

Early voting ends tomorrow

Election Day comes on Tuesday

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH
Managing Editor

Early voting for the March 1 Republican and Democratic primary elections will continue through Friday.

All registered voters in all Brewster County precincts may cast their ballots early at the Judge Val Clark Beard Complex, 203 North Seventh Street in Alpine. On Thursday and Friday, Feb. 24-25, polls there will be open from from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

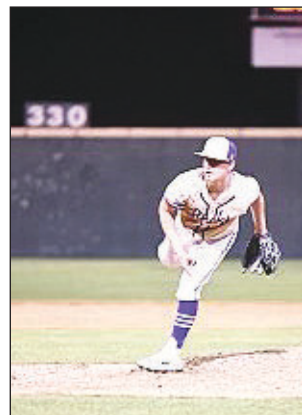
Remote early voting has ended.

On election day, Tuesday, March 1, voters must cast their ballots at the precinct in which they are registered.

Those in Pct. 1 will vote at the Brewster County Sunny Glen Cooperative Building, 2209

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2022.0.06"
February0.04"



Burn Ban ON

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



County jail dealing with smuggling arrests, bed shortage

New 911 program will speed up response

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH
Managing Editor



Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson and his staff have been busy with human smuggling arrests.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson and his crew have been arresting human smugglers at a record pace, and with the jail overflowing, federal prisoners are now being turned away.

Dodson said the Texas Legislature enacted a law that directed sheriffs to arrest smugglers even if the smugglers received no monetary gain from their actions. The

law has increased the Sheriff's Office arrest rates dramatically.

These arrests are categorized as state prisoners, and must be housed in the county jail.

"We make money off our federal prisoners," said Dodson. "We can't bring in as many federal prisoners now because we're full of state prisoners, and we get paid no money for state prisoners."

The jail's 54-bed capacity

falls far short of the county's needs, but Dodson doesn't anticipate a new jail in the foreseeable future because of public resistance. He added that years down the road, the county would be forced to construct a jail because the current one would eventually fall far short of standards.

Along those lines, the property behind the jail was

See SHERIFF • 6

Baseball opens at home



Fightin' Buck pitcher Jeremy Dominguez takes a second to discuss the pitch with his catcher Iden Lujan at Alpine's home opener Monday against Pecos. The Bucks lost the game, 10-1.

Photo by Crystal Lujan

New wine bar to open in Alpine

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

A new Alpine wine bar will be ready to pour just in time for the spring break crowds, and this will not just be another place to grab a drink.

Alpine Wine will feature a unique array of fine wines from all over the world in a chic downtown location. The wine bistro was brought to life by Tom and Sharon Kelner, who also own an historical boutique bed and breakfast in Alpine.

"We have traveled

a bit, and we liked to go to Fredericksburg before we moved out here," said Tom, pointing out the variety of wine bistros there and in Austin which brought forth the idea. Sharon added "We also found out there was a need for food and drink service in the afternoons and on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays when a lot of the places are closed. We are not trying to compete with the restaurants, but there is definitely a need for a place for people to go during these times."

Alpine Wine will fea-



Tom and Sharon Kelner stand outside Alpine Wine.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill.

ture unique wine tastings so guests can sample a wide variety, from sweet to dry and bubbly, and more. Besides the en-

joyment of trying a new wine, guests can enjoy a charcuterie or a cheese board. Pantry chefs will prepare an array of cold

cuts, and no hot food will be served. The fresh

See WINE • 6

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OBITUARIES

Gilbert Dawson Prather
Gil Prather passed away peacefully Feb. 3, 2022, surrounded by his four children and close friends Rooster and Butch. He was born July 12, 1940.

Gil succumbed to the effects of an adventurous lifestyle and hard living that finally overtook a body that had been used to its fullest. Joy was found in his final days as Facebook exploded with memories and messages of love from those prematurely thinking he had passed. He essentially was able to attend his own funeral.

Gil was a fourth generation Texan, born in Abilene, Texas, to Berylgene Dawson Prather and Lawrence Anthony “Bud” Prather. His ancestors followed the open range. As with any young man destined to be a cowboy, rodeo became a large part of his life. Bull riding was his love, gaining him a wealth of stories and scars to prove it.

The Rio Grande soon

came calling as rodeo and family ranching interests led him to Alpine, Texas. He attended Sul Ross State College until the lure of music enticed him to the world of cowboy/Western songwriting and singing.

“Day work cowboyin’ paid \$6 per day for a 12-14 hour day. Hell, a feller could make \$8 a night pickin’ and singin’ in the roughneck joints in Odessa, Texas. I thought I’d found the end of the rainbow,” Gil said.

His music career was born, but cowboyin’ stayed in his heart forever.

He covered a lot of ground from then to now. Much time was spent in Nashville, Tenn., writing and recording songs. Along with his music and cowboy careers, Gil spent time as an insurance salesman, a car salesman, a junker, a race horse owner, a gambler, an aficionado of wine, spirits, and beer, the Jose Brother “Jos-B,” a construction company owner, a home builder, a rancher,

a professional fisherman, a fishing guide, the promotional voice for Joe’s Boot Shop in Muleshoe, Texas, an unsuccessful day trader, a horse smuggler (if the song Seven Days from Musquiz is accurate), and an entrepreneur of several businesses before settling back into music and acting.

God always opened new doors for Gil, with wild adventures leading to new friendships and life changing events. Music had slipped to the back-burner for quite a few years before the creative juices were reignited by a wild cattle gathering at Black Gap. The Rio Grande Sand always inspired him to be creative, and when a friendship grew with Rooster McConaughy and Butch Gilliam in Black Gap, the final chapter took life.

Gil’s acting career moved to the TV show West Texas Investors Club, and continued on into several small roles in films including the cook Milo from Wild Hors-

es. His rekindled passion for music led to collaborations with long time friends to produce a few new albums with the song “Beautiful Darling” being honored by the Academy of Western Artists as the 2019 Song of the Year. This follows his 1996 Song of the Year honor awarded for “I’ll Be Back in Texas by the Fall.”

While never accused of being a family man, Gil loved his family, friends, and everyone in between. Beautiful Darling was written for his wife Camilla Elizabeth Prather, probably to get him out of trouble. His marriage lasted almost 30 years and blessed him with four children.

He is survived by Tolbert Y. Prather, wife Audrey; Gilbert G. Prather, wife Melinda; T. Cody Prather, wife Sara; Camilla M. Pergrem, husband Jeff; a wealth of grand children and great grand children; his brother Wilbur; nieces and nephews; adopted musicians; inherited step

grand children; a pet rattlesnake (but we can’t find it in his house); and every young musician he has ever influenced.

Gil was always full of surprises. From being the life of the party, the start of the party, or the one requiring a police response, Gil softened in his later years, drawing nearer to the Lord. One of his most cherished final albums was “The Gospel According to Gil.” honoring God with the talents blessed to him. The gift of salvation was accepted by Gil before his passing, and remains the greatest gift he left all of us as we know we shall see him again.

Gil Prather will never truly die as long we keep

his music alive. Soon Gil will be as Willie the Wander dancing down dusty roads. Celebration of Life will be Saturday, April 2, 2022, in Terlingua, Texas. Come celebrate at the High Sierra Bar and Grill for a memorial service at 1 p.m., and stay as long as you’d like. Music and tributes will likely last long into the night. Sunday morning will be a gospel music session at a time to be determined.

“We come, we do, and we go.” - Gil Prather

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged in Gil’s honor to further the music he loved so much, Cowtown Society of Western Swing, 3709 East Highway 67, Cleburne, TX 76031.

George Austin Jones
On Feb. 7, 2022, George Austin Jones, 92, left this earth and his worn out body to be with Jesus and his new heavenly perfect eternal body. He was born Oct. 9, 1929 in Balmorhea, Texas, to Henry Austin and Margaret Winifred Davis Jones.

George married Barbara Rea Fortson of Fort Stockton, Texas, on Aug. 1, 1952. They have two children, Jerry, married to Cindy Kerby, and Jim, married to Kimberly Evans.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Samuel, Henry, and John; and sisters Billie, Anneta Heinen, and Joan Cockerell.

He is survived by his wife “Babs” of 70 years,



their children Jerry and Cindy, and Jim and Kimberly; grandchildren Andrew, Derek, Zachary, Tyler, and Kendall; great grandchildren Austin, Parker, Caleb, Jackson, Kyle, and Witten Asher; and nieces and nephews.

After a tour in the U.S. Navy, George was a farmer near Van Horn, Texas. Turning to a career in law enforcement, he started as city marshall of Van Horn, then chief deputy sheriff in Culberson County.

He later served as a police officer for the City of Midland, Texas. He followed up as chief deputy in Brewster County, Alpine, Texas, before leaving to serve as a narcotics officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety. George was also elected and served as sheriff of Brewster County, living in Alpine for many years.

Other adventures included owner and operator of the Study Butte store near Big Bend National Park, plus foreman for several ranches in Brewster County. He was a successful photographer and businessman, a grand master in the Masons, an avid fisherman, and all around outdoorsman. George and Barbara spent many years RV-

ing all over the country, then settling down in San Angelo, Texas, to be with their sons and their families.

Overall, George had a rich and rewarding life with family being the center of his life. He left a legacy of service through his Navy and law enforcement career.

The family wishes to extend heart felt thanks and support to Hospice of San Angelo for walking the family through the final days with George, and the support and service of Johnson’s Funeral Home here in San Angelo.

Thank you Lord for this man that led and loved and believed in God and family. Thank you, Jesus!

Lorenzo “Lencho” Martinez
Lorenzo “Lencho” Martinez was born in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, on Dec. 15, 1936. He was raised on a ranch in Bosque Bonito, Chihuahua.

Lorenzo was a ranch foreman at Altuda Ranch in Alpine, Texas, from 1980-2021. He passed away on Feb. 19, 2022, at the age of 85 in his home in Fort Davis, Texas. Lorenzo is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gloria Hernandez de Martinez.

He was preceded in



death by his parents Felipe Martinez and Catalina Mendoza; and brothers Ramon Martinez and Epolito Martinez.

He is survived by his brothers Felipe Martinez of Van Horn, Texas, and Juan Martinez of Jalisco, N.M.; sister Josefi-

na Martinez Sanchez of Dexter, N.M.; and many nieces and nephews whom he saw as his own children.

Lorenzo’s life passion was working on Altuda Ranch where he spent many faithful years running the ranch, and as a loyal and loved part of the ranching operations and Seale/Freeland family. He shared many years of friendship, dedication, and love of the land with them. On his last day on earth, he spoke about seeing Altuda one last time.

Visitation was on Feb. 23, 2022, at Davis Mountain Funeral Hall in Fort Davis.

A funeral will take place Thursday, Feb. 24, at 10 a.m. at Davis Mountain Funeral Hall, 43430 Highway 17 south in Fort Davis. Burial will follow at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Fort Davis.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at mmofortexas.com and Facebook.

Services were entrusted to Mobile Mortician of Texas.

Bruce Allen Travis
Bruce Allen Travis, 59, passed away peacefully in his sleep Feb. 18, 2022, in Waxahachie, Texas, with his loyal companion Nala by his side.

He was raised in Bolivar, Mo., and lived in Glen Rose, Texas, with the love of his life Venus (Snedecor) Travis. He enjoyed playing the guitar, cruising, and traveling the country with his wife as a trav-



eling emergency room nurse.

Bruce was preceded in death by his grandparents and many other

family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife Venus of Glen Rose; two children, Adam Travis and wife Charity of Lubbock, Texas, and Elizabeth Travis and wife Dava of Point Mugu, Calif.; parents Burla, Jr., and Anita Travis of Bolivar; three step-children, Rachel, Beau, and Shyla McGraw; two siblings, Burla Travis III and wife Diana of Billings, Mo., and Ber-

nita Harris and husband Victor of Magnolia, Texas; six grandchildren, Stephanie, Gavin, Evelyn, Dawson, Ian, and Gavinall whom he loved very much; and multiple nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who all loved him dearly.

Memorial services are pending for May 14, 2022, in the Bolivar area, with more information to follow.

Until we meet again...

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Alpine ISD discusses band trip, new director

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 16, and a new band director, ongoing construction delays, and searching for a new superintendent drove the discussions.

Interim Superintendent Dennis McEntire provided trustees with an update on changes to a proposed high school band bus trip in June. At a board meeting in November 2021, former band director Chuck Wilson had requested approval for a trip to Florida, and trustees approved, with a total price tag of around \$57,500.

However, McEntire strongly recommended that trustees back out of the Florida trip, and look at in-state options instead, saying the band could not afford it.

Secretary to the Superintendent Marsha Roach later told the Avalanche that outgoing band director Alan Perkins had moved up his resignation effective March 4. McEntire later told the Avalanche that Presidio musician Molly Rodriguez would fill in as band director for the rest of the year, but that would not be officially approved until a special board meeting on Feb. 28.



Molly Rodriguez, Presidio musician, will fill in as band director if officially approved at a special board meeting Feb. 28.

Courtesy

Frank Patton of Imperial Construction then provided an update, citing long lead times, material delays due to worldwide shipping issues, and labor issues due to COVID concerns as reasons for construction delays. He gave a proposed start date of May 30 for asbestos abatement for the old high school, but McEntire later told the

Avalanche that trustees agreed it was too close to the end of the school year, and the district needed more time to prepare for the demolition.

In other business, McEntire provided an update on a property value study. He said the state's assigned property values based on the Brewster County Appraisal District's numbers would cause the

district to lose funding. He later said Alpine ISD had filed an appeal to the appraisal district. "That's in the hands of the tax collection attorneys for Alpine ISD," said McEntire. "When we hear back from the appraisal district, then we will see how we stand."

Finally, McEntire said time was of the essence for trustees to conduct a search for a new superintendent, especially one with ties to West Texas.

"I think if you look at the Texas Association of School Boards and some of the regions, the problem is not that they are not good, it's more a matter of focusing on your community and what you need in your particular circumstances," said McEntire. "When we get smaller companies or people who are more into West Texas, you are going to get a better benefit."

Vice President Mary McCallister then recommended the board take no action, and the issue will be discussed further at a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. at the Alpine ISD Administration Building Board Room.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for Wednesday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the same location.

Dark Skies exhibit coming to Gallery on the Square

The show will be an exhibit of art that celebrates the Dark Sky Initiative. The exhibit is open to all artists who wish to participate. Both members of Big Bend Arts Council and non-members may enter art work at the gallery on or before Tuesday, March 1. For more details, contact Kathleen Griffith at tomkatranch@gmail.com.

The show will run from March 3-April 19, with a reception on Friday, March 18, from 5-8 p.m., and is open to the public.

Material will be provided at the gallery to inform and educate visitors to the Dark Sky Initiative, and how to assure outdoor lighting at the home is compliant with reducing light pollution. Although enjoying the beauty of star lit dark skies is a delight, there are other considerations to reducing light pollution. A night sky without artificial light is vital to the proper functioning of natural ecosystems.

During the reception, there will be demonstrations on how to determine if your outdoor lighting is shining downward and illuminating the ground. Visitors will observe how proper lighting actually provides more efficient illumination of the grounds around their home.

Gallery on the Square is located at 115 West Holland Avenue in Alpine. For additional information, call the Gallery at 432-837-7203 during business hours, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Wednesdays.

County approves border security grant resolutions

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 22, and state homeland and local border security program grant resolutions through the Office of Governor Greg Abbott were on the forefront of the discussions.

Commissioners approved a grant resolution for Operation Lone Star, State Homeland Security Program, and the Local Border Security Program.

Referring to the onslaught of illegal immigration affecting the county since his tenure, County Judge Eleazar Cano stated, "I know this topic has come up before, and I know that currently, because of all the added traffic up and down the river and in the country, we have to ship people off now."

nie Elmore announced that she recently attended a Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee conference in Austin with over 200 emergency management professionals from across the state. Elmore, who is also a member of the Emergency Management Association of Texas, was chosen to be on the committee's response team.

Elmore said that during the conference, she reviewed key aspects for local and state emergency management, as well as planning and ideas so that counties can implement plans. She will also be attending quarterly



Eleazar Cano

meetings in person and virtually to address those topics.

Cano then read a report sent over by Tourism Director Robert Alvarez, who was out. Alvarez was attending a conference in Houston which was discussing the ongoing issue of Air Bnb's and short-term rentals and tax collection issues that have been problematic for the counties. He hopes to bring back information to share with the county upon his return.

Finally, Cano announced that regarding emergency services, there would be a special commissioner's court meeting held on Friday, March 4, at 9:30 a.m.

in the commissioner's courtroom. Terlingua EMS Chief Greg Henington will preside at the meeting. Representatives from other local entities, mainly the City of Alpine and possibly Big Bend Regional Medical Center and Big Bend Regional Hospital District, may be present. The special meeting will include a proposal presented by Henington.

The next regularly scheduled commissioner's court meeting is set for Tuesday, March 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom.

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400# - 500# Heifers	168.00 to 189.50
500# - 600# Steers	174.00 to 196.00
500# - 600# Heifers	153.25 to 168.00
600# - 700# Steers	159.00 to 174.00
600# - 700# Heifers	150.00 to 153.25
700# - 800# Steers	151.00 to 159.00
700# - 800# Heifers	140.00 to 150.00
Packer Cows.....	80.00 to 89.00
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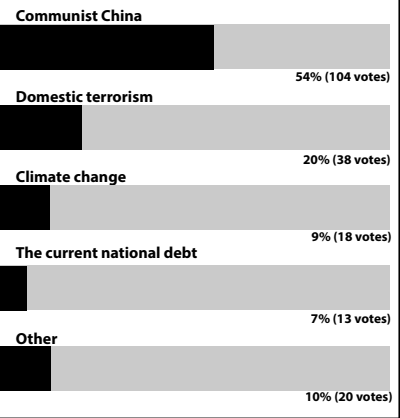
Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

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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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Have you seen my wallet?

I have a problem. I misplace my wallet – a lot.

In fact, if losing wallets was an Olympic sport, I'm pretty sure I'd be investigated for doping. And according to a 2018 survey by MoneyTips, I'm not alone, joining the 62% of survey respondents who said they had also lost their cash taco, or had it stolen.

I relapsed again recently on a Saturday morning road trip with my wife and some friends, trying to convince myself that I would enjoy attending a college basketball game more than sleeping until noon. We had stopped at a convenience store on the way to the game, and when I reached for my wallet to pay for a nutritious gas station breakfast, the flaccid denim of my back pocket told the sad, well-worn tale.

At that moment, I took my missing wallet in stride, assuming I had once again just forgotten to grab it at home – distracted by grief over my recent breakup with the cool



JASE GRAVES
Guest Columnist

on the kitchen counter, I panicked – almost as much as my three teenage daughters when I told them we might have to cancel the credit cards.

Despite my state of acute frustration, I carefully searched in all of the logical places, starting with the freezer and working my way to my wife's underwear drawer.

I even called all of businesses I'd visited that day, mostly Mexican food restaurants, to see if they had found a wallet with an empty and seldom-used bill compartment.

Eventually I just gave up, and figured that some disappointed thief was now re-

side of my pillow.

But when we returned that evening and the wallet was not in its usual place

evaluating his or her career choice.

My sweet mother reminded me to pray about my lost wallet, which I did – even though I assumed that the Almighty was probably rolling His eyes and trying not to laugh the whole time.

But, sure enough, my prayer was soon answered when, a couple of days later, my wife received a phone call at work from a Texas state trooper, who curtly asked if she knew a Jase Graves.

Terrible thoughts raced through her mind as she frantically wondered whether I had been in an accident – or arrested for public doofusness.

Apparently, the wallet had slipped out of my pocket, and fallen onto the running board of my SUV, finally making a desperate leap for its freedom and landing on the shoulder of the highway. (Imagine Morgan Freeman narrating that last sentence.)

The trooper had found the

wallet, my long-suffering credit cards, and an unusually large number of Mexican restaurant receipts when he stopped to move some debris out of the road.

Fortunately, I also keep my wife's business card in the wallet – in case I get lost when I go to Walmart.

Even though it's a relief to have my old wallet back, aggravating my sciatica and causing me to lean to the left when I sit, I think it's time for something new. My friends told me I should go buy a wallet with a chain, but I'm just not a chain kind of guy. Besides, with a chain wallet, I worry that I'd also be expected to get a neck tattoo – or be mistaken for that biker dude from the Village People.

I think the solution might be one of those newfangled wallets furnished with an Apple AirTag that you can track with your cellular device.

Now, if I could only find my iPhone.

Social insecurity

A quarter of a million dollars.

That's the amount that I've paid in FICA payroll taxes during my working career, according to my recent Social Security statement.

FICA, which stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, "is a payroll tax that helps fund both Social Security and Medicare programs, which provide benefits for retirees, the disabled and children," says the Social Security Administration.

The FICA tax also will partially fund - at least I hope it will - my retirement years.

My statement says I am eligible to begin receiving Social Security payments of \$1,851 a month when I hit age 62.

If I wait until I am 70, I'll receive \$3,370 a month - a nice little chunk of dough.

However, if I had invested the \$250,000 FICA deducted from my earnings on my own, I'd have, according to my money manager, more than \$1.5 million socked away.



TOM PURCELL
Guest Columnist

\$5,000 retirement check every month right away.

Of course, that is assuming I would have saved and invested all the money that FICA took from my weekly paychecks.

More likely, me knowing me, I would have blown most of it on nicer cars and more vacations.

Saving money for your future is hard, even for more disciplined people.

My parents raised six kids on one income, and had a lot of big bills along the way, so saving money for the future was not always possible.

They now rely on the Social Security payments they receive every month to help them cover their basic expenses.

If I drew a conservative 4% of that \$1.5 million every year, I'd be collecting a

Millions of elderly Americans are in the same precarious financial boat.

The Social Security Administration reports that about 40% of Americans 65 and older receive half of their retirement income from Social Security, and about 13% rely on it for 90% or more of their income.

It takes some of the sting out of the 15.3% FICA tax that is imposed on my self-employed earnings to know that my contributions are helping others get by in their old age.

But will Social Security be around to help me in my old age?

Social Security is now paying out more than it is taking in, and the funds working taxpayers contribute now go directly to Social Security recipients.

But what about the Social Security trust fund which saved trillions of the surplus tax contributions that had rolled in for years?

The partially good news is that it will not run out of money until 2034, at which

time Social Security payments will have to be reduced, taxes will have to be raised, or more money will have to be borrowed.

The bad news is that its funds were "invested" in government bonds, which the federal government happily spent on day-to-day budget expenses, such as foreign wars, food stamps, and the national debt.

As the great columnist Charles Krauthammer explained in 2011, the Social Security trust fund is filled not with money but with special-issue government IOUs that can only be repaid by raising taxes or borrowing even more money.

In any event, it's anybody's guess how much my monthly Social Security checks will be, so let me make the guys at the Social Security Administration an offer.

How about you give me back my 250 large in return for removing me from your rolls?

What do you say, SSA? Hello?

CONTACT 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

John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
202-224-2934

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



ALPINE AVALANCHE

Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, “Do you go to garage sales or estates sales?”



Sarah Sibley Klein,
Alpine: Yes, I love estate sales. I go all the time! I have some pink chairs in my office that I got in an estate sale two weekends ago.



Chris Valenzuela,
Alpine: I do go to garage sales. You never know what kind of treasures you'll find. I have many fond memories of waking up early on Saturday mornings to hit up the local garage sales with my mom and grandma.



Ireland Davis,
Alpine: Yes, sometimes. My friends who own Cheshire Cat do estate sales sometimes, and I go and chat with them.



Alicia Sanchez,
Marfa: I like to go to estate sales more because I love vintage items and you can usually find more of them in estate sales than garage. I'm not a great garage sale goer.



Sergio Gamboa,
Marfa/Presidio: Yes, I go more to garage sales when I see them. You never know what you are going to find there, and that is what is interesting about them.

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Lox, a handsome, friendly kitty. He is a domestic short-hair male black and brown tabby born in 2019. He is calm and likes treats and head scratches, but we think he will make your work for his love. He is smart and confident, and will respond well to positive training.

Although not a kitten any longer, he is curious and will circle the room to see what he finds interesting. He comes back to home base and settles in watching you as you go about your routine. Visit Alpine Animal Shelter to meet Lox.

Supporting the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store by donating or buying items helps our mission to improve the lives of area cats and



dogs. Stop by soon and visit The Cattery cats while you are there.

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.

Conservation Reserve Program signups for 2022

Agricultural producers and landowners can sign up soon for the Conservation Reserve Program, a cornerstone conservation program offered by the USDA, and a key tool in the Biden-Harris Administration's effort to address climate change and achieve other natural resource benefits. The general signup will run from Jan. 31-March 11, and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4-May 13.

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres in 2021, including 2.5 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are

currently 22.1 million acres enrolled, and FSA is aiming to reach the 25.5-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2022.

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.

Meanwhile, Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the

areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

Alongside these programs, producers and landowners can enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up, which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement.

To learn more, visit usda.gov.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

FEBRUARY 25
Travel Talk, 7 p.m. at Alpine Public Library in the AEP Community room, 805 W. Ave. E. Nina Foley will talk about her trek to the Historic Great Northern Railway back-country Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park.

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 trimmings, 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 Choral 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 bbc-chorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

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

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

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

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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 REGARDING THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF:

ORDINANCE 2022-02-01: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS; AMENDING ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL; AMENDING ARTICLE II – KEEPING ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR UPDATED REGULATIONS REGARDING THE RESTRAINT AND IMPOUNDMENT OF ANIMALS.

THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, MARCH 1, AT 5:30 P.M.** IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE ABOVE-REFERENCED ORDINANCE.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY BY EMAILING CITY_SECRETARY@CI.ALPINE.TX.US OR BY REQUESTING A COPY IN PERSON AT CITY HALL MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

VOTE!

★

Monty Kimball

★

For Brewster County Judge

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Conservative Republican


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1991 Texas Tech Law degree

Attorney, Business Owner, Rancher

Former Assistant US Attorney, Western District of Texas

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I am not looking for another career, I just want to make a difference. I ask for your vote.

Political ad paid for by Monty Kimball for Brewster Co. Judge, paid for by Monty Kimball

Spirits of the West wine and beef fest

Alpine’s Artwalk announced the first annual Spirits of the West Wine and Beef Fest on Friday through Sunday, May 27-29. Standing true to Artwalk’s mission, this new event will showcase signature beef bites from local beef companies to honor the area’s tradition

of cattle ranching. Hand-picked Texas wineries and distilleries will accompany to provide a homegrown pairing to highlight West Texas gourmet fares. Several local artists will participate in the celebration of this unique heritage.

The event will take place on Sixth Street between Holland Avenue and Avenue E. On Friday, May 27, there will be a VIP preview with limited availability from 5-9 p.m. to kick off the event. General admission will be on Saturday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

In addition to the evening festivities, Artwalk will host a Saturday 5k fun run at 8 a.m. Wristbands for the event and the 5k run can be purchased through Eventbrite. For more information visit spiritsoftwestfest.com.

Pitching in for the library



To celebrate National Library Lovers’ Month, the Woman’s Club of Alpine presented a \$150 check on Feb. 22 to Alpine Public Library and Director Don Wetterauer for the library’s needs. Next month, the club will present another check to the library in honor of Book Lovers’ Month. Presenting the check to Wetterauer are Alpine Woman’s Club members Gerri Davis, Amy Struthers, Melissa Bergstrom, Chloe Beecher, and Allison Vidal.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

ELECTION • FROM 1

West Highway 90 in Alpine. Pct. 2 will vote at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex. Pct. 3 will vote at Marathon Community Center, Second Street and Avenue E in Marathon. Pct. 4 will vote at Alpine Civic Center, 801 West Holland Avenue in Alpine, and those in Pct. 5 will vote at Panther

Junction Community Room in Big Bend National Park. Pcts. 6 and 7 will vote at the Red Patillo Community Center, Highway 118 in Study Butte/Terlingua. And finally, Pct. 8 voters will cast ballots at the Food Pantry of Alpine, 933 East Gallego Avenue in Alpine. There are currently

7,351 registered voters in Brewster County. After six days of early voting, 835 had cast ballots in person and 51 by mail, for a total of 886, or 12.05% of registered voters. 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 brewstercountytexas.com. Click on Elections Information, then on Official Sample Ballot for either Republican or Democratic.

WINE • FROM 1

menu items will vary every week to 10 days, and will include delicacies like smoked salmon dip and whipped feta with roasted strawberries. Wines will come from the U.S. and all over the world, including Italy, Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Australia, Argentina, and more. The wine bar will also provide meeting and gathering space, and the back room can accommodate a business meeting, a private tasting, or any type of social event.

Alpine Wine has received positive feedback from residents and visitors alike who are delighted to see a new wine bar in the area, and Sharon can barely contain her excitement. “It’s just been phenomenal,” she said. “People have said this is what Alpine needs!” Joining Alpine Wine will be General Manager Michael Wagner, the man in charge. Alpine Wine’s initial hours of operation will be noon-7 p.m. seven

days a week, but hours can be extended later, and reservations for the private room can vary outside of business hours. Alpine Wine’s soft opening will kick off on Tuesday, March 1, at 5:30 p.m., and will continue through the week. The Kelners are excited, and eagerly await their dream coming to fruition.

“One of the goals is to continue making Alpine a destination,” exclaimed Sharon. “It’s a place for tourism, and the downtown feel has art, wine, and places to eat and socialize, things people like to do. The more businesses that open, the more excitement is generated, and the more everybody wins.”

SHERIFF • FROM 1

originally targeted for expansion, but with an add on, the current jail would have to be brought up to the latest standards. “The dollar amount would be the same as building a new jail. It’s not worth the money,” said Dodson. The county makes \$65 a day housing federal prisoners, and can accommodate 40-45, but that isn’t possible right now. The jail today is housing 18 federal and 36 state prisoners, and Dodson recently sent some state prisoners to the Presidio County jail because of the overflow. Presidio County will in turn charge Brewster to house those prisoners.

Said Dodson, “We were on track this year to be right at \$900,000 in federal prisoners, but now we’re going to be way short. If I have to ship them out, we’ll be down \$650,000 because right now we’re making over \$1,100 a day on feds. If we have 40, that’s \$2,600 a day, or over \$900,000. When the feds take them out, they go to another facility, like Sierra Blanca.” As far as manpower in the Sheriff’s Office, 24 deputies are allocated, including school resource officers and other specialty positions. Dodson said he has 10 deputies working the streets, with five openings. He’s hoping to add three or four deputies in South County, and perhaps another in Marathon, but getting

qualified applicants was a problem. The county now has a new 911 program financed by a Rio Grande Council of Governments grant. Dodson explained that with the new program, when one dials 911 from a cell phone, dispatch can quickly pinpoint the exact location, and a link is automatically sent. When the link is pressed, dispatch can see, hear, and record the situation. The recording could then be used later for prosecution or civil matters if appropriate. Finally, Dodson highlighted mental health as a number one priority in Texas, saying, “Our legislature has failed miserably in getting more mental health facilities and doctors in this state. And the jail is not the dumping ground for the mentally ill.” He said when an agency arrests someone who is mentally ill, the answer is “to throw them in jail.” Dodson added, “My liability could go through the roof if they hurt somebody or themselves. We have two mental health deputies, and when we have mental crisis, they go and talk them down.” Dodson had a final word for those who might be heading to Brewster County to pick up illegals, saying, “I want everyone to know if you come down here to pick up illegals and we catch you, it’s a felony. It’s going to ruin your life. Whatever they’re paying you, it’s not worth it.”

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- MBA – University of Dayton, 1981
- Firefighter/Paramedic – Chief, Terlingua Fire & EMS
- 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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LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND
AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

February 1, 1990

Incoming Chamber of Commerce President Livia Bumpas presents the Citizen of the Year Award to Nita Holman during the annual banquet held last Thursday. Master of Ceremonies Robert Dean and his wife Angie are shown at right.



February 22, 1990

Honors stemming from the 1989 varsity volleyball season for the Alpine Fightin' Lay Bucks continue to pour in later in the school year. Coach Carol Morrow (center) posed with three of her standouts, including Janel Reed named to the All-State Volleyball Team and the Texas All-Star game, Andrea Hext named All-State and Academic All-State, and Angie Micheli named to the Academic All-State Team.



February 15, 1990

It's a lot of fun! Students in Karen Williams' fifth grade class decorated the windows at McDonald's this month. Anticipating their free Big Macs are Misela Macias, Krystal McComb, Chrissy Serrato, and Bibiche Hennessy.

February 15, 1990

New members of the Alpine High School National Honor Society inducted last week include, in the back, Rick Chavez, Jeff Leyva, Jeff Davies, Wiley Koepp, Shelly Boettcher, Shawn O'Dell, Charlie Donet, Kiley McComb, Chris Hardin, Shay Coleman, Turtle Powell, Carla Nelson, Kirsten Christophersen; and seated, Martin Acosta, Laura Hoffman, Phoebe Brannan, Stephanie Carson, and Monte Oitker.

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

Hollies looking diseased

Dear Neil: I have what I think is powdery mildew on my hollies. I have sprayed them with Daconil fungicide, but it doesn't seem to get rid of the disease. What more can I do?

This doesn't look anything like powdery mildew. In fact, in growing hollies for the past 52 years, I've never seen powdery mildew be a problem of any kind. This is some kind of a glaze - a coating of a spray or salt residue from irrigation water or a liquid fertilizer. It could even be honeydew residue that might have dripped from aphids or scale insects from a plant overhead. Something has spread over the tops of the leaves and it has dried and crystalized across the foliage. Your



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

best bet would probably be to spray a liquid dishwashing detergent onto the leaves, and let it soak into this layer for 10 or 15 minutes, then do a gardener's version of power washing by using a hose-end spray nozzle under high pressure to rinse as much of this as you can off. Do that all right away, before the new buds start growing.

The new growth should conceal whatever remains. These old leaves will turn yellow and fall off in a few weeks as the new foliage emerges.

Dear Neil: What shrub would you recommend to me for the corner of my house? I need one that will grow to be 5-7 feet tall, and I'd also like color.

If that were my land-

scape, I'd choose from intermediate hollies such as dwarf Burford (grows to 6 feet) or Willowleaf (grows to 8-10 feet with extreme age), also standard abelias (somewhat arching), standard nandina (grows to 6 feet tall, and stays fairly upright), or Sea Green juniper. If you could come out just a little farther, an intermediate crepe myrtle



Hollies with possible mildew.

(growing to 10-12 feet) would be handsome. Oakland hollies are excellent Christmas-tree-shaped evergreens. Note that these plants are very diverse in appearance, and not all of them produce flowers or fruit. You can add annuals and perennials to accomplish that. Take a

photo with you when you go into your local garden center, and let them show you the options.

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 movie candy

5 "don't throw _ _ _" (calm down)

6 former Austin flower show: "Flora _ _ _"

7 Seymour AM or FM

8 early internet provider (abbr.)

9 network for Dallas' KERA-TV

12 flamboyance

17 Tulia's county

19 rained hard

21 TXism: hard _ _ _

22 entryway, e.g.

23 to increase something (2 wds.)

28 former TX singer _ _ _ Mae Morse

29 children

30 this Goldberg was in "The Long Walk Home" with TX Sissy Spacek

31 TXism: " _ _ _ fancy to" (like)

35 _ _ _ Greco

42 he kicked for the Cowboys in Super Bowl XXVII (2 wds.)

44 Mc _ _ _ , TX

46 deep respect

48 in the middle of

49 TX Forrest of S.W.A.T. (init.)

50 TX-born Eric Paslay's " _ _ _ Don't Love You"

51 religious ceremonies

52 radio network started by the late Rush Limbaugh (abbr.)

53 early TX Roy Orbison band: " _ _ _ Kings"

54 soap lather

56 TX Stuart Hamblen wrote song "This _ _ _ House"

57 Scottish and English variant of "web"

58 Gulf shrimp catcher or take home pay

DOWN

1 TXism: " _ _ _ _ _ black cats"

2 TXism: "can't make a silk purse out of _ _ _ ear"

3 a graphic representation of the history of Texas (2 wds.)

4 most folks born in Texas, _ _ _ here

9 former U.S. senator, Gramm

10 TXism: "he'll _ _ _ funeral" (unreliable)

11 teens in final year of high school (abbr.)

12 environment agcy.

13 TXism for "nonsense"

14 LBJ's younger daughter

15 TXism: "mad as _ _ _-eyed cow"

16 this Harper was in TX-based "Tender Mercies" (1983)

18 "La _ _ _ del Rey"

20 former Cowboy LB, Darrin (init.)

23 Robin of "Flubber," with UT's Marcia Gay Harden (init.)

24 Texas song: " _ _ _ San Antonio!"

25 gangster girlfriend: gun _ _ _

26 platforms or stages

27 overturns

32 TXism: "come hell _ _ _ high water"

33 TX George Strait's "The Chill _ _ _ an Early Fall"

34 disfavored group: " _ _ _ Klux Klan"

36 pie _ _ _ mode

37 TXism: " _ _ _ a spell"

38 composure

39 "cream of the crop"

40 Eastland County town on I-20

41 TXism: "bid _ _ _" (business)

43 she had a hit with TX Roy Orbison's "Blue Bayou" (init.)

45 second half of the Bible (abbr.)

47 clouds of gas and dust in outer space

48 "Houston Museum of Fine _ _ _"

55 "I owe you a _ _ _ of gratitude"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1573

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Sports

Alpine wins first round, Bushland tonight

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

The Alpine Fightin' Buck boys basketball team whipped the Denver City Mustangs on Feb. 22, 46-31, in Monahans, avenging the Lady Bucks' first round loss to the Denver City Fil-lies last Monday in the same town.

The Bucks move to 19-7 on the year, and are one win away from the elusive 20-win season. But more importantly the Bucks win the Bi-District championship, and will face the 14-9 Bushland Falcons tonight at 6 p.m. in Seminole. Bushland narrowly beat the Childress Bobcats 38-37 to claim their first-round win.

Head Coach Hugh Morrissey said of the big win, "I'm happy for the kids. They beat a really good Denver City team who was in first going

into their last district game, and lost and got second. It means even more because I know how tough it is to beat anyone in their district. Last year we went 0-4, but this year we went 3-1 which showed how good and tough our district was this year."

Lincoln Revill, the sports director for Big Bend Radio-KVLF and voice of Bucks play-by-play talked about the game.

"Alpine got out to an 8-0 lead off the start, then didn't score again until over halfway through the second," he said. "We were leading 17-15 at half, and after a short, close game at the beginning of the second half, we ran away with the game. Aiden Morrissey led the scoring with 18 points, and Jayden Canaba ended behind him with 14."

Jake Crump and Este-



The Alpine Fightin' Bucks Tuesday night won the Bi-District championship, and will face Bushland tonight.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

ban Macias each had four points. Coach Morrissey wisely opted for Alpine to participate in the play-off preview all the way

up at Amarillo Canyon Randall against the defending 2A state champs, the Clarendon Broncos. This game was an invita-

tion-only preview of the playoffs that took place on Feb. 18 in the capital of the Panhandle, Amarillo.

The Bucks fell to the defending state champion Broncos, and the No.

See BUCKS • 9

Roping in San Antonio



Alpine High School sophomore Britton Belcher recently competed in the SALE 9.5 San Antonio Stock show and Rodeo team ropings held at the AT&T center.

Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney

Showing in San Antonio



Alpine FFA was well represented at the San Antonio Livestock show this year. Rynn Matthews and Kaitlyn Wiggins showed lambs, and Kylie Maroney, Shaun Foster, and Colette Sharon showed goats.

Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney

Men's hoops prevails over McMurry

Sul Ross State University goes in as the No. 7 seed to the American Southwest Conference Tournament. They'll take on No. 2 LeTourneau at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24 in Belton.

McMurry opened the first half with a lead, and upped it to 10-3 until a 10-0 answer gave Sully its first advantage. Jordan Rhyne started with the first four before Logan Dixon and Gabe Sanchez hit back-to-back threes for a 13-10 lead.

The Lobos continued to hold the lead before McMurry went ahead 24-22. Sanchez put Sully ahead 25-24 with a triple, but the War Hawks took the lead back and held it until Trey Nelson hit a jumper with just over two minutes left for a 33-32 advantage. McMurry tied it twice before the half, but Caelyb Kerley made a late layup for a 37-35 lead at the half.

Leads were swapped twice early in the second. The Lobos capitalized with a layup from Nelson and three-pointer from Dixon for a 47-43 advantage. Sully held the lead until the War Hawks went on a 7-0 run for a 52-49 lead. Julian Pare-

des tied it 54-54 with a triple nearing the mid-way point of the second.

Trailing 62-56, the Lobos came roaring back with an 11-2 run. Dixon supplied the first points with a triple before Paredes added a layup and a triple to tie it, 64-64. Sanchez then gave Sully a 67-64 lead with another three-pointer. The Lobos continued to hold the lead, eventually upping it to 84-73 on a Sanchez layup nearing the three-minute mark. McMurry crept back, getting to within 90-87 with under a minute left, but Sully finished strong for a 96-89 win.

Nelson finished with a team-high 21 points on 6-of-10 shooting, 2-of-2 from three and 7-of-7 from the line. He came down with five rebounds and had a team-high four assists. Paredes scored 20, and added game-highs of 11 rebounds and three steals.

Dixon finished with 18 points and six rebounds. Sanchez shot 4-of-9 from beyond the arc for 17 points.

The Lobos finished the regular season 10-15, and 11-13 in conference. McMurry finishes 9-14 and 7-11.

Finishing first



The Alpine Elite basketball girls went undefeated in the Fort Stockton League, and brought home first place in the tournament.

Courtesy photo

Making the jumps



Alpine High School varsity hurdlers ran a practice run on Feb. 18 at Buck Field.

Courtesy photo

Dropping one at home



Alpine lost its home opener on Feb. 21 against Pecos with a final score of 10-1. On the mound is Teagan Emerson.

Courtesy photo

Lady Mustangs celebrate Bi-District win



The 2021-2022 Marathon Lady Mustangs basketball team pause with their championship trophy, after recently winning the Bi-District championship.

Courtesy photo

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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Alpine Junior Bucks driven to succeed

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Sports are a terrific way for kids to stay active and learn lifelong skills that will benefit them into adulthood. And when their parents and coaches are involved, it sets up a foundation for a future with positive outcomes.

Just ask Alpine Junior Buck League President Javier Prieto, a dad of several future Alpine Fightin’ Bucks who are all feverishly into sports. Alpine Junior Bucks is an athletic league for first through sixth graders who compete in team sports such as basketball and flag football, and frequently join similar leagues with baseball and soccer.

Most of the Alpine Junior Buck League board members are also coaches or parents, doing double duty and helping the youngsters learn fundamentals of the sport. Treasurer Elizabeth Mesker is also the president of Little League baseball, and has little ones who are excited to make a basket or hit a homer.

“We work together to help each other out because we have the same kids who participate in basketball and baseball,” said Prieto. “It’s fun to watch, and it’s good for them to know we can still compete against each other, but still be friends.”

Both Prieto and Mesker, along with the rest of the board, have a lofty vision for a future year-round recreation facility in Alpine like the one Pecos



Elizabeth Mesker with Little Dribblers Brooke Mesker, 6, and Gwen Hicks, 6.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

has for its young athletes, with facilities for swimming, football, basketball, and more.

“Here in Alpine, we are not as fortunate, so we have to rely on the school, and they are always a big help letting us use their facilities,” explained Prieto.

Having a rec center would allow the Junior Bucks to host year-round tournaments and bring in other communities from the area, such as Marfa, Fort Davis, Presidio, and Fort Stockton. Alpine has many families with

kids who are actively involved in sports, who would benefit from such a rec center. Prieto said although there were already baseball, football, and soccer fields for kids to play on, there could be improvements such as larger fields or better lighting that would permit nighttime use.

The dream will continue, and the sky is the limit for the Alpine Junior Bucks. Mesker and Prieto agree that sports enable youngsters to learn valuable lessons like learning to deal with

failure, overcoming adversity, and persevering.

“It teaches the kids so much because all the kids come from different backgrounds,” said Prieto. “It prevents them from expressing themselves through drugs and alcohol and everything negative that would ultimately destroy their lives. It’s a focus that they can go out and re-live their frustrations and get together with friends, and compete as a team, as opposed to just being alone. That makes a big difference.”

BUCKS • FROM 8

2 ranked team in 2A, 80-49. Coach Morrissey felt it was honor to be in the playoff preview, and has tried in years past to get the Bucks in the game.

“Playing vs Clarendon was a win-win for us whatever the score or outcome was,” said Coach Morrissey. “Our goal was to play a quality opponent to get us ready for playoffs, and you can’t find one better than Clarendon. Playoffs are at a different speed, and we wanted to play versus the best so hopefully when we have our playoff game on Tuesday, we won’t have to adjust. Also, this is great for the guys returning. They can see what a state caliber team looks like, and strive for that during the off-season. We definitely

got better today, and even though it’s late in the year, you can always find ways to improve.”

About Clarendon, he said, “They are really athletic, by far the most athletic team we played this year, but they also play hard and are good defensively. To be honest our game plan was to dare certain players to shoot, and take away others. Our kids followed it to the tee, it’s just that Clarendon had one of those days, and could not miss from outside. When you play a team that good, you can’t take everything away. We chose that route, and they were on fire, so we have to tip our hat to them.”

Aiden Morrissey had 20 points, and Jayden Canaba had 13 against Clarendon.

Said Aiden on the play-off preview experience in Amarillo, “The guys and I are excited about hopefully making a run deep in the playoffs! I loved the atmosphere and the competition. It’s just going to prepare us moving forward.”

Around the district the Tornillo Coyotes beat the Lamesa Tornadoes 71-46, and will now face the Tulia Hornets. The Kermit Yellow Jackets beat the Brownsfield Cubs 63-53, and will play either the 27-1 Shallowater Mustangs or the Canadian Wildcats. District rival Presidio Blue Devils fell to the Dimmit Bobcats 74-63.

Now Alpine will face a 14-9 Bushland team in Seminole tonight at 6 p.m.

Fightin’ Buck Schedule

Boys Basketball

• Feb. 24..... Bushland @ Seminole 6 p.m.

Baseball

• Feb. 24..... Comanche Classic @ Fort Stockton

• Mar. 1..... @ McCamey 7 p.m.

Softball

• Feb. 24-26..... Concho Classic @ San Angelo

• Mar. 1..... McCamey @ Alpine 5 p.m.

Track and Field

• Feb. 26..... Comanche Relays @ Fort Stockton



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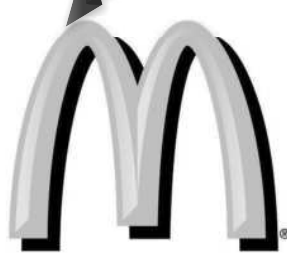
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Noyce Scholars present at science conference

Sul Ross State University recently announced its Noyce Scholars who presented in Cave City, Ky., at the National Science Foundation's Noyce Midwest Conference.

Darissa Cervantes, Evelyn Perez, and Ashley Quinones, along with Dr. Jennifer Miller, shared Transforming Deeper Future Ready Learning Through the 4C's, which is a best practice toward integrating technology.

In addition to presenting, scholars were able to tour Mammoth National Park, and will be working with mentors Dr. Dan Foley and Dr. Michael Ortiz to design a 5E lesson to engage middle school students in STEM activities at a summer camp experience.

The Noyce pro-



Noyce Scholars from Sul Ross recently presented at the National Science Foundation's Midwest Conference.

Courtesy photo

gram aims to increase the number of highly qualified STEM teachers serving the greater Trans-Pecos. The scholarship window is open until Feb. 28, and can provide up to \$48,000

to juniors classified as a STEM major seeking a teaching certification. For more information visit sites.google.com/view/srsunoyce/home, or contact the Noyce team at noyce@sulross.edu.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Jenica Portillo



Jenica Portillo

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

I'm looking forward to playing sports as a senior, and definitely graduating.

What activities are you involved in during your senior year?

I am involved in National Honor Society and Student Council, along with varsity sports.

Who has been your most influential teacher or coach through high school?

The most influential person in my whole

high school career would be Coach Mitch. Even though she isn't here anymore, I still remind myself of the things she would say to keep me going. I would also say Coach Salmon. She always reminds me and my teammates to look for the positive in everything we do.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

I would say my favorite moment would be going back to back district championships for basketball. Or laughing so hard with my

teammates on the way back from a basketball game.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to attend a university, although I do not know where I want to attend at the moment. But whatever I choose, I hope that I can make a change in people's lives, and help the people around me.

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Devotional Page Wanted - life

BY MARK WILLIAMS, PASTOR

Grace Christian Fellowship

Life is misunderstood and questioned by many people all over the world. Books and articles are dedicated to finding the meaning of life. Thousands of individuals have prematurely taken their lives because they lost the very hope of life.

God's Word states life and death are set before you this day, choose life that you and yours may live. It is evident by this Scripture that God wants us to choose life instead of choosing death. His Word also instructs us to present our bodies as living unto Him and that is a reasonable service for us, as individuals, to do.

One of the ten commandments promises long life for those who honor their father and mother. Other Scriptures place value on life, such as guard your heart with all diligence for from our heart flows the issues of life. (See Proverbs 4:23)

God places importance on life, and wants us to desire life. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father without me." (See John 14:6)

He also said, "Whoever believes in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live."

This He spoke concerning a spiritual life that we are awakened unto when we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. (See John 11:25-26 and Romans 10:9-10; John 3:16)

There is natural life, and there is spiritual life. There is natural death, and there is spiritual

death. All individuals living on earth naturally can have spiritual life if they call upon Jesus to be their Lord. He that has the Son of God has life and he that has not the Son of God has not life. (See 1 John 5:12)

The key to true life is found with Jesus, the "Author of Life." It is He that made us and not we ourselves. He made us spirit, soul, and body. We are born first as natural beings, and are born again as spiritual beings when we confess and believe in Jesus as the Christ. (See John 3:16 and Matthew 16:15-16) Once we are born again as new spiritual beings, then we begin to see and experience Him and enter His kingdom of life that brings true righteousness, peace, and joy in His Spirit.

The natural man that remains natural does not experience nor discern spiritual things of God because God is a Spirit. The natural man does not know God, nor does he want to. God has invited all mankind to have relationship with Himself by sending Jesus His Son, a Spiritual man. Therefore, everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. (See 1 John 5:1)

In 1 Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Life is found in Jesus Christ. Call upon Him today.

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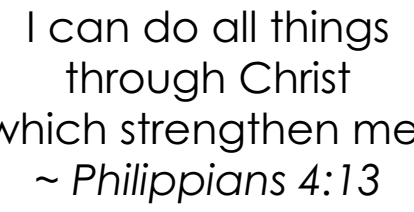
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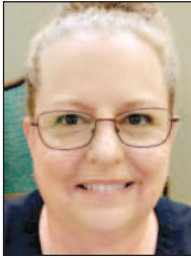
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Pie crust cookies

Pie crust is my favorite part of the pie. I know that may seem strange to some, but there is nothing better than a flaky, buttery pie crust to accompany whatever filling it surrounds. So, recently when I was given this recipe by my mom, I was super excited. These are quite frankly the easiest cookies you can make,



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

and it only requires four ingredients. How can you beat this?

This easy recipe yields a light, flaky, and perfectly sweet treat, and since it is so easy, it made me wonder if this could be turned into a savory version. This could become savory using pesto or

something similar.

The limited ingredients and the quickness of this recipe make it great for those last-minute dessert requirements that somehow always seem to occur when you have the least amount of time in your day.

First you will need a

pie crust. You can make your own, or you can buy one at the store. Not the pie crust in the frozen section that is already in a pan, but the pre-rolled pie crust you buy in a box.

Your cookies will be

ready to eat or send with your kids because they told you they needed cookies for school at the last minute.

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

Pie Crust Cookies

Ingredients:
One pie crust
3-4 tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 tbsp. unsalted softened or melted butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees unless you want to make your crust from scratch. If you are making homemade crust, make your crust and then preheat your oven. Roll crust out onto a lightly floured surface if you have made your own. If you are using pre-made crust, laying it out on a piece of wax paper or a pastry mat is adequate, and no rolling is necessary.

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and cinnamon together until well combined. Next, using a pastry brush or a silicone basting brush, brush the butter onto the pie crust, making sure to cover

it completely. Spread the cinnamon and sugar mixture evenly over the buttered pie crust.

Starting with the bottom of the crust, roll it into a log. Make sure it is not too loose or too tight, as that will affect the cooking. Tuck in the ends of the dough to close. Using a sharp knife, cut the dough into one-inch pieces and place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet cut side up, about an inch apart.

Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown and firm. Cool completely and remove any caramelized sugar from the edges.



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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, Cooks, Dishwashers, Bussers, Hosts, Runners.

STARTING SOON.

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

