

RESOURCES OF THE BIG BEND – JEFF DAVIS COUNTY, FORT DAVIS, VALENTINE & MCDONALD OBSERVATORY

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JEFF DAVIS COUNTY, FORT DAVIS & VALENTINE - ATTRACTIONS, LANDMARKS, MOUNTAINS & SPECIAL EVENTS

This area is still surprisingly a bit undiscovered. It's worth going out of your way to find a location or just scout it for the future or just take the time to enjoy what's here. Here are some of the jewels that make Jeff Davis County a special place.

~ATTRACTIONS & LANDMARKS~

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center and Botanical Gardens (CDRI)

The CDRI is our Getty Museum for nature. "In 1978, the board and supporters of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute purchased 507 acres of rolling grassland, oak-studded hills, and shady canyon springs in the foothills of the Davis Mountains. Here, they established the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center. For over three decades, visitors have explored this tranquil and visually stunning site, taking the opportunity to reconnect with nature and discover the desert.

Highlights of the Nature Center include a desert botanical garden, 1400 sq. ft. cactus and succulent greenhouse, over 3 miles of hiking trails, and interpretive exhibits. Both formal and informal education programs for children and adults are offered throughout the year. Visitor's Center, Gift Shop, Hiking Trails & Arboretum."

CDRI

Highway 118 South for four miles – Entrance road on your left

P.O. Box 905

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-364-2499

<http://cdri.org/>

Davis Mountains State Park

Recently renovated in May of 2014, this picturesque park is replete with campgrounds and fabulous vistas – when you least expect them. It has been called the "most majestic of the state parks and one of the earliest CCC projects in Texas." The park can easily be used as multiple locations and a home base for a fairly large unit. Park roads would be great for a car commercial.

From the Texas Parks and Wildlife website: "Davis Mountains State Park, 2,708.9 acres in size, is located in Jeff Davis County, four miles northwest of Fort Davis, approximately halfway between Guadalupe Mountains National Park and [Big Bend National Park](#). The original portion of the park was deeded to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by a local family. Original improvements were made by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933; the park has been open to the public since the late 1930s, and formal campground facilities were added in 1967.

The Davis Mountains, the most extensive mountain range in Texas, were formed by volcanic activity during the Tertiary geologic period, which began around 65 million years ago. These mountains were named after Jefferson Davis, U.S. Secretary of War and later President of the Confederacy, who ordered the construction of the Fort Davis army post. Most Indian bands just passed through the Davis Mountains, although the Mescalero Apaches made seasonal camps. As West Texas settlements increased, raiding in Mexico and along the San Antonio-El Paso Trail became a way of life for Apaches, Kiowas and Comanches. Few Americans had seen the Davis Mountains prior to 1846."

Davis Mountains State Park

PO Box 1707

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3337

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/davis-mountains>

Fort Davis National Historic Site

Another of Jeff Davis County's jewels, historic Fort Davis, is one of the most complete old west Forts in existence and listening to Taps at the Fort as the sun goes down, and the flag is lowered, sends chills down your back.

From the Fort's website: "Fort Davis is one of the best surviving examples of an Indian Wars' frontier military post in the Southwest. From 1854 to 1891, Fort Davis was strategically located to protect emigrants, mail coaches, and freight wagons on the Trans-Pecos portion of the San Antonio-El Paso Road and on the Chihuahua Trail. A key post in the defense system of western Texas, Fort Davis played a major role in the history of the Southwest... It is a vivid reminder of the significant role played by the military in the settlement and development of the western frontier. Named for Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, the fort was first garrisoned by Lieutenant Colonel Washington Seawell and six companies of the Eighth U.S. Infantry. The post was located in a box canyon near Limpia Creek on the eastern side of the Davis Mountains-- where wood, water, and grass were plentiful. From 1854 to 1861, troops of the Eighth Infantry spent much of their time in the field pursuing Comanches, Kiowas, and Apaches."

Fort Davis National Historic Site

PO Box 1379

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3224 ext. 220, Fax 432-426-3122

<http://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm>

McDonald Observatory

McDonald Observatory celebrated its 75th Anniversary in May 2014 and is home to the third largest telescope (Hobby-Eberly) in the world. It is a great source of pride to the Big Bend area and especially Jeff Davis County.

From McDonald Observatory website: "McDonald Observatory, a research unit of The University of Texas at Austin, is one of the world's leading centers for astronomical research, teaching, and public education and outreach. Observatory facilities are located atop Mount Locke and Mount Fowlkes in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, which offer some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States...McDonald's principal research telescopes are:

Otto Struve Telescope

Constructed 1933-39, the Struve Telescope was the first major telescope to be built at McDonald Observatory. Its 2.1-meter (82-inch) mirror was the second largest in the world at the time. The telescope is still in use today.

Harlan J. Smith Telescope

Constructed 1966-68, the Smith Telescope has a 2.7-meter (107-inch) mirror, which was the third largest in the world when built. The telescope is used every clear night of the year.

Hobby-Eberly Telescope

With its 9.2-meter (362-inch) mirror, the HET is one of the world's largest optical telescopes. It's optimized for spectroscopy, the decoding of light from stars and galaxies to study their properties. This makes it ideal for searching for planets around other stars, and studying distant galaxies, exploding stars, black holes, and more. The HET, dedicated in 1997, is a joint project of The University of Texas at Austin, The Pennsylvania State University, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

Other Telescopes

"McDonald also operates a 0.8-meter (30-inch) telescope, and the 0.8-meter (30-inch) Laser Ranging Telescope that measures the distance between Earth and the Moon and tracks the drift of Earth's continents." (Both the 0.8's were made from the "hole" in the center of the 2.7-meter Harlan J. Smith Telescope's primary mirror.

There are many other telescopes at the observatory including the WMAT (Wren-Marcario Accessible Telescope) with a wheelchair-accessible fixed eyepiece as well as a public access (36"!) telescopes for special star parties.

McDonald Observatory (See [McIvor Ranch](#) for more information)
Frank N. Bash Visitors Center
3640 Dark Sky Drive
McDonald Observatory, Texas 79734
432-426-3640
<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/>

Scenic Loop Drive

From the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce: "Fort Davis is the starting point for one of the most scenic and uncrowded drives in Texas and America. Seventy-five miles long, the drive leaves Fort Davis on Texas 118, proceeds up Limpia Canyon past Mts. Locke and Fowlkes and the McDonald Observatory and then into Madera Canyon and a quiet, pine shaded picnic area. After a left turn on Texas 166, the road passes Mt. Livermore and Sawtooth Mountain, then gradually descends, with broad views to the Sierra Viejo Mountains along the Rio Grande to the south. As you approach Fort Davis again on Texas 166, the Puertacita Mountains and Miter Peak are straight ahead. Highest elevation on the Loop is about 6700 feet, making it the highest public highway in Texas. About 1.5 hours."

The drive is spotted with picnic areas and camping grounds and ever changing great scenery. It passes the Davis Mountains State Park, the famous U Up and U Down and Prude ranches, the McDonald Observatory and the highest mountain in Jeff Davis County, [Mount Livermore](#). The farther you go the more and varied trees you encounter until you find yourself in the midst of desert mountain forests. If you look carefully you can see castles, cattle, antelope, aoudads and the occasional Black Bear and Panther. And did we mention the roads? What fabulous roads.

Only the National Historic Site is in the "city" limits of Fort Davis. CDRI and the State Park are just outside and the Observatory is north on Highway 118.

~MOUNTAINS~

From www.summitpost.org: "Mt. Livermore is the highest summit in the Davis Mountains, Texas' second highest mountain range...Though the Guadalupe have four summits which are higher, this range is significantly larger than the raised reef up north." The following peaks are the 10 highest in order (out of the 37 Davis Mountains peaks over 6,500' plus famed Mount Locke, the site of McDonald Observatory.

Mount Livermore at 8,381'
Mescalero Mountain at 8,060'
Brooks Mountain at 7,780'
Paradise Mountain at 7,740'
Pine Peak at 7,710'
Sawtooth Mountain at 7,686'
Richman Mountain at 7,650'

Black Mountain at 7,544'
Whitetail Mountain at 7,485'
Point 7418 at 7,418'
Mount Locke at 6,782' – the 26th highest summit in the Davis Mountains and the 66th in Texas and is the site of McDonald Observatory

Statistics are courtesy of www.summitpost.org

The Davis Mountains are larger than both the Guadalupe and the BBNP's Chisos and are completely contained within the county. The Davis Mountains affects everything in Jeff Davis County. Because the size of the mountains causes a rain shadow, it adds 8 – 10 inches a year of rainfall compared to Presidio and Brewster counties. Almost every spot has the potential for magnificent mountainous backgrounds and the weather remains cooler year round – therefore the Coolest 4th of July celebration.

~SPECIAL EVENTS~

Bloys Camp Meeting

From Texas State Historical Online: *“Since 1890 the Bloys Camp Meeting (or Bloys Cowboy Campmeeting) has met annually at Skillman's Grove in the Davis Mountains of the western Big Bend area. The encampment is sixteen miles southwest of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County. It comes alive for only five days of the year, usually from the second Tuesday of August to the following Sunday. All religious denominations are welcomed, but the event is sponsored by the Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and Disciples of Christ, each of which participates in the five-day meeting...The camp is on a section of land bought by the association in 1902 and is supplied with electricity and running water. Nothing can be bought or sold on the grounds; all food, water, and amenities are free to the guests, who may make contributions to help cover expenses. Costs not covered by the generosity of guests are assumed by the members....on October 10, 1890, forty-three people gathered in Skillman's Grove for the first time. The two-day meeting included Bible instruction and sermons as well as a great deal of socializing. The meetings were first held under a brush arbor and then for many years in a canvas tent... the camp was divided into six areas where families gathered and ate. These evolved into the six eating sheds that now feed the entire camp. Cooking is still done ranch-style on open fires. The average number attending was more than 3,000 by 1988.”*

Coolest 4th of July

Jeff Davis Courthouse and Downtown Square

The grounds and nearby streets of the Jeff Davis County Courthouse is the scene of Texas' Coolest 4th of July celebration, old-west bank robbery and a great parade of Precision Riding Teams, candy tossed at the kids from floats, plus the ranchers aboard their finest horses and vintage wagons and you have a formula for a great time. Imagine the courthouse completely surrounded by vendors two deep, the luscious lawn covered by picnic tables and blankets, the smells of funnel cakes and BBQ cabrito – Yum! Come Shoot 'Em Up on the Coolest 4th!

“Old Fort Days”

The Fort is filled with re-enactors demonstrating the old U.S. Cavalry on parade, at work, and doing daily chores. Lots of color and a very good museum. Usually takes place in August. The following is the schedule for 2014 as an example:

“August 30, 2014 - ...celebrate our new museum and "Old Fort Day" with Camels, Cavalry & Cannons!

10:30 AM - Flag raising and morning gun firing

11:00 AM - Grand opening ceremony and Alpine band concert

4:45 PM - Flag lowering and evening gun firing

11:30 AM - 4:30 PM - Special living history activities, over 50 volunteers reenacting life of the 1800s!!”

Fort Davis National Historic Site

101 Lt Henry Flipper Drive

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3224

Valentine's Day in Valentine, Texas

*Once a prosperous and active railroad and ranching community, Valentine was teetering on the brink of extinction until a few years ago. The gas station and the store and darn near everything else had closed. Then, when nobody expected it, a new Library opened, then an-honest-to-golly real Dentist opened a practice (and a good one too), then a new brewery in Alpine decided to hold a **Valentine's Day Celebration at the Old Mercantile**, which quickly became THE place to be in all of West Texas on that particular day and all the while the **Post Office** was continuing to postmark Valentine's Day cards by the gazillions from all over the country for February 14 and if that weren't enough the Valentine Junior Historians started winning District and State competitions AND Latham Garnsey became the first VHS Pirate to ever medal in a state athletic event (high jump)!*

So, whatever you are doing next February 14th, find a way to do it in Valentine, Texas!

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY - GENERAL INFORMATION

Jeff Davis is truly one of the most beautiful areas in America – in the midst of some already pretty incredible scenery of the Big Bend. It was recently chosen for one of Hudson Rouge's spots in their “Introducing the Lincoln Motor Company” campaign starring Mathew McConaughey. Jeff Davis County has great roads to go along with their spectacular scenery.

From Wikipedia: “Jeff Davis County's population was 2,307 as of the 2012 Census...the county seat is Fort Davis. The county is named for Jefferson Davis, the 23rd United States Secretary of War and President of the Confederate States of America. The area comprises 2,265 square miles and was founded in 1887. The county is home to the Davis Mountains, the highest mountain range located entirely within the state of Texas.”

NOTE: The notation “SBB” denotes there is a section, or a section within a section, featuring photos of the business.

~COUNTY SERVICES & INFORMATION~

Jeff Davis County Courthouse
100 Court Avenue
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

Another wonderfully restored Texas courthouse. Built in 1910 in the Classical Revival style, the Jeff Davis County Courthouse is the center of the county. The recently refurbished courtroom with its dramatic balcony is more than worth the visit.

County Judge
George E. Grubb
Clerk Pamela Mills
PO Box 836
432-426-3968, Fax: 432-426-2292

Precinct 1 Commissioner
Larry Francell
PO Box 2176
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3011
larry.francell@co.jeff-davis.tx.us

Precinct 2 Commissioner
Kathy Bencomo
PO Box 836
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3968, Fax: 432-426-2292

Precinct 3 Commissioner
Curtis Evans
1500 Evans Ranch Road
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

Precinct 4 Commissioner
Albert W. Miller
PO Box 67
Valentine, Texas 79854
432-467-2971

County Attorney
Teresa L. Todd
PO Box 1642
432-426-4434, Fax: 432-426-4431

County Clerk
Jennifer Wright
PO Box 398
111 North Front Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3251, Fax: 432-426-3760

County Treasurer
Geen Parrott
PO Box 605
432-426-3242, Fax: 432-426-2940

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Sheriff Rick McIvor
105 Court Avenue
PO Box 1061
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3213, Fax: 432-426-3937

Constable
Clay Woods
PO Box 636
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-4430, Cell: 432-249-1080

County Sheriff
Rick McIvor
105 Court Avenue
PO Box 1061
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3213, Fax: 432-426-3937

Countywide Justice of the Peace
Fred G. Granado
PO Box 827
100 Court Avenue, Second Floor
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3045, Fax: 432-426-2677

394th District Court
Roy Ferguson
PO Box 1410
Alpine, Texas 79831
432-837-5831

District Clerk
Jennifer Wright
PO Box 398
111 N. Front Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3251, Fax: 432-426-3760

83rd District Attorney
Ron Ponton
108 North 6th Street
Alpine, Texas 79830
432-837-0990, Fax: 432-837-0995

Jeff Davis County Library
Fort Davis Library
100 Memorial Square
PO Box 1054
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

~EDUCATION~

Historic Prude Ranch Continuing Education Programs

Prude Ranch

PO Box 1907

Fort Davis, TX 79734

800-458-6232

"The Prude Family has been at Prude Ranch for over 100 years. Because of all the teaching experience in the many generations, the Prudes were inspired to give students the opportunity to learn in the outdoors. The Prude Ranch Education programs were begun in 1988 under the approval of the Texas Education Agency. New programs are added each year to give the students a hands-on learning experience. Prude Ranch also serves as a training location for The GLOBE Program that unites teachers, students, and scientists from around the world in study and research about the dynamics of the Earth's Environments."

E-mail: prude@overland.net

~HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, HEALTH CLINICS & VETERINARY SERVICES – COUNTY WIDE~

[Big Bend Regional Medical Center](#) – SBB

2600 North Highway 118

Alpine, Texas 79830

432-837-3447

A 25-Bed Facility with complete Inpatient and Outpatient Services and an Accredited Acute Care Facility with a Level 4 Trauma and Designated Emergency Department – serves as the Big Bend areas only hospital

<http://www.bigbendhealthcare.com/Big-Bend-Regional-Medical-Center/Home.aspx>

Davis Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center

401 Douglas Drive

PO Box 607

Fort Davis, TX 79734

(432) 426-2363

"Improving the quality of life for people living with disabilities through a connection with the horse."

E-mail: info@davismountainstrc.org

Fort Davis Family Practice

Dr. James Luecke

Highway 17 and Memorial Square

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3217

Dr. Luecke can occasionally be found at his Alpine Family Healthcare Services Clinic in Alpine or at the Big Bend Medical Center hospital making rounds. He can also be found by listening to his regular Monday 8:20 am KVLF, 1240 AM radio show with Ray Hendryx. If not there try a baseball game, he's a busy guy.

Iris Korus DDS

100 East California Ave

Valentine, Texas 79854

432-467-2064

People have been known to drive from out of the county to visit the Big Bend's only other dentist.

<http://iriskorusdental.yolasite.com/>

Fort Davis Veterinary Services

43441 State Highway 17 South

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

(432) 426-3086

"Veterinary services for both large and small animals, boarding, retail supplies and Hill's pet food., (Located 1 mile south of Fort Davis on Hwy 17 South), Janet Greathouse DVM and Dave Taylor DVM."

~HOTELS, BED & BREAKFAST, GUEST HOUSES, CAMPGROUNDS, RV PARKS~

Crow's Nest Ranch - Camp Cabins, Camping RV Park

PO Box 555

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3300

crowsnest@crowsnest ranch.com

Rustic Cabins

"We currently have 3 spacious cabins. Each one comes complete with two beds (one double and one queen), sitting area with sofa and chairs, dinette table, complete kitchen and bath. Large picture windows and a deck on each cabin bring their natural setting right to the doorstep and on inside. Rustic and simple in design, yet very comfortable in their simplicity."

RV Park

"We have 14 RV sites available with full hook-ups, including water, electricity and sewer. The all-vehicle, graded access road into our facility make it a breeze to drive right in, hook up and enjoy your stay with us."

Campground

"Most of our tent campsites are generously shaded. There is a picnic table at each site. Some have open pits for grilling. Water faucets are conveniently located throughout. Choice of a specific site is based on availability at time of arrival. Group camping facilities are also available."

Double M Ranch Getaway Suite

"Located on a 1500 acre working ranch, this secluded guest suite is perfect for stargazing, bird watching, bicycling or hiking. Relax on the covered patio with unobstructed views of the McDonald Observatory & Mt. Livermore. The suite is complete with a King-size bed, fully equipped kitchen with stove, refrigerator, private bath, satellite TV, DVD/VCR, BBQ grill and telephone. Guided hiking or bicycling tours are also available."

432-426-2473

Grams Ranch House - McIvor Ranch

200 McIvor Ranch Road

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-2277

"... Grams Ranch House is a great place to stay here in the Davis Mountains. It is a neat house with a lot of charm. It has a wonderful view of the McDonald Observatory from the front porch and a majestic view of Blue Mountain off the back porch. The house has three bedrooms with air conditioning in each room/two full baths. It has a living and dining area with TV and Cable/VCR/DVD. The house has a fully equipped kitchen including a washer and dryer. There is lots of wildlife, Birding, hiking, biking or just relaxing."

<http://www.mcivor-ranch.com/>

Harvard Hotel at the Sproul Ranch (next to the Prude Ranch entrance)

"Each of our suites at the Hotel and at the Ranch is named for a special friend or family member who has provided us with help or inspiration to bring the Ranch and Hotel to where they are today." Cool place for giant BBQ Texas style – many a private political party has been staged here.

432-426-2500

www.harvardhotelandlodge.com, www.facebook.com/HESproulRanch

[Indian Lodge](#)

Davis Mountains State Park – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

PO Box 1707

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3254

"...built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the early 1930s, Indian Lodge is a full-service, historic hotel with 39 rooms, a restaurant, a meeting room, and a swimming pool." Very cool place for a home base. Lots of spaces for production offices.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/indian-lodge>

[Prude Guest Ranch](#)

Texas Highway 118 North (next to Sproul Ranch entrance)

800-458-6232 or 432-426-3202 Fax: 432-426-3502

"Located 6 miles north on Hwy. 118 on the historic Prude Ranch. Motel units and family rooms, seventeen bunkhouses for groups. Indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, hiking trails, Ropes Challenge Course and scheduled horseback rides for guests and other visitors, upon reservation. Dining room with buffet meal service. Conference facilities. Children's Summer Camp." A rustic guest ranch that has it all and can handle large groups. Great location and/or home base.

www.prude-ranch.com, E-mail: info@prude-ranch.com

~RANCHES~

These are a list of some of the better known ranches in Jeff Davis County.

H.E. Sproul Ranch

1900 Sproul Rd

432-426-2500

Located 7 1/2 miles from Fort Davis at 1900 Sproul Rd., this historic working cattle ranch offers guest suites, catering and meeting facilities...Other activities available at the ranch include use of the hot-tub and fitness room, jeep tours, trap and skeet and hunting, a custom Lagoon pool and a golf driving range.

www.sproulranch.com

Kokernot 06 Ranch

PO Box 918

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3380 Fax 432-426-3000

"Guided hunts: Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Antelope, Aoudad, Javelina, Feral Hogs, Birds. Movie locations and commercial photography expeditions"

E-mail mail@dianelacy.com

McIvor Ranch – U Up and U Down Ranch

Julie & Scott McIvor

200 McIvor Ranch Road

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-2277

"Also known as the U Up and U Down, is a working cattle ranch. The ranch has remained in the family for over 125 years. ...wonderful view of the McDonald Observatory from the front porch and a majestic view of Blue Mountain off the back porch..."

The McIvor family has had a special relationship to the Big Bend area and Jeff Davis County for a long time. On April 17, 1933 Mrs. Violet Locke McIvor donated the mountain upon which now sits most of McDonald Observatory's telescopes. Mt. Locke was previously called "Flat Top" or "U Up and Down Mountain." The name was changed to Mount Locke in honor of Mrs. McIvor's Grandfather Dr. G.S. Locke of Concord, New Hampshire. Wonderful locations, peacocks, great hospitality and even a castle, the ranch can be found on the Scenic Loop near Prude Ranch and Limpia Crossing.
<http://www.mcivor-ranch.com/>

Prude Ranch

6 miles north on Highway 118 next to Sproul Ranch

800-458-6232 or 432-426-3202 Fax: 432-426-3502

See also [Prude Guest Ranch](#) for more information

E-mail: info@prude-ranch.com

Sproul Ranch

Entrance is next to Prude Ranch

432-426-3097

"The Sproul Ranch, founded in 1886 by Robert Stuart Sproul, has been in the family and a working cattle ranch for over 100 years. Located in the heart of the Davis Mountains, the ranch offers a variety of activities, including lodging, hunting, private ranch tours, horseback trips (Horseback trips arranged through Lajitas Stables in Fort Davis (432)426-9075)"
whites67@overland.net

~RESTAURANTS~

The Black Bear – SBB

Indian Lodge

Davis Mountains State Park – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas State Highway 118 North

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3254 x330

"A full service restaurant featuring South Western style cuisine."

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/indian-lodge>

Star Date Café

McDonald Observatory Visitors Center

432-426-3640

"Open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm and during Star Parties. Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays."

~JEFF DAVIS COUNTY – FORT DAVIS, VALENTINE TRANSPORTATION~

See [Alpine](#) Transportation

~JEFF DAVIS COUNTY – FORT DAVIS, VALENTINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS~

Some, but not all of Jeff Davis County is covered by the following providers:

Big Bend Telephone Company DSL 1.5+ mbps – 432-837-3393

AT&T U-verse/DSL 10+ mbps – 855-637-9525

Mountain Zone TV Systems Cable 6.0+ mbps – 432-837-2300

Verizon Wireless Mobile 0.7+ mbps

AT&T Wireless Mobile 3.0+ mbps – 432-837-2061 (Radio Shack Morrison's True Value in Alpine)

Big Bend Telephone Company Fixed Wireless 10+ mbps – 432-837-3393

Mountain Zone TV Systems Fixed Wireless 6.0+ mbps – 432-837-2300

Hughes Net Satellite – 866-774-6580.

Dish Internet Satellite – 866-685-8323

FORT DAVIS GENERAL INFORMATION, BUSINESSES & SERVICES

Fort Davis, an unincorporated city, the County Seat, and business center of the county, is a film friendly community with enough hotel rooms for a good sized shoot. According to the 2010 Census there were 1,201 folks living in Fort Davis. It is located on the southeastern side of the county at the cross-roads of scenic Texas State Highways 118 and 17. Most of the hotels, services and shops and the two major parks, are to be found in or near Fort Davis.

Weather: http://www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/US/TX/Fort_Davis.html

For government center see [Jeff Davis County Information](#).

Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce

#4 Memorial Square (Across the street from the Courthouse behind the Fort Davis State Bank)

PO Box 378

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

800-524-3015 or 432-426-3015, Fax: 432-426-3978

www.fortdavis.com, E-mail: info@fortdavis.com

A good website filled with information about the area.

Jeff Davis County Library

Fort Davis Library

100 Memorial Square

PO Box 1054

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

~FORT DAVIS ANTIQUES, SPECIALTY SHOPS, GIFT STORES & HELP~

Along the Trail Antiques – Gifts & Garden

1504 N State Street

PO Box 1267

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-2041

“Retail antiques, gifts and garden store. Open 9 am – 5 pm”

BrakThru Dog Boarding & Grooming

409 Cemetery Road

Fort Davis, Texas 79834

432-249-0402

“A unique kenneling facility offering lots of personal attention with 24 hour on-site management... flexible pick-up and drop-off times.”

E-mail: patrolby@yahoo.com

CDRI Gift Shop

Highway 118 South for four miles on Texas

(432)364-2499

Davis Mountains Nut Company

610 State Street

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-2101 Fax: 432-426-2182

“Roasted and dipped gourmet pecans.”

<http://www.allpecans.com/>, E-mail: dmnc@allpecans.com

Desert Goddess Gardens

PO Box 1239

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

(432) 295-1933

“House plants, planters, herbs, mushrooms, ornamental yard plants & trees. Handmade items and gifts. Spring and fall sale by appointment.”

E-mail: desertgoddessgardens@yahoo.com

Hebert's Heirlooms & Resale
1250-B N. State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3141

"...across from the Fort Davis National Historic Site, this unique shop carries loads of antiques and collectibles, both old and new. Their inventory includes everything from Depression Era Glass to NASCAR and Star Wars figurines."

Email: goatrock@att.net

Helping Hand Thrift & Gift Shop

510 State St., Hours
Fort Davis, Texas 79834

"All proceeds benefit the Grand Companions Humane Society"

<http://www.grandcompanions.org/thrift-store/>

Hilary's Nut Farm Kennel & Dog Grooming

43068-B Highway 17 North
PO Box 142

Fort Davis, TX 79734
(432) 249-0620

"... your pet's "home away from home". Open 7 days a week and able to accommodate large & small size dogs, Hilary's has over 30 years of experience under their belt with dog grooming available by appointment. Call for reservations."

www.hilarysnutfarm.com

Fort Davis Outfitters, LLC

601 Cemetery Road
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-242-5102 or 5103

"A friendly, small-town general store carrying work, western and everyday clothing, camping supplies, housewares, home, health, beauty and office supplies, greeting cards and a whole lot more... 1/2 mile east of Stone Village."

<https://www.facebook.com/FortDavisOutfitters>, Email: fortdavisoutfitters@gmail.com

Grand Companions Humane Society

Compromise St
Fort Davis, TX 78934

(432) 426-3724

www.grandcompanions.org

Hotel Limpia Gift Shop

101 Memorial Square
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3237, 800-662-5517

Historic hotel and Gift Shop

www.hotellimpia.com

Javelinas & Hollyhocks

107 State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-2236

"Across from the Hotel Limpia. Children's nature store and gifts for all ages."

<http://www.hotellimpia.com/gift-shops/>

Just Because Gift Baskets & More

601 North State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-249-0510

"Unique gift baskets of all sizes and for every occasion. Custom cakes made to order and breakfast burritos & baked goods every morning."

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Just-Because-Gift-Baskets-and-More/530650953671667>

Poissenot Productions

Lloyd Poissenot, Photographer

"Corporate, Advertising, Editorial, Portrait, Product 7 Publishing. Located in downtown Fort Davis. By appointment only. Represented by Karen Hughes (432) 426-2777."

Rebloom Designs

Landscape Design

(432) 426-3236 Fax: (432) 426-2478.

*“*Residential/Commercial *Site Analysis & Low Maintenance Planning *Native and Appropriate Plants.”*

E-mail bethfr@sbcglobal.net

~FORT DAVIS ART GALLERIES~

Old Spanish Trail Studio

Lindy Cook Severns

PO Box 2167

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432.249.1359

“Regional landscapes, pastels, oils”

www.BigBendArtist.com/, E-mail: lindy@lindycseverns.com,

The Gallery at Fort Davis Drug Store

113 N. State Street

Fort Davis, Texas 79834

512.627.5943

“Art gallery and studio featuring traditional artist of the Big Bend, western artist and outstanding photographers.”

www.TheGalleryatFortDavisDrugstore.com, E-mail: pathazel@yahoo.com

The Gallery at Fort Davis Outfitters (see [Fort Davis Outfitters](#) above)

“Showcasing local and Texas artisans. Paintings, prints, jewelry, yarns, gifts, home décor, artistic note cards, art supplies.”

Randy Glover

7 miles North of Fort Davis on Highway 118

432-426-3713

“Randy is a local artisan with artwork that is as beautiful as it is intricate in design. As a silversmith, Randy can design just about anything from custom spurs to jewelry of all kinds.”

www.facebook.com/randy.glover.artisan, Email: randyglover1@gmail.com

~FORT DAVIS ATHLETIC VENUES & FITNESS~

High Desert Yoga

PO Box 175/ 200 State Highway 17

Fort Davis, Texas 79834

(432) 426-2497

“Beginning and intermediate yoga classes offered Tuesday-Friday in our beautifully remodeled studio. Certified instructor with training in Iyengar style yoga...”

E-mail: highdesertyoga@hotmail.com

Jeff Davis County Park

State Highway 17

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-249-0606

“The park offers an excellent opportunity to picnic, walk, jog, fly a kite, & more. The park offers a children’s play area, ballpark, soccer field & restrooms.” Just west of town.

Fort Davis Independent School District

PO Box 1339

400 Webster

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-4440

The Indians – Green and Gold. A small lighted football stadium that is used for 6-man football and soccer with a very cool small town gymnasium.

~FORT DAVIS AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR, PARTS & SERVICE

Bencomo Motorsport Exxon

701 N State Street

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

United States

432-426-3232

Fort Davis Auto Parts

Auto Repair

109 E Cemetery Rd
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3529

~FORT DAVIS BANKS~

Fort Davis State Bank
100 State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3211

The only bank in the county. Established in 1911 with the present building erected ca. 1912-13.

~FORT DAVIS CLOTHING & WESTERN WEAR – NEW AND USED~

Helping Hand Thrift & Gift Shop

510 State St., Hours
Fort Davis, Texas 79834

“All proceeds benefit the Grand Companions Humane Society”

<http://www.grandcompanions.org/thrift-store/>

Fort Davis Outfitters, LLC
601 Cemetery Road
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-242-5102 or 5103

“A friendly, small-town general store carrying work, western and everyday clothing, camping supplies, housewares, home, health, beauty and office supplies, greeting cards and a whole lot more...1/2 mile east of Stone Village.”

<https://www.facebook.com/FortDavisOutfitters>, Email: fortdavisoutfitters@gmail.com

~FORT DAVIS CHURCHES~ – SBB

Church In The Mountains
Pastor: Eric (Skeet) Boyd
100 Davis Street
432-426-3553

First Presbyterian Church
Pastor: Matt Miles
Front Street at Bloys Avenue
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3948

www.fdpccusa.org, Email: fdpastor@sbcglobal.net

Fort Davis Church Of Christ
Pastor Gregory Meads
State Street, & 1st Street 432-249
1208 PO Box 32/104 Main Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

Fort Davis Baptist Church
Pastor: Terrell O'Brien
Music: Karen Rinehart
111 Agave Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3989
Email: fbcforddavis@sbcglobal.net

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rev. Miguel Alcuino
Assisted by Rev. Rolando Fonseca & Father Anthony Amoko
State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3284

United Methodist Church
Pastor: Rev. Dare Stevens
200 Front St
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3971
www.fortdavisumc.org, Email: fdumc@sbcglobal.net

~FORT DAVIS GUIDES & TOURS~

Davis Mountain Jeep Tours
(432) 426-2500

"Take a tour of the historic H.E. Sproul Ranch in a customized 4x4 touring jeep! Each regularly scheduled tour is 2 ½ hours and includes spectacular mountain scenery and a chance to view abundant native wildlife. Custom tours including fishing or a picnic can also be arranged. Reservations may be made at the Harvard Hotel, 109 State Street."

www.harvardhotelandlodge.com

~FORT DAVIS GROCERY~

Porters Thriftway -
Across from Old Fort Davis on Highway 118
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
(432)426-3812.

"Retail grocery - Fresh meat, fresh produce, gasoline, everything big supermarkets have." They really do have a large selection packed close together.

Stone Village Market
State Street
PO Box 1838
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-2226.

"A whole foods store offering a variety of produce; fresh-baked whole grain breads; specialty coffees; beer and wine."

~FORT DAVIS HARDWARE, CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING SUPPLY~

Andy Prude Well Service
PO Box 829
Fort Davis, TX 79734
(432) 426-3030

"Water pump installation and repair; welding; metal buildings and tractor ditching. Andy handles solar pumps and alternative energy sources."

Email: aandeprude@hughes.net

Higginbotham Bartlett Building Supply
330 E Douglas Drive
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3827 Fax: 432-426-3862

Quality household and construction products. We are a full line lumberyard with paint, plumbing, electrical, tools, fasteners and a whole lot more.

Jarratt Dirt Work & Paving, Inc.
470 E Douglas Drive
Fort Davis, TX 79734
432-426-3592, Fax: 432-426-3140

"Utilities Installation, Building Sites, Diversion Dams, Stock Tanks, Grubbing/Brush Clearing, Road Grading, Water lines-Ranch/Commercial/Residential, Paving-Commercial/Residential"

Email: dirtwork1@sbcglobal.net

Quality Construction
Dean Ovist - Owner/Operator
PO Box 386
Fort Davis, TX 79734
432-294-1907

"Locally owned and operated contracting services for all of your construction needs. From a small tool shed to a complete home, our highly skilled construction crews are here to serve you in a timely and efficient manner. Call today for a quote on your new construction or re-model needs."

Email: deanovist33@gmail.com

~FORT DAVIS HOTELS, BED & BREAKFAST, GUEST HOUSES, CAMPGROUNDS, RV PARKS~

A Thousand Miles From Nowhere (formerly Wildflower Cottages)
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-249-1234

"...the Guest Homes have been lovingly restored from original historical structures that now feature all the modern amenities..."

<http://www.athousandmilesfromnowhere.com/>

Butterfield Inn Cottages
201 State St
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3252

"In the heart of beautiful Fort Davis, our charming country cottages offer cathedral ceilings, wood burning fireplaces, central heat and air, queen beds, rocker recliners, cable TV and full private baths. We are within walking distance of shops and restaurants."

www.butterfieldinn.com, e-mail: butterfieldinn@sbcglobal.net

Davis Mountains Inn
1/2 mile south of the Jeff Davis County Courthouse on Highway 17 South
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3939

"Old World charm in a beautiful, very private six-acre setting... Bring your telescope. Read in the shade of numerous trees or just listen to the tranquil waterfalls and flowing water. Paved walking/biking paths to downtown Fort Davis and Jeff Davis County Park."

www.davismountainsinn.com, Email: davismtninn@yahoo.com

Fort Davis Drug Store & Old Texas Inn
113 State St
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3118

Great old fountain restaurant downtown Fort Davis with yummy fudge and six nice rooms.

www.fortdavisdrugstore.net

Fort Davis Inn & RV Campground
Texas State Highway 17
432-426-2112 or 800-80-DAVIS

A short distance northeast from the National Historic Site. "Newly renovated rooms! ... Pets... Complimentary Breakfast... Within a mile of The National Historic Fort... Enjoy full hookup ... tenting area, picnic tables, grills, showers and restrooms."

<http://www.fortdavisinn.com/>

Harvard Hotel
109 Texas 118
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-2500

"An eight-room suite hotel downtown Fort Davis... Built in 2005, it is the newest hotel in town and also offers retail and office space on its lower level. Additional suite accommodations at the Harvard Lodge on the H.E. Sproul Ranch and Davis Mountain Jeep Tours can also be booked through the Hotel."

www.harvardhotelandlodge.com, www.facebook.com/HESproulRanch

Hotel Limpia
101 Memorial Square
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3237

Built around 1912-13, this wonderful historic hotel with 44 rooms and suites in downtown Fort Davis is a perfect headquarters. Pool, patio and a Restaurant serving dinner with linens and a pleasant staff - Tuesday through Sunday.

www.hotellimpia.com

Mountain Trails Lodge & Outdoor Learning Center
501 Texas 118
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3481, 800-403-3484

"...located on 10 scenic acres overlooking the town of Fort Davis and Sleeping Lion Mountain. Comfortable cabins feature two double beds, a kitchenette and a private sitting porch. A hearty West Texas breakfast buffet in our dining room is included in your room rate. Groups and families are welcome... meeting facilities, group tours, guided nature hikes and educational programs..." Looks like a cool place for a small film to home base and don't forget the BBQ.

www.mountaintrailslodge.com, Email: info@mountaintrailslodge.com

Old Schoolhouse Bed & Breakfast
PO Box 1221
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-2050

"Located on Front Street with one guest room and one suite, each with a private bath, in a historic building. Full breakfast; pecan orchard; shaded deck; tobacco free; no pets."

<http://www.schoolhousebnb.com/>, Email: schoolhousebnb@gmail.com

Overland Trail Campground & Cabins

888-478-5267, 432-426-2250

"...small, inexpensive, rustic camping cabins, Cable TV, refrigerator, microwave, bath w/hot showers. Airstreams for rent. Picnic Tables, Laundromat... Pets...High speed Wi-Fi access"

www.texascamping.com, E-mail: otkamp@texascamping.com

Stone Village Tourist Camp

509 Texas 118

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3941

"This 1935 "tourist court" has been completely remodeled. It now has 14 rooms of which two are suites, plus 7 "camp rooms" easily described as a step above camping. Complete with two twin beds made with thick comforters, full showers and bath facilities are down the porch from your room. All of the motel rooms have flat screen TVs. Heated pool is located off of a patio with a fire pit and landscaped area for relaxation. Located in the middle of Fort Davis."

www.stonevillagetouristcamp.com

Veranda Historic Inn Fort Davis

210 Court Ave

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

888-383-2847, 432 426-2233

"Located in mile-high Fort Davis, the Veranda Inn offers accommodations in a unique historic setting. Built in 1883, the Veranda is the oldest hotel in West Texas."

www.theveranda.com, e-mail: info@theveranda.com

~FORT DAVIS MEDIA~

Jeff Davis County Mountain Dispatch Newspaper

P O Box 1097

Fort Davis, Texas 79734-1097

432-426-307

~FORT DAVIS REAL ESTATE~

Davis Mountains Realty

105 State St

Fort Davis, Texas

432-426-3188

www.davismountainsrealty.com

Oscar Medley Real Estate

400 Texas 118

Fort Davis, Texas

432-426-3466

www.oscardmedleyrealestate.com

King Land & Water: King James

109 Texas 118

Fort Davis, Texas

432-426-2024

www.kinglandwater.com

Jeff Davis County Abstract Co

309 Texas 17

Fort Davis, Texas

432-426-3288

~FORT DAVIS RESTAURANTS & SALOONS~ SBB

Blue Mountain Bistro

Hotel Limpia

101 Memorial Square

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

432-426-3237

"Fine dining at the Hotel Limpia. Open Thursday through Tuesday (closed Wednesdays). Click here for full menu and specifics. Stop by for happy Hour nightly from 5pm - 7pm."

www.hotellimpia.com

Come & Take It BBQ
Mountain Trails Lodge
501 Texas 118
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3481

"Authentic Texas oak-smoked brisket, pulled pork & sausage. Homemade side dishes and desserts. Fresh from scratch rubs and sauces. Order by the plate or by the pound. Take it with you or stay to enjoy the atmosphere in our outdoor pavilion or colorful dining room. Feel free to bring your own beer and wine. Call to see if they are serving tonight!" We found this hard to believe, but it appears Come & Take It may be the only BBQ restaurant in all the Big Bend.

<http://www.comeandtakeitbbqtx.com/>

Cueva De Leon
611 Texas 118
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3801

"Full service restaurant specializing in Mexican food. Mon-Sat 11:30-3:00 and 5:00-9:00."

Fort Davis Drugstore
113 N. State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3118

"Full Service Restaurant Open Daily 7am to 9pm." Great old-fashioned fountain with wooden booths, Blue Bell Ice Cream and homemade fudge to die for.

www.fortdavisdrugstore.net, E-mail: fortdavisdrugstore@att.net

Hebert's Caboose Ice Cream Shop
1250-C N. State Street (across from the Fort Davis National Historic Site).
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3141

"Delicious Blue Bell Ice Cream served out of a renovated railroad caboose! This Fort Davis icon is not to be missed with shakes, malts, sundaes, banana splits, shaved ice and lots of Blue Bell ice cream flavors. A shaded outside eating area and picnic tables make it a wonderful location for birthday parties. Just bring your cake - they'll provide the ice cream! Winter hours: Fri & Sat, 11-7 and Sun, 12-5."

Lupita's Place
411 State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-2471

"Delicious Mexican food with a convenient dine-in area or call ahead for orders to go. Open Monday-Saturday from 7:00am-9:00pm and Sun from 8:00am-9:00pm."

Murphy's Pizza, Pasta & Subs
107 Musquiz Drive
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-2020

"11:00 - 8:00 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Specializing in Pizza & Pasta dishes. Sub sandwiches and variety salads are also available. Dine in or Take out."

Poco Mexico
43371 State Highway 17
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
(432) 249-0536

"Tex-Mex Restaurant · Mexican Restaurant · Burger Restaurant"

<https://www.facebook.com/pocomexicocafe>

Wok N' Roll Asian Café
1300 N. State Street
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3501

"...Asian cuisine made to order and no MSG. This is not a buffet! Dine-in, drive thru, take out or call in your order "To-Go". Hours: Thursday - Saturday, 11:00am-8:00pm and Sunday, 11:00am-6:00pm.

E-mail: matt_kampf113@yahoo.com

~FORT DAVIS SALONS & SPAS~

The Hair Affair
501 Front Street

Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3938

"Hair Care for men and women. Specializing in hair color. Trish Baily- by appointment only."

Studio Five-O-One
PO Box 222
744 S. Front Street,
Fort Davis, Texas 79834
432-426-3938

"Spa service, tanning, face and haircare, makeup and more."

www.studio501spa.com, Email: jenweb08@yahoo.com

~FORT DAVIS SCHOOLS, EDUCATION & MUSEUMS~

Davis Mountains Education Center

PO Box 1138

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

(432) 426-3481; 1-800-403-3484; Fax: (432) 426-2021

"... one mile from downtown Fort Davis on Highway 118 S (to Alpine). Offering educational opportunities and tours for all ages in West Texas, Big Bend, Southern New Mexico, Texas Hill Country and Northern Mexico's Copper Canyon. An Elderhostel Program Super-site."

Fort Davis Independent School District

PO Box 1339

101 Indian Lane

Fort Davis, Texas 79734

(432) 426-4440 Fax: (432) 426-4449

The Green and Gold Indians

www.fdisd.com

Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County

69 Compromise Street

PO Box 24

Fort Davis, TX 79734

(432) 426-3886

"Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County - Supplemental food distributed for qualified clients of Jeff Davis County. Also provides emergency food and school supplies. Food Distributions are 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month from 9AM until 11AM."

<http://www.foodpantry-jdc.org/>, E-mail: info@foodpantry-jdc.org

Fort Davis National Historic Site Museum

432-426-3224 ext. 220, Fax 432-426-3122

<http://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm>

Overland Trail Museum

Fort Street and 3rd Street

Fort Davis, Texas 79834

Special group tours by appointment call Bob Miles 432-426-2467 or Bob Gray 432-426-3105

"Generally open March through Labor Day Weekend on, Tuesday, Friday, 1-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Provides historical records, pictures items of historical interest relating to Jeff Davis County, culture and physical history of Fort Davis and the Big Bend area."

~FORT DAVIS SHIPPING~

FedEx Express Drop Box

Fort Davis Bank - Outside

1000 Main St

Fort Davis, TX 79734

VALENTINE INFORMATION

From Texas History Online: *"Valentine, the smaller of Jeff Davis County's two towns, is on U.S. Highway 90 and the Southern Pacific Railroad in the southwestern part of the county, thirty-six miles west of Fort Davis. It was founded and named when the Southern Pacific Railroad crew, building east, reached the site on February 14, 1882. Trains began running the next year, and a post office was established in 1886. In 1890 Valentine had a population estimated at 100, two saloons, a general store, a hotel, and a meat market. Two years later only one saloon was left, but the population had risen to an estimated 140. Valentine became a shipping point for local cattle ranchers, and by 1914 the town had an estimated population of 500, five cattle breeders, a news company, a real estate office, a grocery store, a restaurant, and the*

Valentine Business Club. A decade later the population had fallen to an estimated 250, but it rose again to 500 by the late 1920s and to 629 by the early 1930s. In the late 1970s the town had an estimated population of 226, a high school, an elementary school, and two churches. The estimated population rose to 328 in the early 1980s; in 1990 it was 217. In 2000 the population was 187.

From Wikipedia: “...the only incorporated town in Jeff Davis County...Valentine is also home to the unusual sculpture Prada Marfa, which mimics a Prada store and which was installed in 2005 on the town's main street, California Avenue (US Route 90).

In addition to Prada Marfa, visitors will often stand and marvel at the neon sign outside of the old general store that, when lit, reads "Matt loves Mikelle". "Cahill, U.S. Marshall" was set in Valentine..."

A Dentistry, a Post Office, a Library, a couple of churches, a refurbished Mercantile building and a school system are pretty much what's left these days. But just wait, things do change in the Big Bend and while we do love Wikipedia and Texas Online, occasionally the facts don't jibe with other tales. For example the name Valentine may well have come from John Valentine, President of Wells Fargo and a major stockholder in Southern Pacific and as for Prada Marfa being in Valentine, well....it is actually just a bit west of town.

There isn't any reason to move to Valentine, at least not yet, but there are a number of interesting locations worth shooting including the Hoosier like Valentine High School and some interesting buildings. So stop by and take a look and if you like what you see – Come Shoot 'Em Up!

~VALENTINE CITY INFORMATION

Valentine is the only incorporated city in all of Jeff Davis County and is just east of the Rio Grande River and the Mexican border. U. S. 90 is also known as Main Street in Valentine – next town northwest is Van Horn and the next community to the southeast is Marfa. The Union Pacific tracks parallel U. S. 90 and Valentine was once a serious shipping point for the areas cattle ranches.

In Valentine you can find the U. S. Post Office, Valentine Independent School District, the Public Library, Sheriff's Office and the Valentine Community Complex – there are no businesses left in the city. The City Council meets in the Sheriff's Office building next to the Community Complex.

Valentine Weather: <http://www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/US/TX/Valentine.html>

Mayor: Jesus Calderon

City Council Members: Danny Garcia, Albert Miller – City Secretary

Precinct 4 County Commissioner - Albert W. Miller

~VALENTINE ATHLETIC VENUES

Valentine Independent School District

Elementary School Gymnasium and Stage

High School Gymnasium

Tennis Courts and Outside Basketball

High Jump Pit

Dirt Track

The High School Gym could easily have been used for the movie Hoosier. Go out of bounds one foot and you are in danger of smashing your nose into the wall. Wonderfully charming facility with some very nice people.

Old Mercantile Rodeo Arena

A surprisingly nice, albeit small rodeo arena is next to the recently refurbished building (the site of the Big Bend Brewing Company's Valentine's Day festivities).

~VALENTINE CHURCHES~ – SBB

Valentine Community /Church

Open on Sunday however people have been known to have spontaneous celebrations in front of the church. Also it is not unusual for folks to get married in front of the US Post Office.

Valentine TX 79854 US

Sacred Heart Mission

Valentine TX 79854 US

(432) 283-2042

~VALENTINE SCHOOLS~

Valentine Independent \School District

100 Kentucky Street

Valentine, TX 79854

(432) 467-2671, Fax: (432) 467-2004

When you have so few students you find a way to educate. Valentine uses the “Mentor” system in which each student mentors a student younger than themselves – and it works. The Senior Class (sometimes only two students) always travels to a foreign country after graduation (the parents sell a lot of Burritos). The Class of 2014 visited Spain! Their school may be old and lacking in some facilities, but it is lovingly maintained and well used.

<http://www.valentineisd.com/index.php>, E-mail: rweigart@valentineisd.com