday, November 6, and continue the schedule listed.

As always, visitors may cross into Mexico at the port by foot during low water or by rowboat ferry for a fee during business hours only. This port does not accommodate vehicle crossings or commercial importation of products. There is no other legal access to Mexico within or through BBNP.

All persons wishing to cross at Boquillas are required by law to have the proper documentation

that is required to cross the border. United States and Canadian citizens may cross with a valid passport. For complete information on other accepted travel documents, contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Presidio by calling 432-229-3349.

For more information about the village of Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/bibe/plan-your-visit/visiting-boquillas.htm>.

## Science and Literature come together



Ms. Hardaway's second-grade science class had the opportunity to meet award-winning author and scientist Tracy Borgmeyer last week via Zoom. Borgmeyer is the author of "Halley Harper: Science Girl Extraordinaire." The author, a chemical engineering graduate of Texas A&M who currently lives in the Woodlands near Houston, told the students a bit about the creative process behind her work and will be donating the complete box series of her book to Ms. Hardaway's classroom.

Courtesy photo

## Kiwanis installs new officers



The Alpine Kiwanis Club installed its new 2024-2025 officers last week during their regular meeting. Pictured are Rhonda Cole (Secretary/Treasurer), Lyndel Cook (LT. Governor for Texas Oklahoma District of Kiwanis International), Judy Stokes (Vice President), and Ralph Gruebel (President). Cook was on hand for the installation of the new officers.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

### Correction

In last week's City Council story, the date for the next regular City Council meeting was listed as October 29. The next City Council meeting is actually scheduled for November 5.

Also, it was mentioned that there were 14 propositions on the ballot for the November 5 general election. This was in error as there are only nine propositions.

## Students tour local law enforcement facilities



AHS Principles of Law and Public Safety students recently toured the Alpine Police Department and the Brewster County Jail facilities. APD Chief of Police Darrell Losoya partnered with the Brewster County Sheriff's Office to help the students explore the technologies, equipment, and procedures that go into local law enforcement operations.

Courtesy photo

## Early voting continues through next Friday

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Early voting for the November 5 general election is still ongoing. Polls will be open throughout the weekend and remain open all next week, closing Friday, November 1 at 7 p.m. All

early voting occurs at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex at 203 N. 7th Street in Alpine.

Today and tomorrow, polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. On Sunday, polls open at 1 p.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Beginning on Monday, October 28, polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m., and these hours will continue through Friday evening.

Election Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, with all polling locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Paisano Pete Edition Fort Stockton, TX

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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

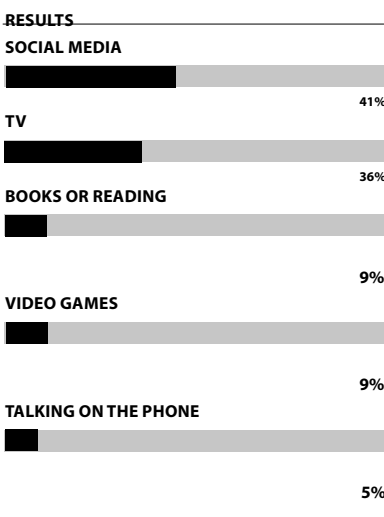
Now the Avalanche asks:  
**What are your biggest time wasters?**

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

Vote for this week's poll online at:  
[www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://www.AlpineAvalanche.com)

### RESULTS

#### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TIME WASTER?



## 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](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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# BOONIEVILLE



## SRSU welcomes the inaugural class of the Presidential PLUS Scholarship

Sul Ross welcomed the inaugural class of the Presidential PLUS Scholarship this fall. Presidential PLUS is a full-ride scholarship, including tuition, fees, housing, and meals. The program provides support to the top 25% of seniors from Alpine, Balmorhea, Buena Vista, Crane, Fort Davis, Fort Stockton, Grandfalls-Royalty, Marathon, Marfa, Monahans-Wickett-Pyote, Pecos-Barstow-Toyah, Presidio, Sanderson, Sierra Blanca, Terlingua, Valentine, and Van Horn.

I'd like to introduce you to a couple of the Alpine recipients. We are excited about the possibility of rewarding many more local and regional students over the coming years.

Nidia Corona was born in Tacoma, Washington. A military child, she spent most of her life in El Paso and lived in Hawaii for a couple of years. She moved

to Alpine three years ago, and her sister, Yaritza Corona, graduated from Sul Ross. Her brother, Edgar Corona, will graduate soon. She enjoys listening to music, practicing instruments, drawing, learning about different cultures, and playing games. Her major is Music Education.

Nidia's dream job is to become a band or orchestra teacher and teach middle school or high school so she can use her best abilities to teach young people while still making it enjoyable.

"Receiving the Presidential PLUS Scholarship solidified my decision to stay at Sul Ross for four years and pursue the music degree I wanted while lifting the weight of paying tuition and other expensive fees from my parents and



**DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ**  
President Sul Ross State University

my shoulders," she said. "The full-ride scholarship has also allowed me to experience what dorm life is like this upcoming fall semester. This scholarship has not only made me feel like I'm taking the right step in

the right direction but also made me feel even more motivated to continue to do my absolute best."

She is looking forward to learning, making the most of the college experience, and meeting new people.

Kalavati Caufield loves to draw, paint, and create art, help others, and give back to her community. She is a Psychology major and hopes to be a therapist someday.

"This scholarship has not only made it possible for me to go to college without having to go into debt,

help my family, and go to college full-time but has made it possible for me to fully focus on school and not worry about taking gap years to get through college," she said. "I am just so excited to learn and grow as I connect further with my community and begin my therapy career. It's something I have looked forward to for a while."

We want our regional high school students to know that we believe in them at Sul Ross. We want to provide them with the educational support they need for successful careers, whether they choose to return to their hometowns or explore the world.

We continue to add new pathways and programs—our first doctoral degree in Educational Leadership is expected to begin next year.

It's an exciting time at Sul Ross, and we invite you to be a part of it.

## Choose friends wisely; they will shape your life

*"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."*

— **John Lennon (1940 – 1980) English singer, songwriter, and musician.**

Traveling alone, something I've done far too much of in my lifetime, makes me think a lot. My brain's hard drive revs up with the open road, shifting a myriad of memories into overdrive. My vehicle has satellite radio, Bluetooth, and even antique CDs for entertainment, but thinking is my preferred pastime to make miles fly by.

Driving Saturday, I reflected on knowing most of my life is in the rearview mirror, knowing the few years left will seem quick. That thought becomes increasingly poignant whenever I'm headed home dressed in my Sunday best with a funeral program folded up in my pocket.

My parents instilled many good things in me, one of which is to "choose your friends wisely; those you call friends will shape your life."

Ronnie Lilly and I graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in the generation who remembers hearing the news at school that President Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas.

After graduation, Ronnie and I found ourselves as roommates at Kilgore College along with a third partner in "adventures,"

our mutual friend and high school classmate, Mike Williams. Memories of adventures include sharpening our skills at pool playing, late-night card games, overflowing the washing machines at the laundromat across the street from the girl's dorm, and the memorable night we drove to downtown Dallas in awe of Texas O.U. weekend activities. We then traveled back to Kilgore the same night.

Ronnie was driving, I was riding shotgun, and Mike fell asleep in the back seat. Arriving at our apartment just before dawn, Ronnie and I went in and hit the hay while Mike continued snoozing in the car. He awoke later that morning, initially miffed at us, thinking we had stopped for a motel room and left him in the car.

All this fun, yet we still found time to attend a few classes. Come the spring, Ronnie and I flipped a coin to determine whose old Chevrolet, his '57 or my '58, was more likely to make a trip to Southern California. Memorial Day weekend, we were headed west in his car, stopping for a night in Las Vegas. We got a glimpse of Dean Martin singing at a club at The Thunderbird. No one was at the door, so we walked and disappeared into the shadows. The legendary



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

crooner was almost through his second song when a tall man in a black suit offered two 19-year-old kids from Texas some options, the best one being to leave. Immediately.

We packed a lot into that summer of '67. Working days to make money for school in the fall. Saturday nights, we were cruising the burger hangouts, listening to the Beach Boys on the jukebox, and drooling over cool California cars and hot rods. Sunday afternoons, it was Malibu Beach watching surfers, researching the still somewhat new beachwear fad called bikinis, and trips up the coast to Pismo Beach, roaming the dunes in sand buggies with my Uncle Bill and his friends.

We were loaded with memories and headed east back to Texas for Labor Day weekend. Crossing the desert in the middle of the night to avoid daytime temperatures of 115 degrees and more, we cleared the desert into Southern Arizona well before dawn. Sleep was beckoning; no town within miles had a motel.

It wasn't the Hilton, but a middle-of-nowhere roadside park picnic table provided a couple of hours of shut-eye, and we were on the road again at dawn.

Ronnie's car made the trip without a hiccup despite the gas gauge not

working. That was a problem just once, not far over the state line from New Mexico into Texas. Ronnie hitchhiked into town for gas while I

stayed with the car. I'm not sure he ever believed me about the hippies in a VW bus covered with peace signs and flowers, stopping to see if I needed help while he was gone.

"This is Texas," he laughed. "We left all that behind in California two days ago."

But it was true. It really happened.

Someone once said, "Life is an adventure best shared with good friends." I've been blessed with many good friends who have shared a lifetime of adventures with me, but I could never have asked for a better friend than Ronnie Lilly.

Friends and family gathered in East Texas Saturday to remember Ronnie and celebrate his life. I drove home dressed in my Sunday best, with a funeral program folded up in my pocket. I was thankful for friends and memories, and I was thankful to have counted Ronnie as my friend.

One who definitely shaped my life.

—Contact Leon Aldridge at [leonaldridge@gmail.com](mailto:leonaldridge@gmail.com). Other Aldridge columns are archived at [leonaldridge.com](http://leonaldridge.com)

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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

# Heard on the STREET

What's the most embarrassing thing that can happen in a job interview?



**Geni Brito:**  
Having bad breath.



**Beth Bryan-Dirmeyer:**  
Spitting while you talk.



**Lupe Hoffman:**  
Not knowing what to say.



**Katrina Munoz:**  
Passing gas.



**Tannah Rutledge:**  
You start crying.

Send your community events to [kara.gerber@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerber@alpineavalanche.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 24-26 Circus-Themed Haunted House,** 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Terlingua Ghost Town Crisis Center is holding its annual haunted house. It includes trick-or-treating and carnival games. Suggested donation is \$10.

**October 25 Travel Talk,** 7 p.m. Alpine Public Library will present Four Friends Afloat Through Chile's Fjords by Linda Hedges, Rick Resse, and Albert and Kathy Bork.

**October 26 Great Pumpkin Giveaway,** 9 a.m. to Noon at the Alpine Visitor Center. Games, crafts, bounce house,

pumpkin decorating and carving contest, and much more. Sponsored by the City of Alpine.

**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

**Alcoholics Anonymous,** 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or [aa-intergroup.org](http://aa-intergroup.org).

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

**American Legion Post 79**



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

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

**Amigo Run Club at Alpine**

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

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

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

**Citizenship Classes,** at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E.

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

**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.

## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Lassie. Lassie has been at the shelter since mid-April; she was running loose outside the city limits with her sister Sloan. They were not well socialized and were a little leery of people at first, but now Lassie loves to play with other dogs and loves attention.

For the first few seconds with a new person, Lassie can be a little shy but then enjoys the meeting. She is a talker, and this has endeared her to the staff. She loves treats and toys and is responsive to learning.

Lassie has striking blue eyes, one of which is half-blue. She is a Catahoula Leopard Dog mix. This working breed is known for being protective, playful, and affectionate with its family. It would make a great farm or ranch dog.

Lassie has been spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped and is ready for her forever home.

Alpine Animal Services can always use community participation. 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.

Make sure your pets are spayed and neutered and have their city license; don't contribute to the overpopulation of pets at the shelter and dogs running loose daily.

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 invites you to join us for Dia de los Quesos on Sunday, October 27, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Granada Theatre. Enter your salsa or queso in our contest, food by Cow Dog, and several musical acts, including The Swifts. We have wonderful items for our silent auction.

You can also join us for Meowy Hour at Alcove Social on Tuesday, October 29, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A percentage

of the proceeds benefits Alpine Humane Society.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the shelter at 432-837-9030. If you find a stray or injured pet, call the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.



FULL ARTICLE HERE

**BBT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECEIPT OF OVER \$5.38 MILLION IN GRANTS TO EXPAND FIBER OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN WEST TEXAS.**

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Link to online article [bigbend.com/fiber-rollout-2024](http://bigbend.com/fiber-rollout-2024)

### BBT Secures Significant Grant Awards to Expand Fiber Optic Infrastructure Across Rural West Texas

BBT is proud to announce a series of grant awards aimed at enhancing high-speed internet connectivity across several rural communities in West Texas. These awards, totaling over \$5.38 million, will allow BBT to expand its fiber optic infrastructure to underserved areas, providing scalable internet speeds of 1 gig/gig with an accessible low-cost option of 100/20 Mbps. This crucial investment will ensure that more residents and businesses in these regions gain access to the reliable, high-speed internet they deserve.

#### Project Summaries:

##### Fort Davis Project

Grant Amount: \$2,004,599  
Locations Served: 220

Details: The Fort Davis project will extend fiber optic infrastructure to 220 locations, offering high-speed internet with scalable speeds of 1 gig/gig. A universally available low-cost option of 100/20 Mbps will be provided to ensure all residents and businesses have access to affordable internet.

##### Limpia Crossing Project

Grant Amount: \$1,721,733  
Locations Served: 123

Details: This project will serve 123 locations in Limpia Crossing, building out fiber infrastructure that provides speeds of 1 gig/gig, with a low-cost 100/20 Mbps option available to residents and businesses alike.

##### Iraan Project

Grant Amount: \$315,981  
Locations Served: 99

Details: Iraan will see fiber optic infrastructure brought to 99 locations, providing scalable internet speeds of 1 gig/gig, along with a low-cost alternative of 100/20 Mbps for those seeking more affordable options.

##### Marathon Project

Grant Amount: \$235,743  
Locations Served: 34

Details: Marathon will benefit from fiber optic expansion to 34 locations, with high-speed internet of 1 gig/gig and a 100/20 Mbps low-cost option to ensure connectivity for all community members.

##### Alpine Project

Grant Amount: \$1,108,389  
Locations Served: 37

Details: The Alpine project will expand fiber infrastructure to 37 locations, offering reliable internet with 1 gig/gig speeds, as well as a 100/20 Mbps low-cost option for universal access.

[www.alpineavalanche.com](http://www.alpineavalanche.com)

**BOARD • FROM 1**

Single Member District 6 Dr. Adrian Billings made a motion to approve, followed by a second from Single Member District 2 Joe Portillo. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item was also related to the playground project. Item seven was to consider and act upon the adoption of a prevailing wage rate scale for this project and any other projects authorized by the board in the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 school years. The Department of Labor specifically set the prevailing wage rate scale for Brewster County, which was the wage scale up for approval by the board. Single Member District 3 Nikki Ahrens motioned to approve the prevailing wage rate scale as presented, followed by a second from Portillo. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item eight was the final item discussed for approval on the playground project. This item was the selection of the contractor for construction services, including the possible approval of a proposal and/or proposed agreement and/or delegation of authority to the superintendent to negotiate and execute an agreement. The construction company proposed for the playground project was Playgrounds Etc. out of Midland. Josh Bartlett and David Kitch were on hand to discuss the renderings shown to the board for the different playground structures for Alpine Elementary and Alpine Middle School. The entire playground project is grant-funded, and Playgrounds Etc. gave an approximate completion date of five to six months. All playground structures will include an ADA-compliant transfer station and are appropriate for the ages of the students.

The Pre-K structure, which also includes peripheral music structures that sound similar to wind chimes, had a projected total cost of \$120,727.34, installed.

The kindergarten through 2nd-grade playground structures had a projected cost of \$207,721.02. The 3rd-4th grade structures projected cost was \$221,542.40, and the 5th-6th grade structures at the middle school included a climbing type of structure, as well as three tether balls, a blast volleyball net system, and two soccer goals. This had a projected cost of \$70,898.61. These prices are installed, with concrete work and borders to be bid locally. All elementary school areas will also include swings, and safety landings will consist of artificial turf with padding. After some brief discussion, Single Member District 5 Haley Babb motioned to approve agenda item eight, followed by a second from Portillo. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was discussing the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) Program. Program Director Dr. Yvonne Realivasquez led this discussion and is currently working on the program's first phase, which is the planning phase.

Dr. Realivasquez explained to the board that one in five students in the state of Texas attend a rural school and that this program, which is a collaboration between Alpine ISD, Marfa ISD, Marathon ISD, Odessa College, and Sul Ross State University,

not only benefits these rural school districts financially but also strengthens regional partnerships and helps lead students towards a post-secondary or workforce pathway before and after graduation.

Three R-PEPs are currently in action across the state, and four others, including our Big Bend R-PEP, are in the planning stages. Dr. Realivasquez visited the Permian Basin Innovation Zone R-PEP, which is made up of McCamey, Grandfalls, Royalty, and Crane ISDs, to gather more information on how this program is working for these districts and how they are working logistically with the distances between the communities.

Dr. Realivasquez showed the board the projected timeline of what steps in the planning stages would look like and also told them that this program was being funded by philanthropic organizations such as the Stillwater Foundation and, just recently, the Gates Foundation, which is only funding 18 districts throughout the state.

The board next heard from Ellis Mumford-Russell from Post Oak Preservation Solutions. She explained to the board that the City of Alpine's HOT funds had been approved for her company to do the work to designate Koker- not Field in the National Historic Registry and the process by which this would occur before the historic field would be listed on the registry. Mumford-Russell explained that nothing needed to be done to be listed on this registry, and no special maintenance or upkeep was required unless the district decided to participate in the various funding grant opportunities.

The next item of business was the board's approval of all three campus improvement plans. After an overview of the plans, Ahrens motioned to approve them. This was followed by a second from Portillo, and the motion passed unanimously.

The board then accepted a donation of \$297,500 from the Permian Basin Area Foundation made by the Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Ford Brown Foundation for the AES and AMS playground project.

Lastly, during the superintendent report, AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart told the board that AISD had applied to the Permian Basin Area Foundation next grant cycle, coordinated an additional \$100,000 donation to add the swings with the fall-safe material for the elementary playground project, coordinated AISD's participation in TEA's Special Education Funding Pilot Project to advance legislation to fund special education in Texas adequately, and supported a career and technology education evaluation to help maximize current CTE offerings and funding; implementing evaluation recommendations to maximize CTE funding for AISD.

After Dr. Rinehart's report, the board recessed into executive session at 7:50 p.m., where they discussed personnel matters and deliberated over the Multi-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan, based on recommendations from the AISD Safety and Security Committee.

The next regular Alpine ISD Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for November 20 at 5:30 p.m.

**BIG BEND • FROM 1**

within the footprint of the original structure. This new facility will offer a high-quality visitor experience and include a new dining room, lobby, convenience store, restrooms, and outdoor terrace. Simultaneously, the network of old inefficient water lines, storage tanks, hydrants, and water treatment systems will be replaced throughout the Chisos Basin area, including the campground, hotel units, visitor center, public restrooms, employee housing, and historic cottages. More efficient fixtures will also be installed in buildings throughout the system, including the kitchen, motel units, and restrooms. A rainwater harvesting system has been designed to reduce the Basin area's overall water demand substantially.

Closure of the Basin during demolition and construction of the new lodge also makes this an ideal time to address additional improvements for visitor access and safety. This includes upgrades to bring infrastructure up to ADA (Americans with Dis-

abilities Act) specifications and efforts to streamline and improve the overall efficiency and appearance of the area for the visiting public. Planned upgrades include expanding the restrooms at the visitor center, new visitor center exhibits and trail-head kiosks, demolishing the current camper store, and providing electric vehicle charging stations in the main parking lot. Pathways connecting the motel units and visitor center to the new lodge will be reconfigured to provide a more cohesive system of accessible paths between all major public facilities within the Basin.

"It is a great time for Big Bend to see these much-needed infrastructure and facility improvements," said Park Superintendent Anjna O'Connor. "We're excited to finally begin work on a well-engineered facility that fits the landscape and meets high standards for energy, water, and operational efficiency to better serve the visitors of today and tomorrow."

GAOA is part of a concentrated effort to address nationwide deferred maintenance and

repair needs in national parks. Supported by revenue from energy development, GAOA provides the NPS with up to \$1.3 billion per year for five years to make significant enhancements in national parks to ensure their preservation and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and enjoyment for current and future visitors.

Regular updates, FAQs, artist renderings, photos, and the latest status on access to the Chisos Basin will be posted on Big Bend National Park social media and at <https://go.nps.gov/chisosbasinfuture>.

Once construction begins, the Chisos Basin Road will be closed. Visitors will not be able to access the Chisos Basin developed area, which includes the store, restaurant, lodge, visitor center, and campground.

Trails that begin in the Chisos Basin (including the Lost Mine Trail and Window Trail) will not be accessible. However, High Chisos destinations (Emory Peak, South Rim, East Rim) will still be accessible from trails that originate outside the Chisos Basin.

The 30-mile Outer

Mountain Loop is possible for the duly prepared backpacker outside the Chisos Basin, beginning at Blue Creek or Juniper Canyon. A backcountry permit is required for this hike.

With the closure of the Basin restaurant, the camper stores at Panther Junction, Rio Grande Village, and Castolon offer limited food, snacks, and drinks. The park concessioner, Aramark, is exploring options for food trucks at various park locations. There are also a variety of restaurants and a grocery store in nearby Terlingua/Study Butte.

Lodging is available in nearby gateway communities such as Terlingua, Study Butte, Lajitas, Alpine, and Marathon. Camping is another option.

There are almost limitless opportunities. Big Bend National Park remains open year-round 24/7. Visitors come from around the world for desert exploration, camping, scenic drives, hiking, backpacking, birdwatching, river trips, visiting Boquillas, Mexico, and enjoying the beauty and history of West Texas.

**BIRD • FROM 1**

voice recorders, pairs of volunteers travel across the ranch to reach eight dirt livestock tanks.

Once they arrive at their designated locations, volunteers will watch and listen for signs of bird life. Their goal? Document what bird species are using dirt livestock tanks in the grasslands of the Marfa Plateau.

Volunteers document what species are present and describe how the birds use the tanks. A pair of observers surveys each tank to double the number of eyes and ears that can notice birds. A simple voice recorder allows volunteers to describe the action in real-time and give detailed accounts of what they see. Biologists at Borderlands Research Institute will use this bird survey data to understand what birds are visiting livestock tanks and why different tanks attract different species of birds.

Observers ready to count birds on that September morning included Texas Master Naturalists, students and faculty from Sul Ross State University, and other community members interested in birds and conservation. Since the study began last year, over 40 volunteers have lent their time and expertise to the project. Volunteers make it possible to survey many tanks simultaneously, which leads to a more accurate census of the birds at each tank.

So far, bird surveys have documented over 50 different bird spe-

cies actively using livestock tanks. Some birds visit tanks for water, while others use dense vegetation to shelter or search for food. With sufficient rainfall, tanks can support ducks, from the small and charismatic bufflehead to the shy green-winged teal. Tiny migrating birds just passing through have been seen at the tanks, too, from iridescent hummingbirds feeding on nectar to colorful warblers picking up insects.

There are many ways to be involved in bird conservation. Other bird research projects that use volunteer help include Christmas Bird Counts—several of which are hosted within the Trans-Pecos every winter—and Nest-Watch, a citizen science program that teaches participants how to monitor hatching success.

To protect the birds that migrate through the Trans-Pecos, follow the recommendations of the Lights Out movement and turn off any non-essential lights during peak migration in spring and fall. Lights Out reduces light pollution, saves money and energy, and protects birds from window collisions and disorientation as they migrate through the night. Peak migration periods in Texas are April 22–May 12 and September 6–October 29.

Other opportunities to get outside and learn about birds in Alpine include guided hikes on Hancock Hill and events like Artwalk and Wildlife Day, where

conservation organizations often host booths and would be happy to chat about birds.

Great resources are available to learn about the birds in your neighborhood. The Merlin Bird ID app can identify birds by sound and allow you to view bird species likely to be in your area. Public databases like eBird.org allow anyone to upload bird sightings, allowing researchers to track bird population trends globally.

Through collaboration and community involvement, we can learn more about the birds around us daily.

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# Sports

## Champions of care: The young women keeping Alpine athletes safe

BY KERRY LAIRD  
Sports Editor

The athletic trainers for Alpine High School's sports teams are more than just the people taping ankles or handing out water bottles; they're the backbone of player safety and performance.

MacKenzie Sanchez, Danica Baeza, Roxanna Rodriguez, Jenna Vega, and Toni Ybarra serve as the school's dedicated athletic trainers, working under the guidance of Head Athletic Trainer Lori Santry.

Together, they ensure that every athlete is ready for game time, healthy, and protected from further injury.

When asked why she wanted to be an athletic trainer, Sanchez said it's a mix of everything the opportunity offers.

"I was always interested in watching the games on Friday," she said. "The most rewarding part is making sure everyone is okay."

Vega agreed that being under the Friday Night Lights and in the middle of the action is an important draw for her as an athletic trainer.

For Danica Baeza, being an athletic trainer is in her blood.

"My mom and sister were athletic trainers," she said, carrying on the family tradition as she watched the field for a player in need of care, always ready to jump into action.

Each of the young women takes on a variety of critical tasks, from preventative care



**Fightin' Bucks athletic trainers Danica Baeza, Jenna Vega, MacKenzie Sanchez, Roxanna Rodriguez, and Toni Ybarra keep athletes in tip-top shape.**

like taping wrists and ankles to providing hydration and managing injuries.

They are there for practices and games, the first on the scene and often the last to leave, always watching for any sign of injury.

"The experience of wrapping and taking care of others is important to me," said Rodriguez. "And just the games in general."

She smiles and adds that getting out of school early on Fridays makes the job that much more rewarding.

Everyone agrees wrapping is the most challenging aspect of being a trainer because there are so many different types of wraps.

"Learning how to wrap everybody and prepare things," said Ybarra. "That and the friendships with everybody."

Baeza, Vega, and Rodriguez are also student-athletes, juggling their duties as athletic

trainers with academics and the sports they love. The work of these young women is pivotal, not only because of their technical skills but also because of the support they provide the Alpine High School student-athletes who play football, baseball, and basketball.

Athletic trainers also handle the behind-the-scenes work, ensuring clean and sanitary equipment and helping with rehabilitation if players get injured.

"They're good at what they do," said Santry. "I'm lucky to have them. They put in a lot of hours, more than the boys. They are the first to practice and the last to leave usually."

Some may not notice their commitment to the health and well-being of Alpine's athletes, but to the players and coaches, they are indispensable.

## Sul Ross claims historic victory, brings home Golden Tumbleweed

BY KERRY LAIRD  
Sports Editor

Homecoming night at Jackson Field turned into a historic affair as the Sul Ross State Lobos secured their first Lone Star Conference win and their first-ever victory over a Division II opponent, defeating the Western New Mexico Mustangs 34-20.

The win broke a 13-game losing streak to the Mustangs, dating back to 1987, and brought the coveted Golden Tumbleweed Trophy back to Alpine for the first time in over three decades.

"I am really happy for our team, and I am really proud of our guys to accomplish the things we set out to do," said Head Coach Barry Derickson. "We were able to finally hit multiple different milestones and keep our program standards and traditions with the homecoming win."

It was a night filled with drama, heart and a few early missteps for the Lobos, but they fought back with Lobo grit. Sul Ross State's early struggles began with a failed fake field goal, leading to a 23-yard field goal by Western New Mexico. A botched snap later allowed the Mustangs to score again, extending their lead to 10-0.

But the Lobos' defense refused to let the game slip away. Quincy Blair forced a critical fumble that was recovered by Brayden Durocher, and Sul Ross State's special teams kept the Mustangs within striking distance when McLain Garrett IV blocked a punt on a crucial fourth-and-three play.

With the defense standing tall, Sul Ross State's offense found its rhythm late in the second quarter. Quarterback Andrew Martinez connected with Austin Ogunmakin on a 50-yard bomb that set up a five-yard touchdown run by Jordan Morales with just 57 seconds left in the half, cutting the lead to 10-7. The Lobo defense wasn't done, though, as Brendon Martin snagged an interception to stop the Mustangs' momentum going into halftime.

After the break, Sul Ross State came out swinging.



**Sul Ross Lobos head coach Barry Derickson hollers instructions at his players last Saturday in the Lobos homecoming game win over Western New Mexico.**

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Sports

Martinez led the offense on a scoring drive, capping it off with a four-yard touchdown pass to Vicente Luevano to give the Lobos their first lead of the night, 14-10. The small toss may have seemed routine, but it was a monumental moment for Luevano, who made history as the school's all-time leader in receiving touchdowns.

"My football staff was able to make some great halftime adjustments that enabled us to overcome a rough first half," said Coach Derickson. "It really was a team effort to accomplish this, as it was a very important part of making sure our guys were able to play to the best of their ability."

"Offensively, we turned up in the second half. Andrew Martinez and Austin Ogunmakin led the way in the passing game."

Western New Mexico added a late touchdown with just under two minutes to play, but it was too little, too late. The Lobos' defense, which recorded three sacks, five pass breakups, and eight tackles for loss, held the line, and the Lobos celebrated a long-awaited victory over their old rivals.

Martinez was the Lobos' offensive leader, completing 19 of 31 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a touchdown, showcasing his versatility. His performance marked his fifth game of the season with two or more passing touchdowns, bringing his total to

12 for the year, along with 1,343 passing yards. Martinez currently ranks second in the Lone Star Conference in both passing touchdowns and passing yards.

On the receiving end, Luevano made history with his 28th career receiving touchdown, surpassing the previous school record of 27 set by A.C. Hood (1997-2000). His touchdown also cemented his legacy as the single-season record holder for receiving touchdowns at Sul Ross State, with 12 scores on the year.

Ogunmakin was equally impressive, tallying 10 catches for 167 yards, including a touchdown.

Morales added 66 rushing yards and a score on 14 carries, while Blair led the defensive charge with 10 tackles, a forced fumble, an interception, and a game-clinching pick-six.

Defensively, Jonathan Fuamatu and Tamirr Bullcock each contributed seven tackles, with Fuamatu recording a sack and 1.5 tackles for loss. DayIn Dunbar chipped in with two tackles for a loss and a sack.

This victory snapped a long losing streak to Western New Mexico. It marked a resurgence in Sul Ross State's recent homecoming performances.

The Lobos are now 8-5 in homecoming games since 2011 and have won their last three homecoming matchups. After this victory, the Lobos improved to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in Lone Star Conference play.

As the final whistle blew and the Golden Tumbleweed trophy was hoisted high, the Lobos celebrated more than just a win—they celebrated the resurgence of a program ready to make its mark in the Lone Star Conference.

"We can build off of this win by removing the monkey off our back with the LSC win," said Coach Derickson. "There shouldn't be any questions about 'if' now because it's happened. We can now start playing faster and freer with that mentality."

The Lobos next face Angelo State in San Angelo at LeGrand Stadium this Saturday at 6 p.m.

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OCT. 25  
ALPINE VS ANTHONY\*  
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V @ 6 P.M. CST

OCT. 31-NOV. 1  
IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN VS ALPINE TBA

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V @ 7 P.M. CST

OCT. 31  
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\*DENOTES DISTRICT GAMES

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## Lady Bucks dominate Tornillo Coyotes

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN  
Contributor



Alpine recently celebrated their Lady Buck volleyball players with a ceremony at the AHS gym.

Courtesy photo

The Alpine Lady Bucks volleyball team continued their dominance in district play with a resounding 3-0 victory over the Tornillo Coyotes on Friday night. Playing in front of a home crowd for Parent Night, the Lady Bucks showcased why they remain undefeated in district play, pushing their district record to an impressive 6-0.

The varsity squad wasted no time asserting their control, winning each set by a wide margin. The Lady Bucks took the first set 25-8, followed by an even more lopsided 25-6 in the second, and closed out the match with a commanding 25-9 third-set win. The 3-0 sweep continues Alpine's unbeaten streak in district matchups, further solidifying their place atop the standings.

With a stellar 44.4% hitting percentage, the Lady Bucks were nearly unstoppable at the net. This marked a significant improvement from earlier in the season when their hitting percentage hovered around 14%. Over the last five games, Alpine has averaged an impressive 39%, proving that their offense is firing

on all cylinders as they head into the final stretch of district competition.

Head Coach Adrian Smith praised the team's performance, noting that their hard work and determination have propelled them to their current success. "The girls are playing with great confidence and focus," Smith said. "Our defense is strong, and we're being efficient on the attack. It's exciting to see everything come together."

The Lady Bucks' overall record now stands at 18-18, having overcome early-season challenges with a surge in district play. Meanwhile, Tornillo's loss drops their record to 2-9 as their struggles on the road continue. This extends a 12-game road losing streak dating back to last season.

The freshman and junior varsity squads also

had a strong showing against Tornillo. The JV team triumphed in a tight three-set battle, winning 25-18, 23-25, 25-3. The freshman team added another victory to their season tally, continuing the program's success across all levels.

Looking ahead, the Lady Bucks are preparing for their next match-up against district rival Presidio. The teams will face off on Tuesday, October 22, with games scheduled for 4:30 p.m. (freshman), 5:30 p.m. (JV), and 6:30 p.m. (varsity) in Presidio.

With the momentum of six straight district wins and their eyes on securing the top spot, the Lady Bucks are poised to continue their stellar run.

## Lobos sitting 2-3 in conference play

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Lobo men recently got back in the groove on the pitch, winning against West Texas A&M and Lubbock Christian, which improved their standings on the season and in conference play.

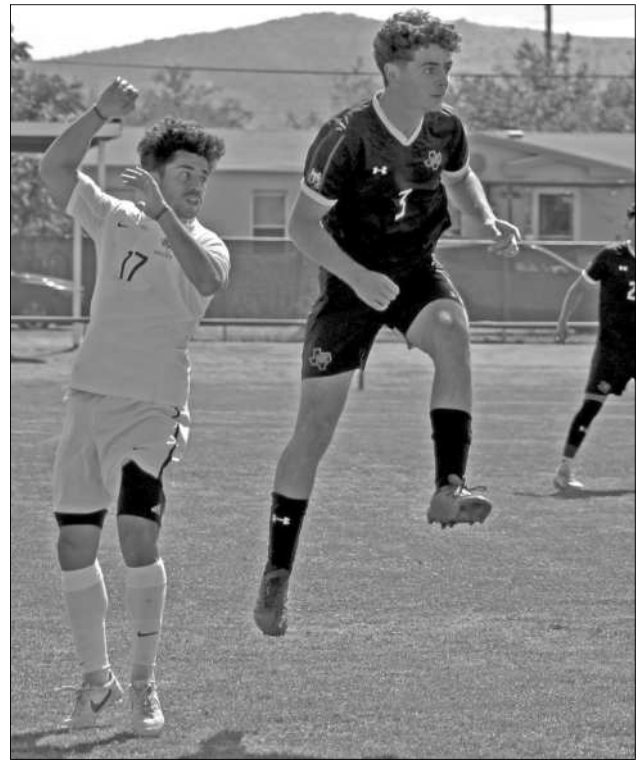
Before their win against the Buffalos, Sul Ross had not celebrated a single goal in 21 days.

Despite losses to Wayland Baptist, Eastern New Mexico, Oklahoma Christian, and Dallas Baptist, the Lobos squad has still set the program's record for overall wins in a season. Their win over West Texas A&M secured their first Lone Star Conference victory.

On October 12, the Lobos began the game against the Buffalos with a scoreless first half, with the Buffs holding them to just two shots on goal.

The Lobos were able to capitalize on a play from Zachary Trimming with an assist from Lewis Coates in the 50th minute of the second half. Three minutes later, Trimming would find the back of the goal again, adding the point that would secure the win for the Lobos with an assist from Jesus Duque.

Sul Ross next took the pitch against Lubbock Christian last Wednesday. Carlos Gonzalez would knock in a goal in the 72nd minute of the first half, placing the Lobos on the board first. Shortly after that, Coates, with an assist from Trimming, would add another goal on the net,



Sul Ross' Daniel Quickenden defies gravity during the Lobos match-up against Midwestern State last Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Sports

putting Sul Ross up 2-0.

Lubbock Christian would cut the deficit by one in the 86th minute with their only goal in the contest.

Sul Ross followed up in the 89th minute with an insurance goal from Trimming, taking the win 3-1.

This past Saturday, the Lobos took on the Mustangs from Midwestern State. The Mustangs came out kicking, with eight shots in the first half of the game. The Lobos goalie, Benjamin Alves, racked up four saves, allowing them to enter the second half with no scores against them.

Midwestern would change that in the 64th minute of the

second half with a goal from the Mustang's Samuele Muroli off assists by Cooper Tea and Mere Escobar.

Muroli would score again for the Mustangs with an assist by Jaime Villagomez in the 66th minute, allowing Midwestern to defeat the Lobos 2-0.

The loss to Midwestern leaves the Lobos at 6-6 on the season and 2-3 in conference play before their match-up against St. Mary's yesterday in San Antonio. Next up for the Lobos is another shot at the Greyhounds of Eastern New Mexico set for 3:30 p.m. this Saturday at the Lobo soccer field.

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## XC heads to Regionals



The AHS Runnin' Bucks cross-country team headed to Lubbock on Monday to compete at the regional competition. The team was all smiles as they prepared to head north to put their running prowess to the test.

Courtesy photo

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## Research assistant wins scholarship award

Borderlands Research Institute's research assistant Asia Cornelius was awarded the Don Pendleton Memorial Graduate Oral Presentation Award for the graduate research presentation that scores the highest among those accepted each year at the Texas Section Society for Range Management conference. Her presentation was entitled "Exploring Mycorrhizal Dynamics: A Comparative Analysis of Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing Systems." Cornelius is pictured with TSSRM President Dr. Humberto Perotto.



## Freshman volleyball takes District title



The AHS freshman Lady Bucks volleyball team took the District 4-3A championship title with an undefeated record of 7-0 this season.

Courtesy photo

### SENIOR Spotlight

**ROXELL ADAMS**

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I played volleyball my first two years, I was in track my sophomore year, and plan to participate again this year. I've been with the student council since my junior year, and I've been in the band forever. I've also participated in powerlifting since my sophomore year.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite memory of the last four years would have been when the girls' powerlifting team brought home a plaque for 3rd place at regionals. I felt so accomplished and confident, especially since I was able to share that experience with my teammates. It was such an achievement, not only for myself but for my whole team. I would do anything to go back and experience it again.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite teacher would have to be Ms. Holmes. I never had a relationship with a teacher like I did with her. She taught me a lot and we made so many memories. I miss her a lot and I hope the best for her career! I'll never forget her :)

**What are your plans after high school?**  
I plan to attend UTSA to study supply chain management and move in with my best friend.

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verse 21, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

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## Devotional Page Building a Godly city and nation

BY PASTOR MARK WILLIAMS  
Grace Christian Fellowship

**Isaiah 58:12 New Living Translation**  
Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then, you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 New International Version**  
if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**Matthew 5:13-16 King James Version**

Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, who is in heaven.

Throughout the Scriptures, God has used men and women to influence various aspects of governance to be enlightening for Him in the world. From Joseph to Moses, Debra, Daniel, Esther, and even Jesus and Paul in the New Testament, God used His people to affect the government of their day for His divine purposes.

Today is no different. The church is God's voice, hands, and feet as a collective force for good in the world and the United States, and this force does not end where government begins. God's people are to go into all the world, not just areas where it is considered politically correct. This is the mission of the church.

The church gets its values from God's Word. God's Word instructs His people with concepts that promote a life of peace and prosperity. Ten Biblical Foundations to consider when you vote this November 5 are listed below:

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- Defend religious liberty
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- Support Israel
- Promote safe communities
- Foster economic stability
- Guarantee election integrity
- Preserve girls' sports, safeguard children from transgender ideology, and champion God's design
- Protect parental rights in education

Please consider these Biblical Foundations when you voice your values at your designated voting poll. Please check to see if you are registered to vote in your county by calling or visiting your county or going online to votetx.gov OR voteTexas.gov.

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# Cooler days are perfect for soups

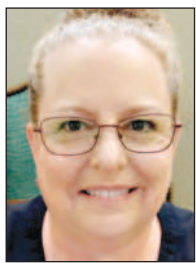
As George Costanza commented in the Seinfeld episode of 'Soup Nazi,' "I have to focus; I'm shifting into soup mode." For many, that's precisely what cooler temperatures signal to our brains: cooler weather equals bubbly pots of hot, delicious soup.

Luckily for us, there is no shortage of soup types that can be made.

If your tastes run to heartier fare, stews, which some may not consider an actual soup, can be a very filling option for your table. Tender meat in a hearty broth, along with tender carrots and yummy potatoes, can really hit the spot after a long day.

Creamy potato or squash soups are also good choices. We all try to please ourselves by hitting that comfort food button.

Some soups use the entire garden and add a little pasta along the way, such as pasta fagi-



### HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

oli or a chicken tortellini soup with kale or other greens.

The beauty of soup is that it often incorporates an entire meal in a single bowl. Add a protein of choice, several vegetables, and some pasta, and all you lack is dairy. Yet even that can be added if the soup is creamy rather than brothy.

Preparing these chilly day fillers is likely the most time-consuming part of the process, mainly because it involves chopping vegetables or other prep work if those are part of the soup. Depending

upon what sort of new gadgets you have in your kitchen, cooking time could easily be the second most time-consuming factor, depending upon how long the soup needs to simmer so that all the flavors incorporate.

These days, with the addition of InstaPots to our kitchens, the time factor is greatly reduced compared to traditional stove-top preparations. However, some people still prefer the old-fashioned way, allowing the aromas of the ingredients to permeate the house with the warm smells of fall cooking.

Regardless of how you prepare your soup or the type you prefer, by the time the soup hits the serving bowls, it will be a nice, warm welcome to the tummy on those chilly days.

## ITALIAN WEDDING LASAGNA SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- Meatballs**  
 8 ounces ground chuck  
 8 ounces bulk, sweet Italian sausage  
 One small yellow onion, finely grated in the smallest holes of a cheese grater.  
 One ounce parmesan cheese, finely grated  
 One large egg, beaten  
 One large garlic clove, grated  
 Half a cup of Italian breadcrumbs  
 One-and-a-half teaspoons of dried basil  
 One teaspoon of fennel seeds, lightly crushed  
 One teaspoon of kosher salt  
 Half a teaspoon of black pepper

- Soup**  
 Three tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 One medium yellow onion, chopped  
 One large carrot, peeled and chopped  
 One celery stalk, chopped  
 One tablespoon of dried Italian seasoning  
 Half a cup of dry white wine  
 Six cups of low-sodium chicken broth  
 One teaspoon of kosher salt  
 8 ounces of uncooked lasagna noodles broken into 2-inch pieces  
 Four cups of baby spinach  
 One-third cup of finely grated parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish  
 One cup of heavy whipping cream  
 Shredded mozzarella cheese, whole-milk ricotta cheese, and chopped, fresh basil for serving

### DIRECTIONS

- Prepare the meatballs by gently stirring together the ground beef, sausage, onion, parmesan, egg, garlic, breadcrumbs, dried basil, fennel seeds, salt, and pepper in a large bowl with your hands, being careful not to overwork.  
 Divide the mixture into 24 one-ounce portions and roll them into 1-inch balls.  
 Place in an even layer on a baking sheet and set aside.  
 In a large Dutch oven, over medium-high heat, heat the oil.

Working in two batches, add half the meatballs in an even layer; cook, turning as needed, until lightly browned on all sides, about four minutes per batch. Transfer to a baking sheet using a slotted spoon.

After the meatballs are cooked, add the onion, carrot, and celery to the remaining oil in the Dutch oven; cook over medium-high, stirring occasionally, until softened and beginning to brown, around five to eight minutes.

Add Italian seasoning and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add white wine and cook, using a wooden spoon to scrape the brown bits from the bottom of the Dutch oven, until reduced slightly, about one minute.

Stir in the broth and salt; bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to medium and stir in broken lasagna noodles and seared meatballs. Cook, stirring occasionally, until noodles are tender, and a thermometer inserted into the meatballs registers at least 160 degrees, at least 12 to 15 minutes.

Stir in spinach, parmesan, and cream; cook, stirring constantly, until spinach is wilted, about one minute.

Ladle into bowls; garnish with mozzarella, ricotta, basil, and parmesan.



Italian Wedding Lasagna Soup

Courtesy photo

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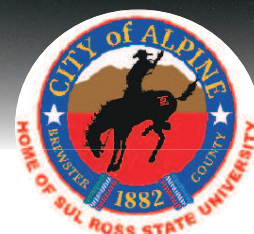
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# Election 2024



## City of Alpine Urges Residents to Vote on Charter Amendments November 5th

The City of Alpine is encouraging all residents to make their voices heard in the upcoming vote on Tuesday, November 5th, regarding important amendments to the city's charter. These proposed changes, aimed at modernizing and improving city governance, reflect feedback from community members and extensive work by city officials to align Alpine's policies with current needs.

Voting on these charter amendments is a critical opportunity for residents to help shape the future of Alpine. The amendments include adjustments to city procedures, updates to administrative processes, and improvements that will strengthen the city's ability to serve its citizens efficiently.

A detailed listing of each amendment can be found on the city website at [www.cityofalpine.com/charter](https://www.cityofalpine.com/charter).

**Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on November 5, 2024 at designated voting locations. Early voting will also be available starting October 21st.**

City leaders are reminding all eligible voters that their participation is essential in ensuring a strong future for Alpine.

**MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5TH!**

For more information on the proposed amendments and polling locations, visit the City of Alpine's website at [www.cityofalpine.com/elections](https://www.cityofalpine.com/elections).