

Delinquent taxes a concern for tourism director

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Brewster County Commissioner's Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 8, and delinquent tax violations with short term rental owners, along with dry conditions and a burn ban, were some of the topics discussed.



Robert Alvarez

County Tourism Director Robert Alvarez turned to the issue of short-term rentals and delinquent taxes, indicating he had recently attended a conference in Houston where that was the primary focus.

"It's a wonderful addition to the lodging partnership, but it can easily get out of hand, especially out here," said Alvarez. "The big take away is that it really seems we are at the point right now where we are going to have to hire an outside company to handle this."

See TAXES • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

See sports on page 8.

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

20220.06"
March0.00"



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.



EMS for north Brewster still up in the air

More meetings on the horizon

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH
Managing Editor

With just 52 days left in the four-month contract with Terlingua EMS to provide temporary ambulance service to North County and the city, more meetings loom as some parties want "more information."

At a special Brewster County commissioners court meeting on March 4, the court and City of Alpine Interim Manager Megan Antrim, Mayor

Andy Ramos, and council members Martin Sandate and Judy Stokes heard three ambulance service providers present specifics of what they had to offer.

AMR, City Ambulance Service, and Emergent each spoke for about 30 minutes, and all were well-equipped and prepared to start up in a timely manner. Each would provide all equip-

See EMS • 6



EMS supervisor Greg Henington addresses Brewster County Commissioners Court on March 4 during a discussion of EMS providers for the county.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

Helping advance history



Marathon ISD students recently participated in the Big Bend Regional History Fair held in Alpine, and will now be advancing to the state finals in Austin. Sponsors were teachers John Newton and Joy Golden. Proudly showing off their medals of achievement are Sadie Carter, Jackson Barlow, Caylee Hernandez, Alys Garcia, Annaliese West, Madeline West, Marissa Guerrero, Izabella Briones, Elah Barlow, Melodi Aguilar, and Campbell West.

Courtesy photo

Family barn dance coming up in Fort Davis

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Press those neat western jeans, pull on your cowboy boots, and shine up those belt buckles because it's time to go two-stepping. Both avid dancers or those with two left feet will find a place on Friday, March 18 at 7 pm at the Kelly Pavilion in Fort Davis for the inaugural Family Barn Dance, featuring live music by Doug Moreland.

Moreland is a fiddler who was born in Alpine and raised in Fort Davis, and is the son of Glenn Moreland, also a fiddler and singer of cowboy

songs. Moreland fondly recalls growing up in Fort Davis, from where he made the trek to Alpine to take fiddle lessons from Mrs. Mock, who used to own the health food store there. After graduating from Fort Davis High School in 1992, Moreland went off to college where he met many of his musician friends.

But in 2020 after living in Austin for 20 years, Moreland decided to flee the urban lifestyle for a more carefree, relaxed atmosphere in the Davis Mountains of

See DANCE • 6



Musician Doug Moreland fiddles for a crowd.

Courtesy photo

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CDRI cactus and succulent sale

Golden barrel cactus, Mammillaria plumosa, red yucca, sotol, Queen Victoria agave, and other species have arrived at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in preparation for the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center Cactus and Succulent Sale.

On Monday, March 14, the sale kicks off with doors opening at 9 a.m., and will continue until all are sold. The number of plants offered is about half the amount of previous years due to changes made by growers since 2020 during the pandemic.

Some of the growers that were previously relied upon by CDRI have sold their businesses, while others shifted from wholesale to online retail sales to get by during COVID.

All plants offered in the sale are beautiful, and all are species native to the Chihuahuan Desert that the CDRI Team carefully sourced through reputable growers in Arizona and Texas. Pricing will



range from \$6-\$70.

The sale will take place on the porch of the Powell Visitor Center with CDRI's knowledgeable head gardener Faith Hille and her team of volunteers to assist shoppers with their selections.

While visiting the Na-

ture Center, stop and explore the gift shop, which offers regional cookbooks, a great selection of nature-themed books, walking sticks made on site, and many CDRI logo items.

The cactus and succulent sale is one of only two yearly CDRI fund-

raisers, the other being the barbecue and auction scheduled for Aug. 13.

There will be no early sales. A complete plant listing can be found at cdri.org. And for additional information, contact the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center at 432-364-2499.

OBITUARIES

Nelda Ann Gallego

Nelda A. Gallego, 66, passed away on Feb. 19, 2022, at St. David's North Austin Medical Center in Austin, Texas. She was born June 21, 1955, in Alpine, Texas, the daughter of Santiago and Olga Gallego.



She graduated from Alpine High School, class of 1973. Following graduation Nelda married Juan Llanez, and was the loving mother of Jay Llanez Aguirre and Johnny Llanez.

She worked as the administration assistant for the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Sul Ross for over four decades. She brought laughter, friendship, and lots of attitude to anyone she came in contact with. If you were in her inner circle, you were one of

the lucky few. She will be missed by many.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her daughter Jay Aguirre; her husband Curtis of Haslet, Texas; son Johnny Llanez; grandchildren Jocelyn and Elias Aguirre; four sisters, Rowena, Janet, Caroline, and Denise; one brother, Jimmy Ray; many nieces and nephews; and the father of her children, Juan Llanez.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

BRI launches Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement

A new Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement has been established at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University. The new center will facilitate conservation efforts in Far West Texas by providing technical resources for landowners, energy developers, community members, and conservation partners.

"We're very pleased to launch the Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement here at the Sul Ross State University," said Dr. Louis Harveson, who is the Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., BRI Endowed Director and professor of Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University. "The new center will allow BRI to better meet our conservation mission by encouraging partnerships with other natural resource organizations,

leveraging conservation cost-share programs, and enhancing our outreach efforts focused on land management projects in West Texas."

The new center is funded in part by the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation and the Permian Basin Area Foundation, and is a direct result of the recommendations made through the Respect Big Bend initiative. Respect Big Bend's mission is to inspire and empower stakeholders to conserve the unique resources and protect the iconic communities of the Big Bend of Texas. Led by the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, Respect Big Bend is a coalition of scientists, landowners, community leaders, and industry committed to responsible energy development in West Texas.

The center will pro-

vide science-based guidance to land owners and land managers, enabling them to make informed decisions about minimizing developmental impacts while implementing mitigation and restoration activities. The center will also offer resources and technical guidance to area landowners and land managers to assist them in conservation and management goals. Finally, the center will serve as a conservation liaison and convener for principal conservation partners to maximize the effectiveness of various conservation initiatives in the region.

"The center is the direct result of the incredible efforts of the Respect Big Bend Stakeholder Advisory Group, which worked hard to define the critical values of the region that we all treasure," said Billy Tarrant,

Associate Director of Stewardship Services at BRI. "They emphasized the need for a lasting resource for stakeholders, and this new center will be a tangible and valuable resource for landowners that will be valued for years to come." More information about the new center can be found online at bri.sulross.edu/land-stewardship/.


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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 15, 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 15, 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@CLALPINE.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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person's homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead."**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."**

Fun and games at the middle school



It's a fun day for both students and parent volunteers at the Alpine Middle School Spring Festival on March 2nd, presented by the middle school PTO. There was no shortage of fun for the whole family as there were plenty of food trucks, games, and more to kick off the start of the spring season. Here, middle school students partake in the fun at one of the game stations.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

Youth group pumped up for conference



Calvary Apostolic Church youth group members Sarali Lopez, Lisa Miaan, Lisa Rojo, Vincent Carrasco, Victoria Carrasco, and Vicky Carrizales show off their baked goods during a fundraiser held on March 5 in front of Porter's in Alpine.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Running a church involves a healthy dose of prayer, hard work, and a dedicated team, and church youth groups are a fantastic way for young people to get together. They support one another in friendship, and share in fellowship, joining other like-minded teens and young adults to bring the inspiring message of God.

This is what the youth group at Alpine's Calvary Apostolic Church, also known as "the Church on the Hill," are all about. The group consists of 15-20 members ranging in age from 12-22. Excitement is already building as they look forward to attending the 2022 Southwest Youth Conference held at Life Challenge Church April 21-22 in Odessa. It's not just a simple church gathering - it will have plenty of notable guest

speakers to inspire youth in today's world.

"We will have church conferences, and then there will be choir, and then after the second service, we all get together as a whole. We have food, we play games, we get to know each other, and of course, talk about God," said church member and Alpine native Victoria Carrasco.

An Alpine High School class of 2020 graduate, Carrasco credits her grandmother Olga De La O, also an Alpine native, who oversaw the church until current pastor Javier Trevino stepped in. Carrasco has lived in Alpine her entire life, and has been active at the church for about nine years. She currently works as a bank teller for WesTex Community Credit Union, and joins fellow church youth church member Vicky Carrizales, who also graduated from Alpine High in 2020.

On March 5, the group held a bake sale fundraiser in front of Porter's in Alpine, selling cookies, cake pops, muffins, cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, burritos, and more.

"All the donations and all the money here will go to helping us go to the Southwest conference for the rooms, tickets, the food," said Carrasco, who enjoys organizing bake sales and other fundraisers to benefit the church. "I believe God is going to do great things."

Lisa Rojo, a junior at Alpine High School, is also excited about the upcoming conference, and talked about the importance of building a foundation with her peers, both at school and at church. "Allowing us to just grow and make memories, and praise the Lord, and to take that to my school, and be able to help people who need help or who need inspiration to be lifted up, that's

really fun," said Rojo.

Newcomers will be welcomed and loved, even if they have not been to church in a while. Carrasco put it best about being a member of the youth group. "Everything - getting to know people, talking to people, getting to do this bake sale, and here with my brothers and my sisters, just serving the Lord together - it's awesome. I would not trade it for anything."

To donate, contact Pastor, Javier Trevino, at 432-837-1720, or email Carrasco at victoria-carrasco31@gmail.com.

Guatemalan citizen pleads guilty to assaulting a federal officer

In Alpine on March 1, Robinson Mendoza-Gomez, 21, a Guatemalan citizen, pleaded guilty to assaulting a federal officer.

According to court documents, on Dec. 14, 2021, U.S. Border Patrol agents near Van Horn attempted to apprehend a group of suspected undocumented non-citizens. Mendoza demanded one of the agents release a person in the group. Mendoza then charged and struck the agent, injuring the agent's face.

Mendoza pleaded guilty to one count of forcibly assaulting a federal officer. A sen-

tencing date has not been scheduled. He faces up to 20 years in prison on the assault charge. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff of the Western District of Texas and FBI Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey R. Downey, El Paso Field Office, made the announcement.

The FBI is investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott V. Greenbaum is prosecuting the case.

Catherine Eaves FOR Alpine City Mayor



Founder and Director of a Successful Nonprofit for First Responders. Retiring in May after 25 yrs as an Educator & Adjunct College Professor. Alpine deserves a mayor who will work full time for our city. I will have informal weekly meetings where we can sit and talk. I believe in transparency & that we are better when we work together.



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Pol. ad paid for by Catherine Eaves for Alpine City Mayor, paid for by Catherine Eaves

Big Bend Amateur Softball Association

Girls softball registration closes March 14.

Find registration forms and more information on our Facebook page. Search - Big Bend Amateur Softball Association (BBASA) Alpine, TX

CITY OF ALPINE SURPLUS CAR AUCTION PUBLIC NOTICE

Want your own police car? Need a tractor? Desire a dually? The City of Alpine is holding a public auction on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 9am. Vehicles from every department will be available for bidding "AS IS". We are advertising the auction from El Paso to Presidio so don't miss your chance to bid on dozens of City surplus vehicles.

And the good news gets better because after you buy your vehicle(s) at auction, the City of Alpine will gladly leave you to your new purchase without further ado.

We'll see you out at the Alpine Recycle Center - "15" Acres on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 9am:

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Vehicle makers available for auction include Chevrolet, Dodge, Ford and GMC, visit www.cityofalpine.com closer to auction date for year, make and model details.



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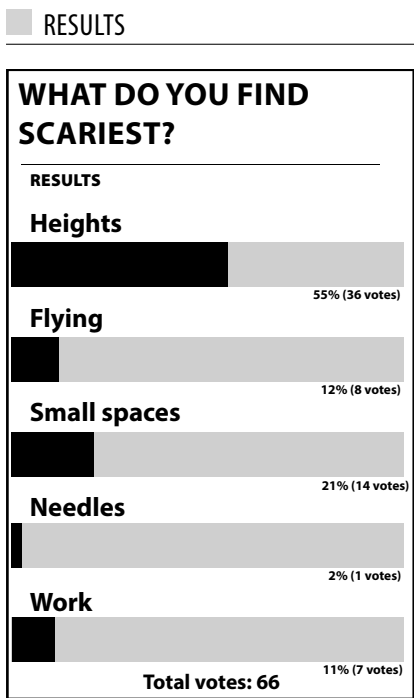
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Do you see Russia's military power as a threat to the U.S.?

- Yes. Russia's extreme actions against Ukraine show that they will stop at nothing to advance their cause.
- No. Unless we make the first move, Putin won't attack the U.S. directly.
- Unsure. With the extreme events occurring so far, anything can happen.

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

LETTERS

Send us your letters. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed. Send your letters to editor@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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Mayor tours UTEP Aerospace

On Feb. 24 I attended a tour of the UTEP Aerospace Center and the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, along with other regional mayors of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, as part of a proposal on economic development for our area. The tour was educational, and an eye opener of how UTEP has given back to the community.



ANDY RAMOS
Mayor of Alpine

The facility is made up of highly educated young men and women mostly from the El Paso area who work with and develop innovative ideas dealing with aerospace

for the federal government and private companies. The project has been so successful that UTEP is expanding the program thanks to the property donated by the City of El Paso.

RGCOG is in the process of trying to bring those same studies to Sul Ross State University, which

undoubtedly will be a major boost in getting our local youth educated in the aerospace industry. The tour consisted of visiting the various departments where we saw the latest in 3D printer technology for making tools and parts for the space industry. Our city council signed off on a proposal to support this endeavor, something that would help economic development in our city.

The city and Brewster County commissioners met on March 4 to discuss local emergency medical services.

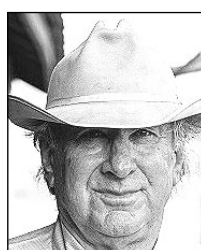
Three EMS providers attended, including City Ambulances located in Spring, Emergent of El Paso, and AMR out of Odessa.

County commissioners and city council met last week, and asked many questions of the companies such as, "What unique features set you apart from the other companies?" and "Why are you interested in running a 911 service in our area?"

There are still questions to be asked, and the city council will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 10, at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Passing the torch

At the Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo this March, I will conclude my term as president of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. This is an ideal opportunity to reflect upon our recent struggles and successes. It's also a great time to think about what lies ahead for cattle producers.



HUGHES ABELL
President, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

The COVID-19 pandemic, a new U.S. president, a Texas Legislative session, and a historic winter storm made the last two years memorable, to say the least. Each of these events brought its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

As we enter our third year of life with COVID-19, many still have memories of empty store shelves from early 2020. Labor shortages, supply chain issues, and inflation troubles persist, and will require a concerted effort from our industry and the entire nation to resolve. However, these concerns have shone a light on the cattle industry that we

have not enjoyed for quite some time. Consumers and lawmakers alike were reminded of where their food comes from.

The recent pressures prompted federal policymakers to confront longstanding problems within cattle markets. As a result, the current administration has directed funding to start and expand independent meat processors, which will help create alternative marketing channels and increase competition. If passed by the Senate as it was by the House, legislation like the extension of Livestock Mandatory Reporting and the Cattle Contract Library Act will improve transparency. These are vital industry issues Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

will continue to tackle, but I'm encouraged by the progress made so far.

Similarly, the 2021 Texas Legislative session brought significant challenges with COVID-19 protocols and long odds for passing legislation. Lawmakers were consumed with issues surrounding Winter Storm Uri, COVID-19, fierce partisan battles, and redistricting. Yet, 2021 proved to be one of the association's most successful legislative sessions in recent history.

Beneficial legislation was passed to expand the Farm Animal Liability Act, increase rural broadband access, protect cattle from pests and disease, improve property tax valuation processes, and reform the eminent domain process. But, just as importantly, we defeated legislation that would harm your ability to raise cattle and use your land as you see fit.

We also laid the groundwork for legislation to label fake meat products accurately.

That effort will continue in the next legislative session, along with others that are sure to arise.

Association leaders and staff will also be busy in Washington. The previous administration enacted beneficial reforms on Waters of the U.S., Clean Air Act reporting, Endangered Species Act listings, trade, taxes, and more. Unfortunately, the Biden administration is working to roll back much of the progress. We have already won a significant battle to derail the Build Back Better Act, but must continue to fight to ensure other dangerous ideas do not hurt our land and livestock.

I am proud of what Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association has accomplished throughout the past two years, and honored to have been a part of it. However, like raising cattle, the work is never done. I am excited to see what's next for this storied organization.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cheers to a great rodeo team

Thank you for the coverage of the Sul Ross rodeo team in your March 3 issue. The fact that we have such a fine, winning rodeo team should be a matter of pride for not only Sul Ross State University, but also

for those of us in Brewster County and the entire Big Bend.

It is my pleasure to know several of the team members, and without exception I find them to be well-mannered, decent rodeo athletes. Their work ethic is strong, and I understand that their

scholarship is right up there, too. Win or lose, they are a credit to our community. And I especially like the "win" part.

Rodeo Coach C.J. Aragon and Dr. Bonnie Warnock are to be congratulated for creating the kind of atmosphere that brings these young ath-

letes together, and molds them into a winning team. Please continue to keep us posted on the adventures of the Sul Ross rodeo team. Thank you.

Jim Wilson
Alpine

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202-224-5922



Heard on the STREET

Are you ready for Daylight Savings Time?



Susan Rayburn, Alpine: I would prefer that we adopt standard time year round. It makes more sense, in my opinion.



Janet Grubb Adams, Fort Davis: No. I prefer this time. Really wish they would not change. Stay on the same time year round.



Brenda Sanchez, Fort Davis: I am! I'm ready for more sunlight in the evenings and getting my spring garden underway.



Teresa Nunez, Marfa: Yes, I am ready for Daylight Savings Time. I feel like I will be able to accomplish more things after work like longer walks and spending more times outdoors and not feeling rushed.



Connie Boyd, Fort Davis: Of course. I'm an outdoor person and love to garden. I'm ready for longer days!

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

MARCH 18

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 Legion activities in the community.

MARCH 26

Patio Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alpine Public Library. The library is accepting donations which may be left inside the front patio during library hours. All proceeds benefit library activities.

APRIL 1

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 Legion ac-



tivities 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, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals, on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome,

but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcc.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.

Serving it up



Mike and Martha Latta and Nan Hate Edwards serve up fried catfish, hush-puppies, and cole slaw to eager diners at American Legion Post 79 on March 4 for the Legion's first fish fry of the year.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Samara, a little angel who is growing up in the shelter quickly, and ready to have a place to call her own.

Samara came into the shelter as a six-week-old kitten, and is now three-and-a-half months old. She has been a shelter superstar since day one. She makes sure everyone knows she is in the room when they enter the cattery, and meows until you acknowledge her.

Samara not only has the looks but, also the personality. She loves people of all ages, so a home with kids would be just fine. She adores the other kittens, and would love to jump and play with another cat.

When you donate items or shop at the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store, you make a difference in the lives of area pets. Proceeds from the Thrift Store support our mission. And thrifting is a great way to help the environment, too, by re-using clothing and household goods, and keeping them out of the landfill.

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 adop-



tions, cremation services, 9030. To view adoptable pets, visit alpinehumane-society.org.

"DARK SKIES" MARCH 3 - APRIL 19

AN EXHIBIT OF ART CELEBRATING THE DARK SKY INITIATIVE

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REATA RESTAURANT
COCINERO: Beef • Chicken • Shrimp
STARTERS: Tortilla Soup Bowl • Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup • Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup • Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:
(Your choice of any two items)
Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup
Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich
1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

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SALE DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

903 head of cattle sold on a steady to lower market, with excellent buyer attendance. This is the top of the market and prices range down from this according to quality, quantity, condition, and fill. Compared to the last week:

COMPARED TO LAST WEEK:
Stocker Calves: \$5.00 to \$10.00 lower
Feeder Cattle: \$8.00 to \$10.00 lower
Packer Cows and Bulls: Steady

300# - 400# Steers	203.00 to 217.00
300# - 400# Heifers	185.00 to 187.00
400# - 500# Steers	186.00 to 203.00
400# - 500# Heifers	161.00 to 185.00
500# - 600# Steers	157.00 to 186.00
500# - 600# Heifers	142.50 to 161.00
600# - 700# Steers	145.50 to 157.00
600# - 700# Heifers	134.00 to 142.50
700# - 800# Steers	138.00 to 145.50
700# - 800# Heifers	131.00 to 134.00
Packer Cows	80.00 to 92.50
Canner & Cutter Cows	70.00 to 80.00
Packer Bulls	95.00 to 107.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00 to 87.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	Not well tested
Bred Cows - Top Half	1000.00 to 1350.00

Pitching in for the middle school

Alpine Middle School sixth graders Marisol Jimenez, Gyllian Morrissey, Andynne Ramirez, and Imani Miller of the Alpine Elite girls basketball team pause for a photo at the middle school's first Spring Festival held on March 2. Presented by the school and PTO, there was plenty of fun to kick off the start of spring, with plenty of games, food trucks, and much more for the whole family.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill



EMS • FROM 1

ment, personnel, and administrative services necessary to offer complete ground ambulance service to the area.

All agreed they could make it work with the approximately \$336,000 per year expected from the county and the city combined.

As a fourth option, Terlingua EMS Director Greg Henington talked about the implications of the county itself running an ambulance service. The estimated annual cost would be around \$836,400, that number was not all-inclusive, and "hidden costs" would add to the total. He noted EMT staffing would be a significant challenge, and it was unlikely a local service could be up and running before the end of the year.

No decision was made on either a service provider or a county-operated system, and County Judge

Eleazar Cano told the gathering, "No matter which way we go, it's not set in stone. These are contracts - a year, two years, whatever we put together. I think we should consider our short term goals and needs versus our long term vision. We need to look at what is economically feasible for the county and the city."

Antrim indicated the city wanted to meet separately to consider its options, although it had earlier agreed that the county had the lead, and the city was not interested in managing an ambulance service.

"I did make it very apparent at the last council meeting that there are options - a separate contract for each entity, a combined contract with additional legal work, or an interlocal agreement," she said. "There is a possibility of a split decision. We may have to have a couple more meetings."

Although a decision had been expected at the March 8 commissioners court meeting, Cano said the county would leave the EMS decision off the agenda.

Later, the city announced a workshop meeting for March 10 to again hear presentations and discuss emergency medical services and providers.

At the regular commissioners court meeting on March 8, Commissioner, Pct. 1, Jim Westermann said he received numerous emails and texts from constituents asking why the county was not voting on the EMS issue at that meeting.

"Suddenly the city, which has been happy to take a passive role along with the hospital district to only contribute financially, has decided they want to revisit this whole thing, effectively putting us back to Jan. 1," said Westermann.

He added there had been no secret meetings, and the city had representatives present at all meetings throughout.

"I have no answers for my constituents other than to say stay tuned, and we'll see where this is going. This is an unfortunate development right at the end. I wanted to address my constituents' concerns as to why we're still having meetings upon meetings upon meetings," said Westermann.

City Secretary Geo Calderon later told the Avalanche the entire city council wanted to have a conversation with the three contractors. He said the city had a financial stake in it, and the council wanted to be involved in that conversation.

"The city is providing a lot of financial support," said Calderon. "The city definitely has some stake in who is chosen."

TAXES • FROM 1

It's just impossible for my office and my department to police the 300, if not more, who are on the hotel tax rolls."

Alvarez asked commissioners if that were something he could pursue further, along with cost options, and said at a recent tourism seminar held in South County, air bnb owners who paid their fair share of hotel occupancy taxes voiced their displeasure at their neighbors who were delinquent.

Commissioner, Pct. 2, Sara Allen Colando, agreed, adding, "It makes sense to do it with an outside agency. That's how we do it with property taxes. We have a law firm that does it for us."

Alvarez then shifted gears, and providing a tourism update. He indicated that a human trafficking training seminar held on Feb. 15 in South

County was a big success and was pleased about having a better-than-expected turnout from hotel staff in the county.

"I am really proud of the hoteliers and the businesses in this area to keep an eye out," said Alvarez. "If you see something, say something. It was a great session."

In other news, commissioners approved a donation of \$4,000 from the Chili Appreciation Society International. County Treasurer Julie Morton said the money would be placed in the county's general fund under public entities.

Finally, Brewster County EMC Stephanie Elmore provided an emergency management update, saying the county was getting into fire season, especially with extremely dry conditions across the area. She said the Keetch-Byran

Drought Index used to determine forest fire potential was in the 600-700 range out of 800, which is significantly dry for Brewster County.

Elmore requested that commissioners renew the outdoor burn ban for 45 days, and they approved. Prescribed burns could be a consideration, but residents wanting to do that should contact Elmore or County Sheriff Ronny Dodson first for permission.

County Judge Eleazar Cano then asked Elmore to present information about water tanks, or dry hydrants, present in some areas of the county at the next meeting on March 22. He said the county would be keeping an eye on the dry hydrants to make sure they were being maintained and functional. This was initially put together over the

past couple of years with grant funding and county funds.

The next regularly scheduled commissioner's court meeting is set for Tuesday, March 22, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom and via Facebook Live.

DANCE • FROM 1

West Texas. This was all while continuing to tour with his band in popular country and western venues such as those in Luckenbach, or closer to home at Cibolo Creek Ranch.

As far as the idea to have a family friendly barn dance in Fort Davis now, Moreland gave full credit to wife Suzan, saying, "She wants to have a dance like in the old days, and I think it's a good idea, to have the families out there. We're going to have dance lessons, so the kids or younger people can learn how to dance."

The fun evening will start off with a two-step dance lesson, followed by a waltz, and then an English country dance.

"We have invited several local singers, and I think it's going to be a whole lot of fun, to have everybody have a place to sing and dance," said Moreland. "We have invited John Davis. He owns the hat shop here in Fort Davis. He is going to sing some George Strait songs. It's going to be a

good family gathering." After living in the big city, Moreland is happy to return to his roots, and there is no looking back. "I really like no traffic, and don't have to worry about much. I enjoy the air and the altitude and all the attributes of this part of the world," said Moreland, who wants kids to be as attached to the town as he is.

There will be plenty of boot scootin' fun that will surely have every cowboy and cowgirl whirling and twirling the night away underneath the Texas stars thanks to Moreland and his Barn Dance Band, all in a family friendly atmosphere.

Said Moreland, "I think it is a win-win situation. When you get some good ole music, you are bringing a little bit of culture that might have been lost in the past several years. It is a good thing to have for the rest of your life."

The all-ages Family Barn Dance will be held on Friday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Fort Davis Outdoor Kelly Pavilion, rain or shine.

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Lee L. Webber, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, has been practicing anesthesiology and chronic pain management since 2013.

Ms. Webber graduated from the Mayo Clinic Health Systems – Franciscan Healthcare School of Nurse Anesthesia with a Master of Science Biology in 2012. She received her Chronic Pain Management Practice Certification from the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology in 2013 and completed a Fellowship in Acute Surgical Pain Management from Middle Tennessee State University in 2020. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Anesthesia Practice from Rosalind Franklin University.

She holds active nursing licenses in Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, and Texas. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) and the Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AZANA).

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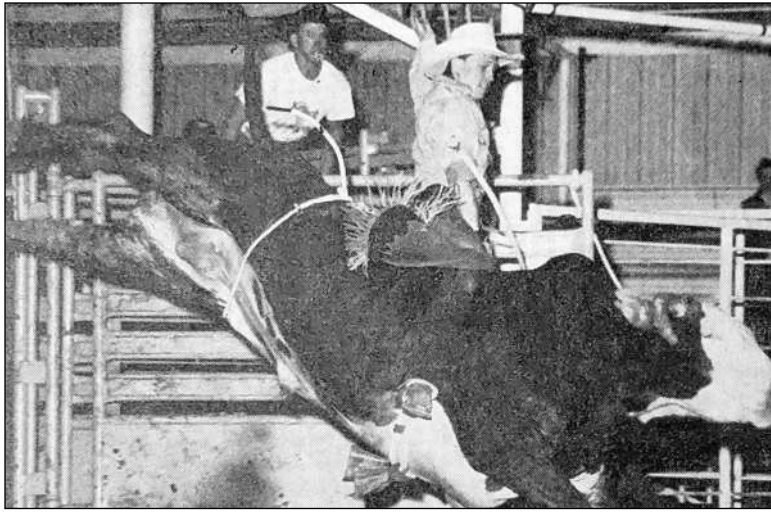
LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche

March 22, 1990

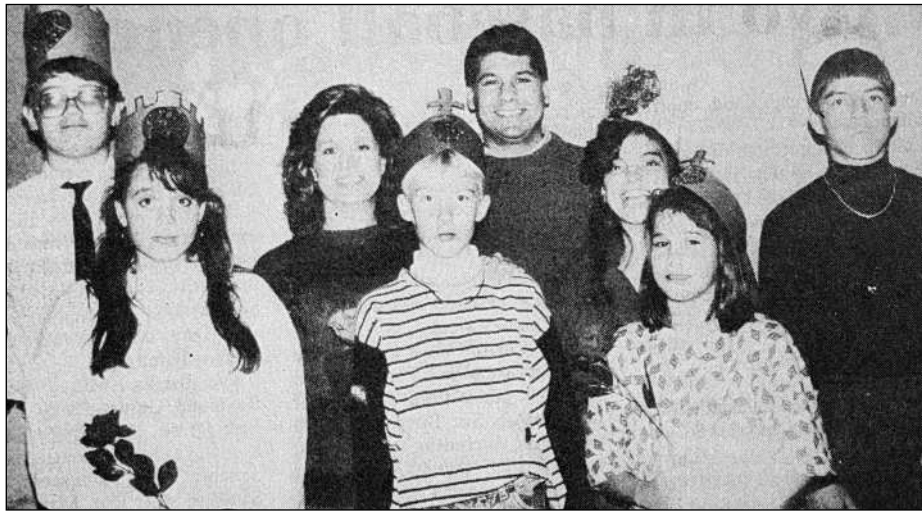
Ted Cooley atop "Cow-boy" barrels out of the shoot at a rodeo in Anson. Cooley, who transferred to SRSU from Western Texas College, has been riding bulls for over half of his life.



March 1, 1990
Alpine Fighting Bucks and Lady Bucks gaining District 4-3A All-District honors include, top, Carl Klingman, Brian Wilson, Ronnie Flores; bottom, Rusty Zunker, Christy Rojo, Tracy Davis, and Junior Ramirez.

March 8, 1990

Valentine's Dance royalty was announced at Alpine Junior High Friday night after a campus-wide vote conducted by the student council. From left, Prince Garry Taylor, Princess Felina Wylie, Empress Hamila Hobson, Duke Houston Haynes, Emperor Raul Chavarria, Queen Hang Gonzales, Duchess Zerelda Gallego, and King Fred Cano.



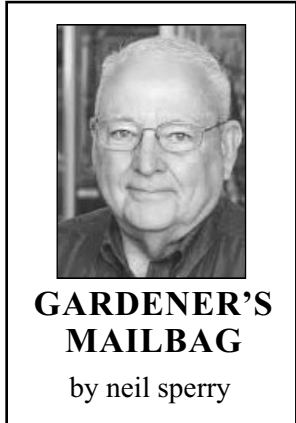
March 29, 1990

The three top Girl Scout cookie sellers for 1990 in Alpine are Libby Dalton - 203, Jacque McAnally - 312, and Randi Lea Skelton - 213. Congratulations, girls!

Tree didn't die from root rot

Dear Neil: We lost a lacebark elm to what I believe might have been Texas root rot. It died in a matter of days. Its leaves remained attached, and there was a mass of white fungal growth around the roots. The prior homeowner had replaced a Shumard red oak that must have died of the same disease. What would be a good replacement that would not be susceptible?

Don't assume that the Shumard red oak died of Texas root rot (also known as cotton root rot). They are not especially vulnerable to it. It's more likely that something such as sunburn to the trunk would have killed it if it was a young tree. Oaks are some of the very best replacement trees when Texas root rot is present in the soil. That list would include live oaks,



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

Chinquapin oaks and burr oaks. Also cedar elms, pecans and magnolias. Avoid almost all of the "fast-growing" species of trees. Almost to a type, they are highly susceptible.

Dear Neil: I am new to Texas. Where can I find the average date of the last killing freeze in my part of the state?

Without knowing where you are, it's hard to be specific. That information is

available online by searching "map average date last killing freeze Texas." The map at this link allows you to click anywhere in the state for an instant reading: plantmaps.com/interactive-texas-last-frost-date-map.php. I have a variation of that map on page 3 of my latest book, "Neil Sperry's Lone Star Gardening," available only from my website at neilsperry.com. A Texas certified nursery professional in your city will know your local date, as will your county extension office.

Dear Neil: Like many others I lost my Italian cypress tree in last year's cold. I liked it for its narrow and tall presence, but I'm wondering if I should replace it with another Italian cypress, or select another tree or shrub instead. Any thoughts?

I cannot recommend

Italian cypress any longer. I've seen them freeze in colder parts of Texas two or three times in the past several decades, but more than that I'm now seeing them succumb to the same disease that is ruining Leyland and Arizona cypresses, Seiridium canker. We have no effective preventive measure, nor is there a cure. As for a replacement, upright junipers come with their own sets of problems (spider mites and diseases). Lombardy poplars have very short life expectancies due to cottonwood borers and cotton root rot. Augustine ascending elms have lace bug issues and cotton root rot. I'm stuck as far as vertical plants are concerned. Oakland hollies aren't nearly as tall, and aren't as dramatically upright, but they're a lot more dependable. It's harder to find, but

you might consider Ilex vomitoria, Scarlet's Peak yaupon holly. It's upright and handsome, growing to 12-14 feet tall and only 18 inches wide.

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



Cotton root rot on lacebark elm.

ACROSS

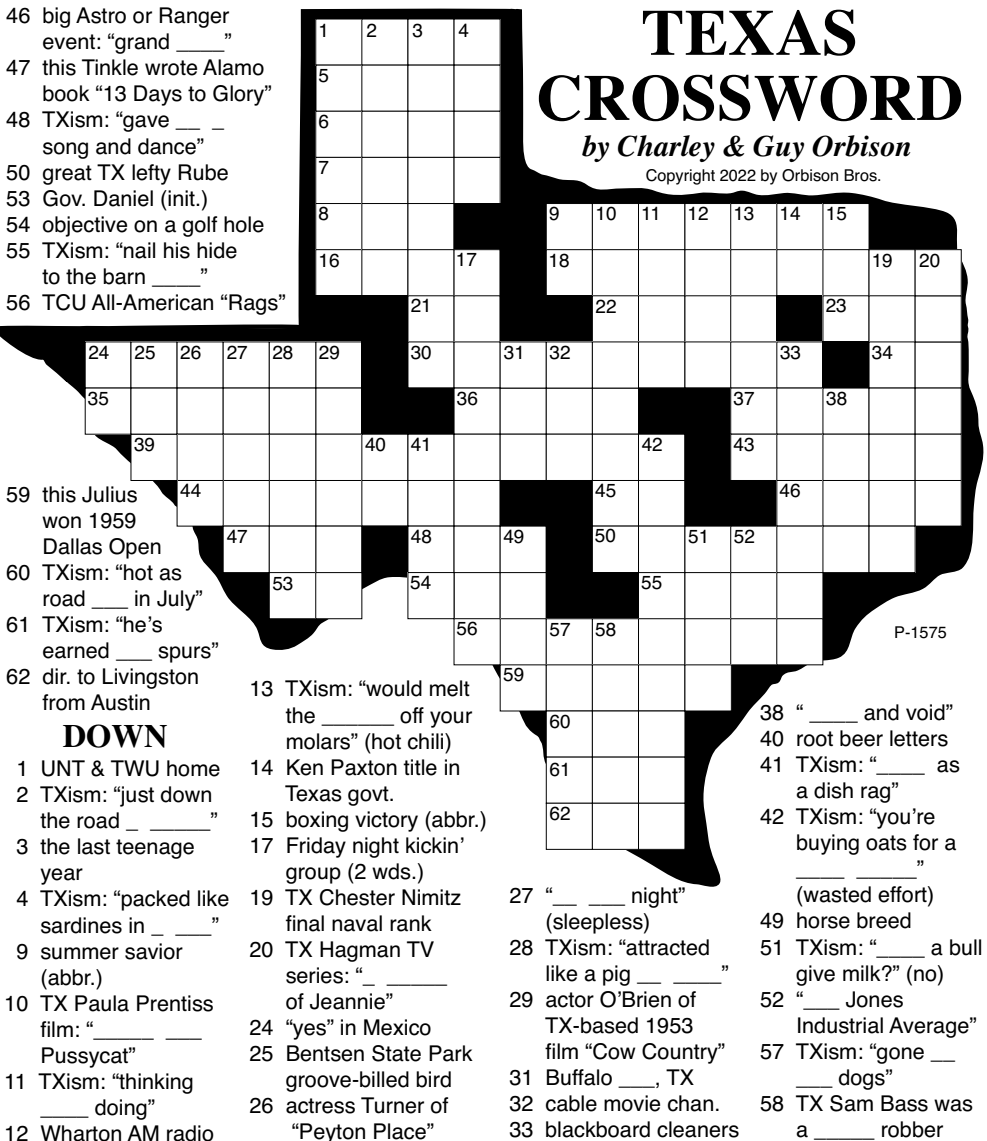
- 1 famed A&M coach
- 5 TX film "Giant," e.g. events affecting TX weather: "El Nino" and "La _____"
- 7 early TX Orbison band: "_____ Kings"
- 8 birth month for TX Jaclyn Smith & TX Dan Rather (abbr.)
- 9 "_____ dawn" (get an early start)
- 16 TXism: "I _____ that like a chicken coop needs a fox"
- 18 TX Chennault was adviser to China's _____-shek
- 21 TXism: "let '_____ rip"
- 22 Santa _____, TX
- 23 TXism: "a horse of a different color"
- 24 Fort Hood greeting when Marty Robbins found himself in Rosa's Cantina
- 34 37-across was _____ Chicago Cub"
- 35 TXism: "two peas _____" (alike)
- 36 retriever dogs
- 37 TX infielder, Banks
- 39 TXism: "big fish _____"
- 43 TX "First Lady" Bush (1995-2000)
- 44 TXism: "if it was any better, the sheriff wouldn't _____"
- 45 boot width

DOWN

- 1 UNT & TWU home
- 2 TXism: "just down the road _____"
- 3 the last teenage year
- 4 TXism: "packed like sardines in _____"
- 9 summer savior (abbr.)
- 10 TX Paula Prentiss film: "_____ PussyCAT"
- 11 TXism: "thinking _____ doing"
- 12 Wharton AM radio
- 13 TXism: "would melt the _____ off your molars" (hot chili)
- 14 Ken Paxton title in Texas govt.
- 15 boxing victory (abbr.)
- 17 Friday night kickin' group (2 wds.)
- 19 TX Chester Nimitz final naval rank
- 20 TX Hagman TV series: "_____ of Jeannie"
- 24 "yes" in Mexico
- 25 Bentsen State Park groove-billed bird
- 26 actress Turner of "Peyton Place"

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Sports

Alpine baseball wins big in McCamey

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

Last Tuesday the Alpine Fightin' Buck baseball team won 27-13 behind five runs batted in from James Morris against the McCamey Badgers.

Said Coach Adam Llanez on Morris' hitting in the game, "James hit the ball really well, and had an inside the park home run. He was our district hitter of the year last year."

Morris plays right field, and comes in to pitch for middle relief as well.

The last game the Bucks played was a win against Ingram Tom Moore Warriors Warriors 13-8 in the Sonora Tournament. They are currently on spring break. They lost the first game of the tournament against the Harper Longhorns 12-5, and are 2-6 on the season.

Llanez, a 1999 Alpine High School graduate, talked about the season, saying, "The boys are playing well compared to the last few seasons with COVID providing a major disruption. They are playing well and playing to win. We finished tied

for second last year in district, and we are ready to play those guys again this year."

Alpine's district consists of Tornillo, Presidio, Kermit, and Anthony, the same as basketball. The Tornillo Coyotes won the district last year.

Llanez singled out Morris's play along with freshman first base Devon Rojo. Fellow freshman Idan Lujan got the win against McCamey, and plays catcher. Jeremy Dominguez continues to be a good starting pitcher, and Tegan Emerson is the primary pitcher along with catcher, too.

Alpine started the season with two scrimmages against Monahans and Fort Stockton. They lost their first game to the Pecos Eagles 11-1. In the Comanche Classic in Fort Stockton, Alpine lost to 5A schools Amarillo Palo Duro, Lubbock High Westerners, El Paso Bel Air, and the Fabens Wildcats.

The Bucks have two more non-district games against the Monahans Lobos on Tuesday, March 15, at their place, then travel to Midland to face the Greenwood Rangers before district play starts.

Fightin' Buck Schedule

Baseball	Mar. 15.....Monahans @ Monahans	Mar. 15.....Monahans @ Monahans - Girls
Golf	Mar. 14.....Monahans @ Monahans - Boys	Powerlifting Mar. 12.....Regional Meet Sundown @ Sundown



ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
BRITTON BELCHER
Congratulations to Britton Belcher for placing 5th individually at the McCamey tournament last week with a score of 89.

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Teeing off in McCamey



The Alpine Varsity boys golf team traveled to McCamey on March 1 to compete in a local tournament. The boys team placed fifth, with Britton Belcher placing fifth individually. Pictured are Matthew Solis, Ian Schwierjohn, Jared Smith, Shaun Foster, and Britton Belcher.

Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney

Powerlifters showed well

On March 5 in Shamrock, the Lady Buck powerlifters showed well at the regional meet.

Mia Morris place third with a 495 total; Kaylee Fierro placed 11th with a 485 total; Sierra Ruckman, seventh with 580; Madalyn Warren, third with 800; Enyssa Fierro, fifth with 675; Sarah Wilbourn, sixth with 610; and Hannah Vidal placed seventh with a 595 total.

Warren qualified for the State powerlifting meet with her total.

Girls win in Fort Davis



On March 4 Kylie Garcia and Adayna Garcia won the Girls Doubles Consolation in the Fort Davis tennis tournament, and Derek Schwierjohn placed second in Boys Singles.

Courtesy photo

Taking it to the hoop



On Feb. 26, Marathon hosted a full day of Little Dribblers basketball games to a packed house at the Marathon High School gym. In the photo, Alpine's Heat Wave, a fifth-sixth grade girls basketball team, dribbles to victory against Marfa's Ice Angels. The Marathon PTO sold treats and snacks, with proceeds benefitting Marathon schools.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON MARCH 28, 2022 REGARDING:

- SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION:** A SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, CHI THOI VO, TO ESTABLISH A COIN-OPERATED MACHINE BUSINESS. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 2000 E HWY 90. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS VIMAL PATEL.
- SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION:** A SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, PHUONG HUNG TO, TO ESTABLISH A COIN-OPERATED MACHINE BUSINESS. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 1906 W HWY 90. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS CHARLES SANDERS.
- VARIANCE REQUEST:** A SETBACK VARIANCE IS BEING REQUESTED BY THE APPLICANT, MICHELLE FOSTER, AT 2100 W. HWY 90. SETBACK IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOR A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THE LAND AND TO BENEFIT THE ADJOINING OWNERS AND LAND USERS.

THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

Turkey Vulture: The harbinger of spring

Turkey Vultures are found throughout the U.S. and even up into southern Canada, and most birders outside of West Texas take the ubiquitous bird for granted. The species is widespread, highly visible, and generally seen soaring and kettling in groups of a few to hundreds of birds.

In the southeastern third of North America and along the California coast, this dark giant with its silvery flight feathers occurs year round. But in the Trans Pecos region, the birds head south for the winter, and their return heralds the arrival of spring.

Although this carrion-eating bird superficially resembles members of the raptor family, it is, in fact, more closely related to storks. After extensive DNA and behavioral studies, the American Ornithologists Union now classifies Turkey Vulture in the same family and order as the North American Wood Stork, that is, Cathartidae Ciconiiformes.

Taxonomically, vultures fall between storks and flamingos, a seemingly odd placement for this – at least on the ground – ungainly creature.

Ahhh, but on the wing, it's a different story. The Turkey Vulture is master of the sky and, under favorable atmospheric conditions, can soar for hours without flapping its wings. This relates to the bird's low wing load, or ratio of the bird's weight to the surface area of its wings.

With its long, broad, deeply slotted wing tips – often referred to as “fingers” – the Turkey Vulture can catch the slightest rising current of warm air and soar, glide, circle and drop without a flap.

Characteristic of the species flight style, it holds its wings in a strong V-shape, or dihedral, and unsteadily rocks from side to side like a tight-rope walker. Even from great distances, Turkey Vultures can seldom be confused with any other large, soaring birds.

This same low wing load makes takeoff a slow, clumsy affair, creating considerable drag until the bird can gain enough momentum to lift itself into the air and catch a thermal.

When seen in flight, the bird's upper side appears uniformly black but is actually very dark brown. From below, its black wing linings contrast sharply with the pale gray primary and secondary feathers and pale gray tail.

Adult birds have featherless red heads, pale or bright yellow bills, and brownish legs.

Vultures are a familiar sight along West Texas highways and roadsides, where there's an abundance of freshly killed animals preferred by the big birds; but they will consume almost any dead flesh, regardless of its state of putrefaction.

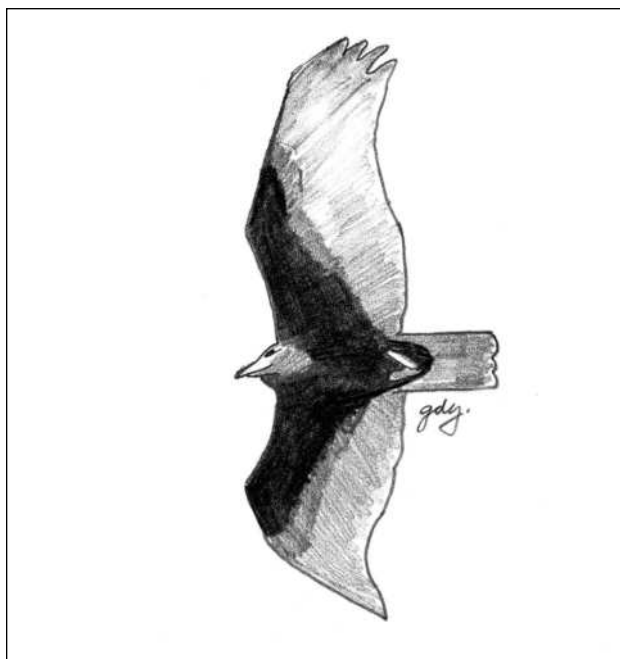
As carrion eaters, Turkey Vultures search for their food while in flight, and locate their meals primarily by smell. Their naked heads enable them to plunge deep into decaying carcasses without fouling their feathers, and the birds' digestive systems have excellent resistance to the microbes and toxins found in decaying flesh.

Turkey Vultures breed in a wide variety of habitats, from coastal swamps



BIRDS-EYE VIEW

by gail d. yovanovich



Turkey Vulture in flight.

Illustration by Gail D. Yovanovich

to rugged, mountainous areas. They are quite gregarious, often amassing in roosts containing a thousand or more birds.

They build no nest, but simply lay their one to three white or creamy-white, spotted and splotched eggs in a cave, on a rock recess, in a crevice or a hollow log, or on the ground. The birds prefer a dark, secluded, undisturbed site. Pairs are monogamous, and both parents incubate the eggs, which hatch in five to six weeks.

The young ones remain in the nest for two to three months, and are fed by both parents. Young birds sport dark gray heads and bills for their first year.

The vultures usually show up in our area in late February, but this year someone told me sev-

eral had roosted through the winter in trees near the elementary school. I never got by during roosting time to check it out, but I do recall seeing the random vulture in the sky occasionally in December and January – an unusual time to see the birds in these parts. At the time, I wrote them off as late or early migrants, but those vultures could very well have been from the school roost.

Be that as it may, as far as I'm concerned, Turkey Vultures arrived Feb. 27 when I spotted several

soaring over Highway 67 east of Alpine. That's when I knew spring was here.

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The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging announces the closure of its satellite office in Marfa, TX effective February 2022

The main office located in El Paso, TX remains open and committed to serving older adults and family caregivers who reside in our service region

The Area Agency on Aging serves as a resource that promotes older adult independence and assists family caregivers in their tasks of caring for their loved ones

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The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging is a division of the Rio Grande Council of Governments and serves persons 60 years of age and older and their families that reside in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Brewster and Presidio Counties. It is funded by the Older Americans Act through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Police department makes history

The City of Alpine last week announced that the Alpine Police Department made U.S. history by receiving the first call ever on a cloud-native platform with i3 ESnet. Carbyne, the company

that founded this groundbreaking technology, is essentially the first call-taking platform that is purely cloud-based.

The system provides first responders with the enhanced resources they

need to ensure the highest level of public safety. Enhanced safety features include improved location data, the availability of the 911 user to provide live video feed to dispatchers, and other state-

of-the-art technological features. The city thanks Carbyne and the Rio Grande Council of Governments for this opportunity to better serve and protect citizens' welfare.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Bella Lozano



Bella Lozano

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

I'm especially looking forward to expanding my knowledge and talent in photography my senior year.

What activities are you involved in during your senior year?

I am involved in a photography internship.

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

My most influential teacher through out my high school years have been Mr. Grisham for helping me find my passion for photography, and Mrs. Golden for offering her friendship and support when I needed it most.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My favorite moment these last four years was the moment I realized how much I fell in love with photography and graphic design.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan to study at UNT, and major in photography and minor in social health and services.

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Devotional Page Whatever happened to Judas?

BY MICHAEL WALLENS, VICAR
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Marfa

We are in the midst of the season of Lent. A time to follow Jesus to Jerusalem. A time to follow Him in the last days of His earthly life. A time when the Cross and an empty tomb are part of our salvation.

A time when John 3:16-17 becomes real - "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through Him."

When the world rejected that love and crucified it, Jesus did not lash back. He cried out in love and forgiveness.

In his own day, Jesus was seen by many as a monster, troubling them with His unpredictability and the company He kept, vanishing to go apart and pray, and to be alone with His Father just when people thought they needed Him.

Perhaps if we are brave enough to accept our monsters, to love them, to kiss them, we will find that we are touching the terrible dragon we feared, but the loving Lord of all creation.

And when we meet our Creator, we will be judged for all our turnings away, all our inhumanity to each other, but it will be the judgment of relentless love, and in the end we will know the mercy of God which is beyond all comprehension.

Once a while back, I heard the following story told at a clergy conference by my spiritual director, Alan Jones, about Judas.

There is an old legend that after his death, Judas found himself at the bottom of a deep and slimy pit. For thousands of years he wept for repentance, and when the tears were finally spent, he looked up and saw, way, way up, a tiny glimmer of light. After he had contemplated it for another thousand years or so, he began to try and climb up towards it. The walls of the pit were dank and slimy, and he kept slipping back down. Finally, after great effort, he neared the top, and then he slipped and fell all the way back down.

It took him many years to recover, all the time weeping bitter tears of grief and repentance, and then he started to climb up again. After many more falls and failures and efforts he reached the top, and dragged himself into an upper room with 12 people seated around a table. "We've been waiting for you Judas," Jesus said. "We couldn't begin until you came."

Are any of us unforgivable? Is God's forgiveness limited to an exclusive group? What God began, God will not abandon. God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. God loves everyone, sings the psalmist. What God has named will live forever.

After the crucifixion the defeated little band of disciples had no hope. Everything they believed in had died on the cross with Jesus. The world was right and they had been wrong. Even when the women had told the disciples that Jesus had left the stone-sealed tomb, the disciples found it nearly impossible to believe that it was not all over. The truth was, it was just beginning.

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

- Background developing menu ideas and sourcing farm-to-table and fresh food items
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Lemon-ricotta pancakes: My most favorite breakfast



HEAD OVER MEALS
by kara gerbert



Once upon a time breakfast was something the whole family took part in daily. These days with the hustle and bustle of our lives, both spouses working full time, breakfast is a rushed affair if it happens at all. For the whole family to enjoy or partake in breakfast usually only happens on the weekends.

This was the case for me growing up. Saturday

mornings meant breakfast time, and nothing made me happier than a stack of pancakes. In fact this was the first thing I ever learned to make because I loved them so much. This still has not changed. Pancakes are still my favorite breakfast food, and the best I have ever had were lemon-ricotta pancakes.

These are not your average pancake, and they take a bit more work than a box of

Aunt Jemima, but they are easily worth every second of time spent.

Fruits such as blueberries or raspberries can also be added to the batter of these decadent pancakes, and while the work week may not be advantageous for such an undertaking, it's a Saturday morning treat for your family is sure to please.

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

Lemon-Ricotta Pancakes

Ingredients:	1 tbsp. vegetable oil	1 tbsps. lemon juice
¾ cup water or milk	1 tbsp. white sugar	1 cup self-rising flour
½ tsp. baking soda	1 large egg	and an additional 2 tb-
½ c ricotta cheese	½ tsp. vanilla	sps. of self-rising flour.
1 tbsp. lemon zest,	2 tbsps. melted butter	

Directions:

Begin by combining milk or water with baking soda, and whisk together in a large bowl. Add ricotta cheese, lemon zest, vegetable oil, sugar, egg, and vanilla. Whisk until smooth, breaking up lumps of cheese as you mix.

Add melted butter, lemon juice, and all the flour, a little at a time, and whisk until most of the flour disappears into the batter. Let the batter sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes. While the batter is resting, heat a lightly greased skillet or griddle over medium-high heat. A

cast iron skillet is preferable. After the batter has rested, portion out ¼-cup scoops onto the skillet. When bubbles begin to form on the surface and the edges of the pancakes begin to look dry, flip and cook the other side until cooked through. Both sides should take about 2-3 minutes.

Cook in batches, and transfer to a warm plate when done.

This recipe yields approximately two large servings or four small. Add your favorite syrup or sweet confection such as lemon curd, or eat just as is.

Illegals apprehended

On March 4, U.S. Border Patrol agents of the Presidio Station apprehended around 60 undocumented non-citizens near Presidio. The group consisted of single adults and family units from Cuba. The subjects were transported to the station for processing.

Courtesy photo



Lobos split with Baldwin Wallace and Buena Vista

Softball won 13-2 over Baldwin Wallace before falling 8-2 against Buena Vista to split day two of the Tucson Invitational.

"It didn't go the way we wanted in game two," said Head Coach Troy Canaba. "But I was pleased with our fight. We now regroup for tomorrow!"

In game one Camryn Hardin got it going for the Lobos, scoring on a wild pitch to give Sully an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Baldwin Wallace answered with one in the first to tie it 1-1 after one.

In the second, Raquelle Bernal tripled to center

to plate Heather Rios. Bernal later scored on a throwing error to make it 3-1. Another error later brought in Hardin for a 4-1 lead after two.

Lisbeth Dominguez singled in Jenna Spencer in the third to start a five-run inning. Rios kept it rolling with a single to bring in Cayman Ivins. Bernal joined the party with an RBI single to bring in Rios before Hardin launched a triple to center to plate both Bernal and Veronica Rodriguez. Samantha Chavez capped things off with a sacrifice fly to score Hardin and give the Lobos a 10-1 lead after three.

The Yellow Jackets got one back in the fourth to cut it to 10-2 but would not chip away anymore after that. In the fifth, Annika Canaba tripled to bring in Hardin and Chavez before Payslee Sims brought in Canaba on a single to give Sully a 13-2 advantage that eventually went final.

Hunter Montes picked up her first win on the bump. She went all five innings, allowing just two earned and striking out six.

Hardin finished with game-highs of three hits and four runs scored.

In game 2 the Lobos started with a Nadia Val-

verde double to score Hardin for a 1-0 advantage after one. Buena Vista matched it with a run in the second, then got another in the third to take a 2-1 lead after three. The Beavers added three in the fourth to take a 7-1 advantage going bottom four.

Sims answered with home run to left, bringing it to 7-2 after four. Buena Vista added one more in the seventh for an 8-2 lead that also went final.

With the split, the Lobos move to 10-7.

Sully finishes the Tucson Invitational on Wednesday with another doubleheader.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON APRIL 5, 2022 REGARDING:

- SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION:** A SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, CHI THOI VO, TO ESTABLISH A COIN-OPERATED MACHINE BUSINESS. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 2000 E HWY 90. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS VIMAL PATEL.
- SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION:** A SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, PHUONG HUNG TO, TO ESTABLISH A COIN-OPERATED MACHINE BUSINESS. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 1906 W HWY 90. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS CHARLES SANDERS.
- VARIANCE REQUEST:** A SETBACK VARIANCE IS BEING REQUESTED BY THE APPLICANT, MICHELLE FOSTER, AT 2100 W. HWY 90. SETBACK IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOR A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THE LAND AND TO BENEFIT THE ADJOINING OWNERS AND LAND USERS.

THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.



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