

SRSU hoops gears up for LSC

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross State University men's and women's basketball teams have been hard at work on the court, practicing for their inaugural year as a Division II team in the Lone Star Conference. The Avalanche spoke with head coaches Xavier Webb and E.J. Lee Smith about how they see this first year in one of the toughest conferences shaping up.

For the men, the Lobos lost seven players to graduation but have eight returners, plus a few transfers and the lone freshman, local multi-sport high school athlete Jace Canaba.

"My guys are excited to get this season started. I have a couple of guys who transferred in from Division I programs. They're going to be an asset this sea-

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

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Brewster County tackles infrastructure upgrades amid rising tourism

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

At its November 12 meeting, the Brewster County Commissioners Court gathered with all members present to discuss various initiatives to manage regional resources and improve local infrastructure.

Items on the agenda included water planning, visitor center developments, budget amendments, and election equipment upgrades.

In a nod to the ongoing regional water

management efforts, the court approved the FY2025-2026 Administrative Cost Agreement for the Far West Texas Water Plan.

This agreement represents Brewster County's participation in a broader water conservation initiative designed to address the area's unique water challenges and ensure a sustainable approach



Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington

to future growth. Visitor services played a prominent role in the discussions as the court reviewed and approved conceptual designs for two significant projects in Terlingua: a visitor center and a dormitory facility to house on-call medics and a deputy.

With high tourism and remote location challenges, south Brewster County depends heavily on its

dedicated firefighters, medics, and deputies to provide round-the-clock emergency response.

However, the current accommodations at the South Brewster County Emergency Services Building are inadequate for personnel who must remain on call and ready to respond at any hour.

Brewster County Judge Greg Henington underscored the importance of a new dormitory facility that would meet the specific needs of both emergen-

cy responders and law enforcement officers, who are often required to live on-site when on call.

Addressing the court, Judge Henington explained the limitations of the current setup and the necessity for a purpose-built complex to serve these essential workers better.

"Right now, we've got people living in our station, which was really not designed as a bunk complex," he said. "We really need

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Honoring our Vets



Alpine ISD honored local veterans on Monday with a program full of song, poetry, and proclamation. Alpine veterans are pictured honoring the U.S. flag during the National Anthem.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Native son returns to Museum of the Big Bend

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Earlier this summer, the Museum of the Big Bend (MoBB) replaced retired former director Mary Bones with Terlingua's own Dr. John Klingemann. Klingemann was also named the Assistant Vice-President for Advancement at Sul Ross State University.

This Terlingua native and Alpine High School graduate completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at Sul Ross. His journey at the MoBB began when he worked as a work-study student while enrolled at the university. After completing his master's, he looked west. He enrolled at the University of Arizona at Tucson to complete his PhD in History.

Klingemann began his career in San Angelo, becoming an associate professor in the Department of History. Eventually, he became chair of the department, followed by the Dean of Arts and History and the Director of the Mayer Museum.

This success led him back home to Brewster County, where he currently serves as Director of the Museum of the Big Bend.

Never far from his mind, the Big Bend area was Klingemann's end goal, as he had always planned to return. "My desire to come



Dr. John Klingemann - Director Museum of the Big Bend and Asst. VP for Advancement

back home never faded. I needed the university experience at San Angelo and my experiences while procuring my doctorate in Mexico and Arizona to return to this community and Sul Ross," Klingemann stated.

Klingemann's vision for the MoBB looking into the future is multifaceted.

His ideas to use and incorporate the Archives of the Big Bend, as well as other historical aspects the university has on hand, is a big part of where he wants to see the museum in the future.

"I want to help students at Sul Ross understand the value of

what Sul Ross has to offer them academically and historically and what doors it can open for them in their chosen career. I also want to showcase what the museum has to offer its visitors and potential students by incorporating what this campus has to offer. There are artists here and history here, being made every day," he said. Along with the museum's overall mission, bringing art and history to the community and the campus, Klingemann wants to help incorporate this into the education of students. "I want to use what we have right here on campus in terms of the history of this university and its past and present students and apply that to expand mu-

seum exhibits as well as showcase the great exhibits we already have planned and exhibited," Klingemann replied.

Klingemann's other goals are to work closely with his staff and take a collective approach, harnessing their backgrounds and knowledge, applying this to future ideas on exhibits and directions, fundraising ideas and avenues, and building on the already great programs the museum is known for like Trappings of Texas and its summer educational programs for children.

"One of the things I'm interested in adding to the MoBB is the incorporation of local talent. Sul Ross has such an impressive history on its own, and

See NATIVE SON • 6

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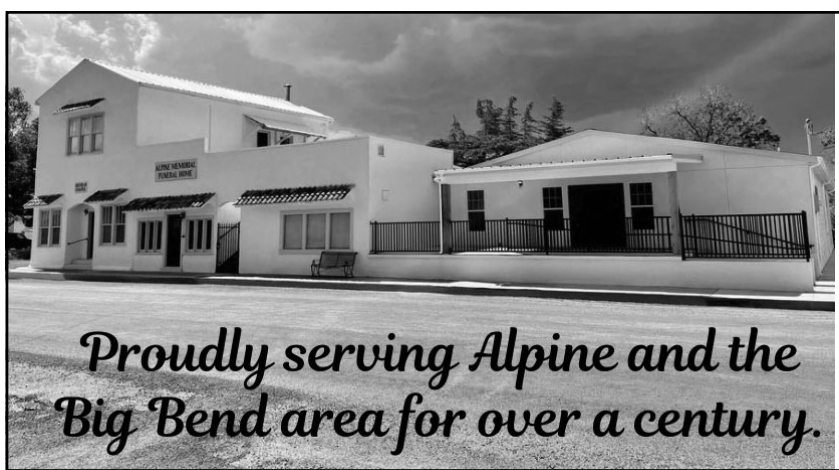
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OBITUARIES

Nellie Allen Rice

Nellie Allen Rice celebrated her heavenly reward on November 10, when she passed away peacefully from this life. Nellie was born to Clyde and Mertie Bell Allen on July 9, 1927, in Comanche. She was preceded in death by her brothers Joe, Bill, George, and John Allen and sisters Eulene Morgan, Grace Sparks, Minnie Allen, Neva Howard, and Edna Buckmaster. Nellie was active in the Hamilton Community, including the Extension Homemakers, for over 40 years and a



member of the Providence Piece Makers Quilting Group. She was a member of Providence Baptist Church and Littleville Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school for several years.

She was secretary of the Hamilton Baptist Association. Then, she went on to do the Nursing Home Ministry for many years. Her grandchildren fondly remember going with her to sing and minister on Sunday mornings. She loved going to Paisano Baptist Encampment in West Texas every summer for many years. She is survived by her son, Wesley, and wife, Mary Rice. Daughter Laura and husband Chuck Bridge. Grandchildren Kendra, husband Grant Garrett, Kyle Rice, Scott, wife Mary Kate Rice, Melody, and husband Dylan

Smith. Greatgrandchildren: Evan Smith, Braelyn, Adelyn and Emery Rice, Asher, Truman, Shepherd, and Hawthorne Garrett.

The Funeral Service will be held at the Riley Funeral Home in Hamilton on Friday, November 15, at 10 a.m. The graveside service will be in Alpine on Saturday, November 16, at 10 a.m. at the Elm Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you donate to the charity of your choice or plant a tree in memory of our sweet Nellie.

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AlpineTXPhoto Gallery opens at Alpine Visitor Center

The City of Alpine is pleased to announce a new permanent gallery in the Alpine Visitor Center, dedicated to displaying all of the city's #AlpineTX-Photo Contest's first-place winners.

The Visitor Center will host an opening reception for the gallery at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 22. At the reception, the winners of the 2024 #AlpineTXPhoto Contest, selected by contest judge Barbara Richerson, will be revealed.

The photography contest started in 2011 and is now in its 14th year.

Each year, a different judge is invited to select the winning photographs. "I love

that each year's winner comes from a completely different artistic sensibility," said Chris Ruggia, Alpine's Director of Tourism and contest administrator since its inception. "That gives these selections an incredible variety; you never know what kind of image is going to win from one year to the next."

Notable contest judges have included Marathon-based photographers James H. Evans and E. Dan Klepper, Alpine-based photographers Rachael Waller and Michael Howard, and internationally known art director and designer D.J. Stout.

The 2024 judge, Richerson, has had a lengthy ca-



"Windmill" by Robert Poinbeauf.

reer in news photography, serving for more than 25 years as Assistant Director of News & Publications at Sul Ross State University and freelancing for multiple newspapers and magazines.

The community and visitors to Alpine's Artwalk are invited to enjoy the Visitor Center's new gallery at Fri-

day's 5:30 p.m. reception with light refreshments.

"The photo contest has been 100% online since it began," said Ruggia, "and now, thanks to the hard work of Heather Yadon at the Visitor Center, the winners are being recognized in the real world for the first time."

¡Ándale a Marfa!: Marfa Live Arts presents a night of entertainment

Marfa Live Arts is back with a new program based on the border region's history and folklore, ¡Ándale a Marfa!: Revolution and Songs From Across the Border.

The event, which is free and open to the public, kicks off at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 16, and includes a monologue of La Noche Fría [The Cold Night] by M. Maldonado with actress Lydia Gallegos; ¿Por Donde Vino Villa A Atacar Ojinaga? [Where did Villa come from to attack Ojinaga?] with Ojinaga historian Victor Sotelo Mata and Marfa Folklorico, and culminates with a special performance by award-winning, El Paso-based singer Arturo Guerrero and his mariachi band. Talking about her upcoming monologue performance, Gallegos said, "I feel very excited and nervous at the same time. Acting in front of an audience and in a country different from mine fills me with emotion and pride! I consider it a challenge."

As for the text itself, Gallegos stated, "For the author of the monologue, his priority has always been to make people not only aware of but also to recognize what the people inside Ojinaga were going through during those nights of uncertainty, waiting for Pancho Villa to take over

the region. The story of the takeover process is known, but not what was happening within the community. I invite the audience to attend and experience a little bit of our history through the performing arts and our Ojinaga culture."

When asked about his upcoming presentation in Marfa and the importance of the subject, Sotelo Mata said, "I love giving conferences — in Parral, Chihuahua; in Durango—. I even gave a conference in Alpine called The Coexistence of the Border Line in Rio Puerco (Rio Grande). The topic fascinates me. This research took me 15 years and involved towns such as Van Horn, Valentine, Porvenir USA, Porvenir Mexico, Candelaria, Texas, Hacienda de San Juan, Ojinaga, and Presidio. I will bring unpublished photographs from the researchers' archives. Guerrero, who was born in Los Angeles, California, and moved to El Paso at three years old, found his love of mariachi music in the border city at five years old. "That's when I started doing my first talent shows in elementary school. From there, I would go see mariachi bands playing at quinceañeras and weddings. I'd ask my parents if I could go talk to them and see if they would let me sing with them," he said. "So,

I've been singing for as long as I can remember."

Over the years, Guerrero kept his singing practice, performing wherever he could, whether at talent shows or public events with open microphones, finally hitting his stride when he turned 18. It was at this time that the young singer started participating in the major Spanish-language musical talent programs (think Spanish-language American Idol): La Academia in Mexico City, Objetivo Fama in Puerto Rico (where he made it to the top 10), and La Voz in Mexico City (in which I made it to the semifinals on Lusi Fonsi's team). Guerrero's talent and ambition helped him catch the attention of father-son music producer duo Jesús "Chucho" and Fabian Rincón of CHR Records. Chucho is a Grammy Award-winning producer who worked with Mexican music legends Vicente Fernández and Joan Sebastian.

Guerrero has since released two EPs (with a third one currently in production) with Rincón under the name Hijo de Illegal, which translates to "son of the illegal" and alludes to the fact that Guerrero's father came to the United States as an undocumented immigrant. "That is where I am right now. I'm on my

third EP as an independent artist, and here in El Paso, I work with mariachis; I also perform as a solo singer, doing private events and public events," he said, adding that he has been promoting and booking his own shows, even paying out of pocket for venues in El Paso. "We've done five shows like that, and thankfully, they have all been sold out."

See MARFA • 6



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 REGARDING FINAL READINGS OF THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEMS:

ORDINANCE 2024-11-02: AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 SPECIAL ELECTION HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE ALPINE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROPER NOTICE & MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2024-11-03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ALPINE FY 2024-2025 BUDGET; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; A TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS. A. PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS B. PROCLAMATIONS C. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHANGES. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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BBLSA to hold swine validation

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

Stock show time is right around the corner, and swine validation will be held on November 28-29, at the Ag Barn from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This validation is for swine ONLY and will be valid for all shows.

All students planning to show at major shows will need a state validation tag, which should already have been ordered. This tag is also valid for the county show. Students planning only to exhibit their animals at the Big Bend Livestock Show will need a county tag, of which there is no cost.

Students must bring their parent or guardian and all their animals to the Ag Barn for validation, and social security numbers are not required.

A one-time annual ad-



Local exhibitors show their pigs during the Big Bend Livestock Show's annual event.

Avalanche photo

ministration fee of \$10 per child is required and payable to the BBLSA (Big Bend Livestock Show Association).

On this day, a BBLSA membership form will also be available. The fee is \$10 per person, \$15 for a family, or \$20 per business. The BBLSA is for adults, not students.

BBLSA is the county livestock association that puts on the annual

county livestock show. Rules state that parents and/or guardians must be members of the association for their children to exhibit their animal projects. Parental involvement is needed for these exhibitors to continue to succeed at the county show. All fees are payable to the BBLSA and can be given to a member of the association at validation.

County Clerk's office announces holiday closures

Due to the holidays, we will have various closures for the following months. Our office and the courthouse will be closed November 28-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. On December

10-11, the clerk's office will be closed to attend a Vitals Conference. The office and the courthouse will close on Christmas Eve, December 24, and remain closed through December 27. The clerk's

office and the courthouse will also be closed on January 1 for New Year's.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sarah Vasquez,
 Brewster County Clerk

BBRMC welcomes new CEO



Big Bend Regional Medical Center hosted a meet and greet last Wednesday evening at the Spicewood Restaurant to introduce their new CEO, Robert Nelson. BBRMC staff are pictured here with Nelson. In back: Brandy Barrow, Matt Smith, Abbey Garrett, Mistie McBride, Robert Nelson, Billy Jack Torres, Regina Terrazas, Jona Carrasco, and Kayla Schimpf. Middle row is Lorrie Cobos, Carmen Torres, Vicky Vega, Yolanda Jurado, Jessica Cunningham, Minerva Gonzales, Hilda Valles, and Crystal Vega. In front are Clara Castaneda, Megan Burley, Brooke Hollan, and Natalie Diaz.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

AVFD holds extrication and rescue training

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

The Alpine Volunteer Fire Department held its first Auto Tech I class for the area this past weekend. In conjunction with TNT Rescue Systems, members from the Alpine VFD, Marathon VFD, Terlingua VFD, Presidio VFD, Ojinaga VFD, Dove Creek VFD, and Helotes VFD participated in a three-day course that consisted of lecture as well as hands-on training.

Firefighters spent Saturday afternoon and Sunday learning how to stabilize



Members of the Dove Creek and Alpine fire departments worked to stabilize an overturned vehicle during training exercises this past Saturday.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

overturned vehicles in order to safely extricate and rescue potential patients.

The groups of eight participants utilized jacks, stabilization blocks, airbags, as well as ratchet straps and

chains to secure the vehicles, followed by the use of various cutting tools and hand tools to enter the vehicles and remove glass with minimal risk to the potential patients and themselves.

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How do you protect yourself?

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Sarah Vasquez
 Brewster County Clerk, TX

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

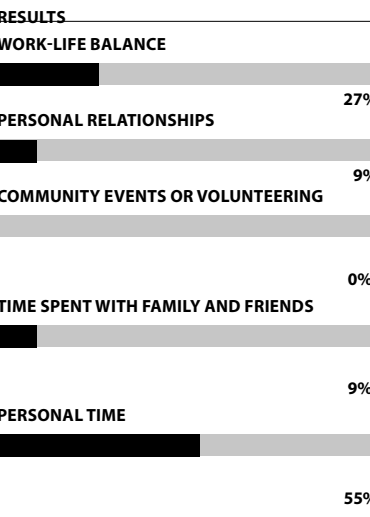
Now the Avalanche asks:
Which of the following is the most important in your daily life?

- Work-Life Balance
- Personal Relationships
- Community Events or Volunteering
- Time with Friends and Family
- Personal Time

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

RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?



LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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

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



Brewster County represented at the State Fair

The Brewster County Tourism Council, better known as Visit Big Bend, has just completed another exciting year exhibiting in the GoTexan building at the great State Fair of Texas! Each year, thousands of potential visitors to the Big Bend Region come through the building and visit our booth to get information and travel tips on vacationing in this beautiful part of the Lonestar State.

The State Fair of Texas occurs every year in Dallas at historic Fair Park. It has occurred annually since 1886, except for a few years during World War I and II and in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It typically begins on the last Friday in September and is the largest Fair in the United States, with 2.4 million people attending in 2024.

The Visit Big Bend staff consists of three people: Adela Holguin - Executive Assistant; Aaron Garza - Public Relations; and Robert Alvarez - Executive Director. This year, the staff organized a



ROBERT ALVAREZ
 Director, Visit Big Bend

group of 14 contractors to sit in the booth and pass out giveaways and information on the Big Bend Region for the full 24 days of the State Fair and work in the booth themselves. Getting potential visitors to come into the booth is always top of mind with Visit Big Bend. Fairgoers had a chance to win some great giveaways branded with iconic imagery from the area in a "Plinko" style game and sign up for our email newsletter. Everyone who came in was offered a

Big Bend bandana. This effort resulted in over 12,000 people coming into the booth for information on the Big Bend during the Fair.

Visit Big Bend has done this for over a decade.

Booth workers hear hundreds of stories from people who have visited the Big Bend and absolutely loved it, return every year, got married there, or even have their family reunions in the Big Bend annually. This year, one very special story stood out from a mother who visited our booth in 2023 and was convinced that this would make a great family vacation. One of her children is non-verbal and very reserved in public. She told the staff that the family went

on several hikes while in Big Bend and enjoyed the iconic scenery. When the trip was over, and they were about to head home, the child said, "We go climb a mountain now, Mommy," making this vacation more memorable than they ever could have imagined.

The beauty of the Big Bend Region impacts visitors in many ways, but for that wonderful family, it became the catalyst for their child to open up. For those of us who live here, remember that this part of the state holds some magic in it that we often take for granted. If you haven't lately, perhaps find time for a quick getaway 80 miles south to Big Bend National Park and experience a vacation like no other right here in our own backyard.

Remembering the Eighth Wonder of the World

"Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't... pays it."

— Albert Einstein

It's your shining moment on the big television game show. The emcee says with fanfare, "For today's jackpot and a chance to come back next for the grand prize ... What is the Eighth Wonder of the World?"

While there appears to be no official list of "wonders of the world" that Internet intelligence agrees to support, several unofficial lists claim legitimacy. Included are the Natural Wonders of the World, Ancient Wonders of the World, and the New Seven Wonders of the World. The latter has created even more controversy, leaving the jury still out on the Eighth Wonder of the World.

But if you're born and reared Texan old enough to remember when a dollar's worth of gas would get you to school and back all week, you have other visions when someone talks of an eighth wonder of the world. After all, the eighth wonder of the world in Texas was integral to many lives, including mine. And it crossed my mind when I drove past it a few weeks ago.

The Houston Domed Stadium, the world's first domed sports stadium, was dubbed the Eighth Wonder of the World in 1965 when

the Astros opened it with a 2-1 exhibition game victory against the New York Yankees. The name was changed to "The Astrodome." This coincided with the opening of the NASA-manned Space Center in one of the fastest-growing cities in America.

Houston businessman R.E. "Bob" Smith teamed with former Houston Mayor and Harris County Judge Roy Hofheinz to develop what would become known as the Astrodome. Following Hofheinz's masterful presentation to major league owners, Houston was awarded a major league expansion team in the National League on October 17, 1960.

"The eighth wonder of the world is looking a little forlorn," I thought when I saw it recently. Less glamorous than a day when it was a frequent destination for me in the late 60s. Astros Baseball games. Oilers football games. Motorcycle races. The Fat Stock Show and Rodeo.

It started with baseball games. We sat high in the only domed stadium in the world, taking it all in and enjoying Astro's games with Randy Brogoitti. We enjoyed the games, but the after-game concerts by country stars of the day were icing on the cake.

My relationship with the Astrodome continued



LEON ALDRIDGE
 Guest Columnist

into the 70s. By then, my focus had shifted from major league sports to championship motorcycle racing. Anticipation for the January trek from Mount Pleasant to Houston began building the day after Christmas. The Mount Pleasant crowd making the trip differed yearly, but Oscar Elliott and I always made the trip. Somewhere in my archive of thousands of Kodachrome slides, trackside shots of 70s standouts like Kenny Roberts are hiding and waiting to be viewed one more time. Along with press and trackside credentials to some of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco sponsored known as Camel Pro Series.

Fat Stock Show and Rodeo entertainment in the 'Dome included names like Alabama to Alan Jackson, Bob Dylan to Chicago, Conway Twitty to Dolly Parton, and more. Concerts over the years included Elvis Presley, The Rolling Stones, Willie Nelson, and many others, including George Strait, who set the venue record at 80,266 as the last show in the Astrodome in 2002. Strait's "One Last Time" performance closed the Rodeo and said goodbye to the Dome.

Even Evel Knievel staged one of his motorcycle jumps, successfully clearing 13 cars in the Astrodome two nights in a row.

But for all its records, glory, and history, time caught up with the Eighth Wonder of the World in 2008 when the Houston Fire Department declared it non-compliant with fire codes. The seating was removed, and parts of it demolished. In 2014, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In a 2023 competition by the American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), a University of Houston architecture team spent the summer studying the building. A plan was proposed to transform the iconic structure into an indoor public street with a botanical garden, retail space, hotel rooms, and a massive museum dedicated to the Dome's history.

The Houston-based team's concept was awarded first place. However, according to available information, county leaders have yet to respond, but local architects are hopeful the plan will save the historic architecture.

Seeing the famous stadium recently renewed old memories. It will take lots of money, most of it at compound interest. But maybe she will see a new lease on life.

"Yes, Alex, I'll take \$1,000 for Eighth Wonder of the World in Texas."

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

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Biden
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20500
 202-456-1111

Tony Gonzales
 United States House
 of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-4511

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

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

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

Upcoming events
November 15-16 Museum of the Big Bend, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. opening reception for the new exhibit *Ecós del Sol: Portraits of Mexican American Culture*. Music and light refreshments will be available and general admission is \$20. On Saturday, November 16, talks and presentations by several artists begin at 10:30 a.m. and will continue until 4 p.m.
November 17 Unitarian Universalist Church, 11 a.m. at 1308 N. 5th Street, will hold a discussion on mental health

practices followed by a potluck meal. All interested parties are invited.
November 23 Jeff Smith: The Art of Stained Glass, 1 p.m. at the Jeff Davis County Library. Presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and is free of charge.
November 23 SRSU Guided hike on Hancock Hill, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign-up is required at <https://www.sulross.edu/guided-hikes/>

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



Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.
American Legion Post 79

meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.
American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.
Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.
Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at [Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu](mailto:alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.
Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621
ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.
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.
VFW Post 7207, 7 p.m., first Wednesday of each month at 605 E. Ave F. All members are welcome.

the ALPINE AVALANCHE
Heard on the STREET
What's the dumbest thing people spend absurd amounts of money on?



Rosa Fernandez: Vehicles! They cost so much these days. It just gets you from here to there. Why pay so much?



Brandon Hayes: My food bill keeps getting higher, and I keep spending it, so food.



Evan Blake: I would say art, but I can't help myself. You guys have so many wonderful pieces in town.



Javier Morales: I don't spend money on things like that, but people are crazy about clothes and cars.



Monique Jefferson: I say, girl, why do you spend so much on that jewelry? I can just make my own.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Binx!
 Binx is a sibling to last week's Pet of the Week Draco and was also surrendered as part of a neglect case with seven siblings. He is fantastic with other dogs and does great with play groups. He likes to rough-house with other dogs and does not seem interested in cats at all. Binx is initially a little shy but warms up quickly and accepts the leash well. He is treat-motivated, which makes him easy to train.
 Binx has a beautiful brindle coat, cute underbite, and sweet, soulful eyes. He would make a great companion for walking, running, or camping and a good house or ranch dog. Meet Binx at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.
 Binx has been neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped and is ready to go. 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. Our shelter doesn't have the staff, the budget, or the space to handle all the pets, and Far West Texas does not have the adopters to take them all. Maintaining them with proper vet care and arranging transport to other states is costly.
 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. Stay tuned for our upcoming bake sale at the Farmers Market on Saturday, December 7, and order from our See's Candy online store for your holiday good-



ies. AHS receives 20% of all candy sales. There are about two weeks left to order candy.
https://www.yumraising.com/secure/alpine_humane_society_candy_store29/MarVeg4310/
 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, contact the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.

Local 4-H students participate in food challenge



Students in local area 4-H clubs participated in a food show and food challenge last Friday evening at the Alpine Elementary School cafeteria. Individuals pictured competed in the food show, bringing a dish they made along with a presentation about the food, and presenting the dish to judges who asked questions and judged on the presentation, content, and nutrition knowledge of their dish.

Photo courtesy of Emily Hendryx

Solicitation to bid for The Texas State University Systems Field Research Facility
 General Contractor: Benchmark Houston Builders, L.P.
 Phone Number: 713-921-2500
 Email address: tsusbids@benchmarkhouston.com
 Project: The Texas State University Systems Field Research Facility
 Project: # 728-23-00085
 Project Location: Bare Bones Rd. Terlingua, TX 79852
 Project Description: Project consist of three new ground up buildings inclusive of site work, site paving, and site utilities.

- Building #1, - 7,600 SF +/- Structural Steel Main Building - Inclusive of Laboratory, Classroom, Living, Dining, Kitchen and Bunkrooms spaces.
- Building #2, - 1,500 SF +/- Structural Steel Guest Cabins - (4) Four combined quest cabins inclusive of bedrooms and restroom facilities.
- Building #3 - 1,750 SF +/- Pre- Engineered Metal Building Workshop.

For more project information and to request participation in this bidding process, please send an email to tsusbids@benchmarkhouston.com. Please make sure to include your company name, company contact, phone number, and email address.

Virtual bid conference will be held on November 6, 2024 at 10:00AM (CST)
All proposals are due on or before November 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CST).

Open Enrollment: November 1
Deadline: January 15, 2025
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432-837-4812

BREWSTER • FROM 1

a facility for both our firefighters/medics and our police officers.”

The proposed dormitory would include four bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, a shared living area, and a stand-alone apartment for a deputy. According to Judge Henington, a similar but smaller dormitory is planned for Marathon to support the needs of that community as well.

Budget adjustments to support tourism development were also approved.

The court created a \$500,000 contingency reserve within the Tourism Fund, and two new capital expenditure funds, each with a starting balance of \$250,000, were estab-

lished to monitor the progress of the Marathon and Terlingua visitor centers.

Additional funding was approved for immediate payments to Level 5 Architecture, totaling \$1,250 for pre-design services related to the Marathon Visitor Center and \$11,500 for similar services in Terlingua.

According to county data, south Brewster County, which includes the towns of Terlingua and Study Butte, sees more than 500,000 visitors annually, largely due to its proximity to Big Bend National Park.

These visitor centers are part of an effort to manage the impact of this high tourism volume on local infrastructure and services.

The centers aim to foster a greater appreciation for Brewster County’s delicate desert ecosystem and rich history by educating visitors about its unique natural and cultural heritage.

They will serve as key points for directing visitors to local attractions such as Big Bend National Park, the Terlingua Ghosttown, and various scenic trails, helping visitors make the most of their time while spreading tourism activity across the county.

Directing visitors to local attractions is crucial for alleviating overcrowding in certain areas and reducing the strain on resources like water, emergency services, and roadways. Encouraging a more

even distribution of visitors also supports local businesses throughout the region, creating economic benefits that extend beyond the business hubs.

This approach improves the visitor experience and supports sustainable tourism, ensuring that the region’s unique character and landscapes can be preserved for future generations.

The court also amended the 2025 budget to establish a capital expenditure fund of \$50,000 dedicated to designing and constructing the dormitory facility at the South Brewster County Emergency Services Building in Terlingua.

An additional \$10,500 was approved for Level 5 Architec-

ture’s pre-design and schematic services for this project, reflecting the county’s commitment to improving living accommodations for emergency personnel in this heavily trafficked area.

In other agenda items, the Commissioners Court addressed necessary updates for the Brewster County Elections Department.

They heard a report from the Elections Administrator Lora Nussbaum, followed by a unanimous decision to purchase new battery replacements for the county’s ExpressVote and DS200 voting machines.

They also approved the acquisition of two new ExpressVote machines to better serve voters in future elec-

tions, ensuring efficient and reliable service during elections.

The court also declared 13 iPads and carrying cases as salvage, clearing them for auction or donation to other government entities or nonprofit organizations. Judge Henington said the devices are in great condition.

The next meeting of the Brewster County Commissioners Court is scheduled for November 26 at the Brewster County Courthouse.

This session will offer residents another opportunity to hear updates on ongoing projects and share in the county’s strategic planning efforts.

SRSU • FROM 1

son, especially helping the rest of the team step up to that faster, more aggressive play we will see in the LSC,” said Webb. He mentioned that the team is beginning to gel well together but that they are ready to play someone besides each other. His guys are looking to make their mark in this conference.

Webb believes that Ethan Yancy, the senior D1 transfer, will be someone to watch this season. “Yancy transferred from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, but he’s a Houston native. He has the experience of playing at the level we’re going to see this season, and his leadership on the court and ability

to play at this level are definite assets to our team,” Webb replied.

The Lobos face several challenging conference teams this season, including West Texas A&M, Lubbock Christian, Angelo State, and Dallas Baptist. On Monday, November 4, they began their season with an exhibition game against the Division I UTEP Miners at the Don Haskin’s Center. Despite losing the game to the Miners, 55-102, the Lobos had some standout performances. In front of and against his former alma mater, Division I transfer Cam Clardy put up 19 points during the contest. At the same time, returners Myles Amason and Cailen Ables added to the goal total. Yancy led

the Lobos in rebounds with seven on the night out of a total of 30, and the team had five steals and four three-pointers at the game’s close.

Webb said that the team will have to dial in both its offense and defensive games this year because of the conference it’s in. “The LSC is the best in D2 for basketball, so our work is cut out for us. We’re up against some strong teams, but my guys are ready.”

Head coach E.J. Smith of the women’s team says the beginning of her season has been challenging so far. “We have some injuries already at the start of our season. Two of my girls have concussions from a collision they had during practice, and I

have another with an injured shoulder. I also only have a single post player, and I’m very guard-heavy in terms of player position, so we will have to make many adaptations and adjustments this season,” Smith remarked.

The Lady Lobos lost six players to graduation, six returned from last season, and a handful of new players are in the mix, so according to Smith, everyone is working on coming together as a team.

Smith says returner Victoria Aguayo from El Paso will be the player to watch this season. “Victoria is quick and sneaky, and she really stepped up last season when we needed her in the game because of player inju-

ries. I look for her to be a big asset this season and a good mentor and leader for the new players,” Smith said.

The women face stiff competition from Texas Women’s University, UT Tyler, San Angelo, and UTPB. Smith says her team is excited and looking forward to this season, but they’re also slightly intimidated. “These other teams have been playing D2 basketball for a long time, and they’re bigger and more accurate, so my ladies will have to continually adapt and adjust accordingly,” Smith added.

The women hold their first game of the season and exhibition game on the road against Texas A&M Corpus Christi on November 12, fol-

lowed by a non-conference game against St. Mary’s on November 15 at 5 p.m. at the Gallego Center.

The men’s team held their next match-up at the Gallego Center this past weekend at the Far West Texas Showdown. They faced Metro State and Black Hills State. UT Tyler was also a part of the weekend’s game schedule. The Lobo men faced Metro State on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Black Hills State on Sunday at 5 p.m. Both teams will take on Western New Mexico at home on Saturday, November 23, for their first conference game of the season.

NATIVE SON • FROM 1

I would like to look at what the university has within its walls and highlight that as well as those artists who have already made a name for themselves. This museum has housed the likes of Remington and Warhol, to name a few, and its current exhibits highlight the area’s rich history. I would like to see this expanded in other directions we may not have considered, especially

regarding the university’s history and the Alpine community,” he remarked.

Furthermore, Klingemann says this is where he wants to be. His vision for the MoBB is to expand progress and visibility with continued outreach, fundraising, expanded programs, and an exhibit focused on the university’s resources.

“Sul Ross provided me with an excellent education and experience. I want to share that with students and

visitors alike. I want to show students that they are only limited in what they can achieve by themselves. By incorporating the museum into their educational experiences, I want them to know they have access to new doors in terms of careers and learning. I’m excited to help someone else have just as amazing an experience at Sul Ross and the museum as I had,” Klingemann concluded.

MARFA • FROM 2

So, I’m really, really excited about that.” He said his hard work over the years has paid off, as he’s been inundated with requests to perform around Texas and New Mexico.

Though this won’t be Guerrero’s first time coming through Marfa, it will be his first public performance in town, though he has done some private events.

“When Marfa Live Arts contacted me for this performance, I thought it was just going to be

another quinceañera or wedding,” he said. “But when she told me in detail what it was for, I just thought it was pretty cool, so I’m really

excited. The mariachis are excited, too.”

For more information on Marfa Live Arts programs, please visit www.marfalivearts.org

Jeff Davis Library holds special program

A special program featuring Fort Davis artist Jeff Smith is planned for the Jeff Davis County Library on Saturday, November 23, at 1 p.m. Known for his huge, stunning architectural stained glass works, Jeff will show images of his designs and explain the unique process of creating “leaded glass.” Smith had several detours in life, studying science, biology, philosophy, religion, landscape architecture,

and fine arts, finally leading up to the art of stained glass. He studied with leading German stained glass artists and founded his own company, Architectural Stained Glass, in 1977. Winner of four “International Design Arts Awards” from the AIA/FRAA and two Corning Museum “New Glass Review” awards, Jeff has worked from Alaska to Florida and New Hampshire to Hawaii. In 2000, Smith moved from Dallas to

Limpia Canyon in Fort Davis to establish his workshop. He has since received international acclaim.

He explains, “The essence of stained glass is glass, lead, and light,” and dates to the 11th-century cathedral of Europe, where it evolved into a guild system. By the 1800s, more contemporary developments advanced toward architecture and the fine arts, leading into the 1960s and 70s when techniques fur-

ther explored art. Smith will discuss leaded glass and show examples of his huge pieces commissioned for residential, public, commercial, and religious places. Some are in our tri-county area. For further information, call the library at (432) 426 3802 and visit his website at archstglassinc.com. Friends of the Library are sponsoring this free program.

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SENIOR Spotlight

HATFIELD CASON

In what activities did you participate in high school?
 I've participated in cross-country, track, CX debate, One Act Play, academic UIL, and band.

My favorite moment was getting third at the Regional cross-country meet. There's no rush like beating 172 people in a three-mile race.

What are your plans after high school?
 After high school, I plan to go to college to study molecular biology, aviation, law, forensics, classical studies, and international affairs. Whatever the Magic 8 Ball or my bank account tells me. Maybe I'll run for fun.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
 My favorite teacher is either Ms. Ramos or Coach Chavez, for infusing my education with entertainment and interesting conversation. They can fight it out.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?

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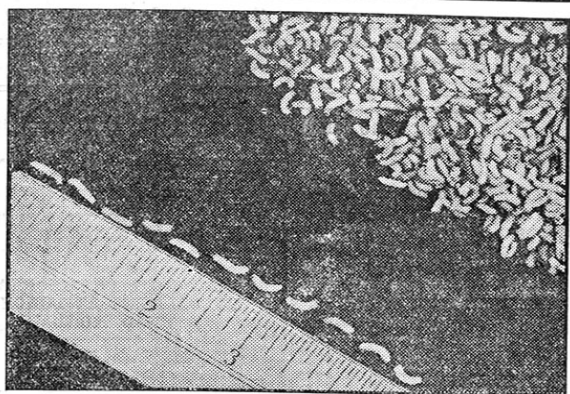
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LOOKING BACK
Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND
AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

November 2, 1928

What Pink Bollworm Looks Like



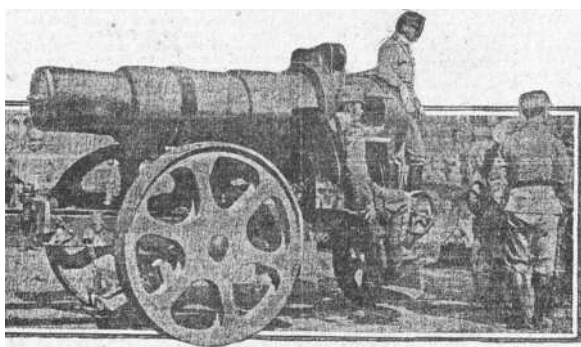
Farmers sometimes find insects in cotton bolls and wonder whether they are pink bollworms. The worm stage of the insect shown in this illustration is the only form that is likely to be found by a casual examination. The worm when full grown varies from about seven sixteenths of an inch to slightly more than one-half inch in length, and has a distinct pinkish color. The pink bollworms shown above are about one-half natural size.



November 9, 1928

November 18, 1915

GALLOWAY CATTLE.
Buy an up to now, dehorner. They never fail. W. T. Henderson has them for sale.
ALPINE, - TEXAS.



The Great German 16-Inch Siege Gun, the Type of Which Battered Down the Forts of An-werp, Liege, Namur and Maubge.

November 12, 1914

Photos from the Alpine Avalanche Archives at Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Portal of Texas.

Watch for asps and snakes while working in leaves and beds

Dear Neil, while raking leaves from shrubs around the house, I've noticed asps on a couple of hollies. What is the best way to eliminate them before someone gets stung? We don't want to hurt the plants with whatever we use.

They're also called puss caterpillars, and almost any general-purpose organic or inorganic insecticide will kill them. Look for one that's labeled for caterpillars. Sevin is most commonly suggested. Be careful as you spray to stand off to the side so that they don't fall onto you or your clothing. They are also found on live oaks and several other species of landscape plants, so keep your eyes open at all times. For that matter, there are several other stinging caterpillars that become common this time of year. I encountered (visually) one on one of my patio plants a few days ago.

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

Luckily, I saw it before I reached to pick up the pot. And snakes are fond of piles of leaves, too. For best safety, wear boots and leather gloves, and stand a few feet away as you're working in beds this time of year.

Dear Neil, I have a new 10x24-foot greenhouse. This winter, I'll be growing ferns, hibiscus, bougainvilleas, and a few cacti in it. What temperature would be best for all those?

If you want the hibiscus and bougainvilleas to thrive, you'll want

to keep it at 70F. They don't react well when exposed to temperatures in the 50s and cooler. However, on the practical side, daytime temperatures are of equal concern. Greenhouses of a hobbyist size can overheat very quickly on a clear, warm winter day. I had a greenhouse much smaller than yours years back, and it would go from 38 to 100F in one hour if I left the vent open even a little as I left for work in the morning. Shade cloth, even in the winter, may be your friend. Also, a heat source that does not require electricity should be provided to prevent freeze damage should the power go out. If it's a space heater, be sure it's vented to the outside. Don't use a kerosene heater without venting, or you'll have fumes blackening the inside of your greenhouse.

Dear Neil, I've had a moonflower shrub

in my flowerbed this summer. Is it annual or perennial? It's beginning to look pretty ragged.

It's perennial but also reseeds freely, so even if the mother plant dies out, you'll have plenty. For those who don't know it, it's closely related to Brugmansias, the stunning tall subtropicals with trumpet-shaped pink, yellow, or white, foot-long flowers that hang straight down. Moonflower's blooms, by comparison, are borne outward at a 35 or 40-degree angle. Once it dies to the ground after the first freeze, cut its top off one inch above the soil line. Cover it with shredded tree leaves to lessen the impact of winter's cold.

Have a question you'd like Neil to consider? E-mail him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to questions individually.



- ACROSS**
- 1 in Lubbock: Texas _____ University
 - 5 "March Madness" is a _____ tournament
 - 6 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Welcome _____ World" (1964)
 - 7 Harris of 2008 film "Appaloosa" with TX Renee Zellweger
 - 8 _____ City, Texas
 - 9 what hurricanes produce on the Texas coast
 - 15 "it weighs _____" (heavy)
 - 16 most fleecy
 - 19 in Wood County on U.S. 69
 - 21 Cowboys fly their _____ away games
 - 22 Nicaraguan rebels (1979-90)
 - 27 worst cattle drive position
 - 28 Bellville's county
 - 29 noisy sleeper
 - 30 TX Jodey Arrington House committee: "_____ Means"
 - 32 gym class abbr.
 - 33 excitable
 - 36 TX Zellweger has been dressed by _____ Cassini
 - 37 miles _____ hour
 - 38 every state except Alaska is _____ than Texas by area
 - 39 those who served in the military
 - 41 heap of something

- 42 titled women in the UK
 - 45 rip apart
 - 46 Texas creek: "Yo _____ Digo"
 - 47 TX JoBeth Williams 1980 film: "_____ Crazy"
 - 48 horse morsel
 - 49 "humble" is this regarding Texans
 - 52 high maintenance person
 - 53 tree chopper
 - 54 Texas singer Stuckey who sang "Sweet Thang"
- DOWN**
- 1 explosive material
 - 2 _____-friendly (not harmful to the environment)
 - 3 Milam County seat
 - 4 this man led the "Fredonian Rebellion," first attempt by Texans at independence (2 wds.)
 - 8 this Thorpe helped the Rockets win a NBA title in 1994
 - 9 big amusement park: "Six _____"
 - 10 Beaumont univer.
 - 11 TXism: "out _____ kilter" (broken)
 - 12 1972 film about a Texas magistrate: "The Life and Times _____ Bean"
 - 13 TXism: "gives up the ghost"
 - 14 badger's den
 - 15 TX George Strait 1982 hit: "_____ by Morning"
 - 16 peel the skin off
 - 17 payment for a graduate teaching assistant, e.g. _____
 - 18 cartridges with a black powder for printing
 - 20 not written

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Sports

Lady Bucks Sweep Childress, fall to Tolar post-season

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Lady Bucks are on a thrilling playoff run. They captured the Area Championship title on Saturday, November 9, with a 3-0 sweep over the Childress Lady Bobcats. The hard-fought win at Big Spring High School secured their spot in the regional semifinals. The Lady Bucks continue to chase a state title. The Lady Bucks demonstrated grit and resilience in a closely contested opening set, edging out Childress

with a narrow 27-25 win. The second set saw Alpine capitalize on their momentum, executing key plays to secure a more comfortable 25-18 victory. Childress pushed hard in the third set to stay in the game, but the Lady Bucks held strong, closing it out 25-23 to complete the sweep and claim the championship. Alpine showcased remarkable teamwork and determination throughout the match, meeting every challenge that Childress presented—especially in the tightly

contested first set. Their focus and resilience ultimately led them to victory, with each player contributing to the hard-earned sweep. The area championship victory brought Alpine's record to 23-18 and extended their home winning streak to an impressive seven games. For Childress, the loss caps off a successful season with a 19-15 record, though they came up short against a surging Lady Bucks team. A special moment in the championship match came for senior libero Jaycee Por-

tillo, who reached the milestone of 1,000 digs for the season. Portillo's defensive prowess has been instrumental in Alpine's success, anchoring the back row with a combination of skill and leadership. With the win, the Lady Bucks advanced to the regional semifinals, where they faced a tough opponent in Tolar, who came into the matchup riding an 11-game winning streak. The regional showdown took place Tuesday, November 12, at Wall High School at 5:30



The Alpine Lady Bucks took home the Area Championship this past Saturday, with a decisive win over the Childress Lady Bobcats.

Courtesy photo

p.m. Alpine's fans were eager to support their team as they aimed to continue their march toward the state finals, but unfortunately, the Lady Bucks would end their post-season run, falling in three close sets, 25-27, 21-25, and 25-27 and ending the season with a record of 23-19 overall and a district record of 8-0.

New coach, new energy: Lady Bucks ready to build on fresh start for 2024-25 season

The Alpine High School girls' varsity basketball team kicks off the 2024-25 season tonight at home against Balmorhea, with tip-off set for 6:30 p.m. This nonconference match marks the beginning of an exciting new era under the guidance of head coach Taryn Johnson.

Johnson is committed to instilling this mindset in her players, focusing on unity and readiness as essential parts of her coaching strategy for the Lady Bucks this season. Coach Johnson sees a lot of potential in the Lady Bucks' roster this year, particularly in their versatility and talent across positions. With guards who can shoot and bring energy to defense and agile post players, the team has the pieces to be a formidable force.

Johnson is confident in what they've been taught when it's their moment. Johnson is committed to instilling this mindset in her players, focusing on unity and readiness as essential parts of her coaching strategy for the Lady Bucks this season. Coach Johnson sees a lot of potential in the Lady Bucks' roster this year, particularly in their versatility and talent across positions. With guards who can shoot and bring energy to defense and agile post players, the team has the pieces to be a formidable force.



Taryn Johnson

coach's leadership. "The hope is to be district champs, but the true goal is for them to become confident in their new roles," said Coach Johnson. "Sometimes change is scary, and sometimes that fear can hold us back from our true potential, but this group comes every day ready to work and get better."

As the Lady Bucks prepare to kick off their season, Coach Johnson remains optimistic about her young squad's potential. Despite their relative inexperience at the varsity level, she's confident that their talent and growth will soon come to fruition. With a strong mix of promising players and fresh

energy, Johnson is eager to see how the team develops throughout the season. "We have a young group this year, if not in age, then in experience on the varsity level, and that comes with its own challenges, but we have a lot of really good pieces, and I'm excited to see what it looks like when it all comes together," she said.

When asked about her excitement for the season ahead, Coach Johnson exuded optimism and a sense of shared opportunity as she embarks on her first year with the Lady Bucks.

Stepping into the role of head coach, Johnson sees this season as a chance for growth—not only for the players but also for herself. "What excites me the most is that it's a fresh slate for everyone," she said. "Everyone, including me, has a new role this year so we are learning together."

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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.

When it comes to stand-out players and leaders to watch, Coach Johnson has her eye on several promising athletes who are set to make an impact. As she looks to build a cohesive and competitive team, she points to Hope Dominguez, Karolina Castillo, Colette Fowlkes, Gyllian Morrissey, and Andynne Ramirez as players to watch.

However, Johnson believes this list may grow as the season progresses and more players rise to the challenge. Coach Johnson's core philosophy is that a team is only as strong as its weakest link. She emphasizes the importance of preparation for every player, ensuring that each one feels confident and ready when called upon, whether it's for 10 minutes, 30 minutes, or even just 45 seconds of game time.

"You never know at what moment you'll need someone, so every day, I make sure that they understand that it takes all of us," she said. "Everyone needs to be ready when their name is called, and it is my job to

make sure that they are confident in what they've been taught when it's their moment." Johnson is committed to instilling this mindset in her players, focusing on unity and readiness as essential parts of her coaching strategy for the Lady Bucks this season. Coach Johnson sees a lot of potential in the Lady Bucks' roster this year, particularly in their versatility and talent across positions. With guards who can shoot and bring energy to defense and agile post players, the team has the pieces to be a formidable force.

Despite some of the team's vocal leaders still being involved in volleyball, other players have embraced the opportunity to step up and lead. "This group has taken everything I have thrown at them in stride, and we are getting better every day," said Coach Johnson. The team's chemistry is building with each practice. Johnson notes they're making daily progress—a promising sign for a cohesive and resilient season ahead.

Known for her intense work ethic and commitment to fostering player development, Johnson's coaching style is expected to bring a blend of discipline and motivation to Alpine. Tonight's game will give Lady Bucks fans their first look at Johnson's approach and the team's potential for the season.

While the Lady Bucks' roster and specific lineup have yet to be fully revealed, fans can expect Johnson to implement strategies drawn from her experience as a versatile guard/forward and seasoned coach. Her success in developing teams into cohesive, competitive units could be



Alpine Fightin' Bucks fall to Compass Academy, set sights on Stanton in Bi-District Championship

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks closed out their regular season with a tough 26-37 loss to Odessa Compass Academy on November 8. Still, the defeat didn't dampen their spirits heading into the playoffs.

Despite the setback, Alpine finished with a strong 4-2 district record, securing a share of the district championship for the first time since 2019.

Despite the loss, the Alpine Fightin' Bucks showed resilience and heart in their final regular season game against Compass Academy.

The team played hard until the very last whistle, with moments of brilliance that highlighted their grit and determination throughout the season.

Head Coach Andy Smith

reflected on the effort, acknowledging his team's challenges and growth as they prepared for the playoffs.

"Our kids fought to the very end," said Coach Smith. "I am extremely proud of their effort in the Compass game and all season long. We had our opportunities to win the game, but the ball did not bounce our way."

"That is football sometimes. We will continue to battle through adversity and make our Alpine community proud."

Quarterback Devon Rojo led the offense, passing for 102 yards while adding 36 yards on the ground.

Running back Logan Smith contributed 83 yards rushing, and wide receiver Iden Lujan made two key receptions for 56 yards, including a spectacular 41-yard gain.

Dae Hardwick notched his 79th reception of the season and surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for receiving yards.

Hardwick now holds the all-time single-season record for receptions at Alpine, breaking the previous record of 70 set by Taylor O'Bryant in 2009.

With 1036 yards and eight touchdowns, Hardwick is now poised to break O'Bryant's 2009 record of 1,084 receiving yards in a season as he continues to put up impressive numbers.

"Dae is a great route runner and works extremely hard in practice to work on his craft," said Coach Smith. "He is a huge asset to our team. We are proud to share this moment with him."

With their regular season now behind them, the Fightin' Bucks are focused

on their playoff journey.

They begin their postseason run tonight at 7 p.m. in Fort Stockton at Panther Stadium, where they will face the Stanton Buffaloes in a Bi-District Championship showdown.

The Bucks will be the home team for the game despite the neutral site.

"Stanton will be a formidable opponent," said Coach Smith. "Coach Gary Griffin has turned their program around in short order. They are well-coached and will be prepared."

"We look forward to the challenge of playing against a tough opponent with the opportunity to win a championship."

As the Bucks turn their attention to the playoffs, excitement is building for their upcoming Bi-District Championship game against Stanton.

With a share of the dis-



2024-2025 District 4-3A Champion Alpine Fightin' Bucks.

Courtesy photo

trict title already in hand, the team is focused on the next step in its journey—securing another championship.

Coach Smith is eager to lead his team into the postseason, especially with the support of the Alpine community behind them.

"We look forward to playing at Fort Stockton

versus Stanton in front of our families, friends, and supporters with an opportunity to earn a championship for the community of Alpine," he said.

AMS Bucks close out season

The Alpine Fightin' Buck 8th-grade football team ended their season against the Odessa Compass Cougars with a final score of 24-14. The Bucks finished their season with a 3-5 record.

Courtesy photo



AHS cross-country receives academic all-state nominations

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Senior members of the Alpine High School cross-country team recently received academic all-state honors. Hatfield Cason took the top honor by being named to the Academic All-State Elite team. Senior Jaylynn Celaya was named to the Academic All-State Second team, while seniors Landon Velasco and Hope Dominguez both were named to the Academic All-State Honorable Mention team.



Alpine Cross-Country Seniors

Courtesy photos

Fightin' Buck and Lady Buck Sports Schedule

- FIGHTIN' BUCK FOOTBALL**
Nov. 14
Alpine vs Stanton @ Fort Stockton Bi-District@7 p.m.
- FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL**
NOV. 19
FORT HANCOCK VS ALPINE VARSITY @ 6:30 P.M.
- NOV. 22
FABENS VS ALPINE 9TH GOLD @ 4 P.M.
JV @ 5 P.M.
VARSITY @ 6:30 P.M.
- DEC. 3
ALPINE VS VAN HORN JV @ 5 P.M.
- LADY BUCK BASKETBALL**
NOV. 14
BALMORHEA VS ALPINE JV @ 6:30 P.M.
VARSITY @ 5 P.M.
- NOV. 16
DEL RIO TOURNAMENT TBA
- NOV. 19
FORT HANCOCK VS ALPINE VARSITY @ 5 P.M.
- NOV. 19
FORT STOCKTON VS ALPINE JV @ 4 P.M.
- *Denotes District Games

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Application for Appointment as Independent Administrator, Letters of Administration, and Determination of Heirship

The State of Texas
 To all persons interested in the Estate of RINDA LEE PELTON, Deceased

Cause No. PR03191,
 in County Court, Brewster County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an application for Appointment for appointment as Independent Administrator, Letters of Administration, and Determination of Heirship in this estate on the 31st day of October 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Rinda Lee Pelton, 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 25th day of November, 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 11th day of November, 2024



/s/ SARAH VASQUEZ

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk
 Brewster County, Texas
 201 W. Ave E
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By _____, Deputy

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ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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BID NOTICE:

Banes General Contractors, the Design-Build Contractor, will be accepting bids from qualified contractors for the Fletcher Hall Renovations Project for Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX. Bids will be due Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 2:00 PM CST. Plans and specifications are available electronically upon request. Contact Adriana Tolbert at adriana@banes-gc.com at or 915-584-0404. MBE/SBE/WBE/AABE/HUB firms are encouraged to submit proposals on this project. Banes is an equal opportunity (EEO) employer.

BID NOTICE:

Banes General Contractors, the Design-Build Contractor, will be accepting bids from qualified contractors for the Museum of the Big Bend (MoBB) Renovations Project for Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX. Bids will be due Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 4:00 PM CST. Plans and specifications are available electronically upon request. Contact Adriana Tolbert at adriana@banes-gc.com at or 915-584-0404. MBE/SBE/WBE/AABE/HUB firms are encouraged to submit proposals on this project. Banes is an equal opportunity (EEO) employer.

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

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Devotional Page

Veterans Day

BY MICHAEL WALLENS
Priest in Charge, Big Bend Episcopal Churches

A few days ago, November 11, this country celebrated Veterans Day, originally "Armistice Day." On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month (that is, 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918, exactly 106 years ago), the truce was declared that ended World War I, then known as "The Great War" and "the war to end all wars."

"Armistice" is from the Latin arma ("arms") and sistere ("stand still"). Imagine the stillness, the quiet that came from laying down weapons on both sides after years of grueling, bloody trench warfare.

The United States Congress subsequently declared that the date "should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations."

Sadly, it was not "the war to end all wars," and so in 1954, the day was renamed "Veterans Day" to honor veterans from all the wars since, not just World War I.

A day of thanksgiving: for the service of veterans, living and dead; for the service of caregivers — doctors and nurses and chaplains and mental health professionals and spouses and family members and

friends — who walk with veterans through the ravages of war, even after the bullets and bombs and missiles stop flying; and for the days of peace that come at long last.

A day of prayer: for people of all faiths (or no faith at all), a time of prayer, meditation, or reflection on the stillness of armistice so that the days of peace on Earth increase and the days of war decrease.

A day of exercises designed to perpetuate peace through goodwill and mutual understanding between nations: for all of us to find ways, large and small, to build bridges across lines of difference, suspicion, or hostility in our neighborhoods, our country, and among the nations of the world.

To lay down our arms. To step into a new stillness together. To sing with our ancestors that we, too, will lay down our swords and shields, "down by the riverside, and study war no more" — so that the next hundred-and-six years may be more peaceful than the last.

I hope God's peace was with you on this past Veterans Day, this Armistice Day. May we lay down all of our arms and burdens in God's great Shalom, rising up even now like soldiers climbing out of trenches a century ago.

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Dining at the best steakhouse from coast to coast

On a recent hunting trip to Winner, South Dakota, I stumbled on one of the best American steakhouses in the most unexpected place. My travels took me north, way north, to be exact, on an expedition to shoot native pheasants in South Dakota.

Not knowing much about the Midwest or how beautiful Kansas and Nebraska are, I hit the road and headed north through Oklahoma. After nine or so hours, I decided to stay in North Platte, Nebraska. Unbeknownst to me, this would turn into an annual pilgrimage to one of the finest steakhouses in our country.

In North Platte, Nebraska, where the rolling plains meet the open sky, a 5-star culinary gem shines brightly: The North 40 Chophouse. To the untrained eye, it may appear as just another steakhouse in a small town. Still, it embodies the spirit of the American steakhouse, serving not just meals but badass wet and dry-aged steaks, lobster, and fish from all over the world.

On my last visit there a month or so ago, Rex Hansen, the proprietor of North 40 Chophouse, sat with me and two other hunting buddies and explained his concept and reason behind the luxury steak house. Built out of



HEAD OVER MEALS
by j.t. maroney
guest columnist

necessity, that is how I would explain it. To a non-foodie person, they may not get it, but to those who understand quality and experience, it's unmatched. In a nutshell, he moved from the Pacific Northwest during the pandemic to get away from all that craziness to be with family. After some time eating fast food, he decided to do better, and the concept for the chophouse was built. He wanted to hire the best chefs, stock the best wines, fly in lobster, dry age Prime in-house, and give the residents a culinary experience unlike any other, and he NAILED IT.

As you approach the North 40 Chophouse, the rustic exterior invites you in with its weathered wood and welcoming gas lamps; at one point, the building was a filling station. Inside, the atmosphere is warm and intimate. The walls are



The Delmonico steak cooked to perfection, one of the many items the chef recommended on a recent trip to Nebraska.

adorned with photographs of local ranchers, showcasing the region's proud heritage.

The true magic of North 40 begins with the

selection of beef. Sourced from local ranches known for their sustainable practices and high-quality cattle, the restaurant prides itself on using only the

finest cuts. Each steak is hand-selected and aged to perfection, ensuring that every bite is a testament to the quality of Nebraska beef. The menu offers a variety of options, from wet-aged ribeyes to tender filet mignon and my favorite and also chef choice, the bone-in Delmonico.

The bartender also makes a hell of a smoked Old Fashioned. In a bygone era, I truly appreciate Rex and his team's attention to detail. For example, they still have a lady at the piano while you eat and also sports on high above the marble

and crystal chandelier bar.

Insiders note: As a courtesy, they will gladly pick you up from your hotel in one of their three limos.

I have been fortunate to eat at some incredible steakhouses from New York to San Francisco. On my recommendation, this trumps them all. By the time we left North 40, I knew we had found something exceptional, the combination of quality food and an old-world atmosphere. I promised myself to return, not just for the steak, but for the experience that North 40 Chophouse offered.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

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