## Superintendent announces resignation

Vol. 130 • No. 46

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH **Managing Editor** 

On Nov. 23 Alpine ISD Superintendent Becky Mc-Cutchen announced her



**McCutchen** 

resignation. She was recently named the lone finalist for the superintendent position at Levelland ISD near Lubbock.

As of this time, she will likely start her new position in mid- to late-January 2022.

Said McCutchen in a statement, "I have enjoyed all my time in Alpine, and will always hold the Bucks dear in my heart. Alpine has been my family's home for 14 years, and both my children flourished in this community and school district. For many reasons, this announcement is bittersweet for me."

In Texas there is a 21day waiting period from the time a candidate is named finalist until they can officially be hired and sign a contract with a new school district.

McCutchen said she and the school board would work together on a transition plan for the next leader of AISD.

### **INSIDE**



**FEATURED** 

See sports on page 6.

#### Rainfall totals at **Alpine-Casparis Airport**



**Burn Ban ON** 

INDEX				14	page	S
Opinions . Sports Puzzle Classifieds					P. 4 .P. 6	1





## Alpine ISD approves band trip to Florida

BY ROXANNE HILL

Staff Writer

Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 17, and former high school band director Chuck Wilson made an appearance to discuss plans for the band next summer.

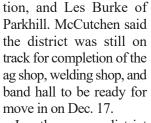
Wilson requested consideration and approval for a bus trip for the Alpine High School band to travel to Orlando, Fla., next spring. The band would perform at the Disney recording studio. Wilson stated the Band Boosters

bus driver, fuel, and t-shirts for \$6,480. Wilson said Alpine Middle School band director Marina Azar asked Wilson if he was willing to chaperone the trip scheduled for June 5-10, 2022, and he agreed. The total travel cost for the 75 band students to attend would be approximately \$57,500, and Wilson said a portion of the unused funds from last year's band budget would help cover the costs.

The board then voted 5-0 in favor of approving the trip.

Superintendent Becky would cover costs for the McCutchen then presented

the monthly construction update, along with Bobby Kel-1ey and Frank Patton Chuck of Imperial Wilson Construc-



In other news, district Chief Financial Officer Clav Braden provided an update on the tax collection agreement with

Brewster County, and said collections were starting to roll in. For fiscal year 2022, the district would pay Brewster County around \$42,000 for services related to tax collection. a slight increase due to increased property values

and increased revenue. The board unanimously approved the tax collection agreement with the county.

Braden then said mechanical engineer Nick White would do site visits free of charge to examine the HVAC systems at the middle school, high school, and administration building. Braden said he

hoped to have quotes by the end of the year, with the work completed by summer of next year.

Thursday, November 25, 2021 • \$1

Next, during an information only item Braden said he recently met with the Alpine ISD student advisory committee, and there was discussion of replacing the bleachers at the high school gym. Braden said the students opted for purple plastic bleachers on the home side versus those made of wood. The existing plastic modules would be removed and replaced with new ones.

See BAND • 8

# Recognizing those who served



At Alpine's American Legion Post 79 headquarters, renowned mural artist Stylle Read renders a tribute to all who served the nation in wartime. His work graces many buildings in the city, and this latest work is sure to attract the attention of residents and visitors alike.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

## Christmas spirit thrives in Brewster County

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH Managing Editor

What started out as

Brown Santa delivering Christmas gifts to local children has turned into an effort that extends through the winter months and beyond. Demand for Brewster

County Sheriff's Office Brown Santa program has increased over the years, and continues to grow in the wake of the ongoing COVID epidemic.

Said Sheriff Ronny Dodson, "The big difference this year is a toy shortage because of containers sitting out on the ocean. We started earlier this year to make sure we got a jump on it because we know as we get closer to Christmas, there will be a limit on the number of toys available."

He noted the Sheriff's Office program had expanded over the years from covering just a small part of the community to an effort that now covers Alpine, Marathon, Terlingua, and the entire county.

For the toy drive, the Sheriff's Office relies on teachers and individuals who can identify need.

"We first ask parents if they want gifts. We aim to help where it's needed, and where it's wanted,' Dodson said. "And there's more need than you would think."

Through the toy drives officers see seniors who struggle to stay warm during the winter, neighbors identify neighbors who might need help, and local utility companies know who's in need.

"We saw that in the cold months, there were some who weren't able to pay their gas bills, propane bills, or electric bills," said Dodson. "So we checked with the utility companies, and they knew who the needy were in West Texas. At the city gas department, the ladies there know who are in real need, and we worked with them with their heating bills. That doesn't usually kick in until January or February during the colder months."

The Sheriff's Office doesn't hand out any money, but rather pays directly to the agency, company, landlord, or financial institution. No one gets cash, and most funds are used to help the elderly.

County Chief Deputy Ryan Skelton, office Administrator Erica Chavez, Capt. Omar Holguin, and Sheriff Ronny Dodson show off donated gifts targeted for needy children in the community.

See SPIRIT • 8

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich











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## The commander of the Army visits Fort Davis

This happened not once but twice. At the end of the War of the Rebellion, officers who wished to remain in the Army and who served with volunteers, and there were many, were reduced in rank. At the top command of the Regular Army there were five - the leadership that defeated the Confederacy.

U.S. Grant held the rank of lieutenant general, the first to do so since George Washington. William Tecumseh Sherman, Phillip Sheridan, George Gordon Meade, and George Thomas all held the rank of major general. Sherman was Grant's partner in the defeat of the South, and Sheridan, trusted by Grant, played a variety of roles.

While Grant in overall command of all Union armies traveled with the Army of the Potomac under the command of Meade, Sherman made his March to the Sea, dividing the Confederacy, and Thomas had command in the West. Never close to Grant who considered Thomas too hesitant, nonetheless Thomas held the western Confederate armies in check, and won the Battle of Franklin, often considered the Get-



FIDDLER'S **GREEN** 

by larry francell

tysburg of the West. At the end of the war all five men initially stayed in the Army, but only Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan made it a long-term career. When Grant became president in 1868, Sherman moved up in rank to command the U.S. Army. When Sherman retired in 1883, Sheridan moved up into command. During their tenure in command of the Army, both traveled to Fort Davis.

Before retiring, General Sherman decided to tour the southern forts utilizing the new Southern Pacific Railroad. After his tour, he commented, "The Southern Pacific Railroad will be the best picket line we could have along our Southern border."

Sherman's friend and colleague Colonel Ben Grierson was not in residence during this visit. Grierson and Sherman first connected during Grant's Vicksburg campaign. Sherman needed two thousand horses and mules immediately, and Grierson, a cavalryman, knew where to get them."Take them from the rebels wherever they may be found," he instructed.

Grierson proceeded to

The situation was different when General Sheridan visited Fort Davis. Grierson was in residence and was in command of the post, but the relationship between the two was much different. During the War, Grierson served exclusively in the west. Sheridan in command of the Union cavalry served in the east. Sheridan had an innate prejudice against non-West Pointers who served as volunteers. Grierson thought, and rightly so, that Sheridan gave preference to the West Pointers who served with him in the east, especially Wesley Merritt and George Custer, two of the youngest officers to achieve the rank of Major General of Volunteers.

When the war was over, both Merritt and Custer were reduced in rank to lieutenant colonel in the Regular Army, while Grierson was chosen by Grant as colonel of the 10th Cavalry. When General Sherman retired in 1883, Sheridan, never a friend of Grierson, was next in line to command the U.S. Army.

The Grierson family was comfortable at Fort Davis, and the colonel was promoting a railroad spur from the Southern Pacific at Marfa. He had purchased ranch property, and was attempting to ensure that the post remain active while several others in Texas were being closed. To secure the future, Grierson was attempting to buy land to the east of the fort for future expansion. While Sherman had declared Fort Davis a "permanent" post before his retirement, a new Army commander could change that order. When Sheridan arrived at Fort Davis at the end of March 1883, he did agree to a \$3,500 purchase. However, there was still no help from the Army commander in Grierson's effort to earn his brigadier's star.

The Federal Government now owned land next to the fort which but leased. But that is itself was not owned another story.

Dr. Hulon Pass - Optometrist Dr. Joshua Pass - Optometrist Dr. Brian Cherry - Optometrist



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## THIS WEEK'S PICKS

NFL:

1. Alpine vs. Roosevelt • 2. Balinger vs. Abernathy • 3. Holiday vs. Leonard

College:

RECORD

4. Stanton vs. Brady • 5. Gunter vs. Milsap • 6. Sonora vs. Canadian • 7. Eastland vs. Bells 8. Palmer vs. Dublin • 9. Michigan St. vs. Ohio St. • 10. Arkansas vs. Alabama 11. Baylor vs. Kansas St. • 12. OSU vs. Tech

13. Colts vs. Bills • 14. Lions vs. Browns • 15. Cowboy vs. Chiefs

14. Cowbovs

16. Patriots

17. 49ers

15 Bills



6. Holliday

Gunter

Ole Miss

8 Wink





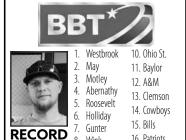
Big I	BEND REGION	, K.
RECORD <sup>7</sup>	<ul><li>Westbrook</li><li>Watter Valley</li><li>Motley</li><li>Canadian</li><li>Roosevelt</li><li>Holiday</li><li>Dublin</li><li>Stratford</li><li>Ole Miss</li></ul>	10. Michigan St. 11. Baylor 12. A&M 13. S. Carolina 14. Cowboys 15. Bills 16. Titans 17. 49ers







Water Valley 11. Baylor Motley 12. A&M Abernathy 13. Clemson Roosevelt 14. Cowboys Holiday 15. Bill's Gunter RECORD 16. Pat's Stratford 140-62 Ole Miss 17. Vikings n





8. Wink

9. Ole Miss

138-64

16. Patriots

17. 49ers

16. Pats

17 49ers



Stratford

Ole Miss



# Gage Hotel one of the best in Texas

BY ROXANNE HILL Staff Writer

For those looking to get away from it all while staying in one of the top hotels in Texas, Marathon is the place to be. The Gage Hotel, built in 1927 and designed by famed El Paso architect Henry Trost, was built for its namesake, pioneer rancher Alfred S. Gage. It is now a legendary resort and more than just a place to hang

your hat.

General manager Carol
Peterson, an Alpine resident who has been at the
Gage for 18 years, is excited that the Gage has been
named as one of the top 10
resorts in Texas by Travel
& Leisure Magazine. This
is not the only distinction
for the popular historic

hotel, as it boasts a myriad of designations earned over the years, such as the number one hotel in Texas by Conde Nast Traveler in 2015.

Said Peterson, "We were the only small, independently owned hotel in the list, which I think is a really nice recognition. We are a unique and historic hotel, and we are on the National Register of Historic Places."

J.P. Bryan has owned the hotel for over 40 years, and Peterson said the Gage has had a great reputation as one of the best places to stay when visiting the Big Bend. The future looks even brighter as Peterson said a significant expansion of the 47-room facility over the next two to three years is planned.



The Gage Hotel in Marathon.

She said the Gage is not a cookie cutter type hotel, adding, "We offer people a really great experience in the Big Bend, with a lot of wonderful services, a

number of food options, a destination spa, and a very beautiful garden."

The White Buffalo Bar has also been named one of Texas Monthly's top hotel bars. More than just a hotel, the Gage continues to offer many amenities for its visitors, all in a beautiful town known for its dark skies and outdoor paradis ing to g with find dations.

Alfred be provided to the provided to the continuous paradis ing to g with find dations.

Courtesy photo

paradise for those looking to get away from it all, with first-class accommodations, dining, and more.

Alfred Gage would sure be proud.

# Pitching in for a Thanksgiving meal



Knights of Columbus held an appreciation dinner recently at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church Parish Hall in Alpine.

BY ROXANNE HILL

Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is here, and many people will join their families on a special day as a way of saying thanks for receiving blessings throughout the year. But for several churches and organizations in Alpine, making sure those who are less fortunate are provided a Thanksgiving meal is something to be cherished.

Jan Moeller from the Alpine Food Pantry said there will not be any turkeys this year, but there will be a limited number of food vouchers from the West Texas Food Bank.

Over at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

in Alpine, the Knights of Columbus recently distributed free Thanksgiving boxes to those in need at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Sixth Street. Knight Robert Polanco said the baskets consisted of a turkey, canned goods such as cranberry sauce, and miscellaneous food items. Fellow Knight Dan Bolner was also instrumental in providing food baskets to those in need.

At Grace Christian Fellowship, Shirley Williams said a Thanksgiving meal was served on Nov. 21, and baskets were also distributed during the church's annual Harvest Festival. The baskets included either a turkey or a turkey voucher, and the baskets

also contained cornbread mix, stuffing, green beans or asparagus, cranberry sauce, and more. Turkey vouchers would also be provided if there was no room for turkeys in the freezer.

Courtesy photo

Williams said she expected around 100 turkeys would be given away on a first come first serve basis.

Coming together as a community to help and lend a caring hand to those unable to afford a Thanksgiving meal is a collaborative effort that is sure to bring intrinsic rewards to those who pitch in. It is all in the spirit of saying thanks to those who serve the needy and those who benefit from their generosity.

# Dancers swing for the crowd



Members of Marfa Ballet Folklorico performed for an enthusiastic Artwalk crowd on Fifth Street in Alpine on Nov. 20.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich



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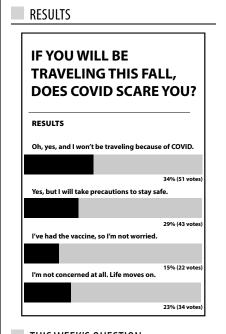
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## NLINE POLL



#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now, the Avalanche asks: Should former President Donald

Trump run again in 2024? - Should former President Donald Trump run again in 2024?

- Absolutely! Our nation needs Trump to get back on track and reverse the disaster that's going on now.

- Yes, but for now he should run for Congress in 2022 first to put a damper on the liberals.

- No way! Trump was the worst. - I don't care one way or the other.

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

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

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 editor@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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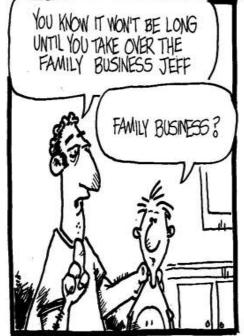
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# BOONIEVILLE







# Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a truly special time of year. It allows us to slow down just a little and spend more quality time with family, friends, neighbors, and loved ones. This holiday is also the perfect opportunity for reflection and gratitude. This Thanksgiving, the city would like to share a special message of thanks.

Every day we are reminded of how lucky we are to be surrounded by such wonderful people.

The City of Alpine wants to take this opportunity to thank every one of our citizens, employees, council mem-

POSS STATE UN

the mayor - thank you for making our community a wonderful place to live and work.

bers, and

As we go into this holiday season, please continue to remember and express gratitude for the members of the community who provide food, housing, and medical care to those in need; our frontline workers who continue to provide urgent assistance, utility services, and public safety; those who serve us in restaurants and stores; and everyone else who helps to keep our community thriving.

This Thanksgiving remember each other for the small acts of kindness, from raking a neighbor's leaves to planting a few extra flowers, and dropping off groceries, to the kind word when it is most needed.

Wishing you a safe and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

## Give thanks for our blessings, big and small

rancor and divi-

siveness enabled

by social media,

it will solve many

more problems

than it creates, and

already is, accord-

ing to Asia's online

training platform

Because life is mostly made up of little experiences occasionally interrupted by big events, it's easy to take the little things for granted.

But Shutterfly, the photography and image-sharing company, offers a list of 100 things, large and small, that we ought to single out for our gratitude this Thanksgiving.

Our homes, our incomes, and our savings are three large items to be EDUCBA. thankful for, especially if we still have them after nearly two years of a pandemic.

Clean water is something we take for granted in America, but much of the world lacks it, reports the Republic.

We take our indoor plumbing and electricity for granted, too. We expect the lights to go on when we flip a switch, potable water to flow when we open a faucet, or the toilet to flush when a lever is pulled.

Most Americans have access to excellent healthcare. Sure, it's expensive and our government has been incapable of improving it through much-needed meaningful reforms, but if we experience a health scare or get into an accident, most of us will be given the best of care.

Technology innovation is a big blessing. It allows millions to work from home rather than the office,



TOM PURCELL **Guest Columnist** 

Then there are the really big little things to be thankful for - like pizza. I don't know that I've ever met anyone who doesn't enjoy it. It's festive and delicious and crosses party lines. No matter how bad our political divisions get, pizza can bring us together.

How about coffee? To me, this is one of life's greatest little experiences, and one I enjoy twice every single morning. The process of making coffee, the wonderful scent that fills the air as it drips into my mug, the waiting until the temperature is just right before enjoying the first glorious sip.

And bacon. Sure, it's a bit controversial for some, and it's an early victim of growing inflation, but we can still run down to the convenience store for a dozen eggs and a package of bacon and life is good all morning long.

Then there's the afternoon nap. CO-

and aside from the VID's working-from-home revolution has enabled the greatest increase in afternoon mental agility in the history of napdom.

And the belly laugh. It comes easily to the young as they frolic. We forget that we don't do enough of it as adults until we gather with our childhood friends and enjoy many much-needed belly laughs.

Now more than ever we need more belly laughing in America to disrupt our seriousness and political anger, which is resulting in a narrow understanding of current events and our fellow human beings.

Freedom of speech is certainly one of the biggest things we Americans should be grateful for at Thanksgiving - and every day - but it's something too many of our fellow citizens are trampling on. We all need to renew our understanding of the importance of free speech and why it's so crucial to a civil, well-functioning, and clearer-thinking republic.

In any event, whether it's for something as large as free speech or as small as pizza, giving thanks for our blessings is good for our health, according to the Harvard Health Publishing. Gratitude makes us happy.

Which is why we must go out of our way to embrace it this Thanksgiving.

## TERS TO THE EDITOR

A look at Joe Biden

Joe Biden is a bungling career Democrat politician who claims to use their truths over our facts. Joe once said if a black person voted for Donald Trump, they ain't Black, and Trump voters were dregs of society.

This so-called Catholic is denied communion by bishops due to his abortion, same sex marriage, and transgender

beliefs. He also thinks Catholics don't make good federal judges. Joe and his son Hunter stand accused of getting kickbacks from the Chinese Communist Party which could be why he welcomes them with open arms into U.S. academia and business. Joe once said he negotiated the Paris Climate Accord with someone who happened to be dead at the time, then spent \$3 million on a beach house showing his true

climate change beliefs. His falling asleep at the UN Climate Change Conference also speaks volumes.

He's an anti-Second Amendment dude who once said private gun ownership is useless because the feds have F-15s and nukes.

Joe's been accused of signing many of his damaging executive orders without reading them, and after inauguration day had all military flags removed from the oval office.

Joe Biden says, "We're in a battle for the soul of this nation."

That may be true thanks to the so-called woke members of a Democrat regime that control Joe Biden's every thought, word, and action.

> James R. Le Blanc Fort Davis

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

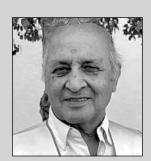
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Ted Cruz **United States Senate** 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4306 202-224-5922

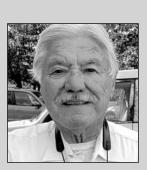
## ₩ALDINE AVALANCHE Heard

STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "How will you celebrate **Thanksgiving** this year?"



Avinash Rangra, Alpine: We're going to stay home, and I'm going to fix food. We're going to close the theater that day and stay home.



Joe Prieto, Alpine: We are going to go and spend Thanksgiving with our oldest daughter in Kyle, Texas.



Nick Simmons, Alpine: We will stay home for Thanksgiving, but we also invite any neighbors who don't have anywhere else to go to come have dinner with us. I think we will have about 10-12 people this year, less than sometimes in previous years, but it's a tradition with us.



Ron Howe, Alpine: We're going to drive out to Las Cruces, and have dinner and celebrate it with the family!



Janelle Howe, Alpine: I'm looking forward to seeing all the kids together and my in-laws, and enjoy Thanksgiving as a family in Las Cruces.



Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

ONGOING EVENTS

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

Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, Room 210.

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, 6:30 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

**Big Bend Community Chorale** rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale. wixsite.com/bbcc.

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

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

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210.

805 W. Ave F. After school club for grades one to three.

Senior Coffee, 9:30 a.m.-noon on Fridays at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave E. 432-837-2621.

Sons of the Legion, 6:30 p.m., fourth Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Voter registration assistance,

# **Marathon Public** Library fall fundraising drive

Donations to Marathon Public Library help make its programs and projects possible. The library is now working on a Marathon Community Cookbook which will highlight the culture, food, and history of

Marathon. The cookbook will capture the history of Marathon through stories, historical facts, and pictures, and the library is seeking donations.

Donate online at marathonpubliclibrary.org/ donate.

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Walk for Life, 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays beginning March 30. Locations will vary, so call or email to register at Cathy@ cathywright.com or 832-314-8103. A movement intelligence program by Cathy Wright, Learning for Life LLC.

Zumba, 6-7 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave E., with instructor Eva Lambert.

See more at alpineavalanche.com.

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Feeder Cattle: Steady Packer Cows and Bulls: Steady to \$3.00 higher 300# - 400# Steers ...... 179.00 to 200.00 300# - 400# Heifers ......157.00 to 160.00 400# - 500# Steers ......162.50 to 179.00 400# - 500# Heifers ......145.00 to 157.00 500# - 600# Steers .......155.00 to 162.50 500# - 600# Heifers ......143.00 to 145.00 600# - 700# Steers ......136.75 to 155.00 600# - 700# Heifers ......125.00 to 143.00 700# - 800# Steers ......129.00 to 136.75 700# - 800# Heifers ......125.00 to 126.00 Canner & Cutter Cows......50.00 to 58.00 Feeder Bulls ......60.00 to 70.00 Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half...1100.00 to 1375.00

Bred Cows – Top Half ......900.00 to 1175.00

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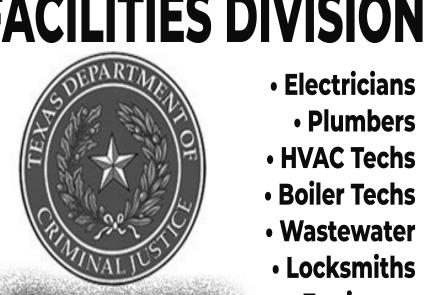
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# Big things expected from Cason

BY GLENN MCCARTHY

Sports Correspondent

Hatfield Cason is just a freshman, but his performance in cross country has been more like an upperclassman in high school thus far. He has had six top five finishes to close out a stellar freshman campaign. He finished third in District this year for his highest race of the cross-country season. He also finished third in the Bo Coffman Invitational down in Presidio.

Running comes naturally to Hatfield, and it should. His mother was also a cross-country runner. And his mother, Coach Cory Cason, is also the Alpine boys

and girls cross-country coach. Hat, his nickname, talked about running, saying, "I like running because it's an exercise in both mental and physical fortitude. Running long distance tests how far I'm willing to go to achieve my goals. It's also an individual sport, which means when it comes down to it it's up to me to follow through. The rest of the team can cheer for you and help you on, but it's you who's running, it's you who has to push yourself beyond your perceived limits. I think cross country is easily the sport that requires the most strength and dedication. Being competitive means running mile after mile, day after day, despite the challenges you may face."

Hat started off the season finishing 28th at the Tall City Invitational in Midland which included 6A teams. He followed that up with five top five finishes in a row at the Monahans Invitational (fifth), Wink Wildcat Invitational (fourth), Crane Invitational (fourth), the race in Presidio, and the Big Bend Mountain Ramble (fourth) here in Alpine.

Hatfield has three more years to really rack up the top finishes.

"I have three more seasons left in my high school career, and I intend to make the most of them," he said.



**Hatfield Cason** 

'This year I was in the top 25 at regional, and next year I will be in much better shape due to rigorous training and having learned from the experiences of this year. I believe I was fully capable of making it to state this year, but I simply didn't have my best race at regionals. There will certainly be new challenges next year, but I believe I will be able to overcome the obstacles in my path and make it to state next year. Over the next three years I plan on running longer distances each summer, and working on improving my times so that I'll be able to compete at the state level in the years to come. I also do numerous other activities other than running that

improve my physical endurance such as mountain biking, rock climbing, and backpacking."

Coach Cason talked about her star pupil, saying, "I respect Hat's work ethic over the summer and the way he raced this season. When he stepped up to the line, he was not timid. As a 15 year old, he is still learning what true determination and commitment are. He's learning that words must be backed by action. I know if he chooses to put in the work, he will reach whatever goals he sets."

Hatfield and his coach can now build a team around him. Winning more races and advancing past regionals are all part of the plan.

"Throughout the years I've had a number of fantastic role models," said Cason. "Marco Martinez, the cross country boys team's only senior, showed me that prac-

**Boys Basketball** 

Nov. 30 Van Horn @ Alpine

Purple 5 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.

tice was about working hard in the company of friends, and helping those friends achieve their goals. While cross country is at heart an individual sport, it's only because of the team that any of us can succeed. Marco always brought a positive energy and high level of motivation to practices, pushing all of us to try and reach our goals. Former seniors D'Angelo Gonzales and Griffin Carlin also inspired me to run. Above all they showed me that success is possible, even when facing teams of runners far more experienced than myself. Thanks to them I also have the confidence to go forward and run

against the competition." It was the first time in over 10 years the boys' team qualified for the regional championship. The sky is the limit for the team now as Hatfield takes on more of a leadership role.

**Girls Basketball** 

Nov. 30 Van Horn @ Alpine

JV 5 p.m./Varsity 6:30 p.m.

## Bucks season comes to an end in second round of playoffs



The Bucks head home after their loss in their final game of the season.

Last Friday night in Kermit the Alpine Bucks faced a football rushing machine and the number seven team in the state in the 11-0 Lubbock Roosevelt Eagles. These Eagles, along with the El Paso Riverside Rangers, were the top two teams on the Bucks sched-

ule this season. The Eagles threw only one pass on the night and it was incomplete, but the Eagles did not need to throw a pass, rolling up 619 rushing yards on 40 carries for an amazing 15 yards a rush.

The 74-8 score was disappointing for the final defeat marks the third in a row that the Bucks have lost in the Area round of the 3A playoffs. Alpine finished with a 5-7 record.

Star Quarterback Jayden Canaba talked about his last prep game, saying, "The season was one I'll never forget. We had our ups and downs, but I wouldn't trade this team or my coaches for anything. So happy we were able to win a gold ball, but the memories and relationships I made with my team are something I will never forget. Go Bucks!"

A week after Alpine limited Grape Creek's single

Photo by Felipe Fierro rush linebacker Shaun Foster grimaced upon seeing their next foe in a stronger, bigger, faster single wing rushing attack. His specialty of putting pressure on the quarterback would be neutralized again with a team who only preferred to run the ball.

See PLAYOFFS • 7



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## Sprucing up Alpine



City of Alpine Interim City Manager Megan Antrim along with Environmental Services Coordinator Adelina Beall join staff from TxDOT, Alpine ISD National Honor Society students, and volunteer community members on Nov. 13 for the city's Fall Sweep-Downtown Tree Trimming Cleanup event held at Railroad Park.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

## Desert Rose cuts the ribbon



On Nov. 19 Desert Rose Provisions on Murphy Street in Alpine celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. In the photo, Alpine Ambassador Debbie Jordan, Desert Rose owner Lauren Henry, and Ambassadors Sara Bow, Rhonda Cole, and Sheila Johnson.

Courtesy photo

#### PLAYOFFS • FROM 6

Canaba talked about the difference in rushing attacks, saying, "They were so much stronger and a lot more physical. Lots of credit to their program. They were bigger, faster, stronger. It was tough."

Alpine's only score came with 3:47 left in the second quarter when Jayden Canaba hooked up with Shaun Foster for the final touchdown of their high school careers. The two-point conversion pass to Tray Ervin was good. Alpine was down 40-0 before their first and only score.

The Bucks and Coach John Fellows will return a solid core with five offensive and five defensive starters. He will also have talented runners Oscar Velasquez and Ylan Hernandez and explosive playmakers Tray Ervin and Jordan Rodriguez who were the Bucks starting inside linebackers for much of the season.

Hernandez had nine rushing touchdowns and 526 yards on the season, while Velasquez had 43 rushes for 310 yards and two touchdowns. Hernandez had the highest rushing effort on the season against Kermit tallying 28 carries for 165 yards and three touchdowns. Ervin and Rodriguez can do a little bit of everything. Ervin might be the next signal caller for the Bucks, and can also start at linebacker while both running the ball or receiving it.

Said Fellows on his tough and resilient 2021 ball club, "Extremely proud of the boys. They went through a lot on and off the field through

out the season. They never gave up on each other and the process. It was an honor to coach this group of young men. We wish the seniors the best in their future."

Coach Albert DeLeon, the statistician for this year's football team, lauded the freshmen, particularly Davian Fierro and Devon Rojo, and the sophomore class, and believes Alpine has moving into 2022.

Jayden Canaba on the 2022 squad said, "There are five on each side of the ball returning. They are going to have a ton of experience, and I look forward to watching them win a district championship and a great run in the playoffs. I'm going to be their biggest fan."

Lubbock Roosevelt moves on to face the 8-3 Brady Bulldogs in the Regional semifinals.



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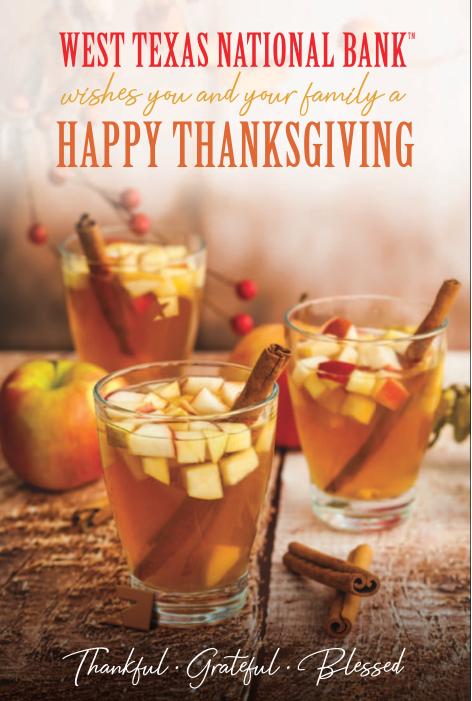
## Lions give to Sunshine House



Again giving back to the community, last week Lions Club of Alpine donated \$500 to the Sunshine House Senior Center. In the photo are Lion Avi Rangra, Kerie Van Zeyst, and Lion John Sutterfield.

Courtesy photo





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Thursday, November 25 - Closed
Friday, November 26 - Closing at Noon
Our drive-through teller lane will also be closed Saturday, November 27



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# High school yearbook celebrates 80th year

BY ROXANNE HILL

Staff Writer

Each year high schools across the nation celebrate the successes and triumphs of its students by capturing special moments that include photos and other keepsakes from teachers, classmates, and friends. A yearbook not only keeps the tradition of preserving cherished memories alive, but also serves as a historical record of students and faculty that can be shown to future generations. Alpine High School has a long yearbook tradition. In 2022, El Ocotillo, the high school yearbook, will mark its 80th anniversary with student creativity, fun times, and special moments. Yearbook advisor Vaughn Grisham came across the vintage 1938 yearbook that was sold online and found in a home in Del Rio. It belonged to a former Alpine ISD super-

intendent. Grisham noted there was no official high school campus until 1942, when the yearbook sequence started. "I have a 1947 yearbook, and there are girls in bikinis playing in the snow, and the snow is waist high!" exclaimed Grisham. "You get a real snapshot of what Alpine has been like, and there are some real surprising things."

Fast forward to the 2021-2022 school year where Grisham's students create and build the yearbook all on their own in his graphic design and photography class. The classes take portraits and photos from all the activities going on around campus, and the graphic design class learns the skills needed to compile them into a yearbook.

"It's not like a typical yearbook program, where you have a journalism class," said Grisham. "The students are working toward certification where there will be In Design, Photoshop, and Illustrator. When they graduate, they will have professional certification in those fields."

Grisham said students can choose to go on to college and get a summer job at a graphic design firm or photography studio, or go directly to the workforce with its myriad of options in businesses that need those knowledgeable in graphic design.

Senior Devin Doughty is the chief editor of El Ocotillo, and Grisham commended him on his excellent work, adding that Doughty was the top graphic design student last year.

"I have a very strong passion for technology, so when I saw a graphic design class, I didn't hesitate to join," said Doughty.

Grisham's other class is composed of seniors Derek Schwierjohn, Fernanda Valenzuela, and Nancy Hinojosa, who create materials for the school district and for programs such as STEM and FFA.

"I think it's cool that we've had for 80 straight years students helping create the yearbook," said Grisham. "It's really a lens into the history of Alpine, as there are pictures of not just the school, but also the community. The students get a glimpse into the history of the school system, and they feel a part of it, that they are handing off this legacy to the next generation."



The graphic design II yearbook editorial staff includes Vaughn Grisham, Omar Vila, Aeris Martinez, Vanessa Rice, Neftali Contreras, Miah Pearce, Joslyn Bejarano Cobos, Cadence Jones, and Devin Doughty.

#### SPIRIT • FROM 1

He stressed that many church groups and other organizations also helped those in need.

Said Dodson, "Right now, we're the middle man in trying to find needy families. We have some individuals who want to personally give to folks who are really in need. We're helping people find people."

The Sheriff's Office also uses Brown Santa donation money to provide Christmas dinner for needy families in the area. And once again this Christmas season, Brown Santa will deliver gifts to Marathon Elementary School students.

Dodson expressed his appreciation to all who donate, saying, "We already have individuals bringing stuff to us, and we set out our donation boxes around town and hope people will fill them. Amy and Levi Hardy have been very gracious to us, and we appreciate all they do for the community."

To donate toys - along with clothing and coats for older children - take new, unwrapped gifts to the Sheriff's Office by Dec. 24. To donate money, drop it by the Sheriff's Office or the Alpine Community Credit Union. At the credit union, tell them to put the money in the Brown Santa program, which includes heating and other assistance to the needy.

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### BAND • FROM 1

"All the vendors I've talked to, I told them that the seat modules are fragile, they break easily, and we have a lot of issues with them," said Braden.

Finally, the board unanimously authorized a one-time payment plan

for an additional \$1,000 to Alpine ISD full-time employees and \$500 for part-time employees. Braden said that about \$80,000 would be taken out of fund balance, and McCutchen said the funds would be disbursed to

employees before the end of December.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is set for Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the AISD Administration Building board room.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Derek Schwierjohn

What are you especially looking forward to in your senior year?

I am looking forward to playing tennis again this year and graduating.

What activities are you involved in during your senior year? I am involved in ag

Who has been your most

influential teacher or coach

classes, football, and ten-



Derek Schwierjohn

through high school? Most influential for me has been my mom and teacher Mrs. Pineda.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My most memorable moment was going to regionals in tennis with my friends.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan to get a degree in computer science at El Paso Community College, then move to a university to finish.

#### The Senior Spotlight is graciously sponsored by





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## Pet of the Week



ergy helping animals.

Adoptions are handled by Alpine Animal Services at the city shelter, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 2900 East Old Marathon Highway.

The Alpine Humane So-

ciety Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 North Fifth Street in Alpine. For information about adoptions or other services, call the shelter at 432-837-9030. To view adoptable pets, visit alpinehumanesociety.org.

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Beckett, and what a special nose he has! Beckett is a two-year-old domestic medium hair male.

Beckett would love to be your Thanksgiving guest, and stay on forever as a part of your family. There are many loving and gorgeous cats available for adoption at the Alpine Animal Shelter and at the Alpine Humane Society Cattery. Why not make your holidays bright by inviting one of them to be your new BFF?

Alpine Humane Society is seeking board members who are passionate about our mission. Being a board member involves one meeting per month and occasional activities supporting our mission of improving the lives of cats and dogs in our communities. If interested, please get in touch with us by email at admin@ alpinehumanesociety.org. Feel good about spending a bit of your time and en-







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Photos from Alpine Avalanche archives at Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Sul Ross State University.

## Texas persimmon a handsome landscape scrub

Dear Neil: I've had this small tree for years thinking it was a yaupon holly. This year, however, it has developed these fruits. Now I know it's not a yaupon. Can you tell me what it is?

You have a Texas persimmon (Diospyros texana). It's native to the Hill Country and Southwest Texas and into Mexico. It's a lovely large shrub/small tree that does bear a good resemblance to yaupon hollies except its leaves are semi-evergreen and somewhat fuzzy. But the black fruit on female specimens is the giveaway. This little tree is a handsome landscape addition where it can be grown. Unlike yaupons, which tolerate wet soils and shade, Texas persimmons need great drainage and full or nearly full sunlight. They're also winter-hardy only to Zone 8B, meaning that they will freeze when temperatures drop into single

**ACROSS** 

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**GARDENER'S MAILBAG** 

by neil sperry

digits.

Dear Neil: I have some iris and narcissus bulbs that I need to transplant. Is it too late to do so?

If you're talking about bearded iris tubers (by far the most common iris), they can be transplanted at almost any time. Late September is ideal, but they will establish and be ready the following year. As for the narcissus, I would hold off until August. They are already well into producing roots and growing for next spring's bloom time.

Dear Neil: As I'm collecting tree leaves this month, can I work them into my

garden soil? I can get some from neighbors' yards, too, if that's a good plan.

They're a great source of organic matter, but do be careful not to overdo it. They decay very rapidly, and in that process they can tie up nitrogen so that your plants won't be able to get it out of the soil.



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leaves over the garden and panded shale as you till. rototill them into the soil to a Have a question you'd depth of five or six inches. Before you start planting, you'll also want to work in several inches of compost, rotted manure, finely ground pine bark, questions individually.

Run them through the mower

to shred them, then spread up

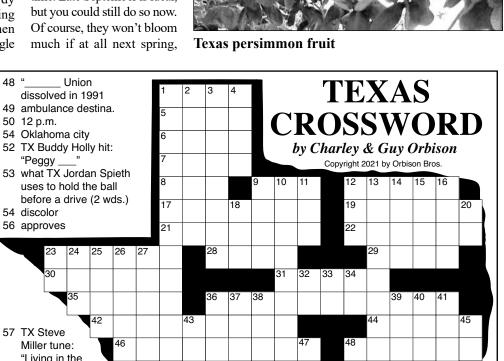
to one inch of the shredded

like Neil to consider? Email him at mailbag@ sperrygardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

and sphagnum peat moss. If

you're preparing a clay soil,

also include one inch of ex-



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## Favorite holiday pie

Almost everyone has a favorite holiday sweet. Some like cake, some like cookies, others like candy, but me, I like pie. My favorite pie is not a holiday pie. My favorite pie is key lime, because I envision myself in my later years sitting on the veranda sipping a mint julep and enjoying a big slice of that tart and tasty goodness. Since those years are a bit in the future, I do have a favorite holiday pie, pumpkin pie.

I am the only one in my family who truly loves a good pumpkin pie. My mom loves a pecan pie, my dad a mincemeat pie, and my brother, well he loves what my grandmother called syrup pie, which is



**MEALS** 

by kara gerbert

basically just a pecan pie minus the pecans. I like a good pecan pie or mincemeat pie as well as the next person, but they just don't give me that comfort food feeling

like a good slice of pumpkin pie does. I am also not one of those folks who requires whip cream on her pumpkin pie, but then again, I won't turn it down if it happens to be an option.

I love the cinnamon and nutmeg, yet not so sweet taste pumpkin pie has to offer. Those warm spice flavors set into that custardy filling really hit the spot. It also happens to be my favorite holiday breakfast. There's nothing better than a cold piece of pumpkin pie with a glass of milk to get your day started. This of course usually gets me a frown from my mom and a chuckle from my dad.

In most things I bake, I pre-

fer to make them from scratch. but not so much a pumpkin pie. I am perfectly content with the recipe on the can of Libby's pumpkin pie mix. It is a no fuss and no muss way to a gal's heart. So, grab yourself a can of that pumpkin puree, read the label for the pie recipe, and get to baking!

Questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact Kara at foodie9372@gmail.com.



## Libby's Famous Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon ground cin- tle Carnation evaporated namon 1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves 2 large eggs

equal amount lactosefree or almond cooking

1 can (15 ounces) Lib-

1 can (12 ounces) Nes-

milk, or substitute with

by's 100% Pure Pumpkin

1 unbaked 9-inch (4cup volume) deep-dish pie shell

#### Directions:

Mix sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger, and cloves in small bowl. Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk. Pour into pie shell.

Bake in preheated 425°

F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350° F: bake for 40 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for two

Makes 10 servings.

or refrigerate.

hours. Serve immediately



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# **Devotional Page**

## Tis the Season

BY REV. STEPHEN WHITE, PASTOR

First United Methodist Church, Alpine and Marfa

The holiday season is upon us. That time of frustration and anxiety that ends the year is at hand. The stress of preparing perfect parties and holiday feasts. What gift to give family, friends, coworkers? Maybe there is a white elephant exchange, and you don't have any white elephants. Our modern traditions heap a lot of responsibility on us. We work so hard to enjoy the holiday. We can gift and decorate ourselves to joy. Right?

This year the buying has started early. Black Friday wasn't enough - we created Cyber-Monday. With the pandemic restrictions of 2020, that whole thing got pushed on-line so they could bombard us with multitudes of opportunities to feel like we are missing out on a deal. Black Friday all month. Yay! And this year tens of thousands of container ships are milling about unable to dock. And we don't have enough truck drivers, so they say. How will Christmas come without presents and holiday clothes and imported hams and Harry & David fruit boxes? From where will come our salvation from all these delays and shortages?

On the serious side, the holidays can be hard for non-consumer reasons. Maybe for you it is a time of darkness, depression, and grief. The daylight is just too short, and the nighttime too

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long. Maybe you are like so many I know who lost a loved one around Christmas. How will anything ever be festive again?

It sounds cliché, but we need to go back to the holy days. We fight our fights over putting the Christ back in Christmas, the creche over Santa's sleigh, but the reality is even when we do that we seem to keep the consumerism. We have to buy the right cards to send, put the right sticker on our car, make up t-shirts and share memes. We put ourselves right back into the stress, but now we're stressed for Jesus.

That is not the good news of Christmas. God is faithful throughout history. God is with us. God loves us. There is nothing we can do to earn that love, it just is. And God loved the world so much, that he already sent his only Son to save us, to reconcile us, to show us that the way of the world is sin and death. We can be free of all of that. Linus had it right all along.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:11-14 KJV

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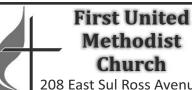
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Sunday Service 10:30am Coffee

11:00am Cowboy Church www.bigbendcowboychurch.com





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Send updates to: editor@alpineavalanche.com

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Holy Communion 11 am Sunday

Unitarian Universalist Church 1308 N.5th St.

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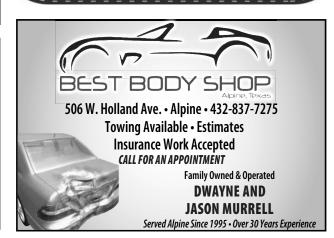
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**Job Type:** Part Time

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This position will report directly to the General Manager and will fill the General Manager's position after an 18-month training and probation period.

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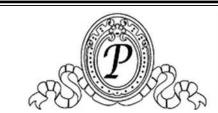
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- and provide basic training on products and technical features
   Stay informed of market changes with technology by attending educational workshops and reviewing
- stay minimed of market changes with technology by attending educational workshops and reviewing professional publications.
   Accept ownership for maintaining and expanding sales and accomplishing assigned individual and team tasks
- and goals.

  Ability to understand ROI and Business Plans.

Applicant must be able to travel, stay overnight, and work overtime on weekends and holidays, as needed. Competitive applicants must possess a valid driver's license, have a good driving record as well as be insurable under the Company's insurance policy. Competitive compensation and Benefits Package are included. There is a \$1,000 signing bonus for new hires (terms and conditions apply).

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There is a \$1,000 signing bonus for new hires. (terms and conditions apply)

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