

Missing man and child located in Mexico

After missing for over two weeks, Hector Flores, Jr., and his daughter Luna have been successfully located alive and well in the Mexican state of Coahuila adjacent to Big Bend National Park. On Feb. 13 the National Park Service was notified by residents of a remote Mexican community across the Rio Grande that a man and young girl fitting the description of Hector and Luna were in the area and seeking to purchase food. Mexico State Police were able to reach the area and confirm their identities Monday afternoon. Both were reported to be in healthy condition. The two were detained by Mexican authorities, and were returned to the U.S. to reunite with family members on Feb. 15. Big Bend National Park rangers would like to

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2022.0.06"
February0.04"



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



EMS moving forward but no decisions yet

BY GAIL DIANEYOVANOVICH
Managing Editor

As the 120-day deadline approaches, emergency medical service for north Brewster County and Alpine is still uncertain, but County Judge Eleazar Cano said a clearer picture should emerge by the end of the month.

After the dissolution

of West Texas Ambulance Service, the county and the City of Alpine reached an agreement with Terlingua Fire and EMS to provide emergency medical service to the same coverage areas that had been provided by West Texas Ambulance. That contract be-



Eleazar Cano

gan Jan. 1, and will expire April 30.

In late January the county assumed the lead on the EMS issue, with the city and the hospital district willing to provide funds but unwilling to run an ambulance service.

Cano spoke with the Avalanche last week, and explained the EMS

task force had been meeting regularly, with Terlingua EMS Director Greg Henington leading the effort, and representatives from the county, the city, and Big Regional Hospital District included in the group.

Since attendance at the meetings was limited, and post meeting reports were not forthcoming, some questioned the

purpose of the "secret meetings."

"It's not a big secret," said Cano. "We're not trying to do anything behind closed doors. We're trying to gather information related to what our options are, how much we can afford, and what's out there."

He stressed, "We're as

See EMS • 7

Tidying up the church



It was a fun way to spend time with friends at the church work day at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine on Feb. 12. Alpine High School freshmen students Jaylynn Celaya, Masiela Miranda, and Hope Dominguez pause for a photo during cleaning duties. Many other volunteers spent Saturday morning cleaning out closets, organizing material, and tidying up to get the Education Building ready for religious education classes again.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

New pastor at First Presbyterian

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

There is a new preacher in town, and a warm, welcoming community at First Presbyterian Church of Alpine is excited for its new pastor, Rev. Bill Cotman.

Cotman is delighted to serve Alpine and Marfa, and is eager to share the joy of God's grace and worship for those who want to listen to the Gospel. Cotman has lived in many places around the U.S., and joining him in Alpine are wife Teresa and daughter Muriel, a

student at Sul Ross State University.

"I was born in Virginia in an Army hospital," said Cotman, who has lived in Louisiana, Trinidad, the West Indies, up to name but a few. "My dad was an Aggie, and he had a job for Texaco waiting for him when he finished his military service"

Cotman first settled in Alpine in early 2021, but had already spent a week with the First Presbyterian Church's Pastor Nominating Committee.



Rev. Bill Cotman

Cotman's first day of preaching was Jan. 2.

"I was looking for a new call, as I've been elsewhere," said Cotman. "I've served in Wyoming, up to name but a few. "My dad was an Aggie, and he had a job for Texaco waiting for him when he finished his military service"

state New York, and more recently in Cuero, for 12 years before coming here."

Cotman received a warm welcome from the congregants at First Presbyterian by way of an old-fashioned tradition Presbyterians call a parsonage, where a new pastor receives ev-

erything from groceries, utensils, toiletries, and more - anything to make the pastor feel at home with the basics.

"Some people are very traditional, and will get a pound of sugar, a pound of flour, a pound of cornmeal, a pound of beans," noted Cotman, who is thankful for the kindness and generosity from the church members. "It was nice to show up and have a whole bunch of stuff ready to go - because we had to wait close to a week for our stuff to come from the movers."

Before Alpine, Cotman's closest connection to the Big Bend area was when he and family made a stop in Balmorhea while on a family vacation.

"I was thrilled to have an Amtrak station in this town, and they hauled me to Marathon and Fort Davis, Marfa, and I got to see a lot of the area," said Cotman, who also serves First Presbyterian Church of Marfa, joining Martha Bumpas who preaches there.

See PASTOR • 7

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OBITUARIES

Joanne Lara Ortega

Joanne Lara Ortega, 64, surrounded by family, gained her wings on Feb. 13, 2022. Joanne was born Feb. 7, 1958, to Brigido Lara, Jr., and Mary B. Lara. She was raised in Fort Davis, Texas, and attended all school years at Fort Davis schools.



Ross State University in Alpine.

She married the love of her life, Robert (Crockett) Ortega, and from that marriage her son Robert Ortega, Jr., was born. She loved the most important job of her life, and that was taking care of her son. She loved to cook, spend time praying for her many friends and for people she had never met before. She

was a woman of God, and would always have a powerful prayer that would help people when they were going through hard times.

She enjoyed playing poker with her poker friends, and we all know she loved her Dallas Cowboys. She would always say, "Dallas Cowboy fan for life."

We will miss seeing her Facebook postings right before a Dallas Cowboy game, "Do not disturb. Cowboys are playing," and the daily prayers she would post on Facebook.

She also loved the children she babysat and their families. She loved being a mother figure to

all of Robert's friends. While in Fort Davis, she would attend Church of the Mountains, where her faith in God grew. Recently, she would listen to services at River of Life Church in Eastland, Texas. She was just a woman of faith, and was very much at peace in her final days and moments.

Joanne is survived by her son who she dearly loved, Robert Ortega, Jr., of San Angelo, Texas; her father Brigido Lara, Jr., of Cisco, Texas; sisters Polly Jarratt (Tony) of San Angelo, and Te-

resa Gallegos (Sammy) of Cisco, Texas; brothers Henry Lara of Fort Davis, and Rudy Lara of Dallas, Texas; several nieces and nephews whom she loved as her own; God sister Deborah Sherwood of Imperial, Texas; and her fur grandbaby, Ayra.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert "Crockett;" her mother Mary Lara; and her paternal and maternal grandparents.

Graveside services will be held at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Fort Da-

vis on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at noon with officiant Deacon Ron Truax.

Pallbearers will be Jay Jarratt, Brian Jarratt, Bart Jarratt, David Lara, Henry Lara, Jr., Ashton Balyeat, Ivan Rodriguez, and Wesley Molinar.

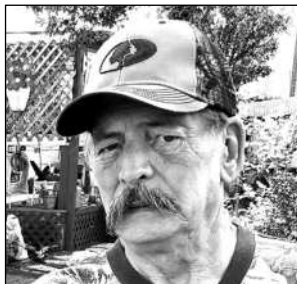
Honorary pallbearers will be Andy Le Vere, Eric Cancino, Sammy Gallegos, Jr., and Tate Nicholas.

Online condolences may be left at alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Dale E. Cardwell

Dale E. Cardwell died suddenly at home on Feb. 11, 2022. He is survived by his sisters Dorothy A. Berry (Steve Spencer) of Alpine, Texas, and Dinah K. Berry of Sugar Land, Texas; two nephews and their families; an aunt; several cousins; and many friends made in Alpine, Wimberley, Texas, and at his beloved high school, San Marcos Academy in San Marcos, Texas.



the Alumni Association. He was most helpful in assisting the Alumni administrator with homecoming and the memory room.

He attended Texas Christian University, and graduated from the University of Houston. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army.

Dale lived for over 30 years in Wimberley. In his time there, he was a member of the community theater, both acting in and writing plays. He was very proud of that

accomplishment. He subsequently retired, and relocated to Alpine two years ago.

He was a regular vendor at the Alpine Farmers Market. You could find him there every Saturday morning, no matter the weather, selling his painted snakes, walking sticks and other hand made wares. He loved the market, and it was a big part of his life for the past two years.

The family is planning a celebration of his life by getting together with friends at Spicewood Restaurant in Alpine on his birthday, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022 from noon-3 p.m.

Dale would be so honored and proud to have people reminiscing about him and the character that he was.

Online condolences may be left at alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Usbaldo "Baldo" Ybarra

Usbaldo "Baldo" Ybarra, 84, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away on Feb. 13, 2022, in Fort Stockton, Texas.



Services for Baldo will be held on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022. Viewing will be from noon-2 p.m. with praying of the Most Holy Rosary beginning at 2 p.m., with Mass to follow at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine, Texas, with Father Alfonso Coronado Sanchez serving as celebrant.

Baldo was born in Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Jorge and Luz Maria Ybarra on Aug. 30, 1937. Baldo worked for Reliance Medical Equipment.

Baldo was preceded in death by his parents George Ybarra, Sr., and Luz Ybarra of Alpine; three brothers, Hector Ybarra of El Paso, Texas, Flavio Ybarra of Alpine, and George Ybarra, Jr., of

Alpine; four sisters, Petra Guevara of Midland, Texas, Basilisa Najera of San Antonio, Texas, and Virtudes Valencia of San Angelo, Texas.

Survivors include his brother Manuel Ybarra and wife Flora Ybarra; brother-in-law Manuel Natera of Alpine; and sister-in-law Amelia Ybarra of Midland.

He has numerous nieces and nephews.

Those serving as pallbearers are Joel Ybarra, Israel Ybarra, Juan Carlos Valencia, Rene Ybarra, Tony Ybarra, and Ernesto Natera, with Michael Ybarra serving as honorary pallbearer.

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1991 Texas Tech Law degree

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- Director, Treasurer, Big Bend Regional Hospital District
- Director, Treasurer, Study Butte Water Supply Corporation
- Director, Big Bend Natural History Association
- Resident of Brewster County for 30+ years
- Married to Valynda Ward Henington of Fort Davis; 2 daughters, Tika and Adana

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Early voting continues

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH
Managing Editor

Early voting for the March 1 Republican and Democratic primary elections continues through next week, and citizens will have many opportunities to cast their ballots.

All registered voters in all Brewster County precincts may cast their ballots early at the Val Clark Beard Complex, 203 North Seventh Street in Alpine. On Friday, Feb.

18, the polling place will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22-23, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 24-25, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

For those in Pct. 3, remote early voting will be available at the Marathon Community Center, Second and Avenue E in Marathon, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22-23, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

And for those in Pcts. 5, 6, and 7, remote early

voting will be available at the Red Pattillo Community Center, Highway 118, in Study Butte/Terlingua, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22-23, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

There are currently 7,351 registered voters in Brewster County. In the first two days of early voting, 152 had cast ballots on Monday, 116 on Tuesday, and 42 by mail, for a total of 310.

On election day, voters must cast their ballots in the precinct in which

they are registered.

At the polls, voters must show a valid photo ID. To see acceptable forms of voter ID, visit votetexas.gov and click on Identification Requirements for Voting.

Voters may view official sample ballots at the elections office in the Val Beard Office Complex, or online at brewster-countytx.com. Click on Elections Information, then on Official Sample Ballot for either Republican or Democratic.

City approves contract with TDS

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

The City of Alpine held its regularly scheduled city council meeting on Feb. 15, and decided on a 10-year contract with Texas Disposal Systems.

Before the vote, Interim City Manager Megan Antrim addressed issues having to do with monthly bulky pickup, illegal dumping, performance review, and cancellation clauses for the city to consider.

To deter illegal dumping, the council approved having a monthly bulky items pickup, and providing extra roll offs at the Hal Flanders Recycle Center. JaMar Prince of TDS provided the council with both the five- and 10-year proposed contracts, with cancellation clauses if the city felt it was needed for performance issues.

Antrim said many residents had complained about trash not being picked up on time, the maintenance of dumpsters, and other issues.

Mayor Andy Ramos added, "I think the cancellation clause and performance reviews are crucial in these contracts."

City Attorney Rod Ponton assured council the issues would be included in the proposed contract. The council then voted 4 to 1 to approve the proposed 10-year contract with TDS.

In other news, Antrim announced that Big Bend Regional Hospital District was no longer in consideration for emergency medical services, leaving Brewster County or a possible private contractor.

Finally, Antrim presented an information only item regarding a proposed interlocal agreement with Brewster County for recycling services, saying that around 40% of the users for the recycling center were county residents not within city limits. Antrim opted for having a possible flat fee charged to the county, along with a one-year automatic renewal, and said she added some figures for Cano to consider and present to county commissioners.

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting is set for Tuesday, March 1, at 5:30 p.m. in city council chambers and via Zoom videoconferencing.

Meet and greet in Marathon



On Feb. 11 at the Gage White Buffalo patio in Marathon, Republican Brewster County judge candidates Greg Henington, Monty Kimball, and Ryan Skelton greeted the public and talked about their platforms. Early voting started Monday.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

Meeting at a forum



On Feb. 12 at the Alpine ISD Administration Building auditorium, Democratic Brewster County judge candidates Benjamin Barrientes, Mimi Smith, and Oscar Cobos welcomed the public to a forum where they discussed their platforms and answered questions. Early voting will continue through Feb. 25.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

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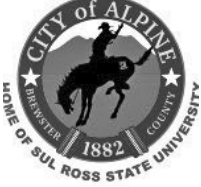
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The project is broken down into two sections as the City may opt to only contract a portion of the project. Please submit your proposals accordingly.

Final quotes will be due on Thursday, March 3, 2022, by 5:00 P.M. (CST). Proposals should be clearly marked "Do Not Open - Street Paving Project" and submitted to the address below:

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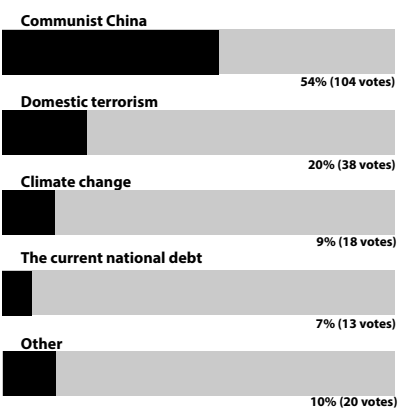
Opinions

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RESULTS



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

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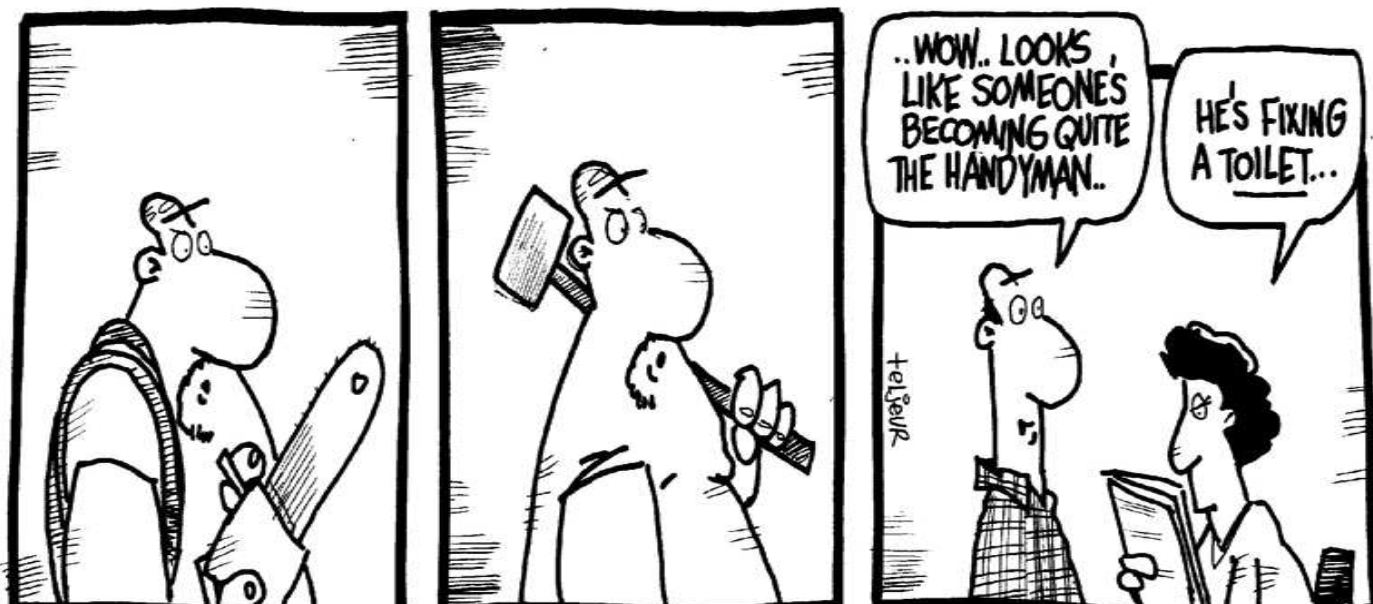
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.



The final lap

As some of you already know, one of my daughters is attending school at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. She managed to earn a track scholarship. She will be graduating in May with minimal debt. It makes me awfully proud to be able to profess this, as she is the athlete that I never was.

Last week Elena sent me a text in which she asked "Dad, guess what we did for practice today."

My response was, "Humm, a trust activity?"

Turns out that their coaches took the team to a ski resort to engage in a team-building hike. Physical intelligence at its best. If interested, pictures and videos are posted on Elena's Facebook.

My immediate response was, "Man, do you have any idea how fortunate you are? That is crazy cool! All be-



ELEAZAR CANO
Brewster County Judge

cause you have the will to win." Her commitment to excellence and her will to win have definitely given her the edge. Long after track is over and done with in her life, the memories and experiences she made for herself will never end. If anything, they will stay with her, and carry her through the rest of her life. God truly blessed me with my children.

Now, let me shift focus to our hometown team, Brewster County.

About seven years ago, changes in my personal life, the realization that I had been blessed with a second chance,

and feeling that it was time to make a change in my professional life, I decided to run for county judge. My commitment to serving others didn't change. The population simply grew.

As I look back at the last five years, I tell myself, "Man, do you have any idea how fortunate you are?"

The answer is yes.

The time has now come to begin working on some substantive, politically sensitive issues. Throughout the next six months or so, you will be hearing me talk about retiree health insurance, workforce accountability, and exploration of new funding streams for our region. While these topics may appear to be internal in nature, let's keep in mind that all positions within Brewster County are mostly funded through local taxation. As such, I am cognizant of

the fact that the decisions that commissioners court makes affect everyone within our county.

Elena understands what her role has been on her teams. Nevertheless, because of her drive and constant pursuit of excellence, she has been able to see places that most of us only see through the Facebook lens.

When my tenure at Brewster County comes to an end, the memories and experiences that I was a part of will never be forgotten. The topics mentioned above are my hurdles. The support of my team will determine the outcome of our race and my tenure.

If a little girl from Alpine, Texas, can conquer the snow-capped mountain, surely we can experience success. The time has come to get out of our comfort zone, and strive for excellence.

White House sees border policy failure as success

Getting a dinner reservation at Per Se, New York's restaurant of choice for the city's royalty, is more difficult than entering the U.S. illegally.

The wait for Per Se, the Thomas Keller Restaurant Group dining experience, can exceed three months, but border crossers just walk right on in to the U.S. without a reservation or identification. Actually, illegal aliens have it better than Per Se diners. Border surgeons don't have to pay a \$2,000 tab, including wine and tax, for dinner for two. Just the opposite for aliens. The free ride begins once they step inside the U.S.

To get their new-in-America lives started, the aliens only have to peacefully surrender to immigration border officials. Although the agents are highly trained to defend and protect the U.S. border, the new normal under Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is for aliens to turn themselves in to Customs and Border Protection agents who process and release them into the American interior. Then they become the responsibility of federal, state, and local taxpayers who foot the bill for a



BY JOE GUZZARDI
Guest Columnist

bountiful array of benefits. An extraordinary example of how the Biden administration has abdicated its border responsibilities occurred Jan. 22 when federally chartered buses dropped off dozens of illegal aliens in Brownsville, where they were seen getting into taxis headed for the airport to travel to Miami, Atlanta, and Houston. No one has the slightest idea who they are. The only certain thing is the taxpayers, who have no vote in federal immigration policy, are funding their trips.

In December 2020, agents reported more than 178,000 encounters at the southern border, the highest December on record. Convicted sex offenders and other criminals were among the two million worldwide migrants who illegally entered in 2021.

Several think tanks, each doing independent research, calculated that taxpayers subsidize illegal immigrant health care costs annually to the tune of \$18.5 billion, and

public education at \$60 billion. Unaccompanied minors crossing the border in record numbers from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, have created a budget-draining cost to public schools in the form of limited English proficiency classes the schools are federally mandated to offer.

Illegal immigration - the Biden-style version - can be analyzed two ways. Beyond the first, the dollar burden on taxpayers, lays the long-term negative consequences to U.S. sovereignty. Some analysts argue that illegal immigration helps the U.S. economy because the migrant workers are motivated and responsive to the country's always-shifting needs - in agriculture, construction, and hospitality.

The second and much less discussed consequence of illegal immigration is the dissolution of national sovereignty. Arguments about illegal immigration, good or bad, have persisted for decades. But never before has an administration been so brazenly welcomed and catered to aliens. Of the two million illegal immigrants who entered last year,

45,000 were clandestinely flown from the border into the interior, with some using their arrest warrants as identification to board commercial aircraft.

Mayorkas openly admits that his agency has "fundamentally changed," meaning that he's gutted Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and eliminated worksite enforcement. Even though only Congress can make immigration law, Mayorkas also boasted that in the Biden administration, illegal presence is no longer considered a criminal offense.

Texas U.S. Representatives Chip Roy and Michael Cloud have called for Mayorkas' immediate impeachment. Roy and Cloud allege that Mayorkas has violated many laws in letter and spirit, and he has "undermined the rule of law, violated the Constitution, and placed the lives and inalienable rights of Americans in danger."

Because Biden and his administration view the border calamity as a thundering success, Mayorkas may remain in office for as long as the president is in office, something that sovereign America cannot withstand if the historic nation is to survive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Respect for our law enforcers

Dad (Lt. Col. W.W. Stainkamp, USAF) taught me an important credo, among many others - give compliments when they are due. Mom taught me to give

flowers to friends and loved ones while they were still alive.

Blending these parentally taught life concepts allows me to extend my heartfelt appreciation, support for, and profound thanks to U.S.

Customs and Border Patrol, Alpine Police Department, Brewster County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. military.

These brave and oft-unappreciated men and women are appreciated. This old

Army grunt has your collective backs!

Thanks, and God Bless you all from a grateful Alpine septuagenarian.

Steve Stainkamp
Alpine



Heard on the STREET

Did you watch the Super Bowl this year?



Tom Kelner, Alpine: Yes, I did. It was a great game. I'm glad L.A. won because Matthew Stafford has always been a great quarterback, and he was stuck in Detroit for 13 years and couldn't get anywhere. I thought he finally deserved to really get there, and win it, and have the ring. I think Joe Burrow and Cincinnati are a great team- I hope they come back and win it again in the future.



Dr. Robert Muñoz, Alpine: Yes. I think this is probably the first Super Bowl in a long time that actually lived up to the hype as far as the game itself. And the fact that you had, for the second year in a row, a quarterback born and raised in Texas was the winner, adds to it.



Anthony Carrasco, Alpine: No, I didn't watch the Super Bowl because I had to go to work.



Kristy Whitaker, Fort Davis: Yes, but I wish it was the Kansas City Chiefs that were there. Watch my Patrick Mahomes!



Elba Lamar, Fort Davis: I watched a little bit. I'm not a much fan of sports, but some of my friends are, so sometimes I just watch a little bit for them, but not personally.

OBITUARIES • FROM 2

Cathy Corkins Neie

Cathy Corkins Neie, 61, died unexpectedly Feb. 9, 2022, at Midland Memorial Hospital. She was born Jan. 30, 1961, in Alpine, Texas, to Robert and Maxine Corkins.

Cathy grew up in Alpine, and graduated from Alpine High School in the class of 1979. She married her high school sweetheart, Michael A. Neie, on Aug. 8, 1987. She then graduated from Sul Ross State University Nursing School in 1996 with her LVN. Cathy loved being a nurse, and devoting her time, energy, and ability to helping others.

Cathy was utterly devoted to her family and friends. She adored and loved her grandchildren. They were the light of her life. She will be re-



membered for her love of life, love for her family, and her caring heart.

Cathy is survived by her loving husband, Michael Neie, of Midland, Texas; two children, Keith Neie of Midland and daughter Chaela Shearer and husband Andrew of Merkel, Texas; two grandchildren, A.J. and Vera Shearer of Merkel; many family and friends; and her faithful companions Topsy and Roska.

She was preceded in death by her father

and mother, Robert and Maxine Corkins; grandchildren Braxton and Lillian Shearer; and many family members and friends, all of whom she had missed dearly, but with whom she is now reunited.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made to the Little Angels Foundation, supported by American Heritage Funeral Home, P.O. Box 61116, Midland, TX 79711

This foundation held a special place in her heart. She donated annually in honor of her grandchildren. This will continue her legacy in helping others.

A memorial will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 19

Fish Fry and Dance, 6 p.m. at Marathon Community Center, 102 N.E. Second Street. Meal served followed by an auction and dance. Proceeds benefit Marathon facilities.

FEBRUARY 24

Alpine Ambassadors Meet and Greet, 6-7 p.m. at BBT conference room, 808 N. Fifth St. in Alpine. Anyone interested in becoming an Ambassador can meet the group, and learn about the organization and its mission. Membership applications will be available. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public.

MARCH 4

Fish Fry, 5-7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 79 at 805 W. Sul Ross Ave. in Alpine. Eat in or take out. Proceeds benefit Alpine Public Library.

MARCH 11

Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 406 S. 6th St. in Alpine. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus. Plate includes fish with all the trim-



mings, drink, and dessert. Pay at the door. Take out only. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus charitable activities in the community.

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 Chorus 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 bbchorale.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 E. 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, Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave E. 432-837-2621.

Cowboy Poetry coming next weekend

This year's Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering will take place Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-19, at Sul Ross State University.

Lone Star was formed in 2020 to replace the widely acclaimed Texas Gathering, which announced it would not continue after a successful 33-year run.

The Lone Star schedule includes a choice of two shows each evening, six free sessions including two open mic options, two chuckwagon breakfasts, a keynote, "Let's Talk Poetry and Songwriting" session with Joel Nelson and Andy Hedges, the "Taste of the Gathering" session with 12 performers, and a dance at Alpine Civic Center.

Except for the chuckwagon breakfasts, one afternoon and one eve-



Cooking up coffee for breakfast at Poet's Grove in Alpine at an earlier Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

ning show each Friday and Saturday, and the dance, all activities are free.

For more information,

including tickets, sponsorship, membership, lodging, and more, visit lonestarcowboypoetry.com.

Cowboy Poetry Schedule

Events are on Sul Ross State University campus except Poet's Grove breakfast and Civic Center dance. Ticketed events are noted with an asterisk. All others are free.

Friday, Feb. 18

7:30-8:30 a.m.: *Chuckwagon breakfast at Poet's Grove
9 a.m.: The Mercantile opens
9:30-10 a.m.: Welcome, including Sul Ross President Pete Gallego, Marshall Hall
10-10:30 a.m.: Keynote address, Vess Quinlan, Marshall Hall
10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
10:45-11:45 a.m. "A Taste of the Gathering" featuring 12 performers
Noon-1 p.m.: Lunch on your own
1-1:45 p.m.: *Friday afternoon special show, Marshall Hall
2-3:15 p.m.: Five rooms with four performers each
2-3:15 p.m.: Mandolin Q&A workshop
3:30-4:45 p.m.: Five rooms with four performers each
3:30-4:45 p.m.: Open mic, Lawrence Hall room 300
7:30-9:45 p.m. *Friday night show, Marshall Hall

Saturday, Feb. 19

7:30-8:30 a.m.: *Chuckwagon breakfast at Poet's Grove
9 a.m.: The Mercantile opens
9-9:45 a.m.: "Let's Talk Cowboy Poetry and Songwriting," Marshall Hall
10-10:45 a.m.: Six rooms with three performers each
11-11:45 a.m.: Seven rooms with three performers each
Noon-1 p.m.: Lunch on your own
1-1:45 p.m.: *Saturday afternoon show, Marshall Hall
2-3:15 p.m.: Five rooms with four performers each
2-3:15 p.m.: Guitar Q&A workshop
3:30-4:45 p.m.: Six rooms with four performers each
3:30-4:45 p.m.: Open mic, Lawrence Hall room 300
7:30-9:45 p.m.: *Saturday night show, Marshall Hall
9:45 p.m.-1 a.m. *Dance at the Civic Center

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SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:
(Your choice of any two items)
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400# - 500# Heifers	167.00 to 176.00
500# - 600# Steers	171.00 to 202.00
500# - 600# Heifers	156.00 to 167.00
600# - 700# Steers	161.00 to 171.00
600# - 700# Heifers	149.00 to 156.00
700# - 800# Steers	144.00 to 161.00
700# - 800# Heifers	135.00 to 149.00
Packer Cows	80.00 to 93.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	70.00 to 76.00
Packer Bulls	100.00 to 113.00
Feeder Bulls	75.00 to 85.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	1100.00 to 1350.00
Bred Cows - Top Half	1000.00 to 1200.00

Sports

Alpine finishes second in district

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

Four Bucks were in double figures on Feb. 15 in Presidio as Alpine cruised to a 56-39 win against the Blue Devils.

Alpine swept the Blue Devils this year, with the previous win coming in the only game the Bucks played at the Gallego Center all season, 56-42. Alpine is now 18-7 overall, and 6-2 in District 4-3A.

Esteban Macias led all scorers with 18 points, Jayden Canaba had 14 points, and Jake Crump and Aiden Morrissey each had 10 points.

Coach Hugh Morrissey said of the Presidio win, "It was a good win versus a good team that is well coached. Our team did a good job of attacking their zone today."

On Feb. 8 Alpine fell to the Kermit Yellowjackets, 52-42, for their second district loss of the season.



The Fightin' Bucks and Blue Devils battled it out on Feb. 15 in Presidio.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

Morrissey had 17 points, and Canaba had 11. It wasn't enough for a tough Yellowjacket home crowd.

On Feb. 11 in front of the home crowd, Alpine said goodbye to Morrissey, Canaba, Crump, Dom Fierro, Macias, Drew Rodriguez, and Dante Sera on senior night. Alpine and the boys responded by pound-

ing the Anthony Wildcats, 68-46. Morrissey once again led all-scorers with 16 points, Canaba had 13, Crump had nine, Macias and Fierro eight each, and Tray Ervin with seven.

On Feb. 15 night in District 3-3A, the Dimmitt Bobcats beat the Brownfield Cubs to win their district and go 9-3. Coach

Hugh Morrissey and the Bucks will know their first-round opponent after lunch and a coin flip.

A host of teams tied for second place at 8-4 in that district. The Brownfield Cubs, the Lamesa Tornados, and the Denver City Mustangs all await to see after a coin flip if they face the Alpine Bucks.

Fightin' Buck Schedule

Boys Basketball • Playoff opponent to be determined	4:30 p.m./Varsity 7 p.m.
Baseball • Feb. 21-22..... Pecos @ Alpine JV	Golf • Feb. 18-19..... Fort Stockton Tournament

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



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Golf plays well in Iraan

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

The Alpine High School boys and girls golf teams traveled to Iraan to play the first golf tournament of the year.

The girls played on Feb. 9 and came in third, with newcomer Piper Wash taking the second medalist for the tournament with a 109. Kaitlyn Wiggins

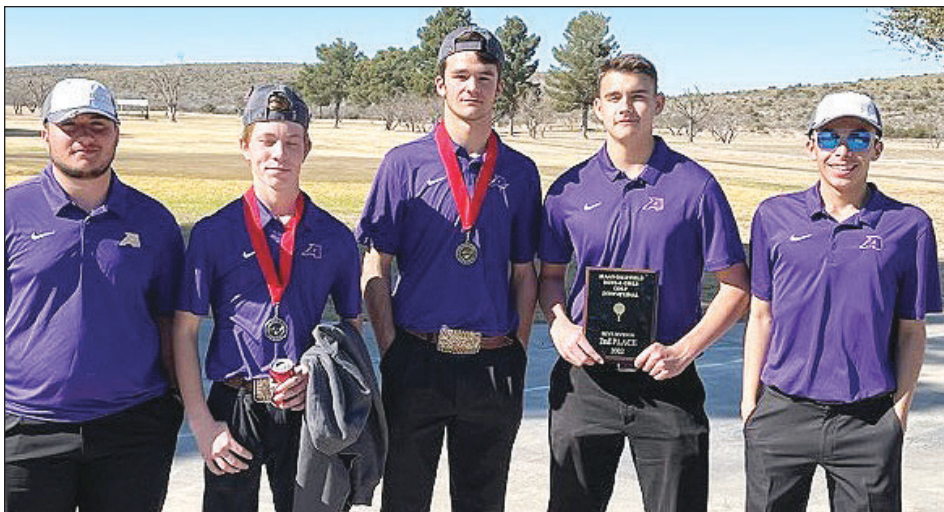
followed with 116, Mya Montgomery with 126, and closing out the team was another newcomer Lourdes Acosta, 143.

It was a cold start, but the day turned out to be nice. As a freshman and playing in her first tournament ever, Wash has picked up things well, and it showed. Acosta also played in her first tournament ever, and had only

played at the most three holes before this. She did great stepping in and covering for the girls who could not make it.

The boys played on Feb. 10, and brought home second place and the first and second medalists. Shaun Foster and Britton Belcher ended the day tied for first with a 92, but the tie was

See GOLF • 10



Turtle Basibuyuk, Britton Belcher, Shaun Foster, Zach Wash, and Jared Smith line up after a successful tournament in Iraan.

Courtesy photo

Lady Bucks suffer heartbreak in Monahans

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

It was not supposed to end this way, especially on Valentine's Day, falling to the Denver City Fillies, 51-44. The District 4-3A undefeated district champions, 8-0, and first in District. The Lady Bucks had not lost a game since the Lubbock Caprock tournament in late December. It was the first time since 2004 that the girls had gone undefeated in district.

But here they were playing the Denver City Fillies for the second time this season. The previous game they lost by 19, 52-33, in early December at the Andrews tournament.

It was a tough, physical game. The Fillies were the fourth place team in District 3, but they played like champions on Feb.



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PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Elias, with a handsome medium-length coat of orange with a bit of white. He came to the shelter as a stray along with his sibling, Gael. At just under one year old, Elias is just a youngster. Adopting both kittens would make for a purr-fect family.



You can meet Elias and many other cats and kittens at the Alpine Animal Shelter and at the Cattery in the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store.

If you have unexpected expenses and are short on funds, AHS can help make sure you can feed your pet. Our pet pantry, located in our Thrift Store across from Alpine Elementary School, has good quality cat and dog food available for emergency needs. Stop by during store hours for assistance. Alpine Animal Services

handles pet adoptions 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 Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 North Fifth Street in Alpine,

open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the shelter at 432-837-9030. To view adoptable pets, visit alpinehumane.org.

MISSING • FROM 1

thank all who participated in this search, and the public for their concern and assistance in helping spread the request for information. Searchers from the NPS, FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border

Protection, Fort Stockton Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, residents of Boquillas, Mexican officials, and Mexican State Police had searched for the two individuals since Feb. 5 when Flores'

vehicle was found abandoned along the remote Old Ore Road in Big Bend National Park. An investigation into this incident is still underway. No additional information is available at this time.

PASTOR • FROM 1

Cotman noted the lengthy history of the Alpine church, saying it had been there since around the 1840's. Despite having lived in places vastly different from the Big Bend, the new pastor is pleased to

make Alpine and Texas his new home.

"We're all blessed to be in such a beautiful area of Texas," Cotman said. "The sunrises and sunsets are truly awe inspiring. The people are genuine and friendly, and

I look forward to a long pastorate and being part of this community."

Worship services are held each Sunday at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Alpine, located on the corner of Lockhart and Fifth streets.

EMS • FROM 1

transparent as we need to be, but we don't want to put anything out too soon because it could change tomorrow. If something comes up and a plan isn't feasible, what goes out may or may not be accurate."

Cano noted that when Mike Scudder's WTAS provided service, the cost was very low, and there was "no way" the same service could be provided at those numbers.

Henington had put together a proposal of the county's costs to provide a service, one of them the "Cadillac plan," and the other the minimum required to provide service. Cano said the Cadillac plan would leave about a half-million-dollar shortfall from Scudder's numbers.

Another option is a third party, a company that would do it all, including both ground and

flight ambulance service, staffing, and billing and collections. Cano stressed a third party would have the expertise and the personnel, and made more sense for the county.

Said Cano, "We're trying to figure out if it's even feasible for the county to run an ambulance service, and that will create new positions and a lot of extra work and effort on our part. Even if we had the money and no constraints, staffing is a big challenge, and there might be some other costs that we didn't anticipate."

He said there was a plan in place for county operation, something he called Plan B, but it was expensive.

"Once you get to the bigger numbers, you have to either raise taxes or make cuts. That's the

hard part. With no additional revenue, services suffer, and that's the bottom line. We're bare bones as it is," said Cano. "There are a lot of variables, and the sooner we get this resolved, the better it is for everyone. But we don't want to make a hasty decision that falls apart after six months."

He hoped the situation could be resolved by the end of March, but wanted to assure the public that services would continue uninterrupted.

"We need to figure out our options, what we can afford, what's out there. The big challenge is finding the right fit," he said. "We're doing our due diligence that there are no gaps in service, but we're still focused on the end game. We need to have something in place permanently."

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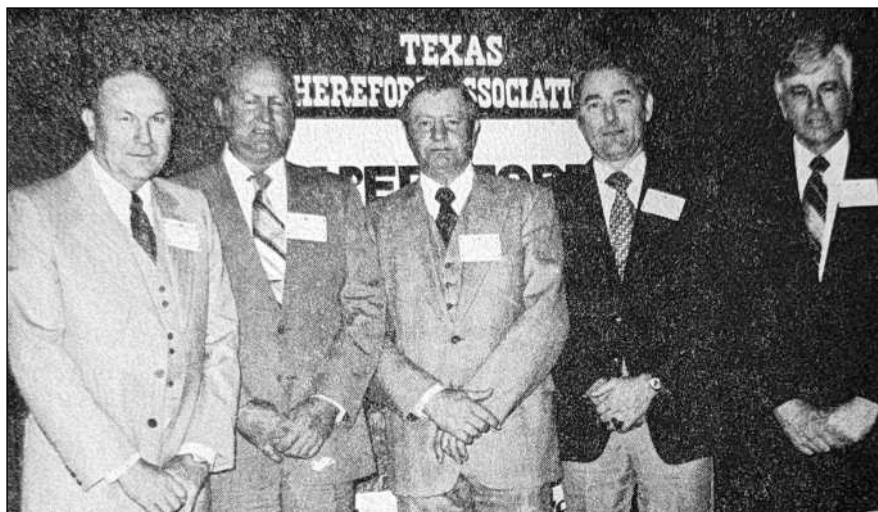
LOOKING BACK

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Alpine Avalanche

February 1, 1979

Marathon's Macky McGuire (24) and Keesey Miller (50) of Fort Davis collide Tuesday during the Indians' 75-55 victory over Marathon. The win keeps Fort Davis in the District 14B lead with a 6-0 mark.



February 22, 1979

Texas Hereford Association officers Johnny Summerour, David McCall, Roy Murphy, Jack Quinn, and Bob McKnight. McKnight of Fort Davis was recently elected vice-president of the Association.

February 22, 1979

Billy Leavitt showed the Grand Champion fine wool lamb at the Southwestern International Livestock Show in El Paso.



February 22, 1979


Members of the Big Bend Tourist Council eye their new brochure, received last week. Admiring the brochure are Kimball Miller, Fort Davis; Mrs. Frank Wedin, Marathon; George Jordan, Fort Stockton; Mike North, south Brewster County; and Johnny Watkins, Alpine. Seated are Sally Bridges, Marathon; and Glenda McCraye, Marfa.

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

Controlling weeds in lawns

Dear Neil: I am attaching photos of two different winter weeds I have in my lawn. What will be my best control for them? I also have crabgrass in the lawn in the summer. Is there a control for it that won't hurt St. Augustine?

The smaller of your weeds is henbit. Anytime now, you'll see it burst forward with little purple flowers if it hasn't done so already. Mowing at the regular height will eliminate almost all of it. The other spreading weed is chickweed. Both of these can be controlled with a broadleafed weed-killer spray applied on a warm, late-winter day. The next generation can be prevented with an application of Gallery pre-emergent herbicide in the first week of September. As for crabgrass, the best



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

products are Halts, Balan or Dimension. Apply them two weeks prior to the average date of the last killing freeze in your area. Repeat the treatment 90 days later for a full season of control. There is no post-emergent control that is safe for St. Augustine.

Dear Neil: We would like to plant a mimosa tree. What side of the house should it go on?

That depends on many things. If you want it for shade, the west or south sides would be obvious, or perhaps to the east. If you're concerned about its winter hardiness, that shouldn't matter. It should be fine on any side. But you also need to consider whether there are other shade trees that might impact its future growth, and you really need to think about the fact that mimosas have some rather serious insect and disease problems that cause them to be less than desirable as long-term shade trees. I hope I've understood your question properly. I grew up with mimosa trees in our yard, and I was very fond of them, but I also was disappointed when they started struggling..

Dear Neil: I noticed

last fall that two top branches of my pecan tree were dried and dead looking. Recently, while watching the birds through binoculars, I noticed that something has damaged the bark of those limbs. In fact, it looks like the bark is missing entirely over 18 to 24 inches of each limb. What could cause that?

The most likely cause



Henbit will bloom soon.

is squirrels. They will peel bark off long sections of pecan branches in the growing season. Sometimes they do it as they are sharpening their teeth. The injured branches then brown and die within a few weeks, and later fall to the ground. It's usually not

a big issue for a mature pecan tree. They usually re-grow around the lost limbs and fill back in.

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 football exercise: _____-ups
 - 5 GOP is _____ big government
 - 6 Iowa _____, TX
 - 7 former Cowboy TE Billy Joe Du _____
 - 8 Tex Ritter title: "_____ Beloved Cowboy"
 - 17 TXism: "it ain't _____ in cement"
 - 18 TX politician Samuel Rayburn
 - 21 Darin of TX-filmed "State Fair" (init.)
 - 22 Gomer _____
 - 23 TXism: "run it by a _____" (finalize)
 - 24 TXism for "hog"
 - 29 tragic fate
 - 30 TXism: "rough as a _____ cob"
 - 31 "yes," south of the border
 - 32 TXism: "if it was a snake it would _____"
 - 34 gasp for breath
 - 35 OJ's judge
 - 36 1st plane passenger service: _____ Transport
 - 37 _____ back riding
 - 38 unadvised absence from Fort Hood
 - 39 Upton County seat
 - 40 cowboy hat material
 - 41 trap or drum
 - 42 this George was in 1979 "Kramer" film with TX JoBeth Williams

- 43 TXism: "loose as a _____"
- 45 TXism: "worth his weight in oil _____"
- 46 ending for "great" in reference to Texas
- 47 TXism: "smart as a bunkhouse _____"
- 48 Cowboys NY foe
- 49 TXism: "has to sneak up on _____ fix her hair" (homely)
- 51 TXism: "he shoots _____ eye bullets" (good shot)
- 52 horse doc
- 53 work time zone for TX Ted Cruz (abbr.)
- 54 TX George Strait's "Marina Del _____"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- DOWN**
- 1 former Houston restaurant: "_____ House"
 - 2 TXism: "he'd be _____ in a battle of wits" (dumb)
 - 3 Elm in Dallas
 - 4 football center
 - 9 TX Willie sang "What Was _____ Wanted"
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Vichyssoise — the fancy name for potato and leek soup



the ingredients and steps to build a unique flavor profile. Leave it to the Americans to elevate the humble potato, but give it a fancy name. Everyone is familiar with how potatoes taste, but what about leeks? Leeks are not usual vegetable fare for most folks. They resemble a rather large green onion, but differ in taste and texture. While green onions lean towards a strong, pungent flavor and slimy texture, leeks have a milder, sweeter taste. They also exhibit a bit of a more fibrous texture when raw, but once cooked become soft.

Vichyssoise is a classic dish that pairs well with a warm, crusty bread, and makes an excellent appetizer or first course for a formal dinner. Do not let that fancy name fool you, this soup recipe is minimalist in nature, but exhibits monumental flavor that is sure to please even the most discriminating palates.

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

My first experience with vichyssoise was in college at a little lunch place whose kitchen was run by a lady from England. One must realize this was early on in my culinary adventures, so it was out of my realm of experience as far as a soup goes.

I was familiar with the standard potato soup and chicken noodle, but nothing as sophisticated as vichyssoise had ever been introduced to my palate. To find upon the initial tasting that it was served cold was also a bit of a shock to my naive taste buds.

Potatoes and leeks seems simple right? Well, this soup requires



Viscyssoise

Ingredients

- 3 leeks, bulbs only, cleaned and sliced into rings
- 5 medium potatoes, 2"-3" in diameter, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 sliced onion
- 1 tbsp. butter
- salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ tsp. dried thyme
- ½ tsp. dried marjoram
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 cups chicken stock
- ¼ cup heavy whipping cream.

Directions:

In a large stock pot, melt butter over low heat, add leeks and onions, cover, and cook for about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, season with salt and pepper, and add marjoram, thyme, and bay leaf. Stir well, cover, and cook for an additional 12 minutes.

Add the chicken stock, bring to a boil, reduce heat, and partially cover, cooking for an additional 30 minutes. Pour soup into a blender or food processor, and let cool. Prior to serving, add in the heavy cream.

While traditionally this soup is served cold, it can be served warm. It would need to be reheated slowly so the cream does not change the consistency of the soup. Ladle into bowls and serve. Yields four servings.

Bringing Elvis to Alpine



It was an exciting night of nostalgic rockabilly tunes on Feb. 10 as Elvis cover act Bryon Garrison, Alpine's own Anthony Ray Wright, and Dave Johnson presented "Just Like Elvis." The concert, a fundraiser the Alpine FFA, was held at the Alpine ISD Administration Building Auditorium, and the group played to an enthusiastic crowd.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

Marathon Chamber meeting

BY SHAWNA GRAVES
Contributing Writer

Marathon Chamber of Commerce met for its quarterly membership meeting on Feb. 9 on the outdoor patio of Rita's Cantina in Marathon.

Marathon Motel and RV Park provided patio heaters and refreshments, and French Co. Grocer prepared a dinner menu.

The turnout for chamber meetings is consistently strong for the town of approximately 400 people. Over 30 people attended.

Marathon ISD Superintendent Pete Price provided a school update. MISD employs 12 teachers with a student body of 57. "Things have gotten easier after a tough year dealing with distance learning," Price said. He invited community members to stop by anytime. He said the district currently had a roster of two substitute teachers, and could use a few more to call on if anyone was interested in taking on that role.

Chamber member Liz Quinby was recognized for her outstanding volunteer work in designing the new chamber rack card. The card lists business and lodging



Danny Self speaks about dark skies in Marathon.

Photo by Shawna Graves

information and will be distributed regionally by L&L Distribution, a Terlingua-based company, and mailed to travel centers across the state.

New officers were named. Linda Beranek, owner of a nightly rental the Blas Payne, was named president for a third year. Sam Stahinova, owner of French Co. Grocer, joined the chamber as vice president. Kim Cline, of nightly rental 8th Street Rock House, was named Treasurer, and Ingrid Murphy secretary, both for their third year. Gage general manager Carol Peterson and realtor Kim Collins stayed as general board members.

A new Dark Skies Committee Chair position was filled by Danny Self, owner of Marathon Sky Park and Marathon

An image taken from the Marathon Sky Park observatory by astrophotographer Matt Harbison was featured as the Jan. 11 NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day.

Marathon Motel and RV Park hosts star parties on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, weather permitting.

Self, who took over the Motel in 2000, said tourism interests have shifted.

"Times are changing. They'll go to Big Bend during the day, but they're here to see the dark skies," he said.

The chamber board is considering the role of a new social media contractor and interested parties should inquire at VisitMarathonTexas@gmail.com.

The next quarterly membership meeting will be scheduled for early summer, and announced on the Marathon community Facebook page. For more information about the chamber and to see their updated website, visit MarathonTexas.com.

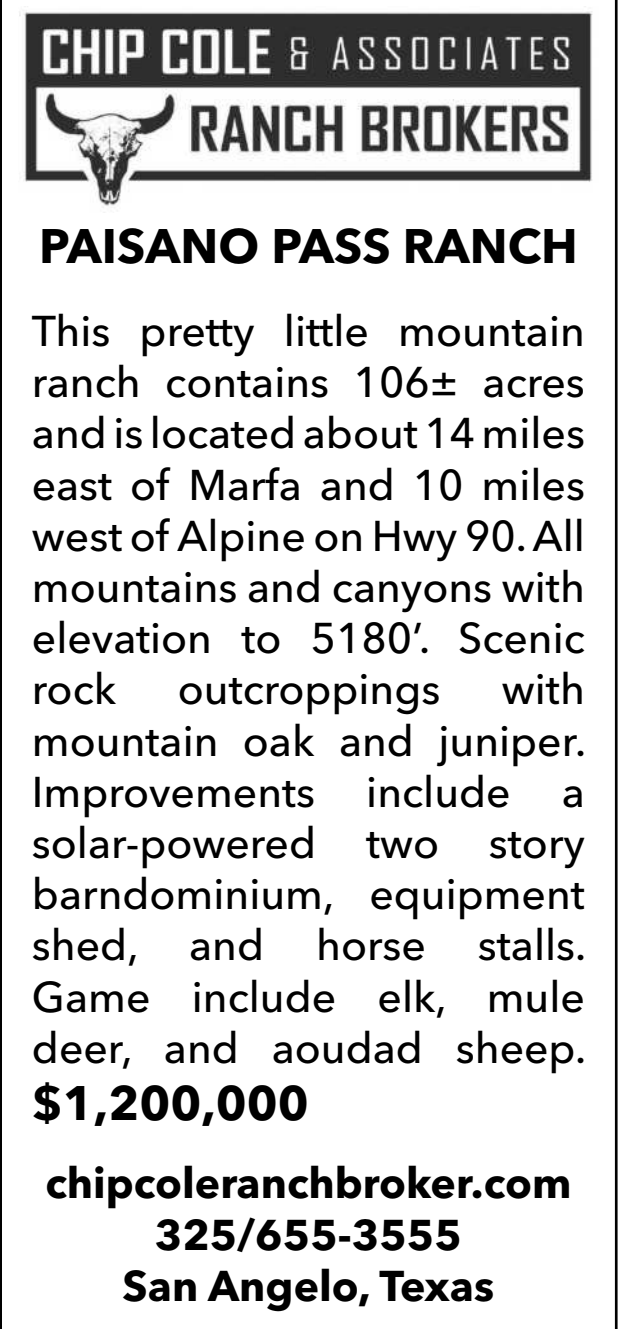


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LADY BUCKS • FROM 6

14. A big and rowdy student section showed up for the Lady Bucks in Monahans.

Chloe Cordova scored the first bucket for the girls. The first quarter ended 11-7, Denver City. Cordova's bucket along with five strikes from the charity stripe were all Alpine could muster. Denver City was averaging 38 points a game, with Alpine averaging 58.

Novah Carrasco scored the first points for both teams in the second quarter on a layup after a steal,

11-9 Fillies. She then hit a floater to tie the game at 11. Alexis Rodriguez hits from the elbow. Novah Carrasco went coast to coast, and the Lady Bucks took a 19-18 lead into the half. Carrasco had seven points, and Cordova had six.

The third quarter was all Fillies. They broke out to a 41-25 lead at one time scoring, 12 straight points. Rodriguez banked in her fifth and sixth points of the night as time expired in the third. Amory Aranda cut the game to

seven points at 41-34. Ali Maroney scored with two minutes and 20 seconds to cut the lead back to eight. But there was nothing the girls could do. Denver City would defeat Alpine for the second time this season.

The Lady Bucks will lose seniors Cordova, Jenica Portillo and Aranda. Next year Coach Rick Garcia will welcome back Carrasco, Jasmine DeLeon who was sidelined by injury halfway through the season, and junior-to-be Ali Maroney.

GOLF • FROM 6

broken on a scorecard playoff with Foster winning.

Jared Smith shot 119, Zach Wash shot 109, and Turtle Basibuyuk closed the day with a 123.

It was a good showing for both teams, and they

see more of what they need to work on to improve their scores.

The next tournament is in Fort Stockton on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-19.

Said Foster, "It was a good first tournament, and it's good to be back on the

links. The teams are getting better with each practice."

Foster also alluded to the fact two of their better players will be returning when Jace Canaba and Aiden Morrissey finish basketball.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Lourdes Acosta

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

Prom and Graduation

What activities are you involved in during your senior year?

I participate in cheer, play clarinet with the band, student advisory council, National Honor Society, and I do graphic design.

Who has been your most influential teacher or coach through high



Lourdes Acosta

school?

Mrs. Fellows is probably the most influential coach for me throughout

high school so far.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

Being a part of the high school school groundbreaking with the school board was fun and I also love the late night football games.

What are your plans after high school?

Attending college and hopefully make it into medical school.

The Senior Spotlight is graciously sponsored by

Devotional Page

More than cards

BY REV. STEPHEN WHITE

First United Methodist Church, Alpine and Marfa

This is the week we celebrate love. Hallmark and the chocolate companies encourage us. Florists reap the profits of our national obsession. And some among us pull up 1 Corinthians chapter 13, reminding us that love is patient and kind.

But the love in that chapter is not romance and candlelit dinners. It is more than the love of any two individuals. 1 Corinthians speaks of a power granted to a community of faith. Love is a force, not a feeling. Love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor 13:7)

The world needs us to love. Through love we support food pantries and aid organizations. It holds families together in trials and grief. It may even make us look for a little bit of something worthwhile in those opposing us.

We have said for decades that we need love, but if anything, we have less. In the public discourse of news channels and social media, we can't bear anything. We can't believe what they said. We have replaced hope with stubbornness, and we

can't endure it any longer. But remember how 1 Corinthians 13 ends.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor 13:11-13)

It's no wonder we get it wrong. We are looking in a mirror. Our perception is off. We get it wrong. But we can have faith that our sight will clear. We can hope for that day face-to-face. Until then we have the greatest force with us and within us - love. It is always with us, we just need to try. Like the old song by the Youngbloods:

"You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command
Come on, people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now."
Are we trying?

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FOR RENT/LEASE

back patio, one car garage, stove and frig furnished. NO PETS ALLOWED. Available after February 15. 432-364-0500 or 432-294-1480 or np@bigbend.net

HELP WANTED

Action Heating and Cooling is looking for full time employee to train in HVAC. Employee will have ability to become fully licensed. We also do small Construction projects in-house. If you have construction knowledge or hvac that is a plus. Must be able to float between the two. Must have current Drivers License. Pay based upon experience. Call 432-386-0275 .

We are seeking mechanics or mechanic assistants for Alpine Diesel Services. We're looking for reliable CDL drivers to join our team at Trails End Logistics. Please call or come into our office to apply today! (432) 244-4490.

HELP WANTED

Holiday Inn Express is seeking dedicated employees to fill front desk, night audit, and housekeeping positions. Please apply in person at 2004 East Highway 90.

Seeking a full-time experienced bookkeeper for our Alpine office. Must be proficient in payroll tax reporting, sales tax reporting and QuickBooks, Excel and the current version of Microsoft Office applications. High attention to detail and organization skills required. Excellent customer service and phone skills. Salary \$36K + and health insurance. For a complete job description call 432-837-3371 Send resume and references to melanie.pace@pace.cpa or mail to P O Box 809, Alpine, TX 79831.

Silvas Construcción-Solicita, trabajadores para construccion en condados Brewster, Jeff Davis, y Presidio. 470-528-4241.

HELP WANTED

Seeking workers for construction in Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties. 470-528-4241.

The Chinati Foundation Seeks applicants for paid adobe apprenticeships. March 21-April 29, 2022 Earn \$15 per hour while making and learning about all things adobe. This apprenticeship opportunity is for women from the Tri-Counties. For additional information and to apply: Contact Sandra Hinojos at 432 606 1918, workshop@chinati.org, or visit us at www.chinati.org/apprenticeships

La Fundación Chinati Busca candidatas para el aprendizaje remunerado de adobe. 21 marzo - 29 abril, 2022 Gane 15\$ por hora mientras hace y aprende todo lo relacionado con el adobe. Esta oportunidad de aprendizaje es para mujeres de la zona de los tres

HELP WANTED

condados PARA MÁS INFORMACION Y PARA PRESENTARSE: Póngase en contacto con Sandra Hinojos al 432 606 1918 workshop@chinati.org o visítenos en www.chinati.org/apprenticeships Marfa Meats Packing & Fabrication - Packaging of meat, production of hamburger, packing orders, and other support to the butchery staff. 432-272-8222 or info@marfameats.com \$15/hour.

Automotive technician needed - Experienced automotive technician. Call 432-837-3914 for interview. Powers Automotive.

Caregiver needed to assist sweet, elderly gentleman, Friday mornings through Sunday evenings, in South Double Diamond, Alpine. Must be compassionate, dependable, Covid-safe, and have a reliable vehicle. Email snookhel@gmail.com or call 432-364-2324 (landline).

WANT TO BUY:

I buy cast iron skillets please text or call 512-963-7533

BUSINESS FOR SALE:

Well established, (over 20 years) profitable, and growing business for sale. The Davis Mountains Nut Company in Fort Davis is for sale. This includes main street property, active web site, and loyal clientele. Inquires can be made at 432-426-2101 ask for Gus

GARAGE SALE:

Moving/Living Estate Sale- Friday & Saturday, Feb 18 & 19. 9 AM to 4 PM. Household, books, tools, art, records, cassettes, furniture, refrigerator, and more. 104 Comanche Trail (in Limpia Crossing), Fort Davis.



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Now hiring multiple positions within both Alpine and Fort Davis Locations. Flexible Hours and School Schedule. Please apply at any of our locations in person.

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No super singles, agriculture or machinery tires.
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Alpine Wine is Hiring!



Alpine Wine

Alpine Wine is an exciting new wine bar and restaurant in downtown Alpine, and we'll be opening our doors in just a few weeks. We'll offer wine tastings and wine by the glass and bottle, charcuterie and cheese boards, and more.

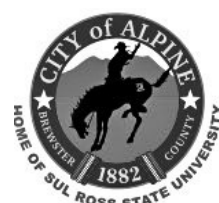
Wine knowledge isn't as necessary as a willingness to learn, a great attitude, and a friendly disposition.

Fulltime benefits include PTO, 401K, vision and dental, TABC and Food Handler Certification reimbursement, and more.

Excellent pay for all positions. Need Wine Stewards, Servers, Dishwashers, Bussers, Hosts, Runners.

STARTING SOON.

Send us your information from our website - www.alpinewine.com - and we'll give you a call!



THE CITY OF ALPINE IS HIRING!

FOR A LIST OF OPEN POSITIONS VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CITYOFALPINE.COM/EMPLOYMENT.

Look Who's Hiring?

GAGE HOTEL

Find great job opportunities with us.

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- KITCHEN STAFF
- LINE COOK
- HOUSEKEEPING



Please stop by and pick up applications at the Gage Hotel • Front Desk Marathon TX



Village farms

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Shipping/Receiving Clerk with **NEW PAY RATE OF \$15.00 per hour to start.** Opportunity to earn \$16.00/per hour upon competent completion of training. Fast Track to Management

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties. Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred. Opportunity to move to Supervisor level and pay within the first 6 months of employment. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Interested candidates should email or fax resume to **(432)729-3071 Ext. 607** or texashr@villagefarms.com, applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.



• HOUSEKEEPING



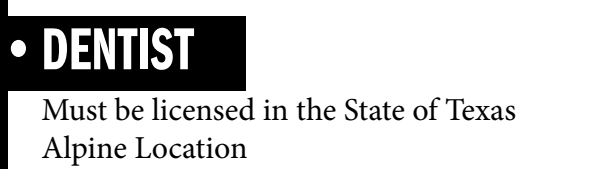
• MEDICAL DOCTOR



• FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER



• FULL TIME- NURSE SUPERVISOR



• DENTIST

Must be licensed in the State of Texas Alpine Location



• PART TIME - DENTAL HYGIENIST, Alpine Location



• PART TIME- CALL CENTER, OPERATOR

Applications maybe picked up at **1605 N. Ft. Davis Hwy.** Please call us before arrival **432-837-4812**



PREVENTATIVE CARE HEALTH SERVICES

For info, please call **432-837-4812** Applications can be picked up at **our locations or online at: pchsmedclinic.org**



Do you enjoy working in the great outdoors? Does your dream job include being able to look at the beautiful mountains surrounding Alpine everyday? Then we may have the perfect job opportunity for you!

The CITY OF ALPINE has an immediate need for full-time and part-time WATER METER READERS

This is a semi-skilled and specialized field work in reading and maintaining residential water meters and related work as required. This position requires driving a Kubota utility vehicle, walking 3-5 miles per day, lifting up to 50 pound meter coverings, kneeling, crouching, and working outside under various weather conditions, as well as impromptu introductions to the local canine, insect and reptile populations that frequent the meter boxes.

Qualified candidates must have a valid driver's license and a high school diploma/GED. The starting pay is \$13.50/hour.

If interested, please visit https://www.cityofalpine.com/residents/employment/employment_opportunities.php and apply for the Worker I/Meter Reader opening.



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An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a P&C (Protection & Control) Technician

to be located in Alpine, Texas. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements:

- Technical Associate Degree in Electrical/Electronics technology.
- Previous work experience in the installation and maintenance of electronic equipment and controls preferred.
- Computer training and/or experience.
- Must be able to complete P&C Technician and Station Electrician in-house certification training.
- Frequent travel with overnight trips and some 24-hour On-Call duties.
- Must live within 45 minutes of the job location.

Qualified applicants must apply at www.aep.com/careers.

AEP-TEXAS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.



An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a Station Servicer position to be located in Alpine, Texas. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements:

Minimum Requirements:

Thorough working knowledge and understanding of the principles of electricity, and the construction, maintenance, operation and function of station equipment and related standards. Perform all types of work involved in the installation, maintenance, operation, inspection, repair and removal of station-related equipment. Respond to emergency call-outs on station trouble and coordinate prompt restoration of service to customers as required.

Education Requirements:

Associate degree in electrical/mechanical/industrial maintenance technology or equivalent education and/or experience. Equivalent education and experience is limited to military training and work experience of technical/technician nature (such as aviation and nuclear instrumentation technician); or recent experience (within last 6 months) as a Station Electrician or equivalent job title with another utility or contractor. Experience: No previous work experience required for an entry level position.

Qualified applicants must apply at www.aep.com/careers.

AEP-TEXAS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.



An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

AEP-Texas is actively seeking a Technician position to be located in Alpine, Texas. Applicants must possess the following minimum requirements:

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTION

Responsible for performing intermediate level technical work and related activities associated with the planning, engineering, design, analysis, research, development, testing, construction, maintenance, and operation of Company equipment and facilities.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Associate Degree in Electrical/Electronic/Civil/Mechanical Engineering Technology or related fields plus 2 years of related utility industry work experience; or a high school diploma or equivalent and 4 years of related utility industry work experience.

Qualified applicants must apply at www.aep.com/careers.

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TransPecos Banks continues to grow and needs additional hard working, dedicated employees to fill the following positions. All positions require a high school diploma or GED. Credit and background checks will be performed.

UNIVERSAL TELLERS - We are hiring part time tellers for our Alpine and Marathon locations. Must be customer friendly, and able to work quickly and accurately with numbers. Experience a plus.

Compensation based on related experience.

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Alpine Avalanche



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10 p.m.-7 a.m. Monday-Wednesday/
Thursday

Front Desk Clerk, Part time,
evenings/weekends, 2-10 p.m.

Gift Shop Clerk, Part-time,
retail experience required, hours TBD

Housekeeping, Part-time

Maintenance, Handyman
skills/experience required

Applications available at the front desk

or email:

manager.hotelpaisano@gmail.com

for an online application.

References required.

JETT'S GRILL

AT THE HOTEL PAISANO
is accepting applications for the following FOH positions:

Servers, will train

Bartenders, experience preferred.

Applications available on property or email

jettsgillrestaurant@gmail.com

Wren retires from McDonald Observatory

After more than three decades of sharing astronomy with the public and working to protect dark skies from light pollution, Bill Wren has retired from McDonald Observatory.

"Bill Wren has had a strong, positive impact on McDonald Observatory over his career, focused on dark skies preservation, but also including public outreach and new telescope development," said Taft Armandroff, Director of McDonald Observatory. "The skies over McDonald Observatory are among the darkest of any professional observatory in the U.S., in no small measure thanks to Bill Wren."

In recent years, Wren had worked as special assistant to the superintendent, focusing on preserving the dark skies over McDonald Observatory and surrounding areas. Dubbed the "Angel of Darkness" by the media, Wren has met with countless community groups and local officials to advocate for dark skies.

As fossil fuel exploration in the Permian Basin expanded significantly, Wren also has worked closely with oil and gas companies in West Texas to advocate for improved lighting practices at their facilities.

Self-taught in astronomy, in the 1970s and 1980s Wren worked as a family counselor, helping to found a Youth and Family Resource Center in Austin. After becoming an astronomy tutor as well as auditing astronomy courses at UT-Austin, Wren was hired in 1990 to lead tours and work in other public programs at McDonald, including star parties.

During his early years at the observatory, then-Superintendent Ed Barker asked Wren to attend the first meeting of a new organization called the International Dark Sky Association. Today IDA is



Bill Wren

the leading organization promoting the protection of dark skies worldwide.

According to current Superintendent Teznie Pugh, "As the 2020 global pandemic surged, Bill shifted his focus and provided the founding efforts towards establishing an IDA-certified Dark Sky Reserve in the region surrounding McDonald Observatory. He brought together support from state and national parks, conservation groups, government officials, private citizens, and industry leaders across the region in an effort to meet IDA criteria."

Over his 32 years on staff, Wren has fulfilled many other roles at McDonald in addition to promoting dark skies. In particular, he has contributed significantly to building and commissioning telescopes on site, both for scientists and for the public.

Currently in the process of relocating to Cloudfcroft, N.M., Wren said he plans to stay active in astronomy during retirement.

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www.alpineavalanche.com

THEN CLICK

+ Place your ad



Alpine Wine is Hiring Pantry Chefs and Cooks

We're serving more than wine – we're serving food too! We're looking for creative and passionate Pantry Chefs and Cooks to run our kitchen. Our food offerings will consist of Charcuterie and Cheese Boards as well as other specialty items made from scratch with recipes created in-house.

Degrees and certifications are not required. What we do require are:

- Background developing menu ideas and sourcing farm-to-table and fresh food items
- Desire and experience working independently within a cold-food kitchen
- Experience with ordering, stocking, and receiving product, organizing storage areas, maintaining costs, etc.
- Flexible schedule

We have both parttime and fulltime positions available, and all our fulltime employees are eligible for PTO, insurance, 401K, and more. We also offer very competitive pay for all positions.

Call us to schedule an interview – (432) 837-7028 – or send us your information through our website at alpinewine.com/jobs.



AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Commercial Sales Associate

If you are looking to start a new and exciting career, have strong communication skills and enjoy the challenge of meeting and exceeding your income goals, Big Bend Telephone is the perfect place to start. The ideal candidate will generate business with customers/prospects and propose exceptional technology solutions to enhance business operations and solve issues. Training, using leading edge sales tools and tactics to promote and sell BBT products and services, will be provided. Responsibilities and qualifications are as follows but not limited to:

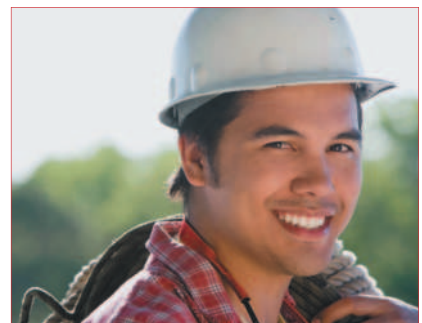


- Develop new accounts by researching and identifying potential leads, soliciting new business, building connections, providing technical information and advice, and preparing quotes
- Drive continued sales by checking established accounts and suggesting new and related products and explain and provide basic training on products and technical features
- Stay informed 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).

Construction Technician

Great opportunity for an Individual who enjoys working outdoors. Previous telecom work experience would also be a plus. Individual should expect physically demanding assignments as well as an 80 lb. lifting requirement. Candidates will need to possess basic computer skills. Also, candidates may be required to work overtime and/or weekends and holidays as needed. Individual must have CDL license, or be able to obtain one within 90 days of employment. There is a \$1,000 signing bonus for new hires (terms and conditions apply).



Technology Service Associate



A career opportunity is available in the Big Bend area. BBT is looking for a Technology Service Associate to provide excellent customer service with advanced technology while living and working in the Terlingua/Lajitas area. The job entails networking comprehension, Wi-Fi services, installation and troubleshooting of fixed wireless, fiber optics, copper, and satellite platforms. In this ever changing industry,

applicant must be able to adapt to change and make decisions based on established procedures. Must possess and utilize good customer service skills along with being able to work in the desert outdoors. Position requirements are minimum High School Diploma or GED equivalent with 2 years of experience in a related field. Applicants must possess a valid driver license, have a good driving record and be insurable under the Company's insurance policy. Being technically inclined would be ideal for this position. There is a \$1,000 signing bonus for new hires (terms and conditions apply) and long-term career potential for the right applicant.

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

For more information we invite you to visit

<http://www.bigbend.net/employment/>

Please mail your application or resume to BBT, Attn: HR, 808 N. 5th St., Alpine, TX 79830

Or email resume to: HR@bigbend.com

Please no phone calls.

EOE

BBT participates in E-Verify and promotes a Drug-Free Workplace.