

Commissioners approve voting location change

BY ROXANNE HILL
 Staff Writer

Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 22, and approved a new voting location for the November general elections. Plenty of discussion ensued among Brewster County Elections Administrator Lora Nussbaum, County Democratic Chair Mary Bell Lockhart, and two long-time Alpine residents.



Lora Nussbaum

During public comment, Alpine resident Kim Keith, a retired Alpine High School teacher and former elections poll worker and elections judge, voiced her support to move the Pct. 1 location from the Brewster County Sunny Glen Cooperative Building, formerly the food bank, located on U.S. Highway 90 west, to the Fellowship Hall of the First Assembly of God church located on Fort Davis Highway.

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2022.	0.06"
March.	0.00"



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.



Gonzales talks border issues, relief

BY GAIL DIANE YOVANOVICH
 Managing Editor

Judging by numbers released by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol last week, there is no end in sight to illegal immigration, and thus little relief for border communities dealing with the influx. The number of unique individuals encountered nationwide in February was 116,678, a 2% increase from January. In total there were 164,973 encounters along the

Southwest land border in February, a 7% increase compared to January. U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales (R-TX-23), whose district includes much of the Texas border with Mexico, last week spoke with the Avalanche about efforts to keep border issues in front of leaders now dealing with Russia's invasion



Tony Gonzales

of Ukraine, sky-rocketing gas prices, and soaring inflation. He called the February apprehensions "astonomical," saying, "We're on pace to blow every record out of the water," and stressed Border Patrol agents were busy processing illegals rather than out in the field "catching bad guys." Gonzales outlined a two-fold plan that included lining up Republicans so when the party won back the house, they could make

meaningful changes. "Right now we're in the minority, so we're limited as far as that goes," he said. Building a wall, adding more Border Patrol agents and law enforcement, giving more funds to sheriffs through Operation Stonegarden, and increasing technology filled out the second part of his plan. Gonzales noted not many in Washington understood the border or were willing to have a conversation about it.

"But there are some people who do, so I've been working with them to find immediate relief in any form or fashion," he said. In remote parts of West Texas where a physical structure wasn't possible and illegals travel in "record numbers," Gonzales pointed to automatic surveillance towers that had "completely changed the game."

See BORDER • 6

Running for a win



The Alpine High School girls varsity won the Fightin' Buck Relays in Alpine on March 19. In the photo Jaycee Portillo and Amanda Ahrens run the 100-meter hurdles.

Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney

New Alpine fire chief steps up

BY ROXANNE HILL
 Staff Writer

Firefighters do more than fight blazes or step up in emergency situations. Firefighters have the privilege of serving by giving back to the community they call home. They are dedicated members whom residents can count on. Ready to take on that mission is new Alpine VFD Chief Andrew Pierce. Originally from Lubbock, Pierce moved to Alpine to attend Sul Ross State University nearly a decade ago, and that's when he first

joined the fire department. A few years later, Pierce became an emergency medical technician with Alpine EMS under the direction of Mike Scudder and Tracy Felstot. In December 2021, Pierce was voted by the fire department as the new chief, joining Charles Worden who became assistant chief. "We help out wherever we can, and we've also been helping out EMS with the uptake in EMS calls, that way everyone is taken care of," said Pierce, who is also finishing up his para-

medic certification. The fire department serves north and south Brewster County along with Marathon, is an all-hazards department with some hazmat capabilities, and can respond to emergency situations such as vehicle rescues. The department partners up with Brewster County EMC Stephanie Elmore, the county's fire department liaison. Chimney fires have been prevalent during the winter, and there has been an uptake in auto accidents.



Alpine VFD Chief Andrew Pierce.

Courtesy photo

See CHIEF • 6

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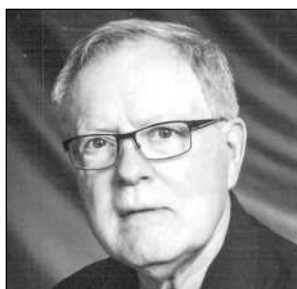
OBITUARIES

Richard J. Hansen

Richard J. Hansen, 75, of Marshfield, Wis., left us on March 18, 2022, to be with his Savior after living with Parkinson's disease for the last 16 years at Wells Nature View, 2711 South Apple Avenue, Marshfield. He will be truly missed by his wife Janice (Jan-Sunshine) whom he was married to for 42 years. He loved her and their family, their grandchildren, and great grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at St. John's Catholic Church, Marshfield, where the family will receive relatives and friends from 9 a.m. until service time. Rev. James Weighner will officiate. Interment will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery Columbarium where military rites will be conducted. A Knights of Columbus rosary service will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday at St. John's Catholic Church. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Richard was born on July 1, 1946, in Marshfield to James and Violet (Braem) Hansen. Upon graduat-



ing from Marshfield Senior High School, he joined the U.S. Army National Guard. He loved his country by serving it well for just under 24 years. He served during the Vietnam era, the Gresham uprising, and the Waupun Prison riots in Wisconsin, then continued his service in Odessa, Texas. He was honorably discharged in 2006.

He married Barbara Petrie in May 1969, and they divorced. He later married Janice Lang on Nov. 30, 1979, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Bakerville, Wis.

After graduating from automotive technical school in 1965, he owned and operated Hansen's Southside Skelly, and later worked for Crown Olds Cadillac. In 1981 he moved their family to Alpine, Tex-

as, where they lived until 1990. While there, he worked as service manager for Haas Motor Company, and later as counselor for High Frontier in Fort Davis, Texas, a home for troubled youth. While in Alpine he was very active at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, serving on many ministries.

In 1991-2000 he and the family returned to Marshfield, working at Fleet Farm of Marshfield, assistant manager in Clintonville and then Green Bay, Wis.

Once again in August 2000 Alpine was calling his name. He loved southwest Texas, and what it had to offer - open range, warm weather, the Mexican community, and the friends they left prior. His saying was "either you love Texas or you hate it." He loved it!

He loved his cycles, muz-

zle loaders, and going on rendezvous with his buddies. But his greatest enjoyment was his ham radios that his brother Don got him interested in. He belonged to the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club of Alpine. He loved field day that came once a year, and he loved spotting and chasing storms. His call sign being KA5NJA (not just anybody). You could always find him in his radio room talking to people from around the world.

After being diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2006, he moved his family for the final time back to Marshfield in 2007, finishing his career at Walmart.

He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus Third Degree, American Legion, and a true veteran of the U.S.A. He will be missed by all who knew his quick wit and dry sense of humor. As he would say thousands of times, "This is KA5NJA - not just anybody over and out!"

He is survived by his wife Jan; children Jeffrey (Jessica) Hansen of Pickering-

ton, Ohio, Kim (Damian) Nelson of Allardt, Tenn., Kristina Hansen (Christopher Williams) of Spencer, Wis., Brenda (Robert) Korth of Hewitt, Wis., and Robert (Julie) Nelles, Jr., of Cambridge, Wis. He is also survived by grandchildren Sydney and Connor Hansen, Cody and Colby Korth, and Owain, Ian and Ellie Nelles; great grandson Koffee Hansen; and brother, Don (Kathy) Hansen of Marshfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a niece,

Rachel Hansen.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church or Marshfield Senior High Athletic Program.

The family wishes to thank Wells Nature View manager Patti Henney and her staff for all the loving care they gave to Richard the last five years, and a special thanks to the Heartland Hospice team of Stevens Point.

Condolences may be sent to rembsfh.com.

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Charlene L. Ripley

Charlene L. Ripley, 88, went to be with the Lord on March 20, 2022, after being hospitalized for three weeks in Odessa, Texas.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Johnny Ripley, and two of her four children. Charlene was born Hamlin, Texas,



on March 30, 1933. She moved to Alpine, Texas, in

1943, and lived there ever since then.

She was an animal lover, and when she was younger, she especially enjoyed owning and riding horses. Charlene was also a talented bass guitar player. She and Johnny were part of a Western band called The Alpine Mountaineers for about five years. They play

at the Edelweiss in Alpine and for private parties and other functions.

Most of all, Charlene had a loving and generous heart. She was like an angel for people in need. She loved everyone, and she will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Services pending.

Jose Ben Gallegos

Jose Ben Gallegos was born on Nov. 12, 1928, in Alpine, Texas, and he was called to eternal rest on March 19, 2022.

Ben, as he was popularly known, was the owner of the Comanche Tortilla and Tamale Factory originally founded by Angel R. Terrazas and his mother Eliza Webster Terrazas in 1947. Son Joe Ben (JB) Gallegos, Jr., later took over ownership of the business.

Ben was a U.S. Navy veteran entering the service on Jan. 1, 1946, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. He was promoted to Seaman First Class on Sept. 16, 1946. Seaman First Class Gallegos served at NTC San Diego, and was honorably discharged at the Presidio in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 20, 1947, after completing his enlistment.

Ben was active in the community for many years. He was a founding member and past president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), American GI Forum, and a Lions Club Member and director. Ben also served as a board member of the Pecos County Community Action Center, and was a Butz School PTA member and chairman. He also helped organize and served on the Butz School Reunion committee. Ben was active in Boy Scouts of America as a Scout master when his sons Edward, JB, and Gilbert became Scouts.

Ben was an active member of St. Joseph's



Catholic Church in Fort Stockton, Texas, and a member of the Holy Name Society. He was also a cursillista, having attended his first cursillo at St. Joseph's in San Angelo, Texas, in 1965. He was also a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church.

Ben was an outstanding athlete in his younger years. He was a basketball player for Butz School, and played baseball for the Veteranos

as a first base man. He also coached his son Gilbert for the Angels Little League team.

Ben married Emma Nieto Gonzales on Feb. 16, 1952. They both raised five boys, Edward Gonzales Gallegos (Teresa), Joe Ben "JB" Gallegos (Steve), Gilbert Gonzales Gallegos (Patricia), Oscar Gonzales Gallegos (girlfriend Nancy), and Charles Gabriel Gallegos (Mary).

Ben was preceded in death by his father Wenselado Gallego and stepmother Amelia. Also preceding him in death were his mother Eliza Webster Terrazas and stepfather Angel R Terrazas.

Surviving siblings are sisters Nene Espinoza

(Modesto), Elidia Leyva (Abelardo), Larissa Gallego, BJ Gallego (Linda), Jimmy Gallego (Christy), Ruben Gallego (Abelina), and Berta Celaya (Eldefonso).

Ben and Emma have 14 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, with the newest grandchild Brielle Everly Garcia.

Services, rosary, and mass will be held Thursday, March 24, 2022, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Stockton beginning at 9 a.m., with burial following at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. Luncheon will follow at the Fort Stockton Community Theater across the street from the Comanche Tortilla and Tamale Factory.

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Running for guts and glory

BY ROXANNE HILL
Staff Writer

Breathtaking adventure awaits a group of extraordinarily talented runners from all over Texas who will all run for guts and glory in the beautiful Davis Mountains at the Southwest 100. The race will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 26-27, at the Fort Davis National Historic Site and Davis Mountains State Park.

The spectacular race will feature long distance runners competing at all levels - 5k, 10k, half marathon, marathon, 52 miles, and the 104 miler designed only for those who can withstand an over 30-hour physical and mental journey.

The race will be sponsored by Ultra Expeditions, a Dallas-based company that hosts outdoor races all over the state in a variety of exciting locales, including beaches, trail parks, urban areas, and of course, mountains.

Jeanne Schaaf is the co-founder, along with Jason Gates. Schaaf said the Southwest 100 held in Fort Davis is the flagship mountain race

of the entire runner's series.

"Jason Gates and I spent about two-and-a-half years looking for a mountain race," said Schaaf. "We have a Texas Trail Running Eco Series, and we needed a mountain race. We have been trying for years to find one we really liked and that had all the things that we wanted. When we found this race in Alpine, Fort Davis, the two parks - the Davis Mountains State Park and the Fort Davis National Historic Site - we just knew we had found the home for the Ultra 100!" Schaaf said the runners bring family and friends and explore everything the Big Bend has to offer, whether exploring McDonald Observatory or staying in Alpine.

"The runners make it like a little vacation. They come out, they bring their families, and they enjoy," said Schaaf. "We have been very pleased with being in the area each year for sure."

Jody Freshwater, director of Integrative Marketing based in Ohio, added, "It is really an amazing experience for them. Once they finish, you know they feel they have

really accomplished something special. My favorite thing is the buckle because it is 104 miles. The buckle means more to these people because it takes so much training, and it takes so much endurance, and it takes so much mental stability to be able to manage this terrain, and keep going for 30 hours. I find that very inspirational."



Miles Benevich was only one of three runners to earn a Southwest 100 Buckle in 2021. Benevich, who grew up in Alpine, will be competing in the race this weekend in Fort Davis.

Courtesy photo

Determination, commitment, endurance, and stamina, along with a superb dose of mental agility and strength combined with a phenomenal athletic ability will be the core qualities of the runners going for it all. Great things come from hard work and perseverance, and in the end, it is not the Davis Mountains Ultra

Expedition race that these superb athletes conquer. It is themselves. "They are incredible," exclaimed Schaaf.

"The journey to get there is incredible. It is the training, the willpower, the desire to do something like this."

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An artsy grand opening



Alpine Ambassadors welcomed a new Alpine business, the Desert Palette, on March 17 with a ribbon cutting and grand opening. Alpine Ambassadors Catherine Eaves, Judy Stokes, Eva Olivas, Ramon Olivas, Debbie Jordan, Sara Bow, and Berta Rios-Martinez join Desert Palette owner Sarah Freeman, Roger Freeman, and Julie Green with a welcoming reception.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

Man arrested after high-speed chase

On the night of March 15, a Brewster County deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a red Chevrolet Tahoe on U.S. Highway 188 about 40 miles south of Alpine.

The driver turned the vehicle around, and fled southbound at speeds reaching 100 miles per

hour for over 30 miles.

A d ditional Brewster County and U.S. Border Patrol units re-



Omar Hernandez

sponded to assist. They deployed stop sticks to safely deflate the vehicle's tires. The Tahoe came to a stop, and the driver, Omar Hernandez, was removed from the vehicle and taken into custody.

Also in the vehicle were eight illegal aliens

who were referred to Border Patrol agents for processing and deportation.

Hernandez was booked into the Brewster County Jail on eight counts of smuggling of persons, and evading arrest with a motor vehicle.

Road work continues at park

Driving through scenic Big Bend National Park will soon be a smoother, safer, and more enjoyable experience. Crews have been working since January to clean, prep, and resurface all the park's 120 miles of paved roads. Work will continue through April, and no road closures are expected, but park visitors may experience up to 15-minute delays.

In addition to the main park roads, both the Chisos Basin and Rio Grande Village campgrounds will receive new paved surfaces during April. Campsites at Rio Grande Village for March will be available for online reservations at recreation.gov.

Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., is the lead contractor for this Federal Highway Administration funded project. Major goals are to address worn and degraded road surfaces. Existing pavement will be cleaned, prepped and all cracks sealed before an entirely new surface is applied. The final step will be repainting lines for enhanced safety and visibility.

To complete the work in a timely manner, work will occur weekdays from sunrise to sunset, and in January and February, the work schedule generally focused on prep-



ping and patching the existing surfaces. The majority of the final chip seal re-surfacing will take place during April after most of the busy spring break rush.

Project updates, and the latest timelines and project photos will be posted on the Big Bend National Park website at nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/conditions.htm.

Park visitors should drive

cautiously in the work zones, and be on the lookout for construction equipment and loose gravel.

"There is never a perfectly convenient time for major road projects, and we regret the inconvenience, but the results will be an enhanced and much safer park experience for all," said Chief of Facilities Management Doug Griffith.



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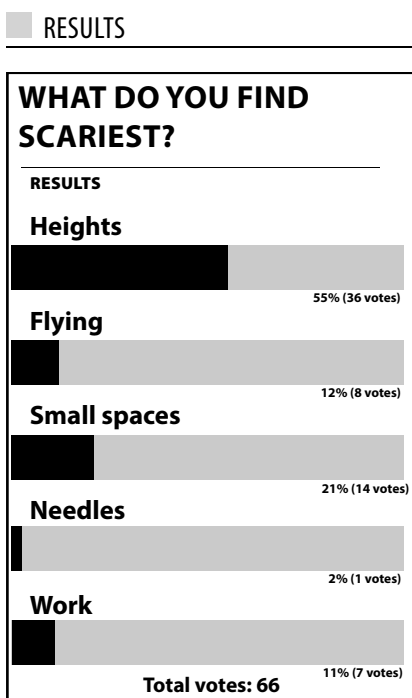
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Opinions

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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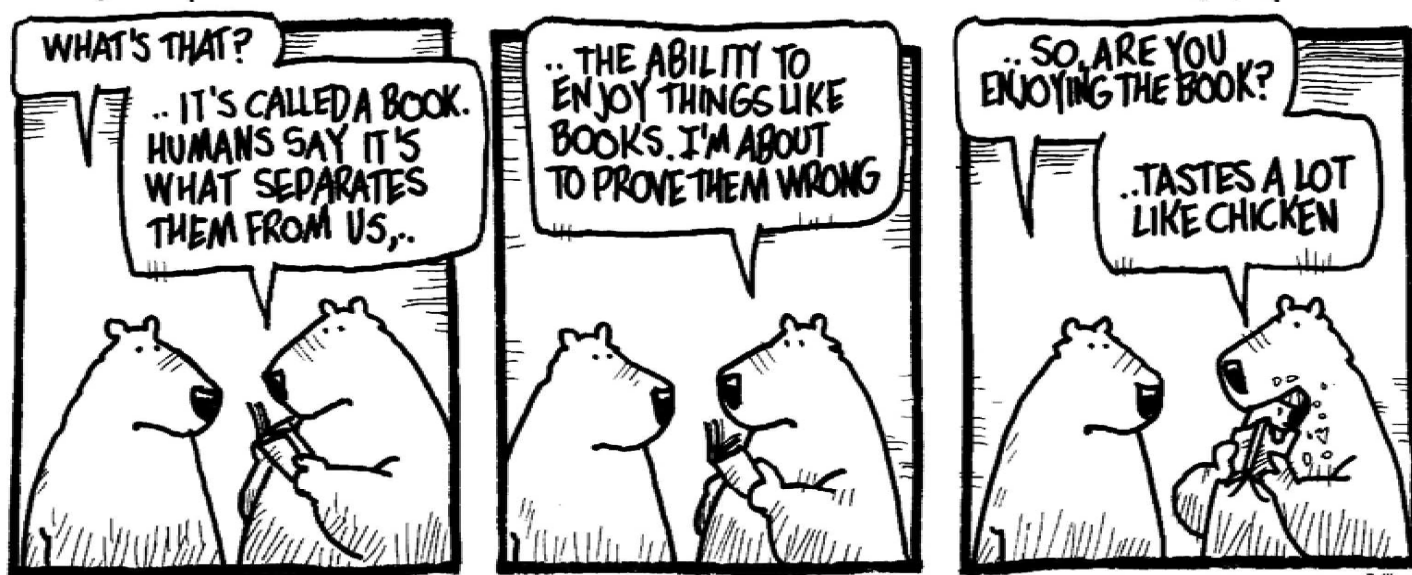
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History tells us to take tyrants like Putin seriously



RICH MANIERI
Guest Columnist

The world seemed surprised when Hitler annexed the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia in 1938, more surprised when he invaded Poland in 1939, and flabbergasted when he marched into the Soviet Union in 1941.

Never underestimate the ambitions of an evil tyrant.

Perhaps the West thought Vladimir Putin was bluffing about invading Ukraine. If so, the U.S. and its NATO allies are lousy poker players.

History tells us that the only deterrent to evil despots is strength. This is the nature of bullies. Why the Biden administration, and President Biden himself on more than one occasion, told the world, including Putin, that he would not use American force in defense of Ukraine was as baffling as it was irresponsible. Force and the threat of force are two different things.

It is certainly understandable why we would want to do everything possible to stay out of a shooting war with Russia. But saying so out loud amounted to a calligraphed invitation to Putin to move forward.

Think of it this way. If I were in a boxing match but was unable to use my left hand because it was broken, I

wouldn't tell my opponent before the fight, "By the way, I can't punch with my left hand," even though I had no intention of using my left.

Even as Ukrainians were dying and fleeing the country, the U.S. and its allies still felt the need to reemphasize their commitment to military passivity.

"We are not going to move into Ukraine, either on the ground or in the airspace," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said earlier this month in Brussels. "We understand the desperation, but also believe if we did that, we'd end up in something that could end up in a full-fledged war in Europe involving many more countries."

On March 16, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy begged President Biden to be the "leader of the world." It's a shame he had to ask.

Biden responded to Zelenskyy's impassioned plea with an additional \$800 million

in aid, including weaponry, and by calling Putin a "war criminal." Biden continues to pass on Zelenskyy's ask for a NATO-enforced no-fly zone and fighter jets.

We've apparently learned nothing from history. The West took a similar posture in the late 1930s and early 1940s, which resulted in "a full-fledged war in Europe involving many more countries."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, knowing the American public didn't have the appetite for another foreign war, made a political calculation to stay out of it, even while Great Britain was being bombed into oblivion. Prime Minister Winston Churchill begged Roosevelt for help, but to no avail. Roosevelt sent material, but stayed out of the fight until Pearl Harbor forced his hand.

Of course, we have no way of knowing whether Putin would have invaded Ukraine had Biden or our allies taken a harder rhetorical line. He may have. But it's difficult to imagine that Putin wouldn't at least have had some pause if he feared reprisal from the West.

Putin saw an opening, and he swung hard. He isn't stupid. Nor do I believe as some

have suggested that he's crazy or detached from reality. He knows exactly what he's doing, and he's already told the world why he's doing it. Let's not let him off the hook by medicalizing his bad behavior.

If you believe media reports and the U.S. State Department, it's possible that Putin underestimated both his military wherewithal and the Ukrainians willingness to fight.

If this is true, one could make an argument that if, in fact, the Russian military is in disarray, Putin would be far less inclined to tangle with the U.S. and its NATO allies, even if we took a more aggressive posture in helping Ukraine defend itself.

The humane thing to do is to help a sovereign nation defend itself against an invader who, if victorious, will only feel emboldened to initiate further aggression.

Former Russian foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev said this week that Putin's ambitions include all of Eastern Europe, with intent to "attack, to pressure, to intimidate other countries, including members of NATO."

In response, the first thing the U.S. and NATO should do is believe him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Goodbye, Bill

My next door neighbor and good friend William D. Bates died the evening of Feb. 8 at his home. For many years Dan and I spent several hours on Sunday mornings with coffee and talk, always interesting and enjoyable given his wide range of interests and curiosity. Dan was never one to argue as those of you who met him over the years know. As he walked our streets to the grocery store, the public or Sul Ross libraries, or the bank or McDonalds or the Sunshine House, he was never too

busy to stop and chat with anyone and everyone.

Dan was almost like family, and often part of the frequent visits of our daughter and granddaughter to Alpine. His house is located between our house and the Alpine house of our daughter Kirsten and her husband Charles. Almost next door.

Dan's background as an undergraduate in engineering gave him a capability to show me how things are intended to fit together or come apart, something I have great difficulty in seeing. And he never called me

an idiot because I couldn't see what was obvious to him.

We talked a lot about law and law school, and he on several occasions spoke to my classes connected to law as well as the student Pre-law Association evening meetings, as did many of our local practicing attorneys.

Dan was a particularly private person, and I am quite certain he would not want me to share the rest of what I know about him, so I'll not provide anything resembling an obituary. But I am sure those of you with whom he

routinely spent time mourn his passing, as will those travelers who encountered him on a stroll and received information and advice such as what restaurants might be open that day, how to get to Museum of the Big Bend, etc.

Dan was an unusual person, a loner in many ways, but also a convivial member of the community. Many of us miss him and the contacts we had through the pandemic.

Dale Christophersen
Alpine

Chocolate crème soldiers

Everyone should be familiar with the 1948 Berlin crisis and the U.S. military airlift that supplied the city with food while it was blockaded by the USSR. The American public is less informed about why the Soviets stood down. President Harry S. Truman ordered B-29s - the bombers that had dropped the atomic bombs on Japan - to impose a threat by flying toward Russian positions in Germany. Nobody called Truman crazy.

That was the first time nukes were used as a deterrent. The second occurred during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. This time the

American public was deliberately misinformed. This next is taken from history.state.gov, and is official history: Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev sent a midnight message to President John Kennedy, "If there is no intention to doom the world to the catastrophe of nuclear war, then let us not only relax the forces pulling on the ends of the rope, let us take measures to untie the knot."

JFK sent an emissary, his brother Robert, the attorney general, who agreed to pull U.S. nuclear missiles targeted at Russia from Turkey in return for the Soviets pulling their missiles targeted at the U.S. from Cuba, provided

the move was kept secret in exchange for the guarantee that there would not be a second Bay of Pigs. Nobody called Kennedy crazy. Khrushchev was villanized.

The Biden administration and NATO leaders have portrayed Vladimir Putin as a madman because crazy people with a nuclear arsenal should be left alone. Putin is the reincarnation of Stalin whom Khrushchev exposed as an evil murderer. By weakening Putin economically with sanctions while leaving his army intact, the stage is set for Putin to logically recoup his losses by using his military might to acquire his neigh-

bors' properties piecemeal.

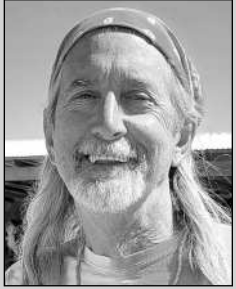
Putin is no military genius. For weeks most of his army sat vulnerable on 40 miles of highway, unable to move until an early spring thaw took the frost out of the soil, while begging to be destroyed. Western politicians and diplomats, like the chocolate crème soldiers they are, pontificated, clucked their tongues, and sat on their hands. The cusp that would have allowed a decisive, antiseptic military action is past. Now Russia plays its messy hand while the West stands by.

Rex Redden
Alpine



Heard on the STREET

What time do you usually start your day?



John Davis, Alpine: Probably when the sun comes up, around 7:30 or 8. I usually make coffee. That's probably the most important thing, and do things around the house.



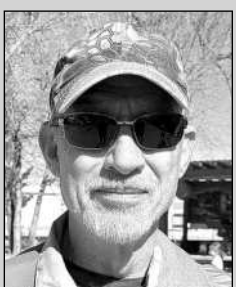
James Martin, Alpine: I wake up about 7:15 a.m., get ready for work. Eat breakfast, and just go to work at Out West Feed & Supply and do what I need to do there. I come home about 6 p.m., and kind of just relax for a little bit, eat dinner, and then go to sleep.



Stephanie Winston, Alpine (Terlingua Ranch): I usually start my day ideally at about 4:45 a.m., and when I wake up at that time I lay in bed, because I'm cold. I walk over to our wood burning stove, and if my husband hasn't turned it on by then, I light the fireplace, and I stand in front of there for a few minutes, and I warm up. Then I sit down in my chair, and I read my devotional, and then I close my eyes, and I try to sit still for 30 minutes, and try to journal. By then, I am usually warm enough to get dressed, and then I start breakfast for myself and for my family.



Tara Delaney, Alpine: I usually wake up at 6 a.m., drink my coffee, and read my bible.



John Sutterfield, Alpine: I wake up at 6:30 or 7 a.m. I get up, go get my coffee, and let the dogs out, feed the dogs, and after they've had their food taken, go for a two-mile walk, and then get back in the house and start the day.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 25
Travel Talk, 7 p.m. at Alpine Public Library in the AEP Foundation multipurpose room. Kathy and Albert Bork will present "Radical Acceptance," or "How We Survived Three Months in Europe." Free and open to the public.

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.

Chihuahua Dog Races, event starts 11 a.m., races at 1 p.m. in Terlingua Ghost Town. Games, dog costume contest, silent auction, food, and music. Proceeds benefit Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend. Call 432-371-3147 or 432-837-7254 for more information.

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 activities in the community.



APRIL 15
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.

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 Cho-

rale 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 bbccchorale.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.

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Jaga, a two-year-old Tabby cat. His distinctive M marking on his forehead sits just above his eyes, giving him a bit of a scowl, but he's a friendly guy.

Jaga currently greets the Alpine Animal Shelter visitors, freely roaming the facility, often hanging about in the lobby. But finding a family and his own "forever" home might put a smile on Jaga's face. Stop by and meet him any weekday.

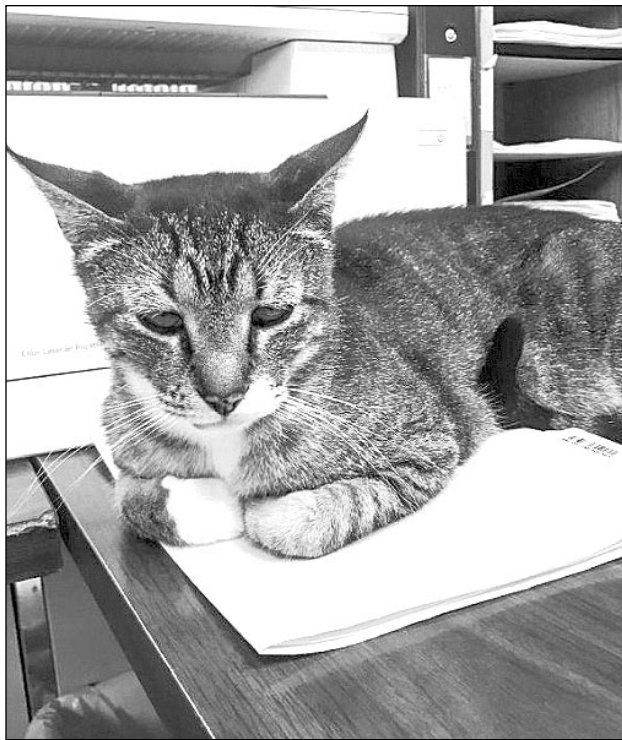
Alpine Humane Society offers several affordable forms of assistance for getting your pet spayed

or neutered and vaccinated. Pop-up clinics are scheduled monthly in communities throughout the Big Bend. In addition, we now make it easy to request financial support with veterinary services through online sign-up forms on our Facebook page and various community group pages.

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.



CITY OF ALPINE STREET PAVING SERVICES RFP PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Alpine is seeking quotes from vendors for the following projects: Airport Taxiway: Estimated 13,500 square feet and Alpine Country Club Estate Road: Estimated 28,000 square feet. Accordingly, the City is seeking bids from interested contractors(s) to provide paving services.

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

Final quotes will be due on Thursday, April 7, 2022, by 5:00 P.M. (CST). Proposals should be clearly marked "Do Not Open - Street Paving Project" and submitted to the address below:

City of Alpine
Jovannie Gonzales, Finance Department
100 N. 13th St
Alpine, Texas 79830

Projected award date of April 19, 2022. To receive a copy of the full RFP, please email j.gonzales@ci.alpine.tx.us or visit www.cityofalpine.com.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

The Board of Trustees of the Terrell County Independent School District (TCISD) hereby serves notice that it will accept sealed bids for the following real property:

104 PERSIMMON AVE SANDERSON, TX 79848, Being a 0.404 acre tract of land, being a portion of Block H, Wilson Addition, an addition to the town of Sanderson, Terrell County, Texas according to the map or plat record in Sleeve 1, plat cabinet records, Terrell County, Texas, and a portion of Blocks 10 and 23, Railroad Addition, an addition to the town of Sanderson, Terrell County, Texas, according to the map or plat of record in Volume 1, Plat 2, plat records, Terrell County, Texas.

Interested parties may contact the Superintendent, Amanda Magallan, at the address below to receive Bid Packages and arrange for inspection of the premises. The property will be conveyed subject to the exceptions and reservations contained in the Bid Package. TCISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in bids received. Bids received after the deadline or faxed bids will not be considered.

Sealed bids will be received until: **12:00 P.M. on May 18, 2022**

Minimum Bid Requirement: \$70,000.00

Address: Terrell County Independent School District
302 N. 2nd Street
Sanderson, Texas 79848
Telephone: 432-345-2515

Sponsored by:



capitalfarmcredit.com
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432.837.5948 | 108 West Avenue E | ALPINE

ROSWELL LIVESTOCK AUCTION SALES, INC.

SALE DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

1193 head of cattle sold on a steady to higher 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: Steady
Feeder Cattle: \$2.00 to \$4.00 higher
Packer Cows and Bulls: Cows \$3.00 higher
Bulls \$5.00 to \$10.00 higher

300# - 400# Steers	209.50 to 216.00
300# - 400# Heifers	166.00 to 184.00
400# - 500# Steers	195.00 to 209.50
400# - 500# Heifers	160.00 to 166.00
500# - 600# Steers	168.00 to 195.00
500# - 600# Heifers	146.00 to 160.00
600# - 700# Steers	158.50 to 168.00
600# - 700# Heifers	140.00 to 146.00
700# - 800# Steers	139.00 to 158.50
700# - 800# Heifers	130.00 to 140.00
Packer Cows	87.00 to 96.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	70.00 to 80.00
Packer Bulls	100.00 to 113.00
Feeder Bulls	85.00 to 92.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	Not well tested
Bred Cows - Top Half	1000.00 to 1250.00

Kings of the grill



Alpine Police Chief Darrell Losoya, Alpine Utilities Director Keith Sager, and Bucho Garcia of Alpine have a great time frying fish at the American Legion Post 79 fish fry on March 18. There were plenty of volunteers on hand to serve up fried fish with all the fixings, all to benefit Legion charitable activities in the community.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

Queens of the quilts



Ann Moore and Dixie Garlick of Desert Sky Quilters of the Big Bend show off one of many intricate quilts at the 10th Annual Quilt Show presented at the Sunshine House in Alpine on March 19. Plenty of visitors came by to look at the beautiful designs and vote on their favorites. The Desert Sky Quilters were excited to have their quilts on display again as the annual show was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID concerns.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

VOTING • FROM 1

“It cost the taxpayers money because they had to renovate it, and it’s still too small and very unsafe for drivers,” said Keith, who was also concerned about elderly voters’ problems in getting to the polling site. “We are still disrupting businesses at that office, and if we move it to the high school, we will disrupt student activities, and we will have problems with parking congestion along with safety concerns. Religious prejudice cannot be a reason to reject an appropriate site.”

Next, Richard Keith, a longtime high school government teacher, said that Lockhart’s objections to the poll location change to the church was “unfounded and unsupportable.”

Lockhart insisted the church location would violate federal laws. Keith said this was unfounded,

citing polling locations across the state that used church facilities.

Nussbaum said she received complaints from election poll workers and voters that the old food bank building did not have the capacity for all the voters, and disrupting county employee offices. She said the voting location change would not go into effect until the November general election.

Lockhart countered that the change was in the middle of the primary runoffs, and moving it from a public government building to a non-public facility would go against state election laws. Lockhart recommended that commissioners reexamine the change until after the primary runoff elections.

“It needs to be in a public building because that’s the county’s responsibility, and I am asking for

a delay in the decision,” said Lockhart.

However, County Judge Eleazar Cano opted to move the issue to a vote at once. Commissioners voted 3-1 in favor of the change, with Commissioner, Pct. 2, Sara Allen Colando casting the sole negative vote.

In other business, County Tourism Director Robert Alvarez announced that visitation was remarkably busy, and he expects a record-breaking month for March with spring break season lasting until Easter.

Alvarez said that around April 20 he plans to have HOT funds presentations from businesses that would aid the county with policing short term rental owners who don’t pay hotel occupancy taxes.

Finally, County Agriculture Extension Agent

Luke Hendryx updated commissioners on planned activities related to youth and adult programs happening throughout Brewster and Jeff Davis counties.

The next regularly scheduled commissioner’s court meeting is set for Tuesday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner’s court room and via Facebook Live.

CHIEF • FROM 1

Now that fire season is underway, Pierce said the most common incidents are grass fires, and the challenge is having enough staff to help during those times.

“We always need volunteers, especially with the critical fire weather we have right now,” he said. “We would appreciate more help, and we provide all the training in-house. There is no requirement to buy anything, and we provide all the equipment, so literally all they have to do is show up, and we take care of them.”

Though there are about 17 volunteer firefighters on the roster, that is short lived due to employment or school responsibilities.

“That can dwindle down pretty quick, and in the summertime when they leave, the numbers can definitely get small,” said Pierce.

Volunteer firefighters don’t work a set schedule, and it’s all dependent on school and other obligations that may require more flexibility.

This year the fire department plans to host various community events to meet the residents, and let them know they are taking care of business or engage in fun activities with the elementary school kids. They will also visit schools during Fire Prevention Month in October to raise awareness for fire protection.

When it comes down to it, volunteering with the fire department is about having the heart and drive to make a difference where it’s needed most, and these dedicated members become rescuers, community leaders, and role models. Pierce is happy to partake in that sense of community, and is looking forward to serving all the residents.

“Now that we have a good administration, we’re trying to get all these things done just to help the future fire department, and to help make sure we are up to our impeccable standard that we had before,” he said.

BORDER • FROM 1

He said the cartels didn’t travel through the areas where 46 of the towers were currently in place, adding, “The towers automatically detect animals, people, materials, and it categorizes them and shares that information with headquarters in real time. So instead of having 10 agents just roaming around, you can have one agent who is watching these different cameras. We’ve been waiting for these for a long time, especially in the Big Bend Sector where there’s so much territory to cover, there’s not enough agents, and you can’t build a physical structure.”

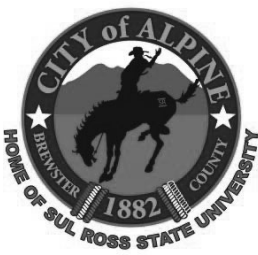
Gonzales urged the public to send emails and make phone calls about encounters with illegals, and said he would share those stories with his colleagues to show there were “people behind these numbers.”

“One of the most dangerous things is when a person feels powerless.”

— U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales (R-TX-23)

The USDA recently allocated \$5 million to reimburse farmers and ranchers who experienced damage to their property from trespassers, and Gonzales encouraged those who have suffered damage to visit USDA.com, or call his office at 202-225-5411 or 202-400-0973.

“One of the most dangerous things is when a person feels powerless,” he said. “We’re pushing back, we’re fighting, we’re doing everything we can. You are not alone, you are not forgotten. I fight everyday to bring attention to what is happening in our district.”



CITY OF ALPINE SURPLUS CAR AUCTION PUBLIC NOTICE

Want your own police car? Need a tractor? Do you 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 at auction, the City of Alpine will gladly leave you to your new purchase without further ado because all sales are final.

We’ll see you out at the Alpine Recycle Center - “15” Acres on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 9am:
2705 Cemetery Road
Alpine, TX 79830

Vehicles available at auction include:

1975 Ford Tractor	2000 Ford F-350 Super Duty
1991 Chevrolet C3500	2001 Ford F-350 Super Duty
1992 Chevrolet Silverado	2001 Ford Excursion
1992 Ford F-350	2004 Ford Explorer
1993 Ford DRW	2008 Ford F-250 Super Duty
1997 Chevrolet K2500	2008 Ford F-250 Super Duty
1998 GMC 3500	2009 Dodge Charger
1999 Chevrolet 2500	2010 Dodge Charger
2000 Chevrolet Silverado	2011 Chevrolet Caprice

Visit www.cityofalpine.com/auction for details.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Alpine ISD

Alpine Independent School District is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the Alpine Middle School Flooring project. The project consists of removing and replacing approximately 18,000 square feet of VCT tile. Alpine ISD strongly encourages interested proposer to attend the Bidder’s Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022. For proposal information please contact Clay Braden, 432-837-7700 / cbraden@alpineisd.net or documents may be downloaded from the Alpine ISD website at alpine.esc18.net. Proposals are to be submitted to the Alpine Independent School District, Business Office, located at 704 West Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas, before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22, 2022. AISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability in employment or the provision of services.

The successful proposer(s) will be required to enter into a general contract with Alpine Independent School District.

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432-837-7429

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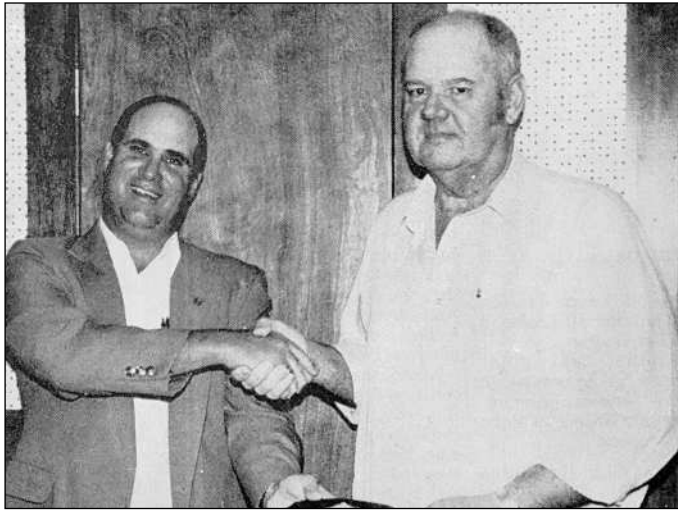
LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND
AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

March 10, 1988

Fort Davis Schools Superintendent Bryan LaBeff presented an award to the Fort Davis Lions Club for all its help and volunteer work at the schools. Wid McCutcheon accepts as Lions president.



March 3, 1988

Museum of the Big Bend staff members like Sylvia Vega are preparing for the Trappings of Texas exhibit this weekend.



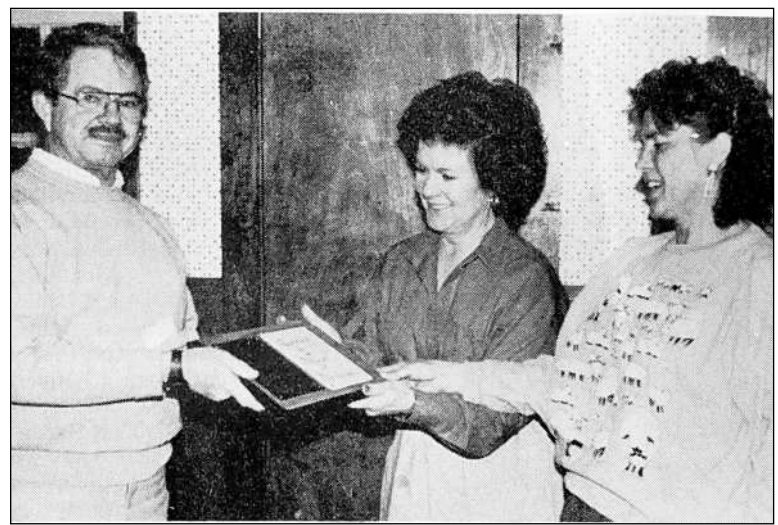
March 31, 1988

Members of the Alpine one-act play winners in district are, top, Brooks Jones, Heather Patti, Kerri Pettegrew, and Marcus Gomez; and bottom, Laynie Souter, teacher/sponsor Kendall Bradley, Kathleen Henderson, and Phoebe Brannan.



March 10, 1988

Barbara Medley and Janet Adams, daughters of the late Odie Grubb, receive a plaque from Fort Davis School Board President Kimball Miller honoring Grubb's many years as a school trustee.




Some daffodils don't bloom after first year

Dear Neil: We have many daffodils that come up voluntarily each year, but we have very few blooms. Is there anything we can do to get more flowers?

It probably has to do with the original selection of varieties. King Alfred, Mount Hood and Unsurpassable, three of the large, late-flowering types of daffodils, are notorious for blooming beautifully the first year, then never blooming much after that. By comparison, early flowering types such as Carlton and Ice Follies (the two most popular varieties in the world) multiply and get better year after year, and they bloom heavily each spring. Unfortunately, there isn't much that we can do to get the first group to change its ways.

Dear Neil: In a recent column you recommended purple winter creeper eu-



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

onymus as a good ground cover. If I have a large area that I want to cover, do I have to plant it solid, or will it grow to fill in if I plant sprigs a few feet apart?

Most ground covers, purple winter creeper included, do not spread like turfgrass. You need to prepare their beds prior to planting. Eliminate all existing grass and weeds, then rototill several inches deep as you combine two or three inches of

organic matter with the soil. Then, to answer your specific question, you need to space the plants at the recommended distances checkerboard style. If you do not do that, the planting will always look spotty.

Dear Neil: I bought a bag of pre-emergent weed killer last year at this time. I only needed half of the bag. The other half has been sitting in my garage for the past year. Is it

still good to use?

As long as it has been kept dry all of that time and as long as the granules have not caked together, it should be just fine. Get it applied right away, however. Time is rapidly slipping away.

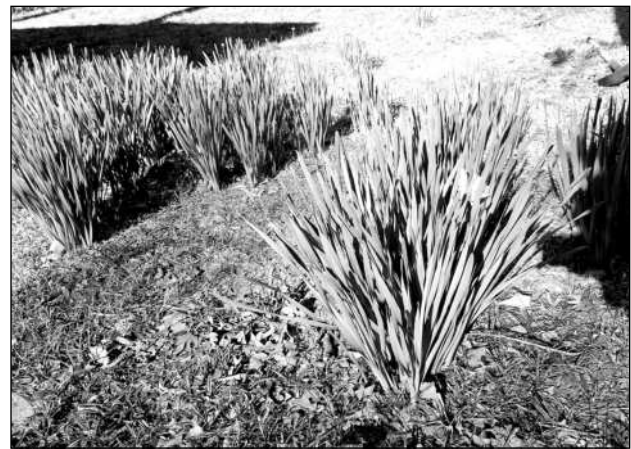
Dear Neil: A friend is growing oakleaf hydrangeas in her yard in Birmingham, Ala. How well do they do in Texas? They looked so lush there.

Most people associ-

ate the name "hydrangea" with the pink or blue florist types. They're surprised when they hear that there is a large shrub species that grows seven or eight feet tall and wide and that bears huge, pure white floral sprays every spring. They require highly organic planting soil to avoid iron deficiency, and they are certainly not water-

conscious plants. Their huge star-shaped leaves are just about the first leaves to show wilting when it turns hot and dry. Grow them in bright shade or morning sun.

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



Daffodils not blooming.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2022 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

1 this McEntire was Ma Tex in "North"

5 boot aroma

6 432 is Andrews code

7 UNT or TWU bldg.

8 "Mission _____ Valero" (Alamo)

17 TXism: "she could sell _____ cubes to Eskimos"

18 TX Larry Hagman 1972 film: "Getting _____ All"

21 in AL, he bats for the pitcher (abbr.)

22 TXism: "have to prime my mouth to _____" (thirsty)

23 TXism: "_____ chance as a steer in a packing plant"

24 TX rancher Chuck Norris 1979 film: "_____ Of One"

29 "good" south of the border

30 Mule _____, TX

31 Marlin High class

32 TXism for "vicinity"

34 TXism: "hit me like _____ of bricks"

35 cable news net.

36 "mad" TX Harrell _____ "Eddie" Chiles

37 TXism: "run up a white _____"

38 "how" south of the border

39 steak house thick bread (2 wds.)

41 TX rancher Norris' "An Eye _____ Eye"

42 TXism: "his facts _____ elastic" (liar)

43 TXism: "he'll kick you _____ a funeral home" (mean horse)

44 TXism: "cold enough _____ cows give ice cream"

45 Exxon product

46 meadow

47 _____ Falls, TX

48 TXism: "Sin City" (2 wds.)

50 TXism: "happy as a dog with two _____"

51 TX summer

52 Grand _____ Opry

53 trapeuse around

DOWN

1 TX used these to track migration of killer bees (2 wds.)

2 controversial WTSU president in 1990 (2 wds.)

3 town near Cascade Caverns

4 Austin potted-meat event: "Spam _____"

9 neck backs

10 Dallas Stars came to TX from Minnesota's _____ Cities

11 horse morsel

12 home of Astros Yankee foe (abbr.)

13 TXism: "_____ had wings he'd be an eagle"

14 noted filmmaker, Welles

15 Astros' first arena had this roof type

16 flightless Australian bird

17 TX Kenny Rogers' "Till _____"

18 "It On My Own"

20 TXism: "more _____ way to skin a cat"

21 _____ for that"

24 TX Wills: "_____ ha, take it away Leon"

25 Santa _____, TX

26 _____ City, TX

27 special sale marker (2 wds.)

28 tool used by 14-down

29 pre-bloom roses

30 ERA to Astro Justin Verlander

33 TXism: "fits like scales _____ fish"

34 in addition

35 a Texas snake

37 TXism for "overweight" (4 wds.)

38 hair grooming tools

40 "_____ a time"

41 TXism: "no hill _____ stepper"

44 baseball touches

47 nachos cheese

49 instrument in the Dallas Symphony

1	2	3	4																	
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BARGAINS OF THE MONTH



3.50
ScotchBlue™
0.94 in. x 60 yd. Original
Multi-Use Painter's
Tape, P 865 337 836
1.41 in. x 60 yd. Painter's
Tape, 6.50 P 865 337 836
1.88 in. x 60 yd. Painter's
Tape, 6.50 P 865 352 818



5.49
WD-40®
12 oz. Lubricant with
Smart Straw H 178 413 812



9.99 YOUR CHOICE
20 lb. Wild Bird Food
or 8 lb. Birders' Blend
Bird Food L 501 272 322



28.99 SALE PRICE
INSTANT REBATE*
26.99
Scotts®
Turf Builder® Plus Halts
Crabgrass Preventer -
5,000 sq. ft. L 101 991 40
*Limit 2 per offer with True
Value Rewards Card.



33.99 SALE PRICE
INSTANT REBATE*
29.99
Ortho®
1.33 Gal. Groundclear®
or Max Control
365 Vegetation Killer
L 262 074-176 327 84 *Limit 2 per
offer with True Value Rewards Card.



69.99
Louisville® Ladder
6 ft. Aluminum Type II
Step Ladder
Medium duty. Commercial
grade. 225 lb. weight capacity.
P 619 667 1



24.99
True Temper®
#12 Poly Grain Scoop
14-1/2 in. x 18 in. blade. 27-in.
Super D Grip handle. T 835 346 86



17.99
2.5 gal. BlueDEF
Platinum™
Helps maintain optimal fuel
economy. Saves money on
costly repairs. H 104 640 1

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Sports

Softball, baseball enjoy blowouts in Anthony

BY GLENN MCCARTHY
Sports Correspondent

Both Head Coach Monica Salmon and Head Coach Adam Llanez got their teams back on the winning track on March 22 against the Anthony Wildcats. Both teams traveled to Anthony for the wins. The Fightin' Buck baseball team got a shutout, 11-0.

Said Llanez of the win, "Jeremy Dominguez was the starting pitcher, and was relieved by Cody Morris. They combined for the shutout. Cody Morris, Aiden Garcia, and Adrian Lujan had three hits each. We

scattered 16 hits, I believe."

His team was coming off of two losses to the Midland Greenwood Rangers, who are 11-6, in which his strong offense came up just short. And a 15-10 loss to the Monahans Lobos after a late score cemented the wins for the Lobos. Alpine is now 1-0 in district and 3-7 on the year.

The boys will play the Kermit Yellowjackets Friday, March 25, in Kermit.

Salmon and the Lady Bucks won 16-1 against Anthony. This is coming off a 13-1 win against the Tornillo Coyotes on March 18 night in Alpine. The

Lady Buck softball team is now 2-0 in district play. They are now 6-8 on the season, but more important, they are undefeated in district.

Salmon was excited about her club, and thought they would continue to get better with only two seniors, Jenica Portillo and Nicole Baca, and just two juniors in Kiara Castillo and Alexis Rodriguez.

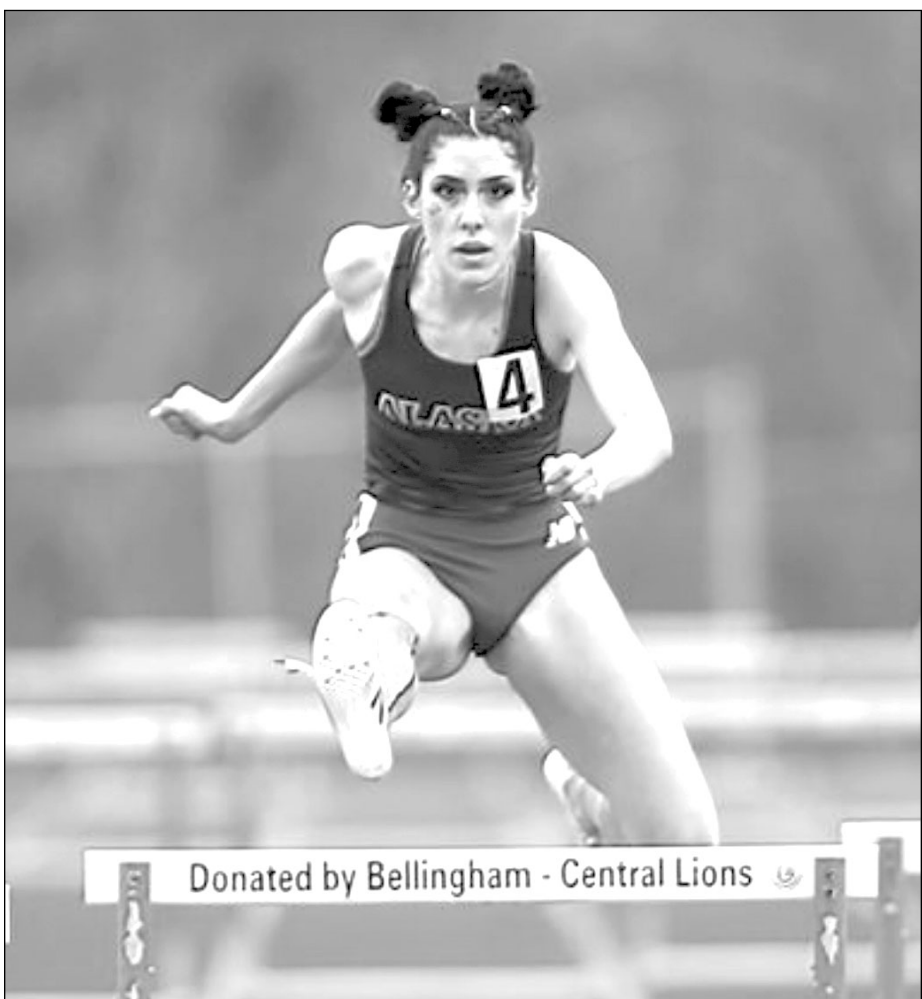
They also will play the Kermit Yellowjackets in Kermit this Friday. The next home game will be against Anthony on Tuesday, April 12.



Cody Morris slides into home in a recent game against Greenwood. The Rangers were able to sneak by Alpine, while the Bucks get ready to move into district.

Photo by Noe Lujan

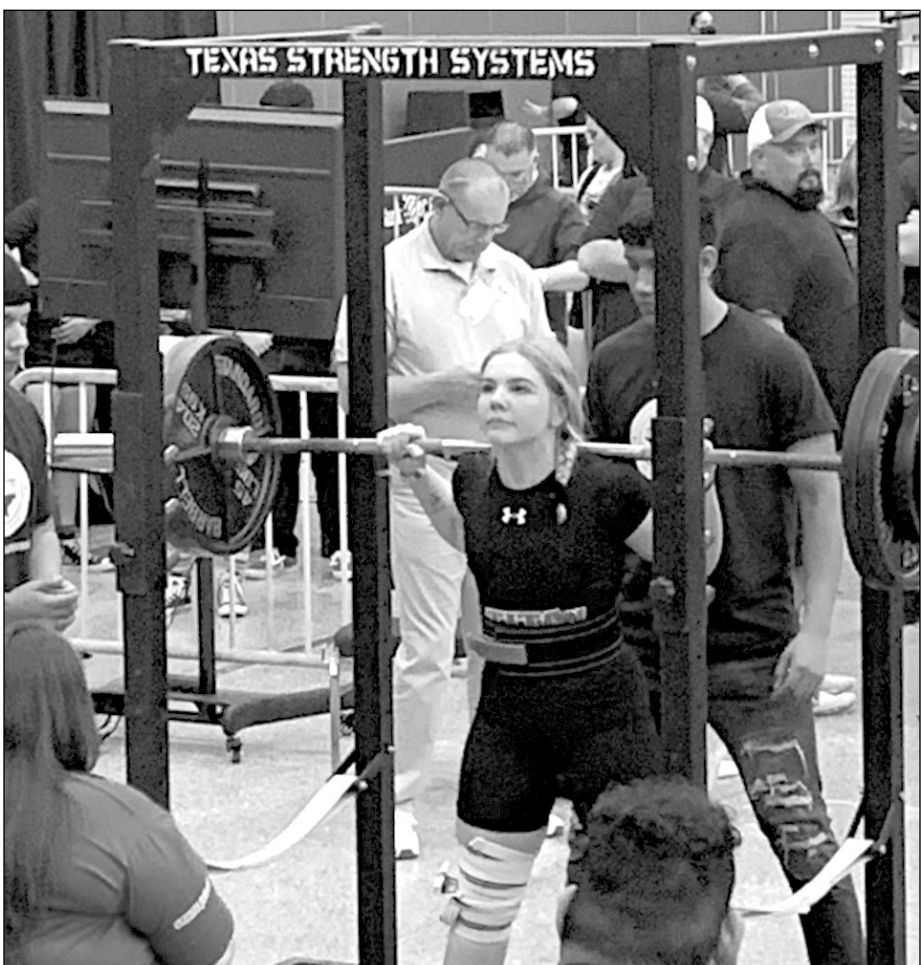
Cano takes Athlete of the Week honors



The outdoor track and field season started off well for Alaska Anchorage senior and Alpine High School graduate Elena Cano, who used an NCAA Championships provisional qualifying performance in the hurdles to earn Great Northwest Athletic Conference Women's Track Athlete of the Week honors. She won the 400-meter hurdles at the Hornet Invitational in Sacramento, Calif., last week, and placed second in the 100-meter hurdles and fifth in the long jump, and ran on the Seawolves' second-place 4x400-meter relay team.

Courtesy photo

Warren qualifies for State



Alpine High School sophomore Madalyn Warren qualified for State in powerlifting via the total weight that she lifted at the Regional Meet in Shamrock. She placed third at the competition. At Regional she squatted 305, bench pressed 165, and deadlift 330 for a total of 800 lbs. That automatically qualified her for state in Corpus Christi. She was in the 148 lb. weight class.

Courtesy photo

Working the green



Alpine High School varsity golfer Kaitlynn Wiggins (center) waits her turn on the ninth green at Alpine Country Club during the Alpine Golf Tournament.

Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney

Lobos fall to Blazers

Lobo baseball erased four deficits, but fell 8-6 in 11 innings to visiting Belhaven on March 19 in Alpine.

Tye Lindsey got it going for the Lobos with a sacrifice bunt to score Jared Lorenz for a 1-0 lead after one. Belhaven answered with two in the second to take a 2-1 advantage.

Still 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth, Carsen Thor homered to left to even things up at 2-2 after six. Belhaven again had an answer, scoring one in the seventh for a 3-2 lead.

Thor continued to bother the Blazers, singling in Lindsey to tie things 3-3 after seven. The Blazers

responded with two in the ninth to take a 5-3 advantage.

Thor scored on a wild pitch to bring the Lobos within one at 5-4. A Blazer error later allowed Orlando Moreno to even things at 5-5 and force extra innings.

Belhaven took a 6-5 lead in the 10th before Thor doubled home Jorge Marquez to tie it at 6-6 and force another inning.

The Blazers got two more in the 11th to make it 8-6.

Sully got the tying run to the plate in the bottom of the 11th, but Belhaven was able to get the final out to

hold on for the 8-6 win.

Dean Foley had the keys to the mound to start. He went 6.1 innings, allowing three runs and tallying six strikeouts.

In relief, Chris Ibanez went 1.2 innings of shutout ball. Isaac Gallego went the final three innings, allowing two earned runs with two strikeouts.

The Lobos move to 10-8 (7-5 American Southwest Conference). Belhaven is now 10-8 (10-5 ASC).

Sully returns to the field on Friday, March 25, against East Texas Baptist in Marshall.

Fightin' Buck Schedule

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Baseball | • Mar. 25 Kermit @ Alpine 7 p.m. | Powerlifting | • Mar. 25 State Meet Abilene |
| Softball | • Mar. 25 Kermit @ Kermit 5 p.m. | Golf | • Mar. 28 District @ Monahans |
| Track and Field | • Mar. 25-26 San Angelo Relays @ San Angelo | | |



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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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Quilt show back in Alpine



Sunshine House staff along with Desert Sky Quilters of the Big Bend were happy to welcome guests to the 10th Annual Quilt Show, held March 19 at the Sunshine House Senior Center in Alpine. Many beautiful quilts were on display for the public to vote on, and a raffle drawing was held for a quilt.

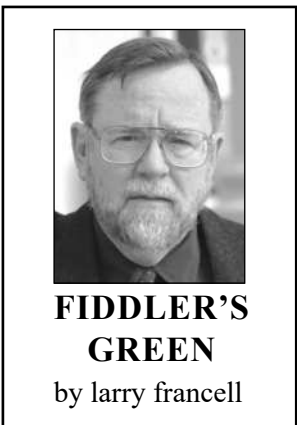
Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

The romantic horizon

Last month there was mention of the two trails across West Texas to California, as well as mention of the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers. This small group of men, plus a few other Army officers, led the way in how the West was actually won, at least geographically.

The topographical engineers were created July 4, 1838, for the purpose of surveying and mapping new lands and establishing the boundary between the U.S. and Canada and, after several false starts, the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. As such, in the words of historian William Goetzmann, the Corps was the Federal government's direct instrument of Manifest Destiny.

While not all the western Army explorers and surveyors were members of the Corps, the ones selected to serve were the elite of the graduates of West Point. Probably the most famous were John Charles Fremont, the Pathfinder, and William Emory, but it was Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Johnston and his subordinates, Lieutenants William H.C. Whiting, William F. Smith, Francis T. Bryan, and Nathaniel Michler - all members of the corps



FIDDLER'S GREEN
by Larry Francell

- who laid out the trails through West Texas.

The Upper Road with its terminus in Fort Smith, Ark., and the original route of the Butterfield Overland Mail, ran through Guadalupe Pass. The Lower Road with its terminus in San Antonio ran through Fort Davis, and became the preferred all-weather route to California. The information compiled by Johnston and his men constitutes the seminal map of the trails through West Texas. It is an interesting map, and different than one might expect. Neither the Rio Grande boundary with Mexico nor a boundary with New Mexico is shown, but the routes surveyed are shown in detail, as would be expected.

The Archives of the Big Bend and the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University both have

copies of these maps, as does the Overland Trail Museum in Fort Davis. I have an electronic copy if one is interested and wants to contact me.

This was the first age of western exploration, and map making was the primary focus. Fremont, the Pathfinder, surveyed and mapped the Oregon Trail and the interior of the Rocky Mountains, Howard Stansbury surveyed the Great Salt Lake and basin, creating one of the most stunning color maps of the period. Joseph Christmas Ives hauled a small steamboat to the mouth of the Colorado River, and steamed up that river to be the first to explore and map the lower Grand Canyon. Randolph Marcy mapped the Arkansas River drainage, and established a route across what would become Oklahoma to Albuquerque. William Emory mapped the U.S.-Mexico border, the first to lead a scientific survey through the Big Bend.

All this effort culminated in the first organized, scientific survey of the West - the Pacific Railway Surveys, 1853-54. Already a great railroad network was under construction east of the Mississippi, and the next goal would

be California. But where should it build?

Five expeditions set out, one to the north along the 47th and 49th parallels, one into the central Rockies along the 41st parallel. Two crossed through Texas, one along the 35th parallel through the Panhandle, and the last east-to-west survey along the 32nd parallel through the Guadalupe Mountains. A final expedition worked through California seeking the best passes through the mountains. Each expedition included surveyors, geologists, naturalists, and artists.

The historian William Goetzmann sets the scene, "Since the spaces were so vast, the scenery so grand and terrifying, and the Indians so exotic, the documentary art of the explorer-artists inevitably fused romanticism with realism. Even the most detailed and ethnologically exact painting, the most faithfully executed landscape, had a freshness and spirit that bore witness to a common image of the American West as the 'romantic horizon.'"

How this romantic horizon was presented to Americans is a story for next time.

Local author receives honor

Alpine resident Barney Nelson's recently published book, "Making Circles: A Memoir of a Cowboy Journalist," has been named Best Western Contemporary Nonfiction Finalist by the Western Writers of America. The selection means her book placed in the top three in that category. Presentations are scheduled for June 22-25 during the Western Writer's convention in Great Falls, Mont.

First place in that category went to "Defending the Arctic Refuge: A Photographer, an Indigenous Nation, and a Fight for Environmental Justice" by Finis Dunaway. The other finalist in her category was "Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana" by Abe Strep.

Western Writers annually honors the best in Western literature selected by panels of judges. Since 1953 the Spur Awards have been considered one of the most prestigious awards in American literature. Spurs are given for works whose inspiration, image and literary excellence best

represent the reality and spirit of the American West.

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348 entries nominated were published or produced during 2021.

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Lee L. Webber, CRNA, APRN
Nurse Anesthesiologist/Acute & Chronic Pain Management Specialist

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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- **EDUCATION** - in having her Master's Degree in Science and being an educator & adjunct college professor for 25 years
- **COMMITMENT** - she first came to Alpine/Brewster County in 2007 and it is now her 'forever home.'
- **COMPASSION** - she knows what it's like to get a gas or water bill that is too high for her budget. She will work tirelessly to be a good steward of our tax dollars.
- **TRANSPARENCY** - she believes all citizens have the RIGHT to know how their city is operating and what the challenges are.
- **INCLUSION** - she believes all citizens have the RIGHT to voice their comments and opinions in the efforts to meet our challenges. Come and chat with her **most Saturdays at the Farmer's Market OR The Alpine Public Library on April 9th from 10-12**

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LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEKEND!

Closing reception at the museum on April 1

A reception to mark the close of the Texas Art Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

The exhibit is the brainchild of Rebecca Dodge, an emeritus geology professor who spent summer holidays at her parents' cabin at Davis Mountains Resort. She has created digitally enhanced satellite images that show the various ecoregions of West Texas. Each image's caption has a QR code that viewers can scan with their iPhones to learn more about what they see.

The satellite images are complemented by origi-

nal oil paintings of West Texas landscapes and flora by Fort Davis artist

Liz Bartlett Culp. The exhibition closes Saturday, April 2, at 4

p.m. following gallery talks by both artists starting at 1 p.m.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Zion Schaeffler

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

In my senior year I am most looking forward to spending my last year with my friends making good lifelong memories.

What activities are you involved in during your senior year?

During my senior year, I was involved with the Bucks football and Alpine FFA. I was on the public relations team for FFA as well.

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

The teacher who influenced me the most was Mr. Fox. He taught me a lot of cool tricks and skills, and has been a big supporter since my freshman year.



Zion Schaeffler

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My favorite moment of the last four years was winning a district and bi-district championship in football, and getting to hold the gold ball.

What are your plans after high school?

My plans after high school is to serve my country in the U.S Navy.

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Devotional Page At the gate

BY ROBERT FIELDS
True Life Ministries

There are times in life when we experience a "lostness" when we cannot see what lies ahead. We cannot see our way forward or how to reach our destination in such areas as careers, education, finances, relationships, etc. Not knowing where to take the next step can be quite fearful and immobilizing. Many of us have been there in various times of our lives, and will most likely experience them again.

David was no stranger to such lostness during his turbulent life before and during his kingship. Psalm 23:1-4 gives us a glimpse of his struggle, and how he was able to overcome in such times. Particularly in verse 4 David states, "Even though I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger for you are with me." (HCSB)

Picture yourself walking through a valley where normal navigational helps are not available. All you can see is the direct path and your feet. In the middle of a valley like that, it's easy to lose your way, get off the trail, and even travel in circles. But David knew some things that helped him internally when the external helps were not there.

First, he knew God was with him. Second, Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." (HCSB)

When all other external helps were not available, David understood that God's word would be a light in such a way to allow him to see

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where he was, and to keep him from getting off path. These internal navigational helps would ultimately get him through those external dark valleys.

We can be encouraged with these words whenever we find ourselves without the normal navigational helps to get us where we want to go. Trying to move forward in unknown territory can be paralyzing.

But let me share with you this phrase, "We must first exercise our faithfulness to God in the steps that we take, in order to experience His faithfulness in how He guides those steps."

Stable faith looks like this - F.A.I.T.H - Forward Action In The Heart. We must first take the step forward internally before we can move forward externally.

I want to share one more encouraging word. It's a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957). It's called "The Gate of the Year."

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than light - and safer than a known way.'"

Those steps we take in faith are the steps worth taking, no matter how scary they may be. They are not blind steps in blind faith. Hebrews 11:1-2 describes faith as evidence based and hope assured. Keep this in mind when you find it difficult to take the next step in life.

Thank you and God Bless!

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~ Philippians 4:13

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ACCEPTANCE - The publisher wants to do everything that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.

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FOR RENT/LEASE

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The Chinati Foundation - Job Opportunity: Senior Accountant

Summary: Reporting to the Assistant Director of Finance, this role is responsible for data entry,

HELP WANTED

maintenance of the general ledger and payroll processing. Performs accounts receivable and payable functions, records deposits from external sources and reconciles accounts. Ensures that internal controls are maintained at all times and partners with other departments for the continuous improvement of policies, procedures, and system enhancements. Performs analysis of data for monthly financial and budget reporting and actively participates in financial audit and tax preparation. This is a full-time position based in Marfa, TX. The regular work schedule requires 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. The Chinati Foundation provides a comprehensive benefits package. Submit a cover letter and resume via email to jobs@chinati.org. Visit the Op-

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Storage Units for rent. Call 432-538-9091

Brewster County Tourism Council Visit Big Bend PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

The Brewster County Tourism Council/Visit Big Bend is currently accepting applications for a full-time Public Relations Assistant. This position will require 40 hours per week in the BCTC office and will include extensive travel throughout the year including weekends and holidays. Duties for the position include: attending trade shows representing Visit Big Bend and distributing information on the Big Bend region, overseeing Visit Big Bend's various social media channels, researching new avenues of online marketing, assisting visiting journalists to the area and researching potential journalists for tours as well as providing reports to the Board of Directors of Visit Big Bend along with other duties as assigned. Applicants must be presentable, enthusiastic, have good communication skills, be a team player, have flexibility in work schedules, be able to travel extensively, have a dependable vehicle, lift at least 50 pounds, be able to lead hikes/tours through Big Bend and be well versed in all components of Microsoft Office with most reports requiring manipulation of Excel spreadsheets. A tourism industry background of some kind is required as well as a good knowledge of all areas and attractions in Brewster County. Salary is negotiable depending on experience and includes a full County benefit package including paid vacation, sick leave, retirement and health insurance. Email a resume with 3 references to: JOBS@VISITBIGBEND.COM. This position will remain open until filled. Visit Big Bend is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer and Wine Permit by West Texas Italian Delicacies, LLC, to be located at 801 E. Holland Avenue, Alpine, Brewster Texas. Officers of said corporation are Deborah Willbanks, Sondra Fallia and Anthony Fallia, member.



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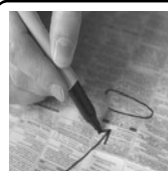
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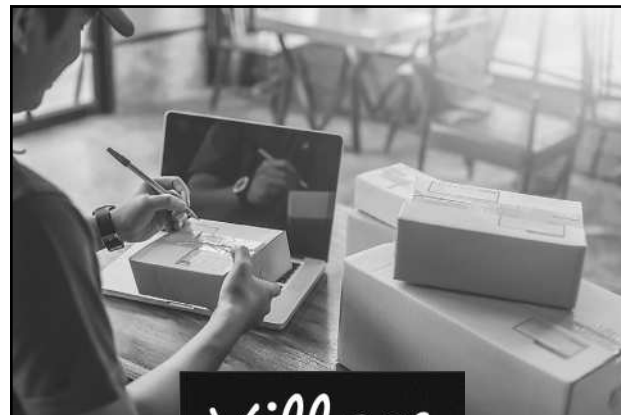
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Alpine Location

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Please call us before arrival
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Fettuccine alfredo is cheesy pasta goodness

Like any foodie, I love me a good pasta dish, most especially because most pasta dishes contain cheese. One of my favorite pasta dishes is fettuccine alfredo. For such a simple dish it packs a world of flavor, and is quite deceptive in its look. While it presents itself as a high class, swanky dish, it truly is not. It is simply made, and over



HEAD OVER MEALS
by kara gerbert

the top delicious. Living in rural West

Texas, it can be difficult to come by fresh fettuccine pasta, but the dry works just as well even if it takes a bit longer to cook. To begin creating this divine meal you will need a large pot of water placed over high heat, and brought to a boil. Once the water is boiling, you need to add your salt to give your pasta flavor.

You never want to salt your pasta water while it is cold, or it will pit the bottom of your pot. Once the water is at a boil, place your pasta (about 18 ounces) in the boiling water, and cook according to package directions, or for fresh pasta about four minutes, stirring occasionally. Once the pasta has reached al dente, drain in a colander.

This pasta dish also pairs well with different proteins. It is often accompanied by chicken or shrimp, which adds another dimension of flavor as

well as making the dish a heartier meal. While there are many different versions of this dish, this one comes from Giada De Laurentiis of Food Network fame. It is delicious and satisfy-

ing, and you can tell your family or guests that you are using an authentic Italian recipe. Questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact Kara at foodie9372@gmail.com.



Alfredo Sauce

- Ingredients:**
- 2-1/2 cups heavy cream
 - 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
 - 12 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 2 cups grated parmesan cheese
 - 2 teaspoons lemon zest

Directions:
Pinch of nutmeg, salt, and white pepper
In a large, heavy skillet mix in two cups of the heavy cream and the lemon juice, and stir to blend. Add in the butter, and cook until the butter melts, stirring occasionally. This takes about three minutes.
Remove from heat, add the cooked pasta, and toss.

Add in the remaining heavy cream, parmesan cheese, lemon zest, nutmeg, and salt and white pepper. Return to low heat, and toss the pasta, mixing well for about one minute, or until the sauce thickens.
Place your fettuccine alfredo in a serving dish of choice and serve. This will yield 6-8 servings.

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

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TEXAS AS ART



CLOSING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 5:00-7:00 PM
The *Texas as Art* exhibit, organized by Rebecca Dodge, presents digitally enhanced satellite images of West Texas ecoregions alongside original oil paintings of West Texas landscapes and flora by Fort Davis artist Liz Bartlett Culp.

GALLERY TALKS: SATURDAY, APRIL 2, starting at 1:00 PM
There will be Gallery Talks by both Rebecca Dodge and Liz Bartlett Culp at the Museum of the Big Bend. The exhibition closes at 4:00 PM.

Both events are at the Museum of the Big Bend
Admission is \$5/person over age 12. Free for Museum members, SRSU students, faculty, and staff with current ID cards.

www.museumofthebigbend.com

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Please mail your application or resume to BBT, Attn: HR, 808 N. 5th St., Alpine, TX 79830 Or email resume to: HR@bigbend.com Please no phone calls. EOE

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