



**City of Alpine Environmental Services Coordinator Adelina Beall.**

*Courtesy photo*

## Sprucing up year-round

BY ROXANNE HILL  
 Staff Writer

A city-wide clean-up is a fantastic way to bring volunteers who care about their community together for a common purpose, and to make the city more attractive and aesthetically pleasing. Besides sprucing up and lending a helping hand to the city's cleaning crew, the cleanups allows residents to bond, socialize, and even get some good exercise in the process.

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**INSIDE**

**ALPINE COWBOYS**  
 06  
 BASEBALL CLUB 1948

FEATURED  
 See sports on page 8.

**Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport**

2022	.293"
July	.060"



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



# County tax collections booming

BY ROXANNE HILL  
 Staff Writer

Property and hotel/motel taxes, along with a county-wide fire department update, led discussions at Brewster County Commissioners Court on July 12.

Treasurer Julie Morton announced that as of the end of May the county has collected the majority of property taxes for this fiscal year, with \$3.75 million so far, about a 96% collection rate. Morton was pleased with the number. As of May, HOT collections

were around \$1.159 million, an increase of over \$50,000 from last year at this time.

As far as expenditures, Morton said the Sheriff's Office had budgeted \$95,000 for fuel and oil alone, lamenting that gas and other expenses were "outrageous," with \$73,000 spent so far on those items. Commissioners then unanimously approved Morton's financial report, including revenues and expenses.



**Julie Morton**

Next, Morton announced that the Treasurer's Office was seeking approval to initiate a bidding process for three proposed county-wide projects - the Marathon water supply and sewer project, a broadband expansion project, and north Brewster County Emergency Response Center construction project. Federal funds of \$1,787,575 budgeted from the American Rescue Plan Act would assist with paying for the projects. Commissioners unanimously approved that Morton begin the bid process.

In other news, Alpine Volunteer Fire Department Chief Andrew Pierce provided an update on brush fires, announcing that the fire department has been in emergency protocol.

"When we have a brush fire reported, no matter what size, we send out all our brush trucks and a tanker truck because we would rather turn them around than have a county wide disaster," he said. "We have such a high amount of fuel and such a

See COUNTY • 6

## Tailgating with the Cowboys



Farmers Insurance teamed up with Marfa Meats, BBT, and Morrison's True Value to host a tailgate party for the 06 Cowboys baseball team on July 8 at Kokernot Field in Alpine. Those attending the game against the Weimar Hormigas enjoyed burgers and got to mingle with the players.

*Avalanche photo by J.T. Maroney*

## Are Big Bend stars getting outshined?

BY SHAWNA GRAVES  
 Contributing Writer

Stephen Hummel, the Dark Skies Senior Outreach Program coordinator with McDonald Observatory, takes annual night sky measurements throughout the greater Big Bend to track changes in light pollution. The latest results show that Terlingua is getting brighter.

Measurements are made with a scientific grade camera using a process developed by the National Park Service to produce imagery called all-sky photometry.

Multiple images are taken on location, such as from Sotol Vista in Big Bend National Park, at night when there is no moonlight. The resulting images are stitched together using computer software, and show a wide-angle view of the skyline and night sky. The image shows all sources of light, including

starlight, the Milky Way, and artificial light.

The observatory is interested in changes in artificial light, so they use mathematical equations to subtract the natural sources of light from the imagery, leaving only artificial light sources behind. The brightness of the artificial light and the brightness of the natural light is compared using a ratio called the All-Sky Light Pollution Ratio. This equation results in a number that is used to describe light pollution.

"It's pretty complicated," admitted Hummel, and the process takes a few days to complete from start to finish.

Hummel takes these measurements at McDonald Observatory every couple of months, and he visits the same locations throughout the International Dark Sky Reserve at least once a year.

"We have the most data sets



**Dark skies at Big Bend National Park.**

*Photo courtesy National Park Service*

of any location in the world," Hummel said.

The most recent All-Sky Light Pollution Ratio for McDonald Observatory was 0.31, meaning the night sky is 31% brighter than a perfectly dark night sky there.

At one time, perfectly dark skies were measured in the Big Bend. In 2003 at Sotol Vista in the national park, the ALR was 0.03, or 3% brighter than a perfectly dark sky. Anything

See DARK SKIES • 6

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## OBITUARIES

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**Jerry Vaughn Millsapps**  
Jerry Vaughn Millsapps, 88, passed away July 9, 2022, at his home in Fort Davis, Texas. He was born in Lamesa, Texas, Nov. 13, 1933, to Ida (Harp) and Rufus Millsapps.



Jerry grew up in Lamesa, attending school with the same classmates for 12 years. Many of these friendships endured and continue to this day. He always said he had a wonderful, happy childhood participating in Boy Scouts, riding his bike, and playing baseball in a summer youth program. During this time, he discovered a love for all sports, but in particular, football. In 1952 he graduated from Lamesa High School, where he

participated in football, baseball, and basketball.

After graduation, he attended Texas Tech University on a football scholarship where he lettered his freshman year. He then transferred to Howard Payne University, majoring in history and secondary education. He lettered for three years as quarterback for the Yellow Jackets, was named to the All-Conference Team for three seasons, and was part of the 1954

Texas Conference Championship team. Jerry was also named to Who's Who in America's Universities and Colleges.

While at Howard Payne, he met and married Margie Lee Coffee of Bangs, Texas. Two weeks prior to graduation, he was notified to report for service in the U.S. Army. He was inducted at Fort Smith, Ark., and trained at Fort Ord, Calif. He was assigned to the Artillery Fire Direction Center, and posted to Kitzingen, Germany. While in Germany, he played football for the U.S. Military League in Europe. Jerry was very proud of his military service.

After his time in the service, Jerry and Margie moved to San Angelo, Texas, where he began his coaching career at Lee Jr. High School. Coaching stints at Lampasas, Texas, and his alma mater, Howard Payne University, followed. In 1967, he moved to Pecos as an assistant football coach.

The following year he was named head football

coach and athletic director.

While in Pecos, his teams won two District championships, appeared in one State semi-final, and won the Odessa American's District All-Sports trophy for seven consecutive years. During his time at Pecos High School, he coached the Texas All-Stars against the Oklahoma All-Stars in the Oil Bowl.

Jerry served on the Board of Directors of the Texas High School Coaches Association. He was nominated four times to coach the North All-Stars at the THSCA convention, and served as a member of the Ethics Committee of THSCA.

In 1979 he took the head coaching position at Odessa High School, serving for seven seasons. He then became Athletic Director and head football coach at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Tex. As a proud alumni, he started the Howard Payne Sports Hall of Fame, and was inducted as a member in 2002. Jerry then moved to El

Paso, Texas, where he served as athletic director of the El Paso ISD until his retirement in 2000.

Having made a profession of faith while in high school, Jerry was an active member of the First Baptist churches while in Brownwood, Pecos, Odessa, and El Paso. In Pecos, he served as a youth Sunday school teacher. After retirement, he joined First Baptist Church of Fort Davis, where he faithfully attended church and bible study.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ida and Rufus Millsapps; sister Rufine Hudson; in-laws Reba and Russell Coffee; and brothers-in-law Herman Rutherford, and Howard Hair.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Margie; daughter Leslie Graham and husband Randy; three grandsons, Tye Graham and wife Stefanie, Trent Graham and wife Catharine, and Trey Graham and wife Shelbie; three great-grandchildren, Ella Graham, Sofia Graham, and Kitty Graham; sister Karen Wilson and hus-

band Leldon; sisters-in-law Jean Rutherford and Lillie Hair; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.


A visitation with viewing will be held on Friday, July 15, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Fort Davis. Funeral services for Jerry will follow at 11 a.m. on July 15, 2022, at First Baptist Church with Pastor Paul Harst officiating. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at the cemetery in Bangs, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jerry's memory may be made to First Baptist Church of Fort Davis.

The family expresses special thanks to the members of First Baptist Church of Fort Davis, Marisela Renteria, Christine and Roy Woosley, and caretaker Rose Jordan, for their support during this difficult time.

The Millsapps family has entrusted Alpine Memorial Funeral Home with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at [alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://alpinememorialfuneralhome.com).



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**Donald George Satterwhite**  
Donald George Satterwhite, 92, of Alpine,

Texas, passed away at his residence on June 25, 2022.

He was born in Necessity, Texas, on Sept. 2, 1929, the oldest of three children of George and Winifred Satterwhite.

After graduating from high school, he joined the armed forces, and proudly served in the U. S. Marine Corps. Following his discharge, he attended Tarleton State University, then transferred to Texas A&M University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology.

Don began working for Gulf Oil Company, and was sent to Marathon, Texas, where he



mapped a large portion of the Marathon Basin. Several years later after leaving Gulf, he enrolled at Sul Ross State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, then took a job teaching in Clint, Texas, for two years.

After returning to Alpine, he began working for the Alpine Independent School District,

and in 1964 received a master's degree in English from Sul Ross. Don continued to work for AISD for many years, and taught at the high school, middle school, and Centennial School.

He was a voracious reader, a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan, and loved riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He enjoyed all kinds of music, including classical, Tejano, country and western, big band, New Orleans style jazz, rock'n'roll, and blues, and was particularly fond of the song "Ramblin Man" by the Allman Brothers Band. Another favorite pastime was sitting under his shaded patio watching the wild birds he fed every day.

Don's loving family and friends will remember his compassionate nature, sense of humor, generous spirit, and kindness towards all. He was a loving father and grandfather, and a devoted husband, and caregiver to his wife for as long as he was able.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved dogs Snoopy, Iris, Lacy and Sunka, many cats, his favorite cousin Ted Parks, and his good friends Albert Hallford and Sanford DeVoll.

Survivors include his wife Laura Lee, daughter Lauren Satterwhite; granddaughter Jade Spear; brother Fred Satterwhite, sister Polly Coleman and husband Jake; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Per his wishes, no funeral or memorial service is planned. Memorial contributions can be made to the Marathon Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 208, Marathon, TX 79842.

Online condolences may be left at [alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://alpinememorialfuneralhome.com).

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# Reunion

## July 15-17, 2022




**Come enjoy the weekend and help raise scholarship funds for Sul Ross Ag and Rodeo Students.**

**FRIDAY**

- 9:00 am - Sporting Clays Tournament (day one)
  - 3:30 pm - 42 Tournament
  - 6:00 pm - Social and Horseless Goat Roping at the S.A.L.E. Arena
- SATURDAY**
- 9:00 am - Sporting Clays Tournament continues
  - 9:00 am - Team Roping, Break Away, Ribbon Roping and Barrel Race at the S.A.L.E. Arena ([www.sulrossexes.com](http://www.sulrossexes.com) or FB for details)
  - 12:00 pm - Business Meeting
  - 2:30 pm - Texas Hold'em Tournament
  - 8:00 pm - Case Hardin at the Alpine Civic Center, Dance and Silent Auction
- SUNDAY**
- 9:00 am - Golf Tournament at the Alpine Country Club, 4 person scramble, Rodeo blind draw
  - 4:00 pm - Farewell festivities

Find all the details online at [www.sulrossexes.com](http://www.sulrossexes.com)

[www.facebook.com/ANRSRodeoExesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/ANRSRodeoExesAssociation)

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### THE FIRES ON DOLORES' MOUNTAIN

The mountain where Dolores mourned her lover  
By setting a fire each week  
For thirty years is a monument to duty.  
She trudged up to the peak  
South of Fort Davis, Texas, each Thursday night  
With firewood or a hatchet  
To stoke the blaze and show  
How much she mourned Jose.  
Folks who claimed to know  
Said she was driven mad by the shock of learning  
That he, tending sheep  
The night before their wedding, was scalped and murdered  
By Mescaleros. To keep  
Her promise and do something praiseworthy  
For him, she made her way  
To the breezy top and lit  
The first fire. People  
Soon came to know that it  
Was she who wore a trail from the settlement west  
To the mountainside,  
And in the 1860's a broken heart  
Or even a broken mind  
Was a good enough excuse.  
Misunderstood, I feel, she gathered wood  
And matches and became  
A legend no one bothered,  
For there could be no blame  
Attached to this.

Today the mountain seems to stand for them, the star-crossed couple, and when you drive or hike Dolores' Trail, you see how far She had to go those solitary nights, Aiming for the light  
To show there was no counting Stars or the love that burned In the fires on Dolores' Mountain.

From  
*"The Purity of Jazz and Speckled Trout and Other Prose and Poetry"*  
by James R. Campbell.

# Tournament raises big money for Texas birds

Famous for being the biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the country, this year's Great Texas Birding Classic raised \$45,000 for projects to benefit birds and other wildlife. Celebrating its 26th year, the tournament has raised \$1.1 million for on-the-ground conservation work to acquire, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat.

More than 1,000 Texans from across the state participated in the all-ages competition to watch and listen for as many species of birds as possible.

Said Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department nature tourism manager, "Participants spotted a record 425 species of birds. The tournament gives people a fun way to spend time outside while raising

money for a good cause."

Winning teams get to select which projects to fund. In West Texas \$5,000 Intact Flock Toyota Upper Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant selected by Free Falling Falcons went to BJ Bishop Wetlands in Presidio County: Creating Space for Birds and People, submitted by Big Bend Conservation Alliance.



Bewick's Wren, a frequently spotted bird in West Texas.

Photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

# Nursery and gift shop takes off for worthy causes

BY ROXANNE HILL  
Staff Writer

Alpine has a new one-stop gardening and plant store, and unique gift shop wrapped in one. Owned by the Killingsworth family, El Papalote welcomed customers on June 11, and has taken off since then. Located on 2000 West Highway 90, El Papalote boasts a wide assortment of boutique and specialty items, including many goods made from around the Tri-County. Whether it is apparel, colorful outdoor décor and yard art, plants and succulents, or custom-made items, there is something for everyone.

"The name El Papalote is a Spanish word for windmill," said Kathy Killingsworth, who co-owns the gift shop with son Lee and daughter-in-law Aleisha. "That's why we have a windmill. Our family has been in the water well business since 1984 for Arrowhead Drilling and Well service." Kathy has lived in the Big Bend for nearly 40 years, and Aleisha, a native of New Braunfels, has resided in Alpine for the past 15 years, where she and Lee's children attend Alpine ISD schools.

Walking into the beautifully decorated store, there are several

Texas owned and made products. Some of the food items include Chihuahuan Desert honey from Fort Davis, sweet peach preserves from Alpine, goat milk products from the Texas Hill Country, and muscle soaks and bath/sea salts from a Dallas company. Many of the items serve the wider good, as benevolence takes a special place at El Papalote.

"We have a lot of Texas made items for a cause," said Aleisha. "We support veterans, and to end human trafficking, and children's hospitals."

One special barbecue and seasoning sauce was made by an East

Texas veteran, with proceeds supporting veterans around the state. There are also candles from Breckenridge that support a children's hospital, along with items made in Fredericksburg, olive oil from the Hill Country, and beef and venison jerky. Behind the gift shop is a greenhouse with potted trees, cacti, and succulents, most of them grown locally.

Customers will all find something unique to the area, while supporting different causes in a family friendly environment where everyone will be treated to a warm Texas welcome. Kathy put it best



Aleisha, Lee, and Kathy Killingsworth stand outside El Papalote in Alpine.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

with welcoming words to customers, saying, "Come see us!" El Papalote is open

Wednesday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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# Museum commemorates milestone with beam signing

Museum of the Big Bend commemorated a milestone in its new building construction with a Sign the Beam ceremony on July 13.

The new complex, scheduled for completion in early 2023, will double

the space of the museum, and include a temporary exhibit gallery, a rotating Tom Lea gallery, additional collection storage, and an interior event space with a connecting outdoor patio. It will be named for Emmett and Miriam McCoy,

donors and supporters of Sul Ross State University.

According to Director Mary Bones, the ceremony signifies that the building project has reached its highest structural element.

"Often called a topping-out ceremony, this is an ancient



Construction on the Emmett and Miriam McCoy building is expected to be completed in early 2023.

Courtesy photo

construction tradition," said Bones. "Those involved in the project sign the beam, symbolizing their permanent place in the building, and hopes for success and safety for the workers."

Those invited to sign the beam include donors and members of the Texas State University System Board of Regents. After signing, the beam will be lifted and secured in its place at the highest point.

The museum is still accepting pledges for 30 glass guardrail panels that will encircle the exterior event

area, and include family brands with a \$10,000 donation. Each panel will feature one brand on a white ceramic insert between two sheets of thick glass. Panel dimensions are 42"x44".

A recognition board inside the complex will have the donor name, ranch name, and the date the ranch was established. Pledges must be made by July 15.

For more information contact Mary Bones at 432-837-8145 or maryb@sulross.edu.

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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

**IN LIGHT OF THE UVALDE TRAGEDY AND SEVERAL OTHER RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS, WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STAND ON GUN CONTROL?**

#### RESULTS

The Second Amendment still stands-I have the right to bear arms. Period.

53% (126 votes)  
Automatic and semi-automatic weapons should definitely be banned, stricter laws and background checks are needed, and red flag laws should be universally in effect and enforced.

41% (98 votes)  
Complete gun control is the only solution-the government should confiscate all weapons from private ownership.

Total votes: 238 6% (14 votes)

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Will today's high motor fuel prices keep you from traveling this summer?

- Absolutely! With the outrageous price of gasoline and diesel fuel, I plan to stay close to home this summer.

- I will likely do a lot less traveling this summer, but I still plan to take a driving vacation.

- Not at all. It is what it is, and it won't stop me from traveling.

Vote for this week's poll online at: [www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://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](mailto:editor@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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# Teamwork is in the air

There is something in the air. Maybe you have noticed it too. Alpine is on the verge of transformation. Residents, entrepreneurs, city workers, and elected officials are focusing on ideas, creativity, and the needs of all citizens. New synergistic partnerships are being formed between the city, the university, the school district, and the county.

This is what binds us together as a community and is critical in Alpine becoming a strong town. We are the Eden of the West as one international journalist wrote in his article about his visit here.

Many of our neighbors, friends, and family have embarked on a mission to improve the quality of life in Alpine. We are coming together to transform into a 21st century city while maintaining our historic heritage and remembering our past. We know that cities can foster resiliency and prosperity in the lives of all when a community pulls together.



**CATHERINE EAVES**  
Mayor, City of Alpine

A new nonprofit organization, Alpine Community Projects. It is gaining traction in our community. ACP has a list of tasks they want to accomplish which will benefit us collectively. One of the first projects they are tackling is the need for affordable childcare. Other projects on their list include adding more electric car charging stations, beautification, and enhancing youth sports.

Alpine is attracting more visitors than ever due to the dedication and hard work of Chris, Heather, and Lucy at the Visitor's Center. As mentioned previously, we are now on the international scene with people

from other countries coming to visit our town.

Leaders from Sul Ross State University, Alpine ISD, and the city have met, and are continuing to meet to discuss how they can work together for the benefit of the entire community through education. Sul Ross, under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Hernandez and Dr. Robert Munoz, is actively working to bring continuing education and certification programs to SRSU for the benefit of Alpine residents. The Small Business Development Center of Sul Ross offers many free trainings to help entrepreneurs.

More and more residents are attending city council meetings and voicing their thoughts, ideas, concerns and opinions. Alpine belongs to all of us, and we each have a responsibility to make sure our voice is heard. The budget workshop on July 7 had a larger turnout than any prior workshop.

We are beginning to work together as a town in a fashion

that we have not seen in a long time. The Meet the Mayor events are having larger and larger turnouts with each successive meeting. During many of these meetings we've had brainstorming sessions on how we may handle issues.

Together, we focused on the drought that we are currently under (it is going to take a lot more rain to pull us out of it), and our aging infrastructure and how we can conserve water. Instead of complaining, we have worked together and come up with minor changes in our daily lives which help to save water.

With all of us doing these little things, the results are magnified. Remember, if you see a water leak in the city, call 432-837-3301 to report it. Chances are that no one knows about it.

I am proud of who we are and I am excited to see what we can do when we work together to make Alpine a strong town. Teamwork - that is what is in the air.

# You really can get there from here

"Cause I'm leaving on a jet plane, Don't know when I'll be back again." - Lyrics by John Denver

Part of my love for old sayings came from listening to my grandfather when I was a kid. A favorite was his reply when asked for directions involving any degree of complication.

"You can't get there from here," he would shake his head and smile. "You'll have to go back to where you came from and start over."

Trying to learn the intricacies of airline travel for a job some years later, I decided the airlines had proven grandpa wrong. Flyers of the friendly skies can get you anywhere you desire so long as you don't get too excited about what direction you're traveling at any given time.

That job had me crisscrossing the country working trade shows promoting American ingenuity. Outdoing the ingenuity of the airlines in plotting their paths back then, however, was impossible. So, the old saying took on new meaning the first time I tried to get from East Texas to Atlanta.

Having said that, I distinctly remember Mrs. Page in elementary school extolling the geographic fact that Georgia is one of the states due east of Texas. She even showed us



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

start in the right direction. Not according to the airlines, however.

"That's correct," I told the agent. "Shreveport to Atlanta. What's that? To Dallas? That's the wrong direction."

My argument was to no avail. All connections east went to Dallas to fly back over Shreveport, heading in the right direction.

"Do you have a better fare if I drive on down to Jackson, Miss., then fly back to Albuquerque and start over," I asked with a twinge of humorous sarcasm?

Who would have ever guessed some airline agents might lack a sense of humor. At least the ones in charge of backtracking to reach Atlanta.

Deciding to make the best of the layover in Dallas, I called a friend living there.

"Hey, man," he asked. "What' cha doing in Big D?" Telling him I was on my way to Atlanta, he asked, "So when did you leave Center?"

Early this morning, I let him know.

"Drove to Shreveport to fly to Dallas so I can turn around and go to Atlanta," I moaned.

"Are you kidding me. At least they didn't send you to Albuquerque," he laughed out loud.

"Yeah, well, I tried that too."

Getting from Atlanta back to Center produced its share of humor as well. Joining a colleague who had worked the Atlanta show with me for the return trip, we decided to grab lunch in a popular barbecue restaurant at the airport. As we finished eating, he placed a to-go order for some of their famous ribs.

"Wrap them up good for me," he told the waitress. "I'll sneak them in my carry-on."

"So how far you going," she asked?

"About 650 miles."

"Better make that 2,000," I joked. "They might route us through Albuquerque."

Taking our seats on the plane, my co-worker put his bag with the ribs in the overhead compartment, and settled in for the trip.

Moments before takeoff, the third seat in our row was filled by another business type who hastily loosened his tie and stuffed his jacket in the overhead compartment. The

one with the ribs.

As the flight leveled out, attendants made their way down the aisle with snacks. Looking at the protein bar the late-arriving passenger was handed, he frowned. "I thought I smelled barbecue coming. I'm disappointed."

"Me too," I said as I looked out the window, watching Shreveport from 30,000 feet as it passed below me.

Deplaning in Dallas, our fellow traveler walked through the terminal with us, pulling his roller bag, his jacket draped over his shoulder. "Funny, I can't get that barbecue aroma off my mind."

"I know," I agreed. "The power of suggestion can be powerful."

"You guys have much farther to go," he added?

"Shreveport via Albuquerque," I quipped.

"Shreveport?" he asked. "That's back the way we just came. And you still have to go through where?"

"Yeah, I know," I said. "It all started last Wednesday when the airline agent said I couldn't get there from where I was. Said I had to go back to Dallas and start over."

"I think she knew my grandpa."

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

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

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



# Heard on the STREET

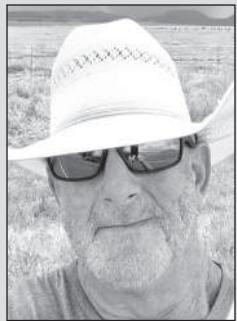
What's your preferred drink to cool off in the summer?



**Ryan Roberts, Terlingua:** Silver tequila or Sotol, with Topo Chico and lime. It is extremely refreshing and has a long rich history throughout this region.



**Chantella Brimhall, Marfa:** A fresh homemade watermelon Fresca. Like from Bee's here in Marfa. Because with the perfect watermelon it has the best balance of sweetness with the super cold ice water. Super refreshing.



**Danny Williams, Alpine:** An iced cold beer or two because it quenches my thirst and really hits the spot.



**Kaci Kothmann, Terlingua:** Lemonade! It's light and refreshing. When paired with ginger snaps it reminds me of home.



**Rob Carpenter, Terlingua:** Cold water, with a twist or two of lemon. Summers in Big Bend are no joke. I sure love a beer, but I tend to grab a water instead. Not sure why — it's just so good going down. My thoughts are always, "I sure love water, thank God for water." I sure love to swim in it, canoe on it, and drink it on a hot summer day.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY 21**  
**Alpine Ambassadors Meeting,** 6-7:30 p.m., at the BBT conference room. Sponsored by BBT.

**JULY 30**  
**Viva Veterans of the Big Bend,** 7-11 p.m., sponsored by the Legion Riders at American Legion Post 79, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. in Alpine. Free music and dancing, open to the public. Proceeds from concession sales will benefit area student scholarships.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous,** 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more in-



formation, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

**Alpine Lions Club meeting,** noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.

**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 bbccorale.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 Uni-

versity Center, room 210.

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

**Sons of the Legion,** 6:30 p.m.,

fourth Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

**Voter registration assistance,** Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621.

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## Hanging out with First Baptist



Kids and guest volunteers from First Baptist Church of Midland had a blast as they wrapped up a week long summer day camp on July 8 at Kokernot Park, hosted by First Baptist Church of Alpine. The youngsters enjoyed a fun filled day with bible stories, games, snow cones, and more. The summer day camp for kindergarten through fifth grade was held July 5-8 at the park.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill

## Help available to pay utility bills for low-income Texans

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs recently launched Texas Utility Help to help eligible low-income Texas homeowners and renters pay their utility bills. The state-wide program works to distribute funding from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Texas homeowners and renters may submit an application for help if their household income is at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, and they meet other eligibility criteria. The maximum household income depends on the number of people living in the

household. Full eligibility criteria are available at TexasUtilityHelp.com.

The new program uses a streamlined online application process, so any eligible Texas household can apply for both energy and water bill assistance in a single form.

Qualified applicants can receive assistance for their total past due amounts for electricity, natural gas, and propane, plus up to \$2,400 in prospective payments. For water and wastewater assistance, qualified applicants can pay off their total past due payments and up to \$600 in prospective payments. All payments are issued directly to the utility company on behalf of the applicant.

Program staff are encouraging applicants to apply as soon as possible while these funds are still available.

For more information and questions, call Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and toll free at 855-566-2057. Help is available in multiple languages.

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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 AUGUST 2, 2022 REGARDING:

**ORDINANCE 2022-07-01:** AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING LOTS TWO THROUGH TWELVE, BLOCK ONE, ALLEN ADDITION, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS.

THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 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 ANNEXATION. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Flower, a two-year-old black kitty with a medium length coat. She is a calm and gentle couch potato.



There are many myths and fun facts about black cats. In Ancient Egypt, all cats, including black cats, were considered sacred and worshipped. Every house and temple had at least one cat, which was seen as a way to bring luck into your family.

In Scottish culture having a black cat at home is considered good luck. Old sailors, for example, believed that having a cat on board their ship was a sign of good fortune.

In Victorian England, many believed that if a newly married couple crossed paths with a black cat, this would bring prosperity to their marriage.

Despite superstitions, black cats are one of the most affectionate and playful cats. Black cats

also tend to have a very close relationship with their owners, and are very grateful for love when it is received.

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. Monday 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 www.alpin-humane-society.org.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALPINE ISD'S EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) 2022-2023 GRANT APPLICATION

Alpine ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday July 20, 2022, in the Alpine ISD Administration Building, Board Room, located at 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Alpine ISD's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2022-2023 Grant Applicant

# Marathon receives fire engine

On July 7 Big Bend National Park's surplus wildland fire engine 864 was transferred to the Marathon Fire Department. Engine 864 is a 2011 Ford F-550 classified as a Type 6 Wildland Fire Engine, designed for use in rural settings, and used in initial attack on wildfires.

The Marathon Fire Department provides coverage for wildland and structural fires in Marathon and the surrounding area, including the park. The National Park Service appreciates the continued emergency mutual aid assistance the Marathon Fire Department offers through the Brewster County General Agreement, which allows park and Brewster County emergency responders to assist each other in times of emergency, including initial



The staff from Big Bend National Park and the Marathon Fire Department meet for the engine transfer.

attack on wildland fires. Brewster County Commissioner Ruben Ortega, who shepherded the updated general agreement through the county Commissioners Court, accepted the engine on behalf of the county.

"I am truly grateful for

our neighbors and can't say enough about the gift. Thanks to the NPS for making it happen," said Ortega.

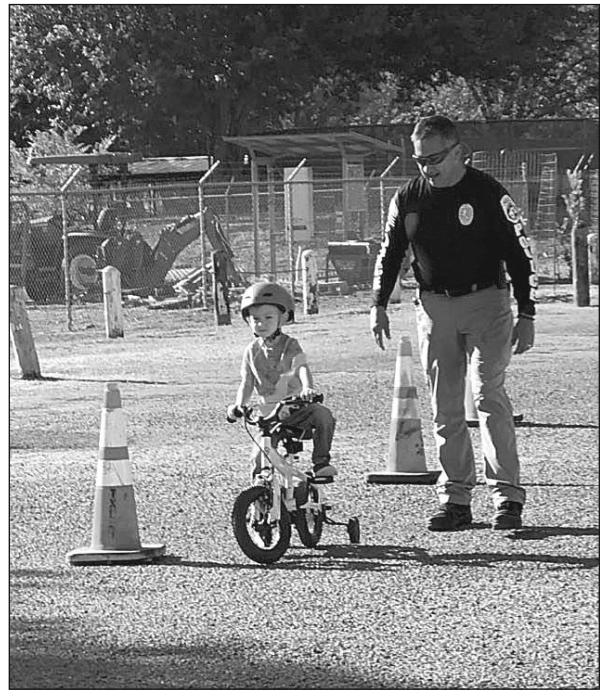
The keys to the engine were handed off to Marathon Fire Chief Brad Wilson, who said, "We are grateful for this do-

nation, as this engine will go a long way in our efforts to protect our community."

Engine 864 is in good working condition, and will continue to enable firefighting efforts throughout the Big Bend for years to come.

Courtesy photo

# Giddy up for safety



Asa Aufdengarten, 3, of Alpine enjoys a bicycle safety lesson and learning the rules of the road from Police Chief Darrell Losoya at the Police Department's bicycle rodeo held July 8 at the Kokernot Park softball field parking lot. Texas Department of State Health Services was also on hand to inspect and provide child car seats for residents, and provided free bicycle helmets to participants.

Courtesy photo

## COUNTY • FROM 1

high level of threat right now, so we want to make sure we are ready for everything."

Judge Eleazar Cano, however, was more concerned with the ongoing threat of a hazmat

hazard posed from the train into Alpine, which he stated was a "definite constant presence hazard" due to unknown material carried by freight trains in tanks. Pierce said the fire de-

partment was continuing to upgrade its equipment to better serve the citizens, and said public tours were always welcomed.

Finally, Emergency Management Coordina-

tor Stephanie Elmore said the county-wide burn ban due to drought conditions was still on, and warned county residents that they needed to contact her office to perform a prescribed burn.

"If you need to burn, you need to call in," said Elmore. "There were some people who were burning, and so we needed to go out there and send a sheriff's deputy because they are not

notifying us." The next regularly scheduled commissioner's court meeting is set for Tuesday, July 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom and via Facebook Live.

## DARK SKIES • FROM 1

below 5% is statistically the same as zero, making the night skies of 2003 as dark as they get.

The view from Sotol Vista receives light coming from the Terlingua and Study Butte areas. This raised concerns when the most recent measurements showed an ALR of 0.11, or 11%, brighter than a

perfectly dark night sky, and nearly four times greater than its 2003 measurements.

"The gentle haze is sky glow that was not detectable in 2003," Hummel said.

Light accumulation causes skyglow to extend vertically higher, so the more unshielded lights there are in an

area, the greater the effect will be. Considerate night lighting is especially important in the Big Bend.

"Sightlines are endless here. Once a light leaves a light bulb, it just keeps going and going. There's nothing to block it," Hummel said.

Light shields and amber-toned, low intensity

lights can help turn the tide.

Even so, Big Bend National Park remains the darkest national park in the Lower 48, Hummel noted.

Find tips to combat light pollution and learn about the International Dark Sky Reserve at Big-BendDarkSkyReserve.org.

## CLEAN UP • FROM 1

There are many benefits to cleaning up, while having Alpine citizens take pride in the place they call home. Just ask Alpine's Environmental Services Coordinator Adelina Beall, the city's cleanup and recycling guru who makes an active presence at cleanups and events held throughout the year.

Beall, a former Lubbock resident with a solid waste background, has been an integral part

of the city's cleanup efforts since 2018, including Earth Day, or in conjunction with Keep Texas Beautiful or trash offs in partnership with Texas Department of Transportation. Cub Scouts, teens needing community service hours, church groups, and sports teams are among the volunteers who show up to help.

"We are trying to clean up all the entrances to Alpine, that way we can be consistent every year," said Beall.

The city participates in two main events each year - the Great American Cleanup in late spring to early summer, and Fall Sweep in November. This year McDonald's rewarded volunteers with meal coupons, and TxDOT distributes freebies like

water bottles, native seeds, and more. Keep Texas Beautiful provides cleaning supplies such as gloves, bug spray, sunblock, and first aid kits.

Beall recommended that volunteers come dressed properly in jeans, a hat, and a long-sleeved shirt. The city supplies garden and leather gloves, sanitizer, and a visibility vest for working on streets and highways.

Monthly cleanups are usually held from 9 a.m.-noon on a Saturday morning, but flexibility is key.

"I try to do a window from 9-9:30 a.m. so we can get everybody signed up and suited up," said Beall. "They don't have to volunteer all four hours."

The city's next clean-

up event will be held on Saturday, July 16, across from McDonald's at the area along the Cactus Garden where Highway 90 splits.

"That is something that the city staff has to maintain all the time, so this is helping them every so often, and relieves their burden a little bit," Beall pointed out.

She enjoys the camaraderie of meeting people at the cleanups, and working with a diverse group from varied backgrounds, and looks forward to meeting more during upcoming events.

Said Beall, "You will get a sense of pride for your community, but you can also come and bring your friends. I feel it is something people would be proud of, doing this for their community."

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500# - 600# Steers	179.00 to 189.00
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600# - 700# Heifers	138.00 to 164.00
700# - 800# Steers	135.00 to 155.00
700# - 800# Heifers	130.00 to 138.00
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## LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

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July 11, 1996

Congressman Henry Bonilla met with a group of area supporters at the Brewster County gazebo on July 1. Among those attending were Jack McNamara, county Republican Chairman Robert Posey, Norma Kiser, and Jack Espy of Fort Davis.



July 11, 1996

A grand opening and ribbon cutting at the Big Bend Thrift Store at Avenue A and Fifth Street were held July 2. Present were Alpine Ambassadors and guests, including James Mancill, Fay Yarbrow, J.B. Tabor, David Jimenez, Art Merrihew, proprietors Kaaren and Bob Florstedt, Philip McCraw, Jerry Johnson, Joy Parsons, Fran Witt, Joy Gill, and Dale Cozart. In the back are Mickey Havens, Vic Morgan, and Tom Lawson, hospital administrator. Proceeds will go to buy needed equipment at Big Bend Regional Medical Center.

July 11, 1996

Photo 1 - Marathon residents entered this float in the July 4th parade in Alpine last Thursday. It reads "Olympics Came from Marathon, Greece" and "Friendship Remains in Marathon, Texas." The float won a third place award in the parade.



July 25, 1996

Area elected officials were recently honored by the Grand Lodge of Texas at the Alpine Lodge. Attending were Brewster County Judge Val Beard, Jeff Davis County Judge Peggy Robertson, Jeff Davis County Commissioner Billy Cotten, Alpine Councilman Delbert Dyke, Presidio County Sheriff Aberlardo Gonzalez, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Texas Joseph Regian, Alpine Councilman Hank Hardwick, Marfa Mayor Fritz Kahl, Presidio County Commissioner Felipe Cordero, Brewster County Commissioner J.S. "Red" Pattillo, and Alpine Mayor Bill Sohl.

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

# Pecan trees difficult to transplant

**Dear Neil: I bought this pecan tree from a tree farm in January. It was dug with a machine, then the root ball was wrapped in burlap and secured in a wire cage. I planted it within three days. Is it just in shock? Can it be saved?**

Pecans are notoriously difficult to transplant. The larger the tree, the harder it gets. Yes, your tree is struggling with transplant shock. You've done a good job of staking it, but it should have been thinned and pruned back by 50% to compensate for the massive number of roots left behind when it was dug. It's probably too late to gain much by doing so now. It also would have helped if you had applied a liquid root stimulator monthly for the first couple of years. Go ahead and start that process now.

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

Be careful that the wires don't girdle into the trunk. It looks like that could already be starting to happen.

**Dear Neil: I planted a Mexican sycamore in my backyard in 2019. It is not growing as quickly as one in my front yard. I water it once or twice weekly with a bag around its trunk, but so many of its leaves are turning yellow and fall-**



**Pecan dug last January. ing off. Am I watering it too much?**

Exactly the opposite. Your tree's roots extend into five or eight feet in all directions. The important smaller roots that do all the work of taking in water and nutrients are out at, and beyond, the drip line. Your tree is begging for water. Those bags around tree trunks are not good ways

to water trees, especially after the trees have been planted for a few months. Run the hose slowly, and let the water soak deeply into the ground in several locations. If you start watering more deeply and farther out from the trunk you will see new leaves being produced to replace these old leaves that will soon drop.

**Dear Neil: Do bags of fertilizer lose their potency if not used in the same season in which they were purchased? What about if they are clumpy when you open the bags? I have never seen a use-by date on bags I have bought.**

If granular fertilizers are kept dry, they should not lose any of their nutritional properties. An exception might be encapsulated timed release foods. Manufac-

urers have told me that the coatings may release their nutrients more rapidly when those products are used in hot Texas conditions. My bigger concern would be with clumpy. That would suggest that a conventional granular fertilizer might have taken on moisture. That is a problem. It can

make it quite difficult to get uniform distribution of the fertilizer through a spreader. I would pass judgment on such a product bag by bag.

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

### ACROSS

- 1 seat of McLennan County
- 5 Texas moonwalker, Bean
- 6 both Texas Christian & Notre \_\_\_ claim the 1938 national championship
- 7 "Hook '\_\_\_ Horns!"
- 8 gun rights grp.
- 9 TXism: "first \_\_\_ out of the box"
- 15 Tex Ritter sang the theme song for 1952 western "High \_\_\_"
- 16 TXism: "you're buying oats for a \_\_\_" (waste)
- 19 TXism: "lower than \_\_\_ belly"
- 21 Waxahachie's county most outlandish fishing story? (2 wds.)
- 27 popular seasoning
- 28 abuse sexually
- 29 deadly
- 30 illegal pursuer of another person
- 32 this Agee blocked for Emmitt Smith in 1990 (init.)
- 33 TXism: "go to \_\_\_" (Sunday)
- 36 Texans love black-\_\_\_ peas
- 37 a wager at Lone Star Park
- 38 Texas-based film, "\_\_\_ Comin' Back, Red Ryder?"
- 39 "\_\_\_ she wore flannel PJs on her honeymoon"

### DOWN

- 1 cell service provider
- 42 least serious crime: \_\_\_ misdemeanor
- 45 "get \_\_\_ of it"
- 46 TXism: "got \_\_\_ many irons in the fire"
- 47 Vega High class (2 wds.)
- 48 TXism: "that's a horse \_\_\_ different color"
- 49 TX James Baker was Reagan's and George H.W.'s Chief \_\_\_
- 52 TXism: "there's more of them than \_\_\_ in Texas"
- 53 Texas Traveling Wilbury, Roy (init.)
- 54 between E.III and E.V?
- 55 president born in Denison, TX (init.)
- 1 TXism: "tight \_\_\_" (cheapskate)
- 2 peach cobbler \_\_\_ mode
- 3 Milam County seat
- 4 TX Lucian Adams got Medal of Honor for \_\_\_
- 8 TXism: "plain as the \_\_\_ on your face"
- 9 TXism: "\_\_\_ in church"
- 10 Quanah High class

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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# Sports

## Cowboys sweep Invaders and Hormigas

BY ETHAN EIBE  
Sports Correspondent

### Eight players go to All-Star Game

Sweet, sweet victory. That has been the anthem of the Alpine 06 Cowboys of late, and for good reason. As of July 9, the team is on a seven-game winning streak, and remains just three games back of the Garden City Wind for first place in the Mountain Division.

After splitting a four-game series in Roswell, N.M., the previous week, the Cowboys hosted the Invaders and Weimar Hormigas at Kokernot Field for six games, and won them all.

The terrific run began on July 4 with an 18-3 thrashing of the Invaders. Cowboys outfielder Mark Traylor brought the fireworks, recording six hits in six at-bats, including his fourth home run of the season. Outfielder Andrew Capone and catcher Colin Johnson earned three RBI each.

The next three games between the two were much closer affairs. Tuesday saw the Cowboys walk-off for the win for the third time this summer. In extra innings, Capone lifted a fly ball to right field off of Roswell's Jonathan Fleckenstein. Right fielder Jonathan Bigley made the catch, but Johnson tagged up and scored from third base to win the game on the sacrifice fly 7-6.

The Cowboys and Invaders played a doubleheader on July 6, making up a rainout in Roswell on June 26. Outfielder/first baseman Bryce Donovan, who will soon be leaving the Cowboys for the MLB Draft League, provided the long ball in an 8-4 game one victory.

Game two went down to the wire, and again needed a Cardiac Cowboys Comeback to turn the tide. Down 5-2 in extra innings, first baseman Buzz Shirley's base hit brought home a pair of runners. With Johnson the tying run on first and two out following a fielder's choice, Traylor again came up clutch, pummeling a game-tying double to the left-center field gap. The Cowboys ended the

Invaders night two batters later, when second baseman Josh Laurie ripped a single to right, scoring Traylor for the 6-5 win.

The eventful series against Roswell concluded with a neutral site game in nearby Pecos at Cyclone Ballparks' all-turf facility on July 7. Both teams made the trip, and put on a show for local members of the community who came out to watch.

Once again, the Cowboys won the game with a ninth-inning, last-gasp rally. Alpine put three runs on the board in the final frame to take a 9-8 lead. Reliever Michael Castillo shut the door, and earned the save in the bottom of the inning.

Riding the high of five straight wins against their top Pecos League rival, the Cowboys won both games over the Weimar Hormigas. July 8 saw Alpine's regular third baseman James Prockish get the start on the mound. Prockish blew away all expectations by throwing a complete game, one-run shutout over Weimar on 101 pitches. He struck out seven batters, and induced soft contact from Weimar all game long in a 9-1 victory. Laurie hit his second home run of the season to extend the lead to 5-1 in the second inning.

The Saturday finale gave fans a look into what happens when you put one of the best teams in the Pecos League against the worst. The Alpine faithful were treated to a 25-4 slaying led by moonshots from Donovan, Shirley, and Matteo Avallone.

The Cowboys wrapped up the week by sending eight players and their manager Sean Persky to the annual Pecos League Mountain Division All-Star Game held at Clint Lightner Field in Garden City, Kan. In addition to Donovan, Shirley, Traylor, Castillo, Prockish and Capone, the Cowboys were represented by infielders Manny Garcia and Sam Dreistadt.

Donovan competed in the pregame home run derby contest, while Persky, who managed the Mountain South All-Stars, put himself in to pitch the first three innings, mostly out of necessity as he did not have many arms available. Even then, the Mountain



Alpine Cowboys outfielder Mark Traylor continued slamming the ball over the past week's games.  
Photo by Julie Myers

North All-Stars put up nine runs on Persky, and won the seven-inning contest 9-5. Capone made a few excellent defensive plays in right field and blasted a two-run home run.

The Cowboys hosted the Santa Fe Fuego at Kokernot from July 11-13, then headed to Santa Fe to play two games at Fort Marcy Ballpark on Friday and Saturday, July 15-16.

### Cowboys Schedule

July 15-16 Santa Fe Fuego @ Santa Fe, 6 p.m.  
July 20-24 Garden City Wind @ Garden City, 6:30 p.m.

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### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Angelique Fox

What activities were you involved in during your senior year?

I did track and field, powerlifting, cross country, and color guard.

Who was your most influential teacher or coach through high school?

My most influential teacher was Mrs. Parson because she loved me all four year, and inspired me. I love you, Mrs. Parson!

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My favorite moments were regionals my freshman year, and when I spent every day with my



Angelique Fox

best friend Lauren.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to move to Seattle, and get a business degree then a cosmetology license, and open my own hair salon.

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### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



ALEXIS RODRIGUEZ

Alexis is a multi-sport athlete; she helped the bucks not only in volleyball but also as a short stop on the field this year in softball. Her athletic drive has helped the Bucks this past year excel.



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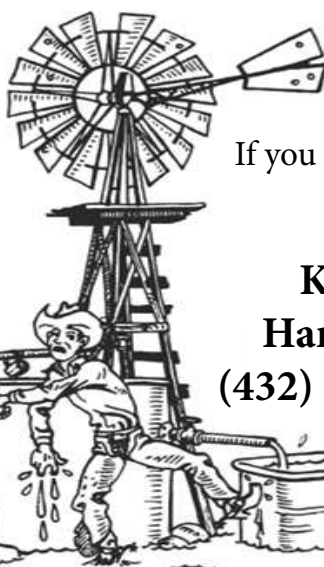
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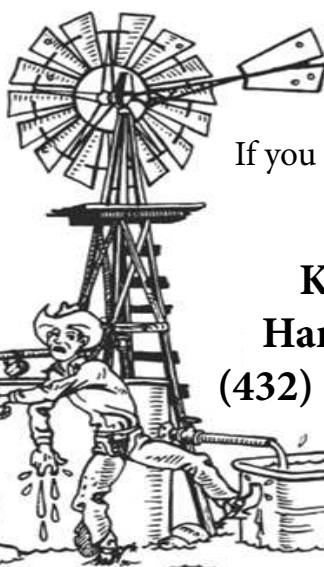
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# Corn and avocado salad

It's Saturday night, and you're still wracking your brain on what to make for the church social tomorrow. It is also summer, so those hearty casseroles that are usually the mainstay of a potluck social just won't do. You are thinking I want something light and refreshing, yet with a flavor profile strong enough to stand up to other dishes that may grace the table.

Corn and avocado salad can be just the thing. It's light, it's bright, and it's even healthy, coming in at a whopping one gram of fat per serving. How can you beat that?



**HEAD OVER MEALS**  
by kara gerbert

This recipe is simple and quick. Prep is the only thing that takes any amount of time to whip up this delightful side dish. This recipe calls for cherry tomatoes. I am just not a fan. There is some-



thing about their taste that I just do not care for, so instead I would substitute Roma tomatoes. In fact, I would use roasted Roma tomatoes as well as roasted corn. Yes, I would take that little extra step and time to elevate this simple dish. Not to take away from how delicious it already is, but there's just something about that roasted vegetable flavor

that just makes everything better. And let me tell you, roasted Roma tomatoes are some of the best things on the planet! That time spent on the grill or in the oven brings out all those sweet flavors hiding inside. It brings an altogether different taste to corn as well, making it almost smoky flavored with a little bit of char. Both the corn and the tomatoes need to cool after roasting.

The onions in this salad are fresh, but why not do a quick pickle on them to add another layer of flavor? Pickling sliced red onions is quite simple, and if you are going to take the time to roast your corn and tomatoes you may as well pickle your onions.

For a quick onion pickle, you would use vinegar, salt, sugar, and water. Submerge your onion slices in the dissolved mixture, and chill for about an hour. They can also be made up to two weeks in advance. If you watch any food tele-

vision, once the salt and sugar have been dissolved, they add in ice cubes and the onions, or set the submerged onions in an ice bath where the bowl is set into a larger bowl full of ice. This way they are already chilled and ready to plate. Hopefully, you are not on a short time clock when whipping up this delight.

These are just ideas that I have for enhancing a recipe. They may not be something you would

do, but then again, they might. There are no hard and fast rules here. We are cooking, not baking. Precision is not as necessary when cooking as it is when baking, therefore it's many times easier to switch things up in a recipe such as this. Why make a dish merely good when you can make a great one instead? Experiment, try new things, and wow your friends and family in the best way possible, with delicious food.

## Corn and avocado salad

<b>Ingredients</b>	
2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved	1/8 cup cilantro, chopped
1-1/2 cups corn, cooked	1 tablespoon olive oil
1 cup red onion, thinly sliced	1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice
1/2 cup avocado, diced	1 clove garlic, minced
2 cups red bell pepper, diced	Sea salt and pepper

**Directions**  
In a large bowl combine tomatoes, corn, red onion, avocado, red peppers, cilantro, and garlic. Drizzle olive oil and lime juice over vegetables. Season with sea salt and pepper to taste. Gently toss to combine. Divide into five even servings.

## Quick Pickled Red Onions

<b>Ingredients</b>	
1 cup water	1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar	1-1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 cup thinly sliced red onion	

**Directions**  
Whisk vinegar, sugar, and salt into the water until sugar and salt are dissolved. Place onions in a jar, and pour pickling mixture over them. Let sit at room temperature for one hour. Drain onions before using. You may also chill them.

## BRI hosts international exchange

The Borderlands Research Institute, housed at Sul Ross State University, hosted students from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua, a Mexican public university located in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico. Students from the Animal Science and Ecology programs at UACH learned about BRI research projects along with other regional conservation initiatives.

So far, three groups of six students each have participated, with one more group planned for this summer. The exchange was funded through a grant from 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund and its partners, the U.S. Department of State, Fundación Banorte, and Fundación Gruma, as part of the public-private sector collaboration between the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas.

The grant paid for meals, lodging, and student travel within the region. It also provided the students with some supplies, including backpacks and binoculars.

The students stayed in Alpine for six nights, and visited all of the ecoregions represented in the Big Bend. In addition, they toured Sul Ross and the Alpine downtown district.

Although only separated by about 240 miles and a four-hour drive, this marked the first time the two departments have collaborated this way.

Both schools are situated within the Chihuahuan

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**LAQUINTA INNS & SUITES**

OBITUARIES • FROM 2

Lucia V. Valenzuela

At the age of 82, Lucia Valenzuela passed away peacefully with her loved ones by her side on Dec. 2, 2021, two days before her 83rd birthday.

Lucia, known to everyone as Lucy, was born Dec. 4, 1938, in Terlingua, Texas, to Jorge and Jesusita Valenzuela. She graduated from Alpine High School, and soon after she was married 68 years to the love of her life, Robert L. Valenzuela.

Lucy retired from First National Bank in Alpine, Texas, after working there for 25 years. Later in life, she moved to Gilbert, Ariz., to be closer to family.

Lucy is survived by her husband, Robert



Valenzuela, and their daughters Luana Ward, Lisa Rubio and spouse Samuel Rubio, and Lorraine Valenzuela. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren and their families.

Lucy was a beautiful person inside and out. You would always see her with a smile on her face, and she was friendly to everyone, whether she knew them or not. Lucy was de-

voted to her Catholic faith, always praying for loved ones and friends. She considered herself incredibly blessed by the frequent opportunities to surround herself with family, and getting to treasure the time she spent alongside her beloved husband.

Lucy is, and always will be, missed and loved by family. She has taken a piece of her husband's and daughters' hearts with her.

Family and friends are invited to attend her celebration of life.

The Rosary will commence on July 23, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 406 South Sixth Street in Alpine, followed by the Catholic Mass at 10 a.m.

# Touring the new high school



U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-23) visited Alpine on July 6. Among his stops was the new Alpine ISD high school where he toured the construction site. Here he talks with AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart.

Avalanche photo by Gail Diane Yovanovich

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## Devotional Page

### Gospel is good news for all nations

BY THE REV. WYATT BOUTWELL

Holy Cross Anglican Church

"And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

I have a dear friend and mentor, A.B. Lamido, an Archbishop in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion). He is a convert from Islam who heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a Christian school in northern Nigeria as a boy. His aunt was the first to convert to Christianity, and through her witness, he believed in Jesus Christ, and his life was changed.

Through decades of faithful service, he serves the Lord as a senior leader in a denomination with over 22 million members. There are over 100 million Christians in Nigeria today, whereas there was only a handful two centuries ago. This growth is true not only in Nigeria but also in other parts of the globe as well.

China has more than 100 million Christians, even as the Communist government oppresses the Church. In the Muslim world, where missionaries for centuries toiled with little fruit, there is new-found interest in the Gospel. According to the research organization Operation World, the first and the second fastest-growing Christian bodies in the world are Iran and Afghanistan, respectively. The Church is growing because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all people.

I mention the story of A.B. Lamido, along with hundreds of millions of Christians worldwide, because it was God's intention from the very beginning to bring the message of salvation to all peoples.

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We read within moments of the Fall of Adam and Eve that God was making promises of a redeemer. Genesis 3:15 says, "And I will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." (ESV)

Generations later, Abraham, the father of the faithful, received a promise from God. He said, "And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 22:18 ESV) Dozens of Old Testament prophecies point to Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah.

Jesus is the true redeemer who crushed the head of the serpent. Jesus is the "offspring" of Abraham in whom all the nations are blessed. St. Paul says as much in Galatians 3:16.

He writes, "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring."

It does not refer to many, but to one. This long-expected Jesus, the culmination of God's promises for the world's salvation, unites all who trust in Him. St. Paul says this, "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." (Galatians 3:26-29 ESV)

For the Christian in Alpine, Nigeria, China, or any other part of this globe, the Gospel is truly good news in which all the nations of the world will be blessed.

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I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.  
~ Philippians 4:13

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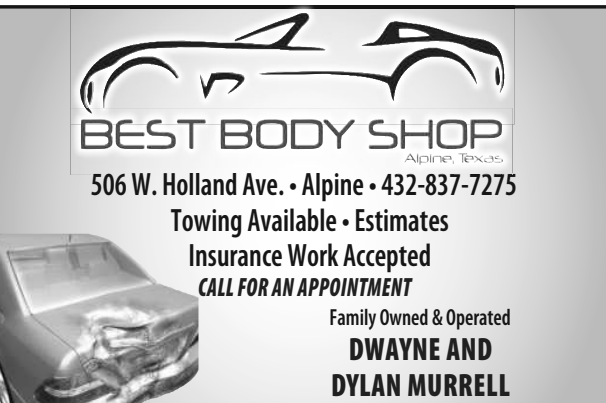
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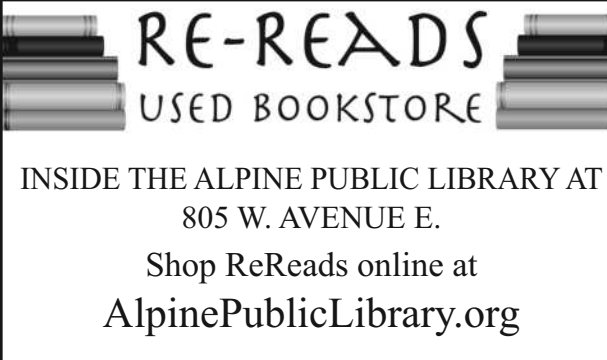
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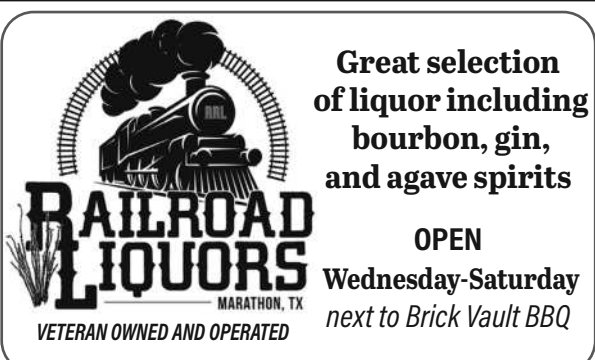
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# The Highland Herefords History



**FIDDLER'S GREEN**  
by Larry Francell

The most famous cattle breed developed in Texas was the Santa Gertrudis bred by the King Ranch in South Texas, but this was not the only breed.

As the grasslands of the Davis Mountains and Big Bend were settled in the 1880s, ranching became the economic driver of the

area. While animals like the Santa Gertrudis were bred specially for South Texas and the Coastal Prairie, such animals were not what was needed in the mountainous grasslands of the Big Bend.

Any breed successful in the marketplace had to be quality beef with a size to-process

weight ratio to be worth the effort to raise. After the Civil War with the burgeoning population in the industrial East, the demand for beef of any quantity was huge. That demand was initially satisfied by the Texas longhorn, a half-wild rangy animal that had the advantage

of being able to walk themselves to market. As railroads crossed the continent making transportation easier, more of the range was enclosed by fencing, and, as tastes changed, there was a greater demand for quality.

With the possibility  
**See FRANCELL • 14**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR • FROM 4

### Misinfo

For July 4th there was a store window near the courthouse on Highway 118 in Fort Davis displaying partisan posters.

One falsely claimed a Mexican railroad going through Texas was moved to New Mexico due to the governor's actions. As of this writing it's an open-ended Mexican standoff with Texas.

Another claimed the governor took money from Texas health services for dubious reasons. This in fact was part of a \$500 million transfer from multiple state budgets. It's to be used for Texas border security attempts

to provide relief from bad border decisions made by the Democrat White House.

Another poster compared taco sales to gun sales in a juvenile attempt at misinfo used for their anti-gun rhetoric. A Confederate battle flag was used to falsely imply treason by Republicans in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, 2021, a flag that symbolizes the 19th century treason and racism of Democrats.

There was a poster of a guy with two rifles saying he's threatened while encircled by what appeared to be gay, ethnic, or racial caricatures. The silliness of that defies logic. A poster berating teachers with guns

is made mute by Texas teachers and staff who are now arming themselves to protect school kids as recent mass murders prove red flag laws to be useless. There was a Kids Cannot Be Replaced poster displaying For The Children deceits often used politically.

Misinformation is a big word for lie. If misinfo and "Beto" are the best the Democrats can do, then it might be time for them to close up and go home.

James R. Le Blanc  
Fort Davis

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### A delightful performance

If you think Charlie Brown is not relevant, think again. He may be goofy but he does embody kindness, hope, and humanity. These qualities were throughout the Sul Ross production, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at the Kokernot Outdoor Summer Theatre. A carpool of friends from Fort Davis went to see the performance on Sunday and we were not disappointed.

The play was spectacular. The actors and musicians are top notch. The choice of the play is perfect - cheerful, lighthearted, and witty, just what everyone needs in these doom and

gloom times. How perfect was the cast, all professional actors and greatly talented! The music was first class. The set was very imaginative, and the sound system and lighting were just right.

The remaining schedule is for the next two weekends is July 15-17 and July 23-24 at 8 p.m. They post on their website any performances that will be postponed due to weather, and they do issue rain checks. For questions, call 432-837 8218 - a nice student gave me all of these details. It is a good idea to bring your own folding chairs since the benches are not comfortable.

Thank you, Theatre of the Big Bend, for an excellent program. It was a breath of fresh air.

Elaine Harmon  
Fort Davis

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# Hansen queen of chili cookoff

Jennifer Hansen, Mandy Jorgenson, and Carl Garcia of Terlingua pause for a photo at the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department chili cook-off fundraiser held at Marathon Motel and RV Park on July 2. The chili chefs from Terlingua prepared a recipe to be judged and obtain qualifying points to the international chili cook-offs in Terlingua in November. Hansen, also known as the Chili Queen, won the Cowboy Chili Cook-off this year.

Avalanche photo by Roxanne Hill



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## FRANCELL • FROM 13

of increased profits, many progressive ranchers began to improve their stock by importing bulls. One of those breeds imported was the English Hereford. According to the Christopher Knowlton, historian of the range cattle industry, "Ultimately, the hearty hereford proved the breed best suited to the arid conditions of the West. Eventually the hereford would largely replace the longhorn on the open range."

Which brings us to the Highland Herefords of the Big Bend. The Big Bend is geographically made up of "sky islands," mountain ranges surrounded by grasslands and open prairie. It took a special breed of cattle to thrive in this environment, one that could range some dis-

ance, and still produce the weight and quality of meat desired by the marketplace.

In 1919 the Highland Hereford Association was organized "for the purpose of fostering the sale of cattle grown in the area, and to assist in and encourage the growing of better cattle."

By 1936 there were 81 members, where "no man was admitted to membership in the association whose business integrity and methods of dealing are known to be questionable. A second requirement is that his cattle possess certain prescribed standards of quality."

This was stated in a softbound book written by Frank Reeves titled, "The Story of the Highlands" (1936). This is one of the least known, but most important written documents about the history of the region.

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The first herefords were brought to the area about 1900 when Jim and Beau McCutchen imported bulls from Colorado.

According to Reeves, "Their beef characteristics and their natural instinct to rustle for themselves and general adaptability to the range caused other ranchmen to make purchases."

To promote the breed, an annual fall sale was held at Marfa.

Beyond discussing the Highland Hereford, Reeves' book is a wealth of information on the Davis Mountains and Big Bend. It includes the descriptions of over 60 ranches in the region, often with photographs. It includes sections on range conditions, the early history of ranching, and, most prescient, a look into the future.

Said Reeves, "When the Big Bend Country was created, a program of lavish extravagance prevailed. It is one of the most remarkable sections of the Southwest. It is a masterpiece that charms and thrills all beholders, and is destined to become the playground of countless thousands of nature-admiring, beauty-loving, pleasure-seeking vacationists."

The Story of the Highlands is now difficult to find, appearing on the rare book market for several hundred dollars. If you have a copy, keep it safe.

## BRI • FROM 9

Desert. It is regarded as the most biologically diverse desert in the Western Hemisphere.

BRI's Nau Endowed Professor in Habitat Research and Management, Dr. Carlos E. Gonzalez, said the exchange benefits programs on both sides of the river.