

Celebrate small businesses on March 22

BY SHAWNA GRAVES

Staff Reporter

The Alpine City Council proclaimed Wednesday, March 22, as Small Business Development Center Day in Alpine in honor of a broader nationwide initiative. America's SBDC Association, the umbrella organization for development centers across the nation, set the date, and this is the first year to celebrate.

SBDC Day was created to bring attention to the centers and the clients they serve by sharing success stories and impacts. SBDCs have had on small business communities.

The regional chapter serves eight counties and is based out of Alpine, with a satellite office in Pecos. It offers free business education and training.

"We're here to provide one-on-one confidential business advising," said Director of Big Bend

SBDC Patricia Long, adding, "We see about 300 to 400 clients yearly."

Sessions are tailored to a client's needs, and can include help with business plan development, marketing, financing, small business expansion, human resource management and even international trade and assistance with foreign markets.

Connections to the development center's national network opens resources for clients. Sometimes people come in looking for preliminary information before taking further steps toward opening a business. The national SBDC research staff is based in San Antonio, and compiles data on behalf of would-be business owners, and they can provide a competitor list with details about all registered businesses within an industry in an area. They can even provide answers to traffic questions, answers that might help a potential business owner choose



At the March 7 Alpine City Council meeting, Big Bend Small Business Development Center Advisor Manny Granado accepts a proclamation from Mayor Andy Ramos touting March 22 as Small Business Development Center Day.

Avalanche photo by Shawna Graves

where to best locate a business. Some of the data is even required for lenders when financing loans.

Long said her staff is there as a springboard. If someone has the seed of an idea, the center staff can help develop it.

"It's never too early or too late

to come in and talk to us," she said, adding the idea phase is one of her favorites to discuss with clients.

Long is looking forward to the

See SBDC DAY • A6

end
ELECOM

MONICA WOODALL
906 E. HOLLAND AVE. - (NEXT TO SEALLS)
ALPINE, TX 79830
432-837-5631

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
STATE FARM IS THERE!

STATE FARM
INSURANCE

Lucy's 106 W. Lockhart
Behind
Christmas Cottage
Trust Value
A year round Christmas store
unique decorations and home accents

Double K
FLOWERS & GIFTS

DEBORAH PRUITT
OWNER

o: (432) 837-2227 409 E. Ave. E • Alpine, TX
c: (432) 940-9150 deborahpruitt50@yahoo.com

ing, Inc.
987

Mark Chandler General Manager
Available 24/7
markchandler.tallentroofing@yahoo.com

301 W. Holland Ave. Alpine Tx, 79830
Office: 432-837-7009 | Cell: 432-386-6402
Fax: 432-837-7439 | Toll Free: 877-263-3306

24 Hr ER
OB Care
Imaging Lab
Surgical Services
PT and more...

**BIG BEND REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

2600 Hwy 118 N. Phone 432-837-3447
Alpine TX 79830 Fax: 432-837-0330

• elected role

exas Cattle Women; as 2010 member at large for the West of the Pecos Cattle Women; as a member of the National Cattlewomen's Beef Association; and as a participant in the 2011 Young Cattlemen's conference.

All CBB members are volunteers, and those on the leadership committees are elected by fellow board members for one-year terms. Members include domestic beef, dairy and veal producers, as well as importers of cattle, beef and beef products.

For more information about the beef checkoff program, visit MyBeefcheckoff.com.

gnized students from the Ross State University. First, the university's football team was singled out for its ongoing dedication to community volunteer projects. And Ruoxi Wu from the SRSU International Office brought several exchange students to the meeting to observe the proceedings.

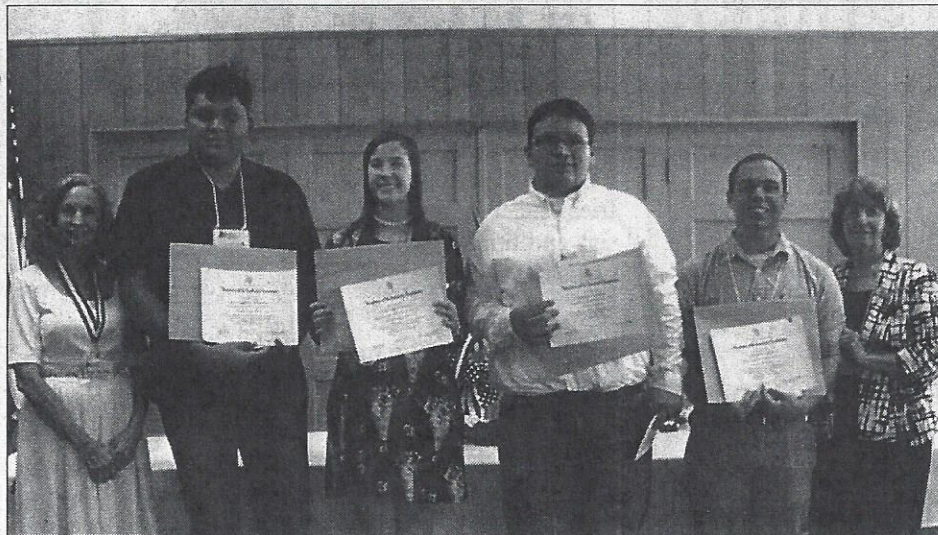
"I think it's awesome [Ruoxi] invited students to see how our municipal government works," Zimner said.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m.

dent of North Double Diamond Property Owners' Association, recognized a fire risk, and said the area was far from help.

"North Double Diamond is really wooded, as are most places around here," she said, and added

Seniors receive Good Citizen Award



The Daughters of the American Revolution selected four high school seniors to receive a Good Citizen Award. This National Award is given to recognize the outstanding seniors who demonstrate dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in home, school, and community. In the photo, Karen DeHart, Chair; Jose Damian Villanueva of Big Bend High School; Emily Anne Merrill of Fort Davis High School; Jeremy I. Ramirez of Marathon High School; Brandon Leos of Marfa High School; and Mary Smith, Regent. Not shown, Angelica Christina Rios of Alpine High School.

Courtesy photo

SBDC DAY • FROM A1

8th Annual Texas Rural Challenge, and encouraged students and business owners to enter their best business plans. The Student Challenge is open to college students, and the Texas Strong competition is open to any small business owner. Long and her staff can help with entries. Presentations

will be made at the annual conference June 29-30 in Waco.

The conference is an opportunity for municipalities, chambers, business owners and entrepreneurs from rural communities across the state to network and problem-solve, and Long will attend.

"It's rural folks talking about how to deal with things from rural areas," she said.

For more information about SMDC Day, the conference, or to chat about business ideas, give Long and her staff a call at 432-837-8694, or stop by the office at the Centennial Building at 500 West Avenue H.

The Center welcomes people at any stage of business development.

"People feel like they have to have a home-run business plan—that is not the case," she said.

the expense to clear out dead brush from all the acreage was too high.

Woodward remembered the major fires of 2011, which burned over 20,000 acres in Alpine, and 314,444 acres in Jeff Davis and Presidio coun-

Woodward Ranch, and she and neighbors had to combat the blaze without assistance from fire fighting crews.

"We had to work tirelessly to put the fire out by hand," she recalled.

Woodward and other

to make that happen.

First, they would need to find an acre of land to house the station. Pallanez said the ideal place would be close to Highway 118 to be central to more of the developments in the area. They also