

Commissioners tackle growth, infrastructure, and public safety

BY KERRY LAIRD
 Contributor

The Brewster County Commissioners Court convened for its regular meeting on November 26, with Precinct 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega stepping in as presiding officer in Brewster County Judge Greg Henington's absence.

Commissioners navigated a full agenda in a relatively brief meeting. The agenda included approving new roads, renewing public safety contracts, and preparing grant applications for low- to moderate-income community development. A key focus of the meeting was approving new roadways in southern Brewster County, reflecting the area's continued growth and development.

Commissioners approved new roadways in the Well Creek subdivision at Lajitas Resort and updates to existing plats in Bee Mountain Estates and East Rim Ranch. Kayse

See SAFETY • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports 8-9

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024. 14.72"
 December. 0.0"



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 14 pages

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

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



Deck the halls with plans for growth
City Council preps for holidays, housing, and water conservation

BY KERRY LAIRD
 Contributor

The Alpine City Council held its final regular meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 3, at city hall. Mayor Catherine Eaves and Ward 1 Councilor Regan Stone were absent, with Ward 5 Councilor Rick Stephens presiding as mayor pro tem.

With a light agenda, much of the discussion focused on critical issues such as short-term rental (STR) permits, updates to the city's water management plan, and the sale of a 5-acre property for residential



Megan Antrim-Alpine City Manager

use. Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim opened the meeting with a festive tone, highlighting the city's holiday schedule, detailing events such as the Wassail Crawl on Murphy Street tonight and the

Christmas Stroll on Saturday, promising to draw residents and visitors into Alpine's downtown district. One of the most anticipated holiday events is the Blue Santa Toy Drive, organized by the Alpine Police Department. This annual event collects toys for local children in need, ensuring that the

holiday season is brighter for families across the community. Chief Darrell Lasoya, a regular attendee of the city council meetings, told the Avalanche that the Alpine Police Department will accept toys at the police station through December 21. The chief said Blue Santa

See GROWTH • 6

We have a winner



Larry Petterborg is this year's Shooting Alpine photo contest's top winner. Petterborg's "Branding on the 06" received the H. L. Kokernot, Jr. Memorial Award, and a cash prize. Contest judge Barbara Richerson chose this winning photo.

Photo by Larry Petterborg, courtesy of City of Alpine

Culpepper named dean of new College of Health Sciences

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

Dean Culpepper, Ph.D., has been named the new College of Health Sciences dean at Sul Ross, effective November 1. Dr. Culpepper moved to Alpine to lead the new college and contribute to the university's mission of serving this vibrant region.

"Previously, I led the Health and Human Performance Department at Texas A&M University-Commerce, within the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. My time there was marked by doubling student enrollment, modernizing degree offerings, and building community advisory boards to address local needs. I'm excited to bring that same commitment to collaboration and student success at Sul Ross, ensuring we prepare graduates to thrive

in the healthcare networks of West Texas and beyond," Culpepper said.

Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Bernie Cantens, Ph.D., commented, "We welcome Dr. Dean Culpepper to our growing academic leadership team. With his extensive experience in educational leadership, curriculum development, and program building, Dr. Culpepper brings a wealth of expertise to our institution. We are excited about his vision and leadership as we shape the identity and strategic direction of the new College of Health Sciences."

Dr. Culpepper believes that the newly purchased building, which was formerly the TransPecos Bank building, presents



Dean Culpepper, Ph.D. - College of Health Sciences

a unique opportunity to showcase Sul Ross State University's commitment to the region's health and educational needs.

"By housing administrative offices for Nursing, Health Studies, and other future growth areas, we can strengthen community partnerships and enhance the visibility of our programs," he commented.

"One challenge, however, is ensuring that we maintain the sense of a shared university community while focusing on academics. This space is designed to prioritize academic endeavors and prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the region's healthcare networks."

Dr. Culpepper's vision for the new college is to

create an academic environment that prepares students for an ever-changing 21st-century workplace through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative programs.

"We aim to engage community partners to craft a strong vision that aligns with the region's health needs while emphasizing student success. This means practical, cutting-edge education tailored to rural healthcare networks for our students. For instructors, we are committed to providing the resources and professional development opportunities they need to inspire and support our students," added Culpepper.

"My career has been defined by building strong academic departments and prioritizing the unique needs of rural communities. I believe in the power of interdisciplinary collaboration and

fostering partnerships that prepare students to meet real-world challenges. These principles have guided my work, and I'm honored to continue this mission here at Sul Ross, helping to shape the next generation of healthcare professionals who will serve and strengthen our region," he concluded.

Dr. Culpepper and his staff are expected to begin classes in the new building on the corner of 5th Street and Avenue E in January. The new College of Health Sciences was established by the authority of the Texas State University System Board of Regents at their regular November meeting. This new college includes the Sul Ross Nursing program, Kinesiology, and Health Sciences, in which both the pre-med and pre-dental

See DEAN • 6

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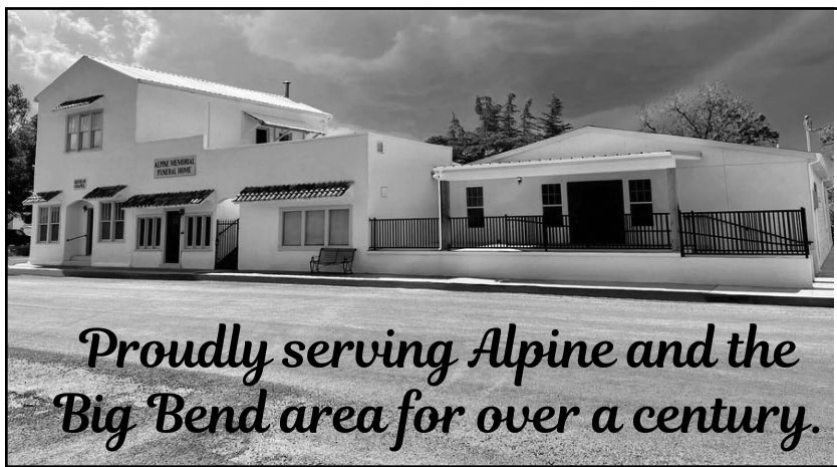
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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Brandon Michael Espy
 Brandon Michael Espy, 23, of Fort Davis, passed away on November 28 in Helotes. He was born on December 23, 2000, in Odessa. He attended Permian High School, where he participated on the flag crew, "The Crew"! After graduating in 2019, he moved to Fort Davis, where he began working on the family ranch while attending Sul Ross University, then moved to Hale Center, where



he also attended Texas Tech University Fall Semester 2021 and Spring Semester 2022. He then returned to Fort Davis and graduated from Sul Ross in December of 2023 with his Criminal Jus-

tice degree. Brandon moved to Helotes in August 2024 to pursue his dream of becoming a DPS Officer. He met an amazing circle of friends with whom he shared many great times.

He brought immense joy to everyone who knew him. Brandon was a bright light in our lives, known for his smile, kindness to others, positive attitude, and love of his family and friends. He never met a stranger and would help anyone who was in need.

At a very young age, Brandon gained a love for video games and was a whiz about computer technology. He had an infinite passion for Bloys Camp Meeting, where he enjoyed meeting up with cousins, playing games on the porches, and helping with the Chapel in The Rocks Youth program. He also loved the ranch in Fort Davis, enjoyed helping with the Sul Ross Rodeo, and lent a hand at the team practices. He was an avid lover of cars, and his passion for life and

kindness was evident to all who knew him.

He lives on through his mother, Kitten Cannon, and stepfather, Chris Cannon, of Hale Center; father, Joe W. Espy, of Midland; sister, Makay Espy, of Midland; grandparents, Jim and Sally Espy, of Fort Davis; aunt and uncle, Mandy and KC Overturff; cousins Kellyn and Pruett, of Willow Park; and many other cousins, stepbrothers, and family members.

A memorial service will be held on Decem-

ber 9, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Sul Ross Arena in Alpine.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be mailed to:

WEST TEXAS NATIONAL BANK
 c/o Philip Carey
 101 East Ave. E.
 Alpine, TX. 79831

Memorials should be made out to the Brandon Espy Rodeo Scholarship Fund.

We will forever cherish the memories we have with Brandon and hold him in our hearts always.

City of Alpine announces photo contest winners

BY CHRIS RUGGIA
 Contributor

The City of Alpine has announced the 2024 #AlpineTXPhoto Contest winners. The contest, which was free and open to the public, closed to entries on September 30th.

Photographers throughout the region and beyond were asked to capture the city of Alpine in a personal, reflective way to reveal the area's personality. The contest judge for 2024 was news photographer Barbara Richerson, who, in addition to

freelance newspaper and magazine work, served as Assistant Director for News & Information at Sul Ross State University for 26 years. All entered photographs are submitted anonymously to the judge, who is given only their title and a random ID number.

The top prize winner, receiving the H.L. Kokernot, Jr. Memorial Award, which includes a \$500 cash prize, was won by Larry Petterborg's "Branding on the o6." Richerson said about the image, "I'm in awe of this shot. Catch-

ing the action in focus with the flame, first of all, then with the colors of the cowboy outfits and the arrangement of the guys! I wish it were my photo."

The Charles Henry Trost Memorial Award (with a \$100 cash award) was taken by Frank Hughey's "Painting the Town," depicting the creation of Alpine's iconic "Poco a Poquito" mural. Richerson commented, "This photo catches my eye, the subject, the colors, the patterns of light and shadow, and the balance between the couples

on the left and right. Neat photo."

The remaining contest winners were "Hearts Grow Wild" by Rachael Hurst, "The Seat" by Jean Nored Cornell, and "Getting a Drink" by Marian Kalka. All received \$50 cash prizes.

All of the winners and entrants, as well as judge's notes on all of the finalists for the #AlpineTXPhoto Contest, are available for viewing on the City of Alpine's visitor information website: visitalpinetx.com

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- All-Ages Crafting Room

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Luecke, Gonzales receive rural healthcare awards

On Wednesday, November 20, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Permian Basin, along with the Area Health Education Center of the Permian Basin and the Texas Department of Agriculture State Office of Rural Health, hosted a National Rural Health Day Educational and Recruiting Fair event at the Odessa Marriott. The event was attended by almost 400 registrants, including 60 rural Certified Nursing Assistant students from Alpine, Crane, McCamey, and Grandfalls-Royalty ISDs, health care training students from Odessa College, Midland College, SRSU, UTPB, and

TTUHSC. Also in attendance were TTUSHC Permian Basin resident physicians and 20 rural healthcare organizations. Faculty and leadership from Odessa College, Midland College, UTPB, SRSU, and TTUHSC were present. National Rural Health Day aims to celebrate and advocate for rural health care. Several awards were given, including awards to Dr. James Luecke and Dr. Minerva Gonzales of Alpine. Dr. James Luecke received the Dr. Charles Sponsel Rural Healthcare Pioneer Clinician award for his 36 years of rural healthcare service and delivery in the

Big Bend. Dr. Minerva Gonzales, SRSU Nursing director, received the Dr. Charles Sponsel Rural Healthcare Pioneer Faculty award for her commitment to rural nursing education and service. About a dozen Alpine HS CNA students attended the event with CNA nursing instructors Gayla Owen and Angela Juett. The high school students also participated in an educational recruitment fair with Odessa College, Midland College, UTPB, SRSU, and TTUHSC to learn about healthcare training educational opportunities in the region.



Dr. James Luecke is pictured with Jan Blumentritt and Dr. Adrian Billings after receiving his award for Healthcare Pioneer Clinician.

Courtesy photo

Big Bend Conservation Alliance announces new collaboration

The Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) is thrilled to announce a new collaboration with artist, Dana Falconberry, to support The Big Bend River Rangers. The Big Bend River Rangers engage students, teachers, and their families in the protection, connection,

and reclamation of the Rio Grande. Students in the program explore the watershed, monitor the river's health, and learn from elders who are helping to inspire this next generation of caretakers. Dana Falconberry has designed The River is Home. This bandana features

the Rio Grande, its canyons, multiple names—in Lipan Apache, Spanish, and English—and the flora and fauna found at the river's edge. For each bandana purchased, a River Ranger will be gifted one, too. Donations have a more significant impact right now—our

friends at Permian Basin Area Foundation are generously matching donations, helping support youth stewardship and this Big Bend Conservation Alliance program. The campaign began on December 2 and will continue through the end of the year.

Radio Club hosts 17th Annual "Talk to Santa" event



BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, December 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., kids have a chance to contact Santa Claus at the North Pole using shortwave radio. This event takes place in front of Morrison's True Value Hardware store.

For those unfamiliar with shortwave radio, it is like a walkie-talkie that allows users to contact peo-

ple around the world. The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will have their communication van staffed with "elves" to help the children talk to Santa. Parents are encouraged to dress their kids warmly and bring them to True Value to have their chance to contact the North Pole. For more information, contact Matt Greer at 281-910-7403.

Terlingua CSD swears in new board trustees



Brewster County Judge Greg Henington swore in two new members to the Terlingua Common School District's Board of Trustees on November 20. Elsa Baeza and Aaron Stech were sworn in as the newest board members.

Photos by Big Bend High School yearbook student Usiel Rodriguez

Livestock exhibitors bring home top honors



Alpine livestock exhibitors Rynn Matthews, Leddy Wood, Sadie Wood, Bryce Renfroe, Wyatt Renfroe, and Hallie Wood cleaned up at this past weekend's West of the Pecos Blowout held in Fort Stockton.

Courtesy photo

Hillside Church hosts children's Christmas store

Hillside Baptist Church of Alpine will host its eighth annual children's Christmas store this Saturday, December 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The store will be held in the Hillside Fellowship Hall and will feature gifts for children to purchase for their entire family! Children are invited to come shop for their parents, siblings, and other family members, where the merchandise is priced from 25 cents to \$5.00. Each child is asked to bring a legibly written shopping list of names

to help the taggers spell each name correctly. Purchases are limited to one item per person on the list. Adults will be on hand to box, wrap, bag, and tag each gift selected. All proceeds will go to the Children's Advocacy of the Big Bend here in Alpine (Shana Sullivan, Director). Hillside Baptist Church is located at 205 Church Road, just off East Highway 90 - turn left across from Holiday Inn Express. For more information, please text or call Karen McGuire at 432-386-3071.

Annual Holiday Fruitcake Sale

I have been making this fruitcake annually for the public for about the last 10 years, usually selling it at local fairs and at Mountain Country Christmas.

This recipe was my mother's although I did not like fruitcake back then, later in life I made it and tried it and fell in love with it. Not everyone likes fruitcake, but this is a different take on fruitcake. This fruitcake is made with maraschino cherries, dates, pecans, and apples. It can be made without pecans whatever the preference.

This fruitcake is shelf-stable for about 3 weeks, longer in the refrigerator, and up to a year in the freezer.

Sizes Available: Bundt pan-24 servings, Large Loaf/11x5-16 servings, Medium Loaf/9x4-12 servings, Small Loaf/8x4-9 servings.

For prices and to place an order call me, Susie Gonzales, at 432-244-9805.

Stroll Alpine

DEC. 5-7 TH

THURSDAY, DEC. 5TH 4-7 PM
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SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH 6:30 PM
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BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH 7:00 PM
AFTER PARTY WITH ANNA LAMARE & THE SWIFTS
THE RITCHEY

Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:
What's your favorite way to spend the holidays?

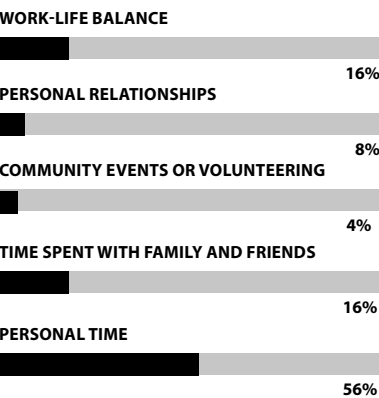
- With family
- On vacation
- Cooking with friends
- Serving others

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

RESULTS

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

RESULTS



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.



Make America safe again: Deport criminal aliens

During the last four years, communities along the southern border have been ground zero for illegal immigration. Stretching over 800 miles of the Rio Grande, my congressional district includes places like Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and El Paso. These places have all been ravaged by the Biden administration's "America Last" agenda, which has led to the worst border crisis in our nation's history. It has also empowered transnational criminals like never before.

Not a week goes by that I am not either at the border or in touch with our law enforcement on the front lines—they all relay the same haunting message. Terrorists are streaming across our borders, and the cartels are having a field day.

Earlier this year, I pressed the Biden administration for specific answers about how many criminal aliens reside

within our borders. Six months later, I finally received a response. It confirmed a chilling reality that we have long suspected.

As of July this year, 662,566 noncitizens with criminal histories were on ICE's national docket.

Over 100,000 individuals on this docket had a pending assault charge, and over 13,000 had been convicted of murder. To exacerbate the problem, removals of convicted criminal migrants dropped by 74% under the Biden-Harris administration. In FY2017-2020, ICE removed over 526,000 criminal migrants compared to the 137,617 criminal migrants deported in FY2021-2023.

Our mandate is clear: We must make America safe again and send a clear message that our country is not a haven for the world's



TONY GONZALES
U.S. Representative,
Texas Dist. 23

bad actors. To accomplish that, we must focus our resources on deporting criminal aliens as soon as humanly possible.

Gaps in our border security have allowed dangerous criminals to slip through the cracks, allowing the murderers of university student Laken Riley and 12-year-old Joselyn Nungaray to gain entry into the United States. Had strong, Trump-era guardrails been left in place by the Biden administration, these violent criminals may have never stepped foot in our country. Instead, the Biden administration has worked overtime to reverse nearly every single one of President Trump's effective border policies. The results have been a disaster to our national security and have led to over 10 million encounters of illegal aliens at our nation's borders.

The facts do not lie—nine out of ten migrants who claim asylum in the United States do not qualify. And yet a historic number of people, the majority subject to deportation, have been released into our communities. At the same time, our immigration courts are more backlogged than ever before, meaning these hundreds of thousands of individuals have court dates that are years down the line.

Not only is this unsustainable, it is unacceptable.

As the representative of the largest border district in Congress, I welcome President Trump's push to invest in our border security, close asylum loopholes, and deport criminal aliens. We can do all of this while maintaining opportunities for all those who aspire to become American citizens the right way, the legal way.

One column topic often begets another

"You can have whatever you want if you believe in yourself and keep your feet firmly planted on the ground."

— **A. J. McLean - American singer; founding member of pop vocal group Backstreet Boys**

Writing a weekly column becomes second nature if you do it long enough.

A topic is typically the trick. Some weeks, a thought takes off with ease. Others, you rush toward deadline, praying for air under the wings hoping something will take flight. And some I call "Biblical inspirations." Like the way the Bible relates genealogy. "And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech ..." and so on for centuries.

The piece published a couple of weeks ago chronicling my grandmother's first airplane ride miraculously begat this week's offering. Reflecting on the only time Granny ever took her feet off the ground to fly with me launched many memories. One, I was 20-something with a brand-new pilot's license on which the ink was still wet. Two, I passed my FAA check ride just the day before, with a logbook recording a scant few pages of hours. However, no one even blinked before accepting my offer.

"Anybody wanna go for an airplane ride?"

You would have thought someone would have said, "Ahhh, that's all right, you go first. If it all works out, I'll think about it."

Dad was the first to climb aboard: no questions, hesitations, or fear. At least none, he admitted. We flew around the area, over the newly constructed power plant and lakes, to Pittsburg, where he grew up, and back around Omaha — just sightseeing. I didn't know if he had ever flown. I assumed not, but I never asked. And he never said.

Later that afternoon, Mom and Granny followed suit. Mom flew once commercially from Texas to Kentucky in the early 1950s, where she took me with her. I was a preschooler. Still have the "First Flight Certificate" and wings I was given for the trip on a Lockheed Constellation, known to aviation enthusiasts as a "Connie." To this day, the most gorgeous propeller-driven airliner ever to grace the skies.

We circled Pittsburg for Granny to see her home on Cypress Street, unaware that we may have been flying over the same ground as a Texas airship built at the P. W. Thorsell Foundry



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

in 1902. A year before, Orville Wright achieved powered flight in 1903 with his brother Wilbur running alongside him on the beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

History doesn't record it, but I've since wondered if Wilbur might have told Orville, "Ahhh, that's all right, you go first. If it all works out, I'll think about it."

Three of Cannon's employees reportedly built The Ezekiel Airship, said to have been inspired by the Biblical book of Ezekiel, chapter 1, verse 16, "The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the color of beryl, and they four had one likeness, and their appearance was as it were a wheel within the middle of the wheel." And verse 19, "And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them ... And when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up."

It was reportedly destroyed in a storm near Texarkana while being transported to St. Louis for the 1904 World's Fair. Plans and other documents were later destroyed in a fire, which was common in foundries and sawmills during the day, after which Cannon reportedly gave up. A full-size replica was

built by Pittsburg craftsman Bob Lowery and the Pittsburg Optimist Club in the 1980s using one surviving photograph. I saw it once displayed in the Pittsburg Hot Link Restaurant, where it resided until 2001 before being relocated to its present location just down the street in the city's Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center and Museum. It remains there today, along with artifacts related to the craft and Cannon, including Cannon's Bible, displayed open to the first chapter of the Book of Ezekiel.

With no physical evidence of the flight, most historians discount the claim that the Pittsburg, Texas, airship ever flew.

My fledgling family flights over Pittsburg decades ago were never repeated. Dad, Mom, and Granny were all presumably satisfied with their excursions that one time, trusting me to take them up and get them back down safely.

With my apologies to A.J. McLean, I suggest that to have whatever you want, you not only have to believe in yourself but also sometimes have to get your feet off the ground.

Oh, and trust your pilot.

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

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

Upcoming events

December 5 Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting, 5:45 p.m. at 5th Street Gallery, 118 N. 5th Street.
December 6 Davis Mountains State Park, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Morning Bird Walk and 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Desert Adapters Hike at Emory Oak Wildlife Viewing Area.
December 6 Sul Ross First Lady's Holiday Celebration, 5:30 p.m. at Centennial Plaza in front of Morelock Academic Building. There will be tree lighting, carols, cookies, and cocoa. Everyone is welcome.
December 6 Big Bend Chorale Concert, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 208 E. Sul Ross Avenue-First United Methodist Church.
December 7 Christmas Stroll and Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Stroll down East Sul Ross Avenue with musical performances and holiday lights followed by a tree lighting at the Brewster County

Courthouse at 201 W Ave E.
December 7 Fiesta de Noche Buena, 5 p.m. start with a parade at 7 p.m. on Main Street and Avenue D in Marathon. There will be food, hay rides, a light parade, local vendors, live music, and Santa.
December 7 SRSU Guided Hike on Hancock Hill, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with Matt Hewitt and Catillin Camp on Big Bend Bears. Registration is required.
December 7, 14, & 21, Davis Mountains State Park, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Holiday Ornament Workshop at Interpretive Center.
December 7, 11, & 28, Davis Mountains State Park, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dark Sky Tour at CCC Rock Look-out (End of Skyline Drive). Bring a chair and a red lamp flashlight.
December 10 & 17 Davis Mountains State Park, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Star Chat at the parking lot across from Interpretive Center. Bring a chair and binoculars.
December 13-14 Mountain Country Christmas at Alpine Civic Center. On Friday, hours are



1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dozens of vendors and photos with Santa on Saturday. Presented by the Woman's Club of Alpine.
December 14 Library Music Program, 4:30 p.m. at the Jeff Davis County Library in Fort Davis. A special free music program offered by the Friends of the Library will showcase a guitar ensemble from Sul Ross. Local pianist Lana Potts will lead sing-alongs beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by the guitar ensemble at 6 p.m. with more Christmas carols.

Refreshments and hot cocoa will be served prior to the music. Everyone is invited to attend.
December 14 Christmas Around the World, 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, presented by the Solfege Choir, Vivace Youth Singers, and the Big Bend Children's Chorus.
December 15 Alpine School of Music Winter Recital, 4 p.m. beginner recital, 5 p.m. reception, 5:30 p.m. advanced recital at the First Presbyterian Church, 103 E. Lockhart.
December 20 Cowboy Christmas Ball, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Granada Theatre hosted by Doug Moreland. Adults are \$10, teens \$5, and kids are FREE.
December 21 Alpine Christmas Parade, 5 p.m. line-up at city hall, and the parade begins at 6 p.m. The parade route will continue down Holland Ave, turn at 2nd Street, and end up at the Alpine Visitor Center, where there will be refreshments, photos with Santa, float winner awards, and entertainment by the Big Bend Community Band.

Ongoing Events
Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.
Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.
American Legion Post 79 meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.
American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.
Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.
Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.
Big Bend Community Chorale

rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbc-chorale.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 x301.
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.

ALPINE AVALANCHE
Heard on the STREET
 What is your favorite holiday movie?



Waylon Furr:
Rudolph



Whitley Furr:
The Grinch



Betty Hampton:
It's A Wonderful Life



Augustine Huerta:
A Christmas Story



Manuel Ortega:
La Ley de Herodes

PET OF THE WEEK

Pearla arrived at the Alpine Shelter in mid-September after numerous sightings of her running loose and very pregnant. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to capture her, and time was of the essence due to her advanced pregnancy. She finally put herself in a position to be captured, and three days later, she gave birth to seven healthy puppies at the shelter. All of Pearla's puppies have been

transported to other rescues as we do not have enough adopters locally for the volume of pets that are here.
 Pearla is a little shy around other dogs and new people but warms up quickly with a proper introduction. Once you take her for a walk or share a snack, you have a friend for life!
 Pearla walks great on a leash; she will not pull and knows how

to sit. She is very treat-motivated and easy to train. She is spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. Meet Pearla at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.
 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 massive difference to the shelter and the animals.
 Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer for the

Alpine Humane Society. Support the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery with donated furnishings, décor, and household goods. See us at our upcoming bake sale on Saturday, December 7, at the Farmers Market and Mountain Country Christmas on December 13 and 14. You can also order holiday goodies from our See's Candy online store until this Friday. AHS receives 20% of all candy sales.
https://www.yumraising.com/secure/alpinehs_alpine_humane_society_candy_store29/Mar-Veg4310/
 Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet



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

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 432-837-4812**

Santa visits Fort Davis

Josephine, Virginia, and Augustine Nott of Fort Davis took time this past Saturday to tell Santa what they all wanted for Christmas.

Courtesy photo

**Marathon Independent School District
 Request for Bids No. 2024-1
 Security Fencing**

Marathon ISD is soliciting bids for a contractor/company to install new fencing, remove and replace existing fencing, and install gates at locations needed. The new fencing is needed for the safety and security of the students and staff members. Sealed bids will be received until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Bids will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the regularly scheduled board meeting, to be held on December 18, 2024. At 6:00 p.m., at 109 N. 5th Street, Marathon, TX 79842.

Project specifications and timelines are available at www.marathonisd.net under the School Finance/Procurement tabs, or may be obtained from the district's business office:

Marcus Celaya, Business Manager
mcelaya@marathonisd.net
 432-386-4431
 109 N. 5th Street
 Marathon, TX 79842

Marathon ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

SAFETY • FROM 1

Muratori, Brewster County's 9-1-1 GIS Coordinator, highlighted the importance of adding the seven newly named roads in Lajitas, including La Tigo Court, Corriente Court, and Getaway Road, calling the progress a "breakthrough" and emphasizing the positive impact on both development and emergency response.

Accurate mapping ensures first responders can quickly locate properties, a crucial improvement for public safety in rural areas.

Bee Mountain Estates and East Rim Ranch also benefited from updated

plats, adding to the county's mapped road network. These updates are expected to facilitate real estate transactions and attract future development in the region.

The commissioners unanimously approved renewed jail housing contracts with Ector, Pecos, and Terrell counties for fiscal year 2025. These agreements allow Brewster County to house overflow inmates from these counties, ensuring that neighboring regions can manage their jail populations during emergencies.

The contracts are part of a long-standing interlocal cooperation effort authorized under Chapter 791

of the Texas Government Code.

Such agreements enable political subdivisions to share resources efficiently, address capacity issues, and ensure inmate safety.

The renewed contracts stipulate that Brewster County has the capacity to provide housing and care for inmates from other counties when necessary. This arrangement also brings in additional revenue to support the county's operations.

The commissioners moved forward on grant funding opportunities, selecting Jacob & Martin Engineering to manage the pre-application, application, and project implementa-

tion for the 2025 Colonia Fund: Construction Grant Program. This program, funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture, targets infrastructure improvements in underserved areas known as colonias.

The commissioners emphasized the importance of selecting a firm experienced in federally funded projects, noting that Jacob & Martin Engineering met all the qualifications required by the Texas Community Development Block Grant program.

The court also passed a resolution authorizing a Texas Community Development Block Grant application submission to the Texas Department of Agri-

culture for the Community Development Fund.

This grant program supports initiatives to improve housing, infrastructure, and economic opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents.

Brewster County committed \$15,000 in matching funds as part of the application. This contribution demonstrates the county's dedication to leveraging grant opportunities for the benefit of its residents.

The resolution highlighted the importance of ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations, including procurement standards, environmental reviews, and civil rights requirements.

The November meeting showcased the commissioners' focus on strategic planning and regional collaboration. From adding new roads in growing communities to renewing public safety agreements and preparing for grant-funded projects, the court tackled diverse issues with long-term implications for Brewster County's residents.

The next regular meeting of the Brewster County Commissioners Court is set for December 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Brewster County Courthouse.

GROWTH • FROM 1

accepts new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls up to 18.

"Anything that's left over, we take to an orphanage in Ojinaga," he said.

Ward 3 Councilor Darin Nance introduced proposed updates to Alpine's STR (short term rental) ordinance, inspired in part by similar measures adopted by Marfa.

Nance explained that Marfa adopted Alpine's original STR ordinance and made some adjustments. Alpine is considering adopting some of these changes that Marfa has successfully implemented.

STR operators in Alpine currently pay \$350 per unit for the first year and \$100 annually afterward. The council is considering revising this structure to a flat \$250 annual fee.

Nance also discussed parking regulations for STRs. Council members favored implementing standardized rules based on the number of units, aiming for clarity and fairness. To improve efficiency, the "kick-off" for the new web-based STR management system happens today. It will streamline the city's permitting and compliance process while improving the user interface. "Thanks for shepherding this through," said Mayor Pro Tem Stephens. Good job."

The council also reviewed the city's draft Water Conservation and Drought Contingency

Plan, updated by engineering firm Jacob and Martin. The plan aims to reduce per capita water usage by 11.4% by 2034. Proposed infrastructure upgrades include replacing outdated water meters, some over 20 years old. The plan also outlines tiered conservation measures triggered by drought severity and suggests public education campaigns to reduce waste, such as fixing leaky faucets.

As the city tackles the pressing issue of water conservation, Antrim pointed out that some of the most insidious culprits may be hiding in plain sight or, perhaps more aptly, behind closed doors.

"The silent but costly water leak is the running toilet," said Antrim. She added that putting a packet of Kool-Aid in the toilet will show if there is a leak because you'll be able to see the swirl caused by the running water more easily. She further emphasized the importance of the water ordinance updates, noting they align with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requirements and enhance eligibility for state and federal infrastructure funding.

Challenges remain, however, as water loss through unrecorded leaks and scheduled events linked to significant wastage—over 300,000 gallons during the 2023 holiday season alone because of the break in the water main downtown.

The city faces a \$24,000 wastewater fine due to TCEQ violations, including plant spillage and data recording issues. Antrim proposed using funds for plant improvements in lieu of paying the fine, an offer by TCEQ signaling the city's commitment to long-term solutions.

The council also discussed tax concessions related to renovations of the Holland Hotel, a landmark building dating back to the 1920s.

The project will restore the hotel to its original layout while modernizing its infrastructure. City officials are exploring tax incentives under Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code to support preservation efforts like this. Chapter 380 agreements allow cities to provide grants or loans for economic development projects, making them vital for historic preservation and local economic growth.

However, the city manager emphasized the importance of ensuring businesses uphold their commitments under these agreements to avoid issues experienced in the past, where a company failed to follow through on agreed-upon terms and continued to receive tax benefits.

"It's not just giving them the tax abatement," said Antrim in reference to Chapter 380. "It makes sure they're compliant with what we're asking for. That might be financial records that show they're bringing in what they're bringing

in."

The council also approved the first reading of an ordinance to sell five acres of unused city property adjacent to North 16th Street. This land, which has long remained undeveloped, has drawn attention due to its potential for growth. A third-party study conducted by Paramount Property Analysts concluded that the land would be most effectively utilized for residential development. The council also reviewed an updated zoning map, which represents the first significant revision since 2013. The updated map reflects city infrastructure changes, growth patterns, and evolving development needs.

As Alpine continues to expand, the revision aims to ensure that zoning designations align with the community's current and future goals. The new map proposes several modifications, including potential adjustments to residential, commercial, and industrial zoning areas designed to accommodate Alpine's growing population and business interests.

The council ultimately addressed these concerns before approving, as they understood the importance of transparency and public engagement in shaping the city's future. The zoning map revision is expected to play a crucial role in shaping Alpine's future, and the council's deliberations are part of its commitment to a thoughtful and inclusive development process.



The Colima Addition property, five acres adjacent to North 16th Street, will most likely transform into Alpine's newest residential space.

Courtesy photo

Finally, Alpine City Attorney Cynthia Trevino joined via Zoom, and the council held a brief discussion to clarify codification questions related to zoning ordinances. One key point was how long citizens have to request changes or file complaints about the ordinance—an inquiry that Trevino confirmed would be three years. Antrim gave the only executive report in Mayor Eaves'

absence, enlightening the council on upcoming mandatory water samplings at schools and daycares. She said notices would be sent to these facilities, adding that they also apply to home-based daycare businesses.

The next regular Alpine City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

DEAN • FROM 1

students are enrolled. These programs were previously a part of the College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Sciences.

Dr. Culpepper received his Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from Berry College in Georgia, his master's degree in physical education, and his doctoral degree in Kinesiology from the University of Houston. He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society for Education, the American Psychological Association, the Association of Applied Sports Psychology, and the United States Center for Coaching Excellence.

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 CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas-Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries-Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce-Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney
SADDLE PACK COMBINATION: (Your choice of any two items)
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 Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup
 Cup of Daily Soup
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 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

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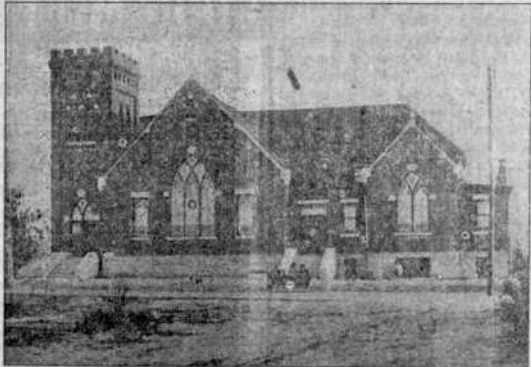
Alpine Avalanche

December 1, 1921

December 22, 1921

December 18, 1919

A PICTURE OF THE PROPOSED NEW METHODIST CHURCH TO BE ERECTED SOON



LEGION MEN BURY COMRADES

Organization Officially at Almost Every Reinterment of Men Who Fell on Battlefields.

With the thousands of bodies being returned to the homeland from the battlefields of France, the American Legion has justified its existence if for no other reason than the display of proper respect for the remains of the country's heroes. In almost every instance in which the body of a soldier who died overseas has been reinterred in American soil, Legion members have taken part.



Funeral for Indian Comrade.

The photograph shows the ceremonies of the military funeral held by Carl Anderson Post of the Legion at Cloquet, Minnesota, for John De-foe, the first American Indian from the state to be killed in action. The tribe to which the dead soldier belonged was glad to allow his white comrades to bury him in a manner befitting his brave career in the service of his country.

MAKES DRIVE FOR AUXILIARY

President of Texas Organization Shows That She Comes From Fighting Stock.

A record for service to America that dates from Revolutionary days and includes the deeds of Nathaniel Green and Daniel Boone, is perpetuated in Mrs. E. Clinton Murray, of Houston, Tex., president of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion of that state. The first unit of the Auxiliary of the American Legion was founded there.



December 22, 1921

The American Legion

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

LEGION MAN DISPLAYS NERVE

Airplane Fighter Takes to Coal Cars to Reach Vocational Training School.

There's no striking similarity between piloting a highflying airplane of the Marine Corps to riding in the coal cars of a freight train. But between these modes of travel, Thomas D. Lane, junior law student at the University of Kansas, will complete his education. Lane, a member of the Argonne post of the American Legion

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

Fungus not the cause of leaf damage in bur oaks

Dear Neil, A squirrel must have planted a bur oak acorn in one of our pots last year because we were blessed with a seedling this spring. It grew well (27 inches tall), although it was attacked by a fungus this fall. Should we plant it into the ground now or wait another year?

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

Plant it in the next month or two. In fact, I would plant it right away. Its root system is probably winding around and around at the bottom of the pot. If so, use your pruning clippers to cut one or two of the encircling roots so that they will branch out. Otherwise, they may girdle themselves as they grow larger over the years. You really do not want to leave it in a container any longer than necessary. It's tall enough to stand on its own. Put a stake alongside it to keep an animal from stepping on it, and keep it watered every few days through win-

ter, spring, and summer. By the way, the "fungus" might have been the minor damage of sawfly larvae as they take the tissues out from between the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves. They are pretty common on bur oaks but are of no particular concern.

Dear Neil, I know you like a shrub called Italian jasmine, but I can't find it in nurseries. Do you have any suggestions?

Sadly, I do not. It's a venerable old plant that was more popular 50 to 70 years ago than it is

now. But it's handsome and really ought to be brought back into more common use in our landscapes. For those who are unfamiliar, it's Jasminum humile. North Carolina State University's website notes that it has recently been separated into a genus named Chrysojasminum humile.

It's an arching shrub 4 to 5 ft. tall and 5 or 6 ft. wide, perhaps slightly larger in South Texas. It's winter-hardy about as far north as the I-20 corridor or slightly beyond, although the great cold spell of February 2021 damaged plants that had previously survived for decades.

It has square stems lined with small, very dark green, glossy evergreen leaves. Its small, trumpet-shaped, clear yellow flowers are produced in late winter and spring. I've never seen any fruit on the plants.

Italian jasmine is propagated by stem cuttings taken in late win-

ter and through early summer. It roots very easily, and several cuttings can be planted into each nursery pot to make plantable transplants within 12 months. It grows best in full sun and in highly organic, consistently moist soils. I've never seen an insect or disease bother it.

If you decide to try it, ask for it at your favorite independent retail garden center. Ask the owner, manager, or buyer to see if they stock it or can order it for you come springtime. Nurseries that do landscape contracting year-round are usually your most likely sources.

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.



TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- many Texans go on these for exercise
- Texas-based "Space X's" Elon Musk is a billion
- "sounds like a _____"
- teenage bane
- capture
- TXism: "_____ the mark" (comply)
- Spindletop driller, Capt. A.F. _____
- where you can find Australian birds in Texas (2 wds.)
- Texas astronaut Ed White died on the first _____ mission
- wrenches ankle ligaments
- Texas-filmed 1971 film: "The Andromeda _____"
- TX Mark Chesnutt's "Too Cold _____"
- an alma mater of TX George W.
- TXism: "gotta play the _____ you're dealt" (inevitable)
- Ciudad _____ is across from El Paso
- "R" of NRA
- Chalk _____ is a native Texas tree hit for TX Henley's Eagles: "Peaceful _____"
- TXism: "don't get your _____ knot" (calm down)
- El Paso has statue of Juan de _____
- "jumper's knee" is _____ sports injury
- these were found in a large area following Galveston's Great Storm
- TX George H.W.'s "Stormin'" general (init.)
- 2024 election didn't have a large "Gender _____"
- largest continent
- TX Jim Reeves hit: "_____ Losing You"
- George H.W. 1988 phrase: "_____ my lips"
- TX Howard of TV's "Dallas"
- cut off tree branch
- TX Perot's co. boot width
- TXism: "tie _____ ends" (finalize)
- this Seton wrote cowboy romance novels
- Alda of "The Aviator" about TX Hughes
- the Astro _____ into second base
- fed. agcy. which regulates aviation
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave _____"
- TX racer, Foyt (init.)
- abdomen informally (abbr.)
- Lukas of "Leap of Faith" with Texas-born Steve Martin
- parentless child
- Texas grows a lot of water _____
- TXism: "_____ it ain't true, there ain't a cow in Texas"
- Santa _____, TX
- rodeo rider & singer
- Chris _____Doux dir. to Buna from Livingston
- TXism: "_____ headed" (silly)
- TXism: "_____ a bug in a rug"
- South Asia country
- water nymph in Greek mythology
- today, Verizon has this old phone co.
- "boob tube" abbr.
- former Cowboy RB Emmitt (init.)
- one installment of old TV's "Dallas"
- TXism: "a real _____ burner" (exciting)
- church alcove

DOWN

- WWII enemy fighter plane (2 wds.)
- living area provided by early drilling companies (2 wds.)
- Hood County seat
- "cent" in Samoa
- TXism: "the _____ is wagging the dog"
- TXism: "_____ colt" (cranky)
- paramedic services (abbr.)
- "corporate" commu-nity in Irving: _____ Colinas

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Sports

Brains and brawn: 22 Fightin' Bucks earn Academic All-District honors

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks football team has demonstrated outstanding athleticism on the field this season and has also excelled academically.

A total of 22 players earned Academic All-District honors, showcasing the team's commitment to excellence both in the classroom and on the gridiron.

To be eligible for Academic All-District honors in Texas, student-athletes must maintain a minimum GPA of 90 and be in their junior or senior year.

This year, the Fightin' Bucks rose to the challenge, earning these prestigious recognitions.

One of the season's standout players was Dae Hardwick, who was a star on the field and also excelled in the classroom.

Hardwick received Academic All-District honors in multiple categories and made history by setting a school record with 89 receptions for 1,161 yards and 10

touchdowns.

His impressive achievements earned him the District 3-3A Division 2 MVP, solidifying his place among the team's all-time greats.

Devon Rojo, the team's senior quarterback, was another key player who earned recognition.

Rojo led the Fightin' Bucks to a share of the district championship, passing for over 2,000 yards during the season.

His leadership and quick decision-making earned him the district's Offensive MVP honor, and his success both in the classroom and on the field was an inspiration to his teammates.

Defensive standout Iden Lujan received Academic All-District honors and was also named the District's Defensive MVP.

Lujan played a pivotal role in Alpine's defensive efforts throughout the season, and his hard work, both on and off the field, paid off with these accolades.

He also earned First-

Team Offensive Receiver honors for his contributions on both sides of the ball.

Among the standout performers was senior running back Logan Smith, named the Texas 3-A Built Ford Tough Player of the Week for his remarkable performance against Odessa Compass.

Smith rushed for over 1,000 yards this season and was named First-Team Offensive Running Back and First-Team Outside Linebacker.

His dynamic ability to both run the ball and make plays on defense was instrumental in the team's success.

Smith's hard work in the classroom mirrored his performance on the field, as he received Academic All-District honors for his academic achievements.

The Fightin' Bucks' offensive and defensive lines also shined academically and athletically.

Auden Ramirez was named First-Team Offensive Tackle and

First-Team Defensive Lineman, while Seth Dutchover earned Second-Team Offensive Guard honors.

David Valenzuela earned Second-Team honors for Fullback and Halfback, while Arik Llanez earned Second-Team Offensive Tackle honors.

Defensively, several players made their mark.

A.J. Llanez was named First-Team Inside Linebacker, while JP Valenzuela earned First-Team Safety and an Honorable Mention as a Wide Receiver.

John Mendoza received First-Team Corner honors, and Khris Munoz earned Second-Team Defensive Line honors.

The Fightin' Bucks were also recognized for their well-rounded contributions, with several players receiving Honorable Mentions, including Alec Ramos for Outside Linebacker, Rode Babb for Tight End, Marcus Ramirez for Inside Linebacker, and Alex Adams for



2024-2025 Fightin' Buck Varsity Football Team

Courtesy photo

Kicker.

Five players earned Academic All-District honors in more than one category, reflecting the depth of the team's talent and dedication.

Achieving Academic All-District honors is a testament to these athletes' ability to balance the demanding requirements of athletics with academic success.

In addition to their athletic accomplishments, these young men have shown that hard work, discipline, and focus in the classroom are just as important as their performance on the field.

Their achievements serve as an example to others of the value of pursuing excellence in all areas of life, not just sports.

Fightin' Bucks Head Coach Andy Smith praised the players for their academic achievements, noting that their success in the classroom is just as critical as their success on the field.

"We are extremely proud of our 22 student-athletes who earned Academic All-District," said Smith, who also serves as the Alpine Independent School District Athletic Director.

SRSU head football coach announces resignation

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

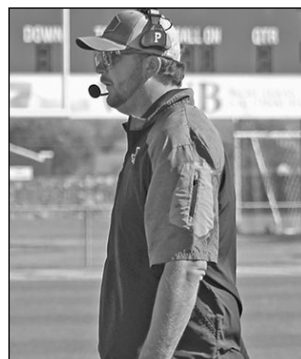
Barry Derickson, Sul Ross State University's head football coach, resigned this week. Derickson joined the Lobo football staff in August 2021 as their Offensive Coordinator and was promoted to head coach in December of the same year.

During his time with Sul Ross, Coach Derickson worked on improving recruitment and retention and the football team's academic success. Derickson and his staff recruited the first class of Division 2 student-athletes to compete at Sul Ross, and they recently completed their first DII season this fall. The Lobos overall record under Derickson's leadership rests at 11-20.

The Sul Ross athletic program said, "We cannot overstate our gratitude for what Coach Derickson has done for Sul Ross Athletics. He helped guide this

program into a new era and navigated difficult terrain. He leaves this program better than he found it and will have a lasting impact on his student-athletes. Thank you for sharing your vision and passion with us. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors."

Coach Derickson commented on his time at Sul Ross, stating, "I want to thank the community, the alumni, and the university for their support. I also want to thank the young men who have turned the tide here at Sul Ross, leading the change into Division 2 and pioneering a new way into a new conference. All of you set a legacy that will never be forgotten. I also want to thank all the staff that have worked for me here at Sul Ross. If not for you being able to trail blaze, Sul Ross would not have been possible. I would also like to thank my family and friends for supporting me from so very far away.



Sul Ross Head Football Coach Barry Derickson

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Sports

Lastly, I would like to thank Amanda Workman, who allowed me the opportunity to lead this program, and the great young men I got to coach here. I appreciate everything I have at Sul Ross State University, and without it, I wouldn't be the better man I am today. I am stepping down to pursue other opportunities but will always be a Lobo for life. Go Bo's!"

A comprehensive, national search will begin immediately to fill the position.

Lady Buck Basketball Schedule 2024-2025

	JV	V
Dec. 5-7: Buena Vista Tourney, AWAY	TBA	TBA
Dec. 10: Midland Legacy, HOME	4:30	5:30
Dec. 16: Klondike, WINK	5:30	6:45
Dec. 20: Monahans, HOME	2:30	1:00
Dec. 26-28: Caprock Tourney, AWAY	TBA	TBA
Jan. 3: Kermit, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Jan. 7: Buena Vista, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Jan. 10: Tornillo, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Jan. 14: Presidio, HOME	5:00	6:30
Jan. 17: Anthony, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Jan. 21: Kermit, HOME	5:00	6:30
Jan. 24: Balmorhea, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Jan. 28: Tornillo, HOME	5:00	6:30
Jan. 31: Presidio, AWAY	5:00	6:30
Feb. 4: Anthony, HOME	5:00	6:30

Feb. 8: District Certification
Feb. 10-11: Bi-District
Feb. 13-15: Area
Feb. 17-18: Regional Semifinals
Feb. 20-22: Regional Finals/Optional Regional Tournament
Feb. 24-25: State Semifinals

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Lady Lobos conquer New Mexico in first LFC game

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross women's basketball team brought home the 'W' at home in their first Lone Star Conference match-up against the Western New Mexico Mustangs, defeating them 83-65.

Despite early-season injuries, the Lobos were able to capitalize on the failure of the Mustangs to shoot from the field, where they

turned WNMU's 24 turnovers into 18 points. This established a lead that the Mustangs were unable to recover from.

The Lobos were in charge with a commanding 12-point lead by the end of the first quarter thanks to TaMaiya Mims, Caitlyn Corley, and with the help of a series of free throws by Kyra Taylor.

Sul Ross would extend its lead into the beginning of the second quarter with

back-to-back layups from Cheyanne Bonilla. Despite the Mustangs fighting their way back, cutting the Lobos lead to six with under three minutes left in the quarter, the Lobos would assert their dominance on the court, leading by 12 at the half.

Although Sul Ross was outperformed at the free-throw line and beyond the arc, hitting 18 of 26 attempts at the line as well as 7 of 22 beyond the arc,

they were able to make key plays that secured their victory thanks to outstanding performances by Mims, Melody Martinez, Corley, Bonilla, and Victoria Aguayo.

Head Coach E.J. Smith commented, saying, "Everybody was able to contribute. I'm very proud of all our players. We shot the ball really well, despite the size of the WNMU players. It was a good team effort."

Corley also commented on their play, saying, "Our press was working for us. We forced a lot of turnovers and were aggressive defensively. The key to our victory was our turnover-to-steals ratio, as well as our shooting. I hope this brings us together as a team and gives us some momentum going forward, considering we are coming into this conference as underdogs."

Their next contest pitted them against another New Mexico match-up, the Eagles of Northern New Mexico. The Lobos had a battle on their hands but ultimately were able to pull off the win in overtime. The first half of the game was a struggle for the Lobos, but the team was able to gel in the second half thanks to Aguayo's 17 points and Martinez's three-point skills. Both Mims and Corley, along



Sul Ross Lady Lobo Melody Martinez goes for a jumper as teammate Caitlyn Corley looks on.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Sports

with point guard Cheyanne Bonilla, contributed to Sul Ross' second-half offensive production. The last five minutes of the game were where it all came together for the Lady Lobos. Their ability to make key plays delivered the second win for the program.

In a series of road games, the Lady Lobos next moved to Abilene for a non-conference contest against McMurry on Tuesday evening at the Kimbrell Arena, followed by a

trip to Austin to face LSC contender St. Edwards today at 5:30 p.m. The Lobos next face another match-up against St. Mary's, this time in conference play on Saturday afternoon at the Bill Greehey Arena in San Antonio. Sul Ross fell to St. Mary's at home on November 15, 68-74.

The Lady Lobos return to the Gallego Center next Thursday at 1 p.m. for their conference match-up against UT Tyler.

Fightin' Buck Basketball Schedule 2024-2025			
	9th	JV	V
Dec. 10 Greenwood, AWAY	4:30	6:00	7:30
Dec. 12-14 Sanderson Tourney, AWAY	TBD	TBD	TBD
Dec. 17 Fort Stockton, HOME	4:30	6:00	7:30
Dec. 20 Monahans, AWAY	1:00	1:00	2:30
Dec. 26-28 Caprock Tourney, AWAY	TBD	TBD	TBD
Jan. 3 McCamey, HOME	4:00	5:00	6:30
Jan. 7 Buena Vista, AWAY			7:30
DISTRICT 4-3A GAMES			
Jan. 10 Tornillo, AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
Jan. 14 Presidio, HOME	**6:30	**5:00	8:00
Jan. 17 Anthony, AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
Jan. 21 Kermit, HOME	**6:30	**5:00	8:00
Jan. 24	OPEN		
Jan. 28 Tornillo, HOME	**6:30	**5:00	8:00
Jan. 31 Presidio, AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
Feb. 4 Anthony, HOME	**6:30	**5:00	8:00
Feb. 7 Kermit, AWAY	5:00	6:30	8:00
Feb. 11	OPEN		
Feb. 17-18	Bi-District		
Feb. 24-28	Regional Semifinals		
Feb. 27-March 1	Regional Finals		
March 3-4	State Semifinals		
March 6-8	State Finals		

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Sarah Vasquez
Brewster County Clerk, TX

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Lobos fall to Western New Mexico

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Mustangs of Western New Mexico began their assault against the Lobos on Saturday night at the Gallego Center, jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first seconds of the game. However, their lead would not last long, thanks to a potent Lobo offense. Lobo guard Cam Clardy answered the call after those first points were put up with a mid-range jumper. This would help propel the Lobos' aggressive offense into a 15-point run that a three-pointer from Ethan Yancy would cap.

The Mustangs would narrow the lead, cutting it down to six, but a three-pointer from Manny Flores, followed by a layup and jumper



Sul Ross' Ethan Yancy controls the ball amidst fellow players on Saturday at the Gallego Center during the Lobos' loss to Western New Mexico.

Photo courtesy of Briana Martin

from Myles Amason and topped off by a layup

from Clardy, would leave the Lobos ahead by 13 at the half.

The second half of the game is where the Lobos began to stumble. Western New Mexico would slowly chisel away at Sul Ross' lead, embarking on an 8-0 run topped off with three free throws less than five minutes into the half. This cut the Lobos' lead down to four, but the Mustangs would continue to answer back and overcome any lead Sul Ross had as the second half of the game wore on.

The Lobos would tie things up 50-50 with eight minutes remaining in the contest, but another 8-0 run by the Mustangs continued their assault, eventually defeating the Lobos 69-57. Sul Ross is currently 0-1 in conference play as they take on St. Edward's University tonight in Austin.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

COLETTE FOWLKES

She is number 11. Over these last 2 games Colette has emerged as being a big piece for our program. The girls feed off her rim protection and she is growing her confidence on the offensive side as well.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Rinda Lee Pelton**, were issued on November 20, 2024, under Docket No. PR03191, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Ronald Lyle Pelton.

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

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

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED November 20, 2024

Ronald Lyle Pelton

By:
 Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Representative

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Richard Charles Kelly**, were issued on November 20, 2024, under Docket No. PR03188, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Bette Edella Kelly.

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

Representative,
 Estate of Richard Charles Kelly, Deceased
 c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law
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Channel your inner pirate: Rum cake style

It's that time of year again when your household's flour, butter, and sugar come together to create those favorite holiday treats. Moreover, the holiday season would only be complete with the addition of a few lively spirits.

In this case, we are talking about rum. This Caribbean favorite first came to light during the Golden Age of Piracy in the 17th Century and was said to have first been recorded in Barbados. This well-known spirit came about when enslaved sugar plantation workers realized molasses, a byproduct of sugar refining, could be fermented into alcohol. They later discovered that distilling this sugar-based spirit would concentrate it and remove all the impurities from the original, roughly made drink.

Rum became not only a favorite of pirates but was the currency of slave traders. Enslaved people were



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

brought from Africa to the West Indies to produce molasses. The molasses was then sent to New England, where it was refined, turned into rum, and traded back to Africa for more enslaved people. Wherever there were sugar cane plantations, rum would follow. Despite the beverage's storied history, it is thought that the Mount Gay Rum Distillery, founded in 1703 in Saint Lucy, Barbados, produces the oldest rum worldwide and sells it in over 100 countries.

It is unclear exactly where the term "rum"



Caribbean Rum Cake

comes from, but it is thought to have derived the name from several different terms. One term is that it is a derivative or shortened version of the word "rumbullion" or "rumbustion," meaning a great tumult or uproar. Another idea was that it stemmed from the Dutch word "roemer" which is the name for a large glass and is pronounced, "rummer." It is also thought to have stemmed from the term "rummage" because

it was stored in this part of a ship, making its journeys across the seas.

These days, this fabled spirit is used in everything from mixed drinks to cookies, cakes, bars, bread pudding, sauces, caramels, and coffees and is a favorite addition to holiday desserts. For this reason, adding a little spirit to your dessert table means everyone is in for a really good time!

See the full recipe online at www.alpineavalanche.com/recipes

Courtesy photo

SENIOR Spotlight

ALYSSA SMITH

In what activities did you participate in High School?
I only participated in photography because I moved to too many schools.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
I didn't have a favorite teacher in high school, but my favorite teacher was my grandmother, Dorothy Smith. She was the greatest math teacher I could have ever hoped for.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
My favorite moment in the past four years was realizing I only had a few months left until I reached my goal of graduating.

What are your plans after high school?
I plan on attending college to major in psychology and minor in education.

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Devotional Page

Reflection

BY REV. KATIE HUDAK

St. James Episcopal Church, Alpine

We are now in the season of Advent. This past Sunday, we celebrated the first Sunday of Advent. Traditionally, the theme for the First Sunday of Advent is Hope. As we look forward to the second Sunday of Advent, the theme for the week is traditionally Peace. Some of us may be shaking our heads, grunting, or raising our eyebrows in disbelief at that single word — Peace.

Where is the peace in a world that seems to be at war? We have a war between Russia and Ukraine. We have the war between Israel and Gaza. We have unrest and discontent around the world in Africa and South America. We have divisions within the United States that we see plastered all over the news and social media. And we have this hectic time as we prepare for Christmas. Peace, you say! Bah humbug! What

can we do about it anyway? I'm only one person!

If we believe we are all children of God, as St. Paul says, and no matter how badly we may have messed things up, our daily actions and how we treat each other with kindness, respect, and love can go a long way. We never know how a small act of kindness may have a ripple effect halfway across the world. Love God and love your neighbor, Jesus says to us.

Prayer is another way to actively do something. It really does have a positive effect. Prayer brings the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, and that can be life-changing for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our enemies.

Never underestimate how our prayers, everyday choices, and actions can spread God's love and peace and change the world.

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

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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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Isaiah 40: 13-15

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ABSTRACT AND TITLE



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2024 Alpine Photo Contest Winners

The Henry Charles Trost Memorial Award was awarded to Frank Hughey for his photo "Painting the Town," right. The Twin Sisters Award went to Rachael Hurst for her photo entitled "Hearts Grow Wild," far right, and this year's "A" Mountain Award was presented to Marian Kalka for her photo titled "Getting A Drink," below.

Photos courtesy of the creators and City of Alpine



Seniors celebrate Thanksgiving



Area senior citizens geared up to celebrate a Thanksgiving meal at the Sunshine House last Tuesday.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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APD welcomes new officer



Alpine Chief of Police Darrell Losoya swore in the department's newest officer, Victor Santana, early last week. Santana, a native of Horizon City near El Paso, is a 2024 graduate of the H. Joaquin Jackson Law Enforcement Academy at Sul Ross.

Photo courtesy of Alpine Police Department

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