

Thursday, May 18, 2023 • \$1

Proposed development prompts heated talks **BY KARA GERBERT**

Managing Editor

The City of Alpine held their regular city council meeting on May 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Councilor Sara Tandy, Ward 3 was absent for her last official meeting due to family vacation.

Emotions were high concerning item six on the agenda, a public hearing to obtain citizens views and comments regarding the first reading of the Ordinance 2023-05-01, an ordinance annexing the proposed Skyway Gardens II development that is adjacent to the current Skyway Gardens development.

Newly elected councilman for Ward 5, Rick Stephens, speaking as a citizen, was in favor of the annexation, but he told council he did not believe the city was quite ready for that to happen. "One of my concerns is that any potential flooding that

See COUNCIL • 6



FEATURED

Alpine ISD facing financial challenges

BY JT MARONEY Publisher

New hires, possible cuts, and a grim financial outlook steered the course of last Monday nights regularly scheduled Alpine ISD school board meeting.

With all board members in attendance except Single Member District 4, Jimmy Morris, the meeting started with the canvassing of the votes for the May school board election. Sworn in during the meeting was Dr. Adrian Billings, Single

Member District 6 and Joe Portillo, Single Member District 2, these two newly elected- incumbent members will serve a two-year term. Voter turnout was low with roughly 17% of the registered voters in the two districts voting, costing

the district upwards of \$2,000 to hold the election.

Construction updates for the high school were read by Dr. Michelle Rinehart in the absence of officials from Imperial



with the installation of Dr. new trees and grass once Michelle irrigation is complete. Rinehart

The Alpine National Honor Society recently held a car wash and raised \$1,800 for the Terlingua CSD band hall that was destroyed in a fire back in February. The Alpine school board noted the generosity of

and Parkhill Smith. Noted

was the completion of the

roof that held well in last

week's rainstorm. Land-

scaping is scheduled to

be completed by July

these students' helping others.

In other news, the constant discrepancies between state and local funding and the County CAD was the most noted item at the meeting. Alpine ISD CFO, Clay Braden presented to the board the bleak financial reality the district faces moving forward unless legislative bills were passed this session in Austin. Concern over balancing the budget and also aligning teach-

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Alpine Lady Bucks shine at state



The Alpine Lady Buck 4 x 200 Relay team took to Austin as a wild card and placed seventh out of the nine schools at the

See Sports page 8

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport



State UIL Track and Field Championships. Pictured are alternate Ali Maroney, Valeria Crespo, Danica Mulholland, Vanessa Rice, Novah Carrasco, and alternate Emyliana Hernandez.

Music makes the world go 'round

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

"Where words fail, music speaks.

– Hans Christian Andersen

From a young age, Dr. Andrew Allegria was immersed in music. His mother was a semiprofessional singer, and his dad was a semi-professional pianist and organist. This led him to study music and make it a career. And while his parents pointed out the "red flags" of the life of a music man, Allegria was not deterred.

He began as an oboist, and because in what he termed his "bohemian days" he at one point decided his aspirations were to be part of a pit orchestra, he learned to play the flute, the clarinet, and the bassoon. He was also tasked in his musical journey with filling in for the percussion section in a marching band. Here, Allegria played the bells, the marimba, and other mallet type instruments along with tympani drums on occasion because he was able to play and read piano music.

Allegria's higher education first included a Bachelor of Music degree from Baylor University, focusing on the oboe. After some time, he realized that his struggles to make a living would require more advanced education and that in order to find gainful employment he would have to transition into singing and conducting. This led him to pursue a masters in music from the University of New Mexico and a Doctor of



The Big Bend Community Chorale along with the Big Bend Children's Chorus and the Big Bend Vivace Youth presented their nod to Broadway on May 5 at the Granada Theatre. Conducting this performance was Dr. Andrew Allegria, Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Study at Sul Ross State University's Visual and Performing Arts department.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



See MUSIC • 6



OBITUARIES

Juan Anaya Chavez

Juan Anaya Chavez, Jr. of Alpine, passed away on May 12 at Pecos County Memorial Hospital in Fort Stockton, at the age of 91 from health issues.

Juan Chavez was born on July 29, 1931, in Terlingua to Lucia Anaya and Juan Gomez Chavez. He was born and raised, until his teenage years, in Terlingua along with his brothers Manuel and Alfonso, and two sisters Manuela Vega and Josephina Iniguez. He liked adventuring throughout the area of the mines where his family lived. He raised goats and collected

Roger H. Grant

Dr. Roger H. Grant, aka Coach, 77, passed away on April 10, at home in Laguna Park. While we are deeply saddened at his passing, we find great comfort that he is no longer in pain.

Roger was born on September 3, 1945, in Plainview to Betty and Dee Grant. Roger was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Annette.

Roger's love of basketball began early in life, and he played point guard for his high school team the Plainview Bulldogs. His senior year, his team won the title of District Co-Champions and advanced to the Bi-District game. Roger's basketball career continued through college playing point guard for the Wayland Baptist Pioneers.

Roger received his B.S.



water for the family, gathered candelilla for making candles, firewood for cooking and heating. He also dried and stripped the cactus agave for making rope as he was taught by his dad Juan, Sr. Our dad also ventured a couple of times along with this wife and children to San Carlos, now Manuel Benavides, to visit his relatives and enjoy the beautiful sites at San Carlos.

My grandfather, Juan Chavez, Sr., due to his health problems moved his family to Alpine. Our dad, Juan Chavez, Jr., worked in the construction of the Administration and Education buildings at Sul Ross State University. He also worked at Centennial School for a few years. He then moved the family to Odessa, where he worked for World Coating, stripping, and recoating battery tanks, along with his brother-in-law Ruben Chacon and Vivian Dominguez. He also worked at Alpine

at Sul Ross State Universi-

Independent School District as a custodian and bus driver for many years. Later, he was hired at Big Bend Telephone Company where he retired twice. Juan was also a member of the Knights of Columbus here in Alpine. He liked working on his own vehicles. His favorite baseball team was the Houston Astros and football team the Denver Broncos. He also loved playing cards and dominoes with his family and arguing whose turn it was.

He was preceded in death by his wife, our mom Leonor Chavez, and daughter Evangelina. He is survived by his daughters Manuela "Nel" Chavez, Rosa Maria Ramirez, Patricia Hambach, and Carmen Chavez; two sons Daniel and Juan "Chacho" Chavez, III; fourteen grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and ten great-great-grandchildren.

Honorary Pallbearers are his sons Daniel and Juan "Chacho" Chavez, III, his grandson Andrew Chavez, son-in-law Wes Hambach, grandson-in-law Robert

LeBlanc, and Robert Polanco (Knights of Columbus).

Praying of the Most Holy Rosary will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with services to follow at 10 a.m.

Online condolences may be left at: www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home in Alpine.

GSMINSURORS OF WEST TEXAS Alpine 🛠 Jexas Bethany Ahern, Agent 432.837.7419 AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • HEALTH • LIFE **GIGBE** TITLE, LLC Serving the Greater Big Bend Area PROTECTING YOUR LARGEST SINGLE INVESTMENT! YOU HAVE THE POWER OF CHOICE IN CHOOSING YOUR OWN TITLE COMPANY. Now serving <u>Brewster</u>, <u>Jeff Davis</u> and <u>Presidio</u> Counties Fort Davis Office Alpine Office Marfa Office: 608 E. Holland Ave 309 State St. - Hwy. 17 S P.O. Box 813 212 Highland Ave. Marfa, TX 79843 (432) 729-4299 Alpine, TX 79830 (432) 837-9172 dca@sbcglobal.net Fort Davis, TX 79734 (432) 426-3288



in Business Administration & Education and Physical Education from Wayland Baptist College. It was here that he met the love of his life, Marilyn (nee Maxwell), and the two were married August 28, 1967. Roger received his M.S. in Physical Education and Business from North Texas State University and his Ed.D. in Physical Education and Health from East Texas State University.

Roger began his coaching career as the Men's Tennis Coach at East Texas State University but found his true passion to be coaching Men's Basketball ty starting in 1987. Coach Grant loved to help players achieve their maximum potential both on and off the court. What started as mentoring his athletes to achieve in the classroom, quickly turned to mentoring and encouraging those same athletes to pursue and obtain higher level degrees. Many of those athletes became coaches themselves and circled back to the values and work ethic that Coach Grant instilled in them on the court. Nothing brought Coach greater joy than hearing their success stories and knowing that his coaching legacy continues to this day.

Coach loved to golf, play guitar, and to watch The Cowboys every Sunday even if he was "only watching to see them lose." He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years Marilyn, son Darren Grant and wife Cyndal of Tyler, daughter Kari Grant and husband Lee Robinson of Austin, and grandchildren Damian, Elise, Gracie, Brailey, and Slaiden.

A Celebration of Life is being planned in San Angelo in June with the option to attend in person or via livestream. To be included in updates on Coach's Celebration of Life or to share pictures, stories, or memories, please email RememberingRHGrant@gmail. com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of the following charities:

Positive Coaching Alliance https://positivecoach. org/the-power-of-positive/

USA Basketball Foundation https://usabfoundation. org/

Guitar Center Music Foundation https://guitarcenterfoundation.org/



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Oscar Hinojos

Oscar Hinojos, 65, of Alpine, passed away on May 8. Oscar, known to all as Ruco or Rucito, was born to Hermelindo and Marie Ida (La Negra) Hinojos, on May 17, 1957, in Alpine. Services will be at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine. Rosary, June 23 at 7 p.m. Mass on June 24 at 10 a.m. Services provided by Martinez Funeral Home from Odessa, Texas.

Oscar is survived by his (daughter) SueAnn Cadena and three granddaughters, Ariela (Tyler) Coleman, two great granddaughters Ava and



Athena. Granddaughters, Coco and Renee Cadena. Grandson, Alejandro Cadena. Daughter, Anna (Randy) Buentello, grandsons, Ryan and Lucas. Son, Robert (Keely) Hinojos, granddaughters, Keiana and Arabella, and grandsons Kealand, Leland, and Damon. Oscar is also survived by brothers Mike, Bobby (Melinda), Jose and Julian. Sister, Linda (Orlando) Sandate, Lupe (Jesse) Pohl, Estella, Norma, and Natalia. Plus, numerous nieces and nephews that all loved their Uncle Oscar very much.

Oscar is proceeded in death by his parents Hermelindo and Marie Ida (La Negra) Hinojos, sister Olga and sister-in-law Rebecca Hinojos.

Oscar was a jack of many trades. He loved the outdoors. He held many titles in his life, from being an amazing vaquero, a chuckwagon cook, to handling big machinery.

While Oscar left us way to soon, he left a huge impact on many people. From his nonstop jokes and his contagious laughter, he left a special stamp on each and every one of us. The light he brought to a room was so bright. He will always be loved and never forgotten. Oscar was a loving Father, Brother, Son, Uncle, Grandfather and Friend. May he rest in eternal peace.

Sunshine House Senior Citizens Center Meals on Wheels 402 E. Holland Ave. • Alpine, Texas 79830 • 432-837-5402 www.sunshinehousealpine.com		
Thank you for the following donations:		
Susie Celaya	Rev. Wyatt Boutwell	
Dorothy Muratori	David Mainz	
Jane Garrett	Martha Latta	
Katy Williams	Jane Wohlgerhan	
Mollie Durkin	Kent Hicks	
Cindy Samok	Carolyn Rose	
Holy Anglican Church	Shirley Nichols	
Our Vision: A hunger-free, healthy community. Our Mission: To provide quality nourishment and social enrichment in the lives of seniors, the homebound and disabled in Alpine, Texas.		
Join us for lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30 - 12:30. • Cost is \$7.00 per person. Sunshine House is an equal opportunity provider and employer.		

SHINE HOUSE IN





Alpine High School holds awards assembly

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

Alpine High School held their annual awards assembly Monday night at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the AISD administration building.

Along with the Teacher of the Year award, over 120 awards were presented to students during the ceremony.

Top honors for the evening went to Zane Billings. Billings was awarded the Texas Education Agency Highest Ranking certificate that goes to the student with the highestranking GPA in the graduating class. This entitles the student to tuition exemption as authorized by the Texas Education Code 54.301. Billings also received awards for being named Class of 2023 valedictorian, Most Outstanding in calculus, a UIL Scholar Award, Mr. AHS, honor graduate, and a performance medal for AP/SAT.

The salutatorian for the AHS Class of 2023 went to Azra Gunes. Gunes was also awarded a performance medal for AP/ SAT, along with being an honor graduate, a UIL Scholar award, outstanding English IV AP student, Most Outstanding Math student, Most Outstanding Science Student, and outstanding Engineering Design presentation two.

Billings also received the Rio Grande Electric Co-op scholarship.

Madalyn Warren and Sierra Ruckman were chosen among four young women to receive the Girls State award and Jace Canaba, Jobre Evans, Jake Esparza, Mateo Solis, and Owen Thompson were the five young men chosen to receive the Boys State awards.

In the art department, four students were recognized as outstanding students. Kody Hawkins for Art I, Adayna Garcia for Art II, Santi Alvidrez for Art III, and Madison Muniz for Advanced Art. Trinity Vega and Jordan Wilks were selected as the outstanding students for Spanish I and II respectively. Sye Behan was awarded as the outstanding student in Health while Vanessa Welch received the



Alpine High School student award winners for 2022-2023.

outstanding student for Physical Education.

In the band, jazz band, and color guard, Colt Hale, Owen Migliore, and Shalom Tamale were awarded for outstanding student in each category respectively and Xander Dodson was awarded the Shining Star award.

In the Career and Technical Education category, Mia Lewis was awarded outstanding student in Principals of Agriculture, Jhett Hopkins was the outstanding student in Ag Structures and Design, and Clancy Newman received the outstanding student award for Ag metal fabrication, followed by Valeria Crespo for Advanced Animal Science.

Welding students who received outstanding student awards were Hunter Sapp for Intro to Welding, Jimmy Korteland for Welding I, Arnel Holguin for Welding II, and Aiden Garcia for Advanced Welding.

For the Principals of Art AV/Tech and Communications, the outstanding student award went to Raul Gonzalez Renteria. Commercial Photography I was awarded to Virginia Acosta, Practices in Arts AV/Tech and Communication was awarded to Daliel Diaz Benavidez, Commercial Photography II was awarded to Elyse Ramos, and Graphic Design I and II was awarded to Sedrick Lara and Isabella Beinhauer respectively.

Student Leadership was awarded to Vanessa Rice.

The Outstanding Principals of Health was awarded to Piper Wash and the Most Outstanding CTE Student was Ian Schwierjohn.

Most outstanding students in the sciences were Jayden Portillo for IPC, David Baca for Biology, Sarah Wilbourn for Environmental Science, Zeynep Basibuyuk for Chemistry, Alyssa Nanez for Biology I and Brodie Hale for Biology II. Diego Hidalgo received the award for Physics and Madison Mendoza for AP Physics.

The most outstanding students in Math were Vianney Santos for Algebra I, Zeynep Basibuyuk for Geometry, Jhett Hopkins for Algebraic Reasoning, Emma Zheng for Algebra II, and Zoe Arredondo for Pre-Calculus.

In social studies, the most outstanding students were Izabel Ortiz for World Geography, Peyton Tays for World History, Valeria Crespo for U.S. History, Kaden Plourde for U.S. Government, and Jordan Wilks for Economics. The Most Outstanding student in social studies was awarded to Mateo Miranda.

Most outstanding students in English were David Baca for English I, Teresa Ritzi for English I Pre-AP, Megan Struthers for English II Pre-AP, Landon Velasco for English II, Hatfield Cason for English III AP, Adayna Garcia for English III, and Aeris Martinez for English IV. Zoe Arredondo received the award for Most Outstanding English student. Along with the top two students of the evening, students receiving the UIL Scholar Award were Madison Mendoza, Kaitlyn Wiggins, Vanessa Avalanche photo

Rice, Lindsay Valenzuela, and Ella Wonsowski.

Aeris Martinez and Oscar Velasquez received the Principal's Award while Neftali Contreras was named Miss AHS alongside Billings.

Honor graduates were Madison Mendoza, Kaitlyn Wiggins, Vanessa Rice, Lindsay Valenzuela, Ella Wonsowski, Daliel Benavidez Diaz, Omar Villa, Zachary Wash, Jasmine DeLeon, Kiara Castillo, Dulce Munoz, Lauren Rogers, and Brenda Rodriguez.

Finally, performance medals were awarded to students with an outstanding performance in a dual credit course, bilingualism and biliteracy, on a college board advanced placement test or international baccalaureate examination, on an established college preparation assessment, or on an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument used by colleges for undergraduate admissions. They were also eligible for a performance medal if they earned a state-recognized or nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification license.

Dual Credit recipients were Kiara Castillo, Madison Mendoza, Omar Villa, Kaitlyn Wiggins, and Ella Wonsowski. AP/ SAT recipient along with Billings and Gunes was Lauren Rogers. Welding certification recipients were Alejandro Carrasco Sylvas, Trey Ervin, Aiden Garcia, John DeGuia, Emanuel Hernandez, Ylan Hernandez, Adrian Lujan, Mateo Miranda, Cody Morris, Jordan Rodriguez, Ian Schwierjohn, Shaughn Taylor, Andrew Velasquez, Oscar Velasquez, Ramon Villanueva, and Zachary Wash. Graphic Design and Multimedia recipients were Sydney Byler Hernandez, Jasmine DeLeon, Daliel Benavidez Diaz, Orly Holguin, Corvyn Leonard, Lexie Leyva, Zyan Llanez, Aeris Martinez, Madison Mendoza, Ryka Morales, Vanessa Rice, Lisa Rojo, Brenda Romero Rodriguez, Jordan Wilks, and Adrian Whittington. For Ag, recipients were Alec Adame, Estafania Mucharraz. Alexis Rodriguez, Ethan Sweat, and Gavin Wash.

Finally, the Teacher of the Year award for the 2022-2023 school year was presented to Robie Golden.



BREWSTER CAD FORCED TO RAISE VALUES AGAIN

Notices of value are in the mail to local taxpayers showing significant increases in almost all types of property. Sales continue to rise and are well above previous appraised values, so the district must raise values to comply with the state law which requires composite values to be at least 95% of selling prices.

Outstanding student of Robotics was awarded to Teresa Ritzi, Principals of Applied Engineering was awarded to Emyliana Hernandez, Engineering Design Presentation I was awarded to Marco Acosta, Engineering Design Problem Solving was awarded to Adrian Garcia-Sardaneta, and



Migration to Texas and a movement from cities to more rural areas has driven demand upward causing prices to spike. Many people coming to Brewster County are from other states where values have been much higher, and they see Texas real estate as a bargain while others are buying property here to take advantage of the beauty of the area and the recreational opportunities.

Additionally, schools in Alpine and Terlingua are facing the loss of state funding because the locally appraised values of homes and land did not reach the ratio mandated in state law. The appraisal district and local schools learned of the study results in early February. Appeals have been filed by attorneys, but the differences are so significant that the appeals are unlikely to bring the school into compliance.

Denise Flores, Chief Appraiser for Brewster CAD lamented the results. "It is really bad news for all of us. This means that we will have to increase values again this year after significant increases in the past two years. It is not something we want to do, and there is no other benefit than passing the state audit because as values rise, tax rates are adjusted downward."

"There is some good news for local taxpayers," said Flores. "Persons with a homestead exemption are limited to a 10% increase from the prior year, and that will help to restrict major increases for homeowners. Also, for homesteaded properties whose owners are over 65 or disabled, school taxes are capped so nothing will change for them on their school taxes, regardless of the value changes."

Notices will include a protest form as well as instructions on how to file a protest online. "We just want to get the values correct so that the local schools will be fully funded," said Ms. Flores. "If taxpayers have evidence that we are wrong, we will gladly correct our values. Good evidence to provide to the district include recent purchase paperwork, recent fee appraisals, or information showing problems areas that would impact sales prices."

Taxpayers will have the opportunity to visit with staff and receive answers as to why the values were set on their property. If an agreement on value cannot be reached, the taxpayer may appeal their value formally to the local Appraisal Review Board, a group of local citizens appointed by the District Judge.

Inions

NLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHAT IS THE BEST	
WAY TO START A DAY	?
ESULTS	

WITH A CUP OF COFFEE	
	80% (4 votes)
WITH A HOT SHOWER	
WITH A COLD BEER	0% (0 votes
WITH THE SNOOZE BUTTON	0% (0 votes)
TOTAL votes: 5	20% (1 vote)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is the best way to start

a day?

-With a cup of coffee

-With a hot shower

-With a cold beer

-With the snooze button

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

ETTERS

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 kara.gerbert@ alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.



Otto Struve: The Astronomer

When it came time for the University of Texas to construct the McDonald Observatory there were two problems. First, they had no location and in addition the university had

LARRY FRANCELL no working astrono-Fiddler's Green mers on faculty. The

first was solved by the geography of Texas, where needed.

there were mountains reaching closer to the heavens. The second was solved through a unique partnership that brought some of the most famous world astronomers to Fort Davis, one who would remain in the community for years.

As luck would have it, the President of the University of Texas, Harry Yandell Benedict, was a trained astronomer, now in an administrative position and versed in the needs required for a major observatory. He had money but no astronomers. The University of Chicago had astronomers, but inadequate facilities. The University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory, a 40-inch refractor, was located at William's Bay on the shore of Lake Racine in Wisconsin. The telescope was considered too small and the winter too brutal in Wisconsin. A better facility was

Edwin Frost, the Director of the Yerkes Observatory, had assisted President Benedict in the past and the two agreed to a partnership between the two universities. In essence the University of Chicago would supply astronomers and the University of Texas would supply the facility. The man who would lead this effort was Dr. Otto Struve. He and his wife Mary would soon become fixtures in Fort Davis and friends to many local residents.

Otto Struve was born in Kharkiv, Russia, now a city in Ukraine being destroyed by Russia. He was born into a multi-generational family of astronomers and attended the University of Kharkiv receiving a master's degree. Caught up in World War I and the aftermath he found himself a refugee in Turkey. Through the recommendation of a friend, Dr. Edwin Frost offered Struve a position at the Yerkes Observatory. In 1923, Struve earned his PhD from the University of Chicago, becoming Director of the Yerkes Observatory in 1932.

When the final deal was made with the University of Texas, Otto Struve was made director of both facilities. In the agreement the University of Texas agreed to build in the state of Texas an observatory not to exceed \$375,000, and the University of Chicago agreed to a thirty-year collaboration by which it would operate the facility.

However, a major requirement was yet to be finalized: where would the observatory be located. Even before the final deal was made, Struve had his eye on West Texas, "I believe the Davis Mountains will give better promise of good observing conditions." In this endeavor he had a local ally, Walter Miller, who operated the Hotel Limpia and worked diligently to promote the community.

When the decision to build in the Davis Mountains was made, it was Miller who convinced Violet Locke McIvor to donate the land. In honor of that gift, Miller worked to ensure that the site was named Mount Locke and convinced the county commissioners to survey and grade a road to the site.

Otto Struve served as director of McDonald Observatory until 1947. In his lifetime he left a legacy of astronomic discoveries and over 900 articles and books, many of them designed to popularize astronomy to the public. He and Mary also spent time in Fort Davis. Lucy Miller, Walter Miller's daughter-in law, told me of many dinner parties and many evenings of playing "42" with this world-famous astronomer.

I might want to try one more time

"Oh, them golden slippers The crowd varfine, and we don't to bluegrass festivals because ies. Saturday's circle have air conditioning I loved the music made with of pickers included because there is usustringed instruments. And the banjo was my favorite. ally a good breeze Hartz, another man-To walk the golden street." dolin player, a guitar whipping through the Did I mention mine needs - 'Golden Slippers' song windows. Come in player, a banjo picknew strings? er, a fiddle player, and rediscover that I persevered painfully to prolife can still be simple - 1911) and a dog napping duce clumsy resemblances of if you want it to be. Foggy Mountain Breakdown at their feet. Norman 'The best things in Rockwell would have and Cumberland Gap before LEON ALDRIDGE life are free," he conbeen proud. kids and moves relegated the **Guest Columnist** cludes, 'but we can By the way, do you instrument to a closet. Some know the difference between sell you a banjo and a cane pole." three decades later. I was still a violin and a fiddle? A violin Another reminder that my fantasizing about making music has strings. A fiddle has strangs. banjo needs new strings. on stringed instruments when That's not been confirmed I know Steve has been in Thomas Morrison walked into by the Old Time String Shop business at least since 1980 my office and laid a Taylor because I still own a banjo, guitar on my desk with a chal-James Bland, the song's credcrowd. Just something I picked up on hanging out with musilenge. "If you really want to he sold me. And I know that cians. Better than me. Which play, I will help you learn." date not because I have a good memory, but because I have a Granted, he wanted to sell is just about everybody who Which reminded me. My me a guitar. Which he did. But historical peg to pin it. plays. Steve has been the owner I also purchased banjo lesbetween him, master musician and proprietor of the String sons from Steve. Driving back Dickie Gilchrist, and a well-The music riding afternoon Shop and Mercantile Store for to Center from Nacogdoches worn copy of "Guitar for Dum-43 years that I know of. He after a class the night of Demies," I marked progress as the describes it as "maybe not be cember 8, 1980, I heard a news day the dogs didn't get up and the only place left in America bulletin on the car radio. Like it leave the room when I played. was yesterday. "English musiwhere a fiddle tune played by Today, I can navigate some a pot-bellied stove is a regucian John Lennon, formerly of two or three-chord numbers lar occurrence and phone calls the Beatles, was shot and fatally with someone playing lead. But are still answered on an old wounded in the archway of the I haven't touched the first ob-Dakota apartment building, his A seat on the narrow conwooden crank-box phone." ject of my desire since the Re-However, we can't help but residence in New York City." gan era. I think about it whenwonder if there is another old That's how I know. ever I stop in the Old Time I also know attempting to general store that makes and String Shop on a lazy spring aflearn the banjo was a significant sells banjos, flutes, and wooden ternoon. When I listen to music, spoons and offers stringed inleap for me. My ability to play relax, and watch people wave struments for sale along with music included 8-track tape as they drive by. things like washboards, handplayers and bass horn in high And when I tell Steve one made brooms, oil lamps, mayschool and college bands. But more time, "I need to bring what I lacked in skill, I made haw jelly, and tin toys. my banjo over; it needs new "At the General Mercantile up in desire. Back then, I rode strings. And I might want to try and Old Time String Shop, we a motorcycle to far-reaching it one more time." don't use a computer because parts of East Texas, Oklahoma, Before I "walk that golden our 1890s cash register works and Arkansas many weekends street."

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



Oh, them golden slippers Golden slippers I'm a gonna wear

lyrics by James Bland (1854

Bluegrass music came from across the way in downtown Nacogdoches Saturday when we walked out of Dolli's Diner. I recognized the well-known spiritual popularized by bluegrass musicians in the early half of the last century.

ited writer, is also said to be the first man to put the 5th string on a banjo.

banjo needs new strings.

Spring breezes emanated from the front porch of the General Mercantile and Old Time String Shop. The instrumental harmony blended in bluegrass style is a Saturday staple on the corner sidewalk outside Steve Hartz's place of business.

crete ledge along the front of the building was a great spot to kick back and soak up the ambiance and the weather on a great day outside in East Texas.

Hartz personifies laidback. It's the signature mood of his business. And his attire; blue overalls. He even talks slower than the frantic rush of most people in today's digitally charged race-to-craziness society. And always with a smile.

ETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

Alpine Humane Society would like to thank the local community, as well as those in Marfa, Terlingua, Fort Davis, and beyond for the wonderful support of our Salsa de Mayo event.

Area businesses donated

more than 125 items for the silent auction, 14 people entered the salsa recipe contest, judged by Alpine Mayor Catherine Eaves, and the crowd enjoyed music by the Rick Ruiz Trio.

Salsa de Mayo proceeds will support the Humane Society's

mission of improving the lives of pets and people throughout the tri-county area and the wider Transpecos. Some auction items that did not sell will be available in our thrift store, while others will be held over for our annual Fall fundraiser,

Dia de los Quesos.

Thank you again, Alpine, and neighboring communities! You make a difference for area cats and dogs.

> Jeanine Bishop Executive Director, Alpine Humane Society





What is your favorite movie?



Jennifer Webster: "Pretty Woman" with Julia Roberts



Evans Kott Walker: "Jaws" is my favorite movie of all time.



JoAnn Salgado: I'm a big Elvis fan. The new "Elvis" movie by Baz Luhrmann.



Jack Durham: "The Shootists" with

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 26 Mario Kart Tournament, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Alpine Public Library.

June-August Summer **Reading Program,** The Alpine Public Library is hosting its summer reading program for all ages along with various events. For more information visit alpinepubliclibrary.org or stop by and visit the circulation desk for more information.

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 BBT confer-



ence 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 bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Celebrate Recovery, at Big Bend Cowboy Church on Monday evenings 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information contact CW at 432-386-3628 or Stacey at 432-386-2979.

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

Rain and hail



Storm clouds brought much needed to moisture to Alpine and Brewster County on Friday afternoon, with an average of an about an inch of rain in town and small hail reported towards Fort Davis.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

<u>Pet of the W</u>eek

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Pinkerton! Meet Pinkerton. A four-year-old boxer mix, this gentle giant is a very energetic and playful individual. He likes to hang out in the sun with his other dog friends, especially if there's a pool. He gets along great with other dogs, no matter the size. Kitten fosters are still needed as kitten season is in full swing. Alpine Humane Society provides all supplies, vet care, and food for foster kittens. Interested in helping care for orphan kittens? Call 432-837-2532 and fill out our foster agreement and you can help make a difference! Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Hu-

mane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 am to 1 pm and 2 to 6 pm Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation







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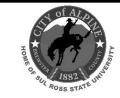
John Wayne is my favorite movie.



Tannin Ritchie: My favorite movie is "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

services, or lost/found pets, call the Shelter at 432-837-9030.

The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry recently moved to 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www. alpinehumanesociety. org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



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 JUNE 6, 2023 REGARDING:

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, GPM SOUTHEAST, LLC DBA UNCLES #6390, TO OBTAIN AN ALCOHOL LICENSE/PERMIT FROM THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION TO OPERATE A CONVENIENCE STORE WITH ALCOHOL SALES. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 708 N 5TH STREET. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS WTG FUELS INC. THE PARCEL ID NO. OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 12925.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, GPM SOUTHEAST, LLC DBA UNCLES #6410, TO OBTAIN AN ALCOHOL LICENSE/PERMIT FROM THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION TO OPERATE A CONVENIENCE STORE WITH ALCOHOL SALES. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 2705 E HIGHWAY 90. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS WTG FUELS INC. THE PARCEL ID NO. OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 13376.

THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY JUNE 6, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.



CITY OF ALPINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

309 West Sul Ross Avenue • Alpine, Texas 79830

Darrell R. Losoya **Chief of Police**

Phone(432) 837-3486 Fax (432) 837-2616

LEGAL NOTICE **20 DAY NEWSPAPER NOTICE**

REGISTERED OWNER and/or LIENHOLDER:

Pursuant to the provisions of Transportation Code 683.011, 683.031, 683.012, 683.014, Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, we are notifying you (as either the LAST KNOWN registered owner or lienholder.

2003 HONDA CP 1HGCM72203A018247 JXB 7848 BLUE TX 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 2GCEK19T2Y1281186 XQU 918 SILVER OR 1994 DODGE DAKOTA 1B7GG23Y2RS575578 97619U1 GREEN CA 2011 CHEVY 4D 1G1ZB5E16BF208716 MKH 4563 BLACK TX 2005 BUICK 4D 2G4WS52J551110234 JLM 036 SILVER TX 2013 MAZDA SUV JM3KE2DE7D0105904 DP6 G318 BLUE TX 2003 CHEVY SUV 1GNEC13Z83R295272 524786B BLACK TX 2012 JEEP LIBERTY 1C4PJLAK4CW201866 NVB 7839 SILVER TX 2003 FORD PK 1FTYR10D63PA33811 GK57JM WHITE TX 1995 CHEVY VAN 1GBEG25K8SF148697 JDG 9607 PURPLE TX 1995 MERCURY 4D 2MELM75WXSX631509 CG5 Z606 WHITE TX 2000 BUICK REGAL 2G4WF5517Y1150934 FKH 8484 WHITE TX 2014 FORD ESCAPE 1FMCU0F79EUC34669 17605S3 (TEMP TAG) SILVER TX 2009 FORD FLEX 2FMDK52C99BA23493 14313N5 (TEMP TAG) SILVER TX 1996 CADI 4D 1G6KY5299TU807739 TONLY05 GREEN TX 1997 FORD SW 3FALP15P3VR126855 962372F (TEMP TAG) GREEN TX 2002 CHEVY SILVERADO 2GCEC19V321401261 05XGS9 RED TX 2006 TOYOTA COROLLA 2T1BR30EX6C685554 HPD 3814 BLUE TX 2008 FORD EXPEDITION 1FMFK15548LA68581 PXT 0218 WHITE TX 2003 FORD F-150 1FTRX17W63NB31007 NVB 7785 GREY TX 1996 FORD VAN 1FDEE14H1THA95473 **DX6 M434** WHITE TX 1999 NISSAN 4D JN1CA21D2XT815948 JDG 9589 BEIGE TX 1996 JEEP CHEROKEE 1J4FT68S5TL119816 MHX 5516 BLUE TX 2009 CHEVY SILVERADO 1GCEC29039E140085 JMD 3741 SILVER TX 2015 CHEVY SUV 2GNALBEK4F6106542 FPZ 2820 GREY TX 2004 FORD TAURUS 1FAFP55U64A131731 CR1S869 GREY TX 2014 NISSAN 4H 3N1CE2CP9EL363851 NBK 0128 GREY TX

The lienholder or registered owner of this vehicle has the right to reclaim this motor vehicle WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE upon payment of all towing, preservation, and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody and garage keepers charges for servicing, storage or repair of the vehicle.

Failure of the owner or lienholder to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and your consent to a sale of the vehicle at public auction.

To reclaim this vehicle, bring this notice to the Alpine Police Department during the hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

*****PROOF OF OWNERSHIP REQUIRED TO CLAIM VEHICLE*****

Alpine Police Department 309 W. Sul Ross Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830

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COUNCIL • FROM 1

may occur seems to be pushed back to fall upon the city," Stephens said.

Silvana Milan, a citizen from Ward 4 told the council, "That area used to be very quiet, with very little traffic, and being at the edge of town it was easy to look out at the stars each night and enjoy the peace and quiet. Now, all I hear is noise from the excess traffic and my house is always covered in dust due to the increase in traffic."

Karen Cantrell from Ward 1 said, "Before anything new is built, the people who are planning this project need to finish their promises on the other one first. They said they would pave Lechugilla and so far, that has not happened. The road is rough and hard on vehicles, not to mention all the dust it stirs up. If the

II That area used to be very quiet, with

very little traffic, and being at the edge of town it was easy to look out at the stars each night and enjoy the peace and quiet. Now, all I hear is noise from the excess traffic and my house is always covered in dust due to the increase in traffic."

Silvana Milan, Ward 4 resident

road is not fixed prior to any new building that is to happen, I fear that it will never be fixed."

The Skyway Gardens II development was again brought up in the discussion portion of the meeting, where Ward 1 councilor Judy Stokes wanted to know where the city was on the feasibility study for the proposed project's water infrastructure. City Manager Megan Antrim said, "We sent all the information that we had to the company that we have doing the study, and they then requested a list of all of the meters in that area. We sent that information to them, and they are analyzing that data now."

Following the discussion, the approval of the first reading of the Ordinance 2023-05-01 to annex the proposed Skyway Gardens II was the first item on the list of action items. In addition to the reading of the ordinance, also added to this action item was the approval of a service plan for the annexed area, the approval of a development agreement between the developer and the city, providing findings of fact, and providing cumulative and severability clauses as well as an effective date.

This action item stirred debate amongst council members, a representative for Skyway Gardens II, and city attorney Rod Ponton. None of the parties could seem to agree on much except that the wording in the proposal was the stumbling block for both sides. After a good 20 minutes of back-and-forth debate, the council made the decision to postpone action on this item until Ponton and the City of Alpine and the developers of the Skyway Gardens II project could come to an agreement on the language and policies within the proposal.

In other news, two of the eight consent agenda items died and were not approved. Mayor Catherine Eaves requested that item number four of the consent agenda be pulled and discussed further. The item in question was the approval of the appointment of Amit Rangra to Place 1 position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. A discussion ensued about the inability of Rangra to attend a previous committee he held a seat upon, and council did not believe that regardless of what his reasons for not attending meetings of his previous appointment and having been removed from that position that he would not

be a good candidate to be appointed to another commission. While a motion was made to approve Rangra's appointment, the motion died due to lack of a second.

Councilor Chris Rodriguez, Ward 2 asked that consent agenda item eight be pulled and discussed. The item in question was the approval of March 2023 city attorney invoice. Rodriguez voiced concerns that the city was being overcharged for services provided by the city attorney. There was no motion made, therefore the item died and was not approved.

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting was held on May 16 at 5:30 p.m.



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 Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup • Alpine Black

REATA

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

SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:

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

Bean & Chicken Nachos

AISD • FROM 1

er pay was a main driver of discussion.

It was noted that Alpine ISD has the second lowest teacher pay compared to any other Region 18 school, yet the teacher to student ratio was the lowest. Alpine ISD Superintendent, Dr. Michelle Rinehart discussed with the board the reality of being overstaffed district-wide with a shrinking enrollment. Currently the teacher student ratio is 10.9 to one while the average is 13.9 to one. She noted that while this sounds great, it is currently prohibiting salary or stipend increases to current teachers. "So how do we pay our teachers more, while understanding and disclosing the financial future of the district currently

and next year." "Our demographics are changing here in Alpine, it's the reality when you look at the current trends and numbers," stated Rinehart.

Although item 14 was not an action item on the agenda, given the reality of paying employees more and being fiscally sound, talk of shrinking the current employee number by 18 districtwide over multiple years would align more with state averages and pay. More discussions and options will be discussed in an open forum at a later date.

Orly Holguin was awarded the Alpine ISD school board trustee scholarship for the 2023 school year.

In other news, the cre-

ation of the Alpine Education Foundation was accepted by all members. This new non-profit fund is being set up and managed by the Permian Basin Area Foundation. "This education foundation will be a way for do-

nors and businesses that want to support Alpine's school system to donate money for the betterment of our students," Rinehart said. There are currently three seeded projects, one of note is the fund to renovate the Alpine Elementary School Library.

In addition, Alpine ISD Head Coach Adrian Smith told the board that going forward the school will use a program called Huddle as its hub for online viewers of games and no longer Mascot Media. After discussion and the advantages of the new program the board was relieved that Huddle was also a costsaving measure over the current live-stream.

In final news, Chris Valenzuela was hired as the new Chief Financial Officer, dual assignment contracts were given to Chris Wilson- Harris, Lauren Martinez and Jackson Yezak. The board accepted the retirement of Gloria Canaba and Laura Wash and resignations were also accepted from Audra Hunt, Megan Boudreaux and Cassandra Aguilar.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for June 21 at 5:30 p.m.



The Alpine Lions Club would like to thank the Sponsors of our Second Annual Golf Tournament

MUSIC • FROM 1

Musical Arts from LSU.

usic has been such an important part **W** of my life, and it is a way for students of all ages to express themselves regardless of their other interests."

Allegria spent eight years with the Houston Grand Opera and a year at the Greenville Opera House in South Carolina before he took a position at Clarke University in Dubuque, IA where he taught for a year before applying for the position he now holds at Sul Ross.

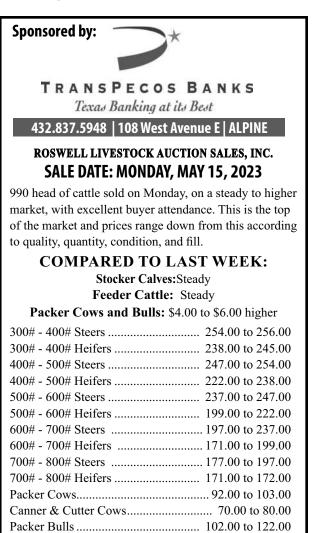
Allegria's journey at Sul Ross began in the fall of 2018 where his primary goal is to encourage students to participate in an ensemble regardless of whether or not they are a music major. "Music has been such an important part of my life, and it is a way for students of all ages to express themselves regardless of their other interests," remarked Allegria.

The music program at Sul Ross is very small, with only two full-time professors, himself and Dr. Karrin Ford, and a couple of adjunct instructors. Allegria wants all of his students to be able to express themselves through music, whether it be a physical instrument or through their own voice.

Being the Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Study at Sul Ross has allowed Allegria to also branch out into the community, not only taking over the Big Bend Community Chorale, but also advising and being a part of the youth and children's choirs. "Everyone is welcome to join the community choir regardless of abil— Dr. Andrew Allegria, Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Study at Sul Ross State University

ity. I have members from high school age to wellseasoned performers and I encourage anyone and everyone in the community to come be a part of this," Allegria said.

He also enjoys being an educator, whether at the college instruction



Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half..... 1325.00 to 1800.00

Bred Cows - Top Half Not well tested

level or the community level. "I love teaching, and being able to be immersed in music and teaching what I love to others has been very rewarding. I encourage everyone to try it out in some way," Allegria added.



The Alpine Lions would also like to thank Lions John Sutterfield, Jim Westerman, Mark Young, Mac & Adriana Tucker, PDG Avinash Rangra, and all the other Lions without whose volunteerism this event would not be possible.

Lion Amit Rangra, Chairman, Annual Golf Tournament

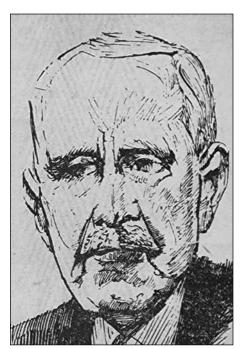
SPECIAL THANKS TO PHILIP FIERRO





LOOKING BACK **Alpine Avalanche**

Serving the Big Bend AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY



May 7, 1934

After 64 years of holding public office, J. W. Merrill is retiring. Merrill, 92, resigned as county commissioner for Pct. 1 of Jeff Davis County, Friday, April 30. Merrill said he recalled being elected to some county office at every general election from 1890 to 1952.

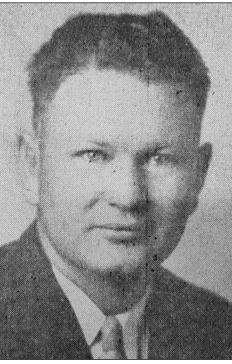
Will Annual Session **End Sunday With** Symposium

By PAUL KELCH

Sul Ross College is host to world renowned scientists this week at the meeting of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, starting Tuesday morning and running through today. This is the first time that this association has met in the extreme southeastern part of the territory covered by the Southwestern division. Today the meeting will be moved to Mount Locke for the dedication of McDonald Observatory.

May 5, 1939

A meeting held by the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and hosted by Sul Ross College will be held at the McDonald Observatory today for the observatory's official dedication. Several world-renowned scientists will be on hand for the dedication and the remainder of the meetings held by the association.



May 31,1946 After five years as the local vocational agriculture instructor for Alpine schools, R. C. Mitchell has tenured his resignation. Mitchell told school officials he will be returning to his former home near Lubbock, where he and his brother will be taking over the operation of a large farm owned by his father.



May 24, 1940 Marfa attorney, the Hon. Hunter Metcalf will deliver the commencement address next Tuesday evening at 8:30 p.m. for the graduates of Sul Ross College. The ceremony conferring degrees for 48 seniors will be held in the college auditorium.

A couple of reasons may explain St. Augustine woes

Note: I have two questions that came in one after the other one day this week. Each pertains to St. Augustine, but they're a little bit different. I thought I'd include them both so you could see how difficult it is to identify and differentiate the various St. Augustine issues.

Dear Neil: Your recent description of Take All Root Rot could have applied to my lawn. The runners pull up very easily, but I would not describe them as being "dark." The lawn was great last June. We even had a wedding there, but now it's really sad. Do you have any



by neil sperry

worms or TARR, as they're the two most common winter problems. For a modest fee, the Texas Plant Disease Clinic at Texas A&M in College Station could culture samples from runners and roots from a couple of those tufts of green grass sticking out from the right edge in your photo – the clumps that are slightly above the mid-point on the right side. At least that way you would know for sure. Dear Neil: This is our daughter's house in North Richland Hills. It was beautiful St. Augustine until late last summer. Their lawn care company said it was "root rot" and possibly chinch bugs. They treated for the chinch bugs and then with a fungicide for the dying St. Augustine. By spring, this is what they have left. Do they just need to cover it with topsoil and plant new grass? What other suggestions do you have?

To be this thorough, the damage almost has to have been caused by chinch bugs. All that's left looks like bermudagrass. The Christmas cold spell, when temperatures dropped toward zero, did a lot of damage as well, but it sounds like this grass was already in trouble. Compare this lawn to the grass across the street. You can see the large, yellowed patches. That's classic example of Take All Root Rot. It's a cool-season root

I'm thinking it's dichondra.

Your assumption is correct. It's actually a pretty little trailing weed that grows just an inch or two above the soil surface. Because of that, it's difficult to get weedkiller spray down to it, but it can be done. Use a broadleafed weedkiller (containing 2,4-D) applied according to label directions and in a relatively fine mist spray. It helps to put one drop of liquid dishwashing detergent with each gallon of mixed spray to help hold it on the somewhat funnel-shaped leaves. Use a spray wand and not a hoseend sprayer for more precise applications and keep it off damage to the turf now that it's getting warmer. You could also use a trigger bottle applicator if you have only a tiny amount. It will take the 2,4-D a week or two to kill out the dichondra. During that time, you'll see its growth become deformed. You may need a second application for any straggler plants a few weeks later. Rinse your spray tank carefully after you're finished. Mark it and do not plan on using it for insecticides or fungicides in the future. It's almost impossible to get rid of 2, 4-D residue.

Dear Neil: Our Majestic live oaks have been strug-

gling since the 2021 freeze and last summer's drought. Now a hailstorm stripped off most of the leaves. What can we do to help it recover?

Only what you would do to keep it healthy and happy: Keep it watered deeply and regularly during summer dry spells and apply an all-nitrogen fertilizer with 25 to 40 percent of its nitrogen in slow-release form. Feed it now and again in late August.

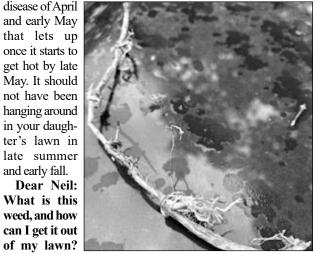
Have a question you'd like Neil to consider? E-mail him at mailbag@sperrvgardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to questions individually.

suggestions?

The runners in your photos have been dead long enough that their roots have decayed. You would want to examine runners right along the edges of the green and dead areas. If TARR is involved, that would give you a better idea of whether it's present. It does not appear to be TARR to my eye. It looks more like leftover damage and loss from chinch bugs from late summer and fall. Please think back to how the grass looked in late August and September. If it was fine going into the winter then the damage could be from white grub

St. Augustine as much as you can just to avoid any possible

23















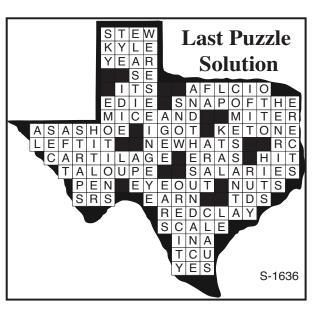
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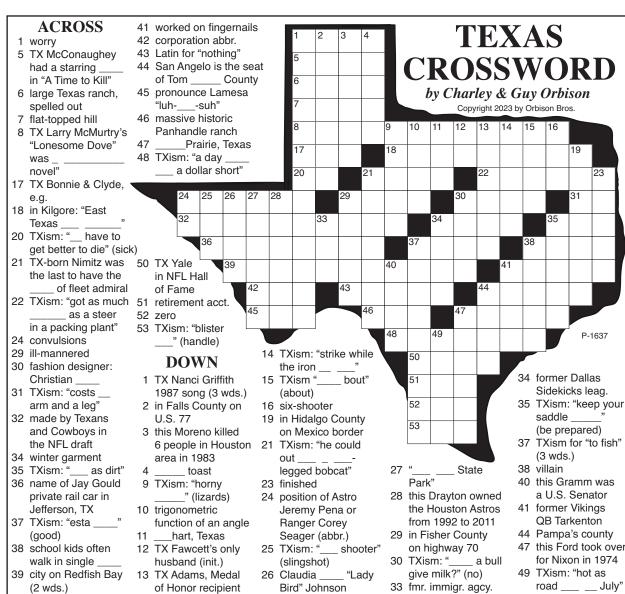


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Runnin' Lady Bucks exemplify Buck excellence

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

Amidst overcast skies, warm temperatures, and humidity, the Alpine Runnin' Lady Buck relay team did Alpine proud.

Facing tough competition in the 3-A competition against eight other top schools, the Lady Bucks placed seventh, with a time of 1:45.98.

Their time, just 4.44 seconds off of a firstplace finish, despite a difficult second leg hand off is impressive. "Admittedly, it was not their best race of the season, but as one of my track friends says, "any year that ends in Austin is a great year," stated Coach Cory Cason.

The team, made up of Novah Carrasco, Danica Mulholland, Valeria Crespo and Vanessa Rice worked hard all year to represent Alpine at this year's state competition. The two alternates for the relay team, Ali Maroney and Emyliana Hernandez, worked just as hard and earned their alternate spots for the state team as well.

This Lady Buck dream team will lose their anchor. Vanessa Rice as the lone senior, for next year's competition. Mulholland is just a sophomore, so it is likely she will be making winning strides in the next few years as a Runnin' Lady Buck.

"The UIL State Track and Field Championship was a learning experience for the four competitors and two alternates that traveled to Austin this past week," said Cason. "Not only did they compete as one of the best 3A 4x 200m relay teams in the state, but they had the opportunity to be spectators, watching the 2-5A competitors also."

So, while there are big shoes to fill next year, all of the girls who competed on the relay teams as well as the other events this year are up to the challenge. "The five girls returning next year gained valuable experience to bring to next year's track season, especially the knowledge that Alpine has what it takes to compete at the highest level," remarked Cason.

Cason added, "We would like to thank everyone who made the trip to Austin and all the fans supporting from home."







Ummi Chanez battles the rain in one of her long-distance races at last weeks' **UIL State Track and Field Championships.**

Courtesy photo

Marfa Shorthorn shines in Austin

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

Senior Ummi Chanez of Marfa held her own in Austin last week against competitors from across the state in the 1A 1600 Meter and 3200M races.

Her coach, Edgar Ramirez said, "Ummi has been to state in cross country all four years of high school, but this is the first year she's competed in track. She's done excellent as a cross country runner, placing in the top 10 in the state this year, but now she's also put her name on the map in track." Ramirez said that while Chanez was disappointed that she didn't medal at state, he told her there was nothing to be ashamed of.

Sierra Maxwell

Center Field

"I told Ummi that you are the standard by which all the Shorthorns behind you will have to hold themselves to."

Chanez took fifth place in the 3200M and sixth in the 1600M and had a personal record of 12:25 in the 3200M and came close to colleges and even a Division I school, and while Ramirez would love to see what she could accomplish at this level he said she is going to pursue the academic scholarship track. Chanez received an academic scholarship from Texas Christian Uni-

Sul Ross women's basketball staff to hold summer camps

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

A series of summer basketball camps will be held at the Pete P. Gallego Center this summer.

Hosted by the Sul Ross State University's women's basketball coaching staff, day camps for ages 7-17 will take place July 17-20 and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. There will be snacks and water provided daily.

An elite camp for players in grades 9-12 will be held July 22-23, with day one being held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and day two from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The camp will be run by the Sul Ross head

women's basketball coach E. J. Smith and her staff, including her husband and assistant coach Dale Smith and graduate assistant and 2022-2023 all conference player and rebounder Vania Hampton.

The focus of the camps will be on teaching fundamentals, such as ball-handling, passing, shooting, and other various drills. Campers will get the chance to compete in 5 on 5 games, while the elite campers will be able to tour the university campus and the athletic facilities, while also having the opportunity to be on the coaches' recruiting radar.



her personal record in the 1600m.

"She is one of the best athletes I have ever coached. She's a competitor, and she never quits. Once she's set her mind to something she achieves it and works hard for it. Ummi came into this season saying she was going to state and that is exactly what she did," remarked Ramirez.

Chanez has received offers from Division II versity and plans to attend in the fall.

"I, and the entire Shorthorn nation are so incredibly proud of what this young lady has achieved. She works when everyone else is taking it easy, and that is why she is the winner she is. Ummi understands that to win, you must sacrifice and work hard, and I see her being successful in anything she chooses to do in the future," Ramirez added.





The Alpine Lady Bucks softball team had 11 players chosen for the 2023 District 4 All-District selections along with Coach Chris Virdell being named Coach of the Year. Among the players chosen were Alexis Rodriguez-MVP, Hannah Juett-Pitcher of the Year, Kody Hawkins-Newcomer of the Year, Nayeli Acosta-First Base, Jacee Portillo-Second Base, Paula Vargas-Left Field, Emyliana Hernandez-Right Field, Sierra Ruckman-Designated Player, Sierra Maxwell-Centerfield, Mia Lewis-Catcher, and Emily Sweat-Utility Player.

Mia Lewis

Catcher



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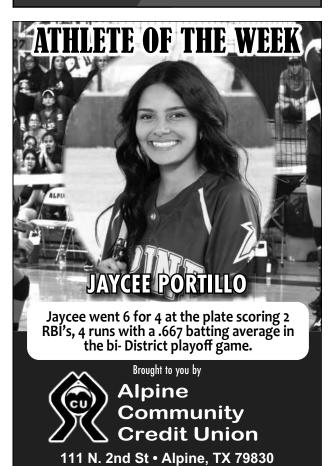
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Courtesy photo

FFA holds annual banquet



The Alpine FFA held its annual banquet last week and the new chapter officers for the 2023-2024 school year were elected. Pictured are Kendall McComb-historian, Kendyl Hardaway-sentinel, Clancey Newman-treasurer, Mia Lewis-vice president, Reese Coleman-president, Tannin Ritchie-secretary, and Martin Sablatura-reporter.

Photo by JT Maroney

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Lindsay Valenzuela

In what activities did you participate in high school? I participate in band, one act, and tennis!

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite mentors have always been the ones who stuck it will me for more than a year. Ms. Maxwell has been with me my whole high school career whether in the classroom or at a competition, Ms. Ramos was my temporary teacher but forever soul sister, Mr. Crenshaw is the grandfather I never had but always needed, coach Chris is my favorite influencer and Mr. Saunders challenges me to be the best stem girl ever!

What was your favorite moment the last four years? My favorite moment(s) were during the trips taken during



Lindsay Valenzuela

band, one act and just recently tennis. The tiny but significant moments that are shared with a group of people you have grown with is indescribable.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan on attending University of North Texas to study Art History and to minor in Studio Art!

The Senior Spotlight is graciously sponsored by





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Devotional Page What difference does it make that we believe?

BY LANA COVINGTON

First Christian Church

By the time this devotional is printed in the newspaper, Easter 2023 will already be in the past. Some people may have given only fleeting attention to the resurrection of Christ. Others may be like a pastor I read about, who was so caught up with the reality that Jesus is alive that the church he pastors, now sings an Easter song every Sunday. That pastor had a transforming experience as he contemplated the meaning of the resurrection.

Theologian Verna J. Dozier said, "The important question is not 'What do you believe?' but 'What difference does it make that we believe?'" Jesus set some high standards for those who would believe in Him, and they're not difficult to find when we open our Bibles. In the Sermon on the Mount, He called the people to go beyond the law of the Ten Commandments, and when He was later asked which commandment was the greatest, He gave a two-part answer: to love God and to love your neighbor. In Luke 9:23, He called His followers to pick up the cross daily, not monthly or yearly or every once in a while, but daily, and follow Him. In John 13:34 – 35, He

told the disciples to love one another, and it is by loving one another that they would show that they were Christ followers. In Matthew 5:14, He said to be light in the world. In Matthew 28:19, He told the disciples to go, to preach, and to baptize.

Those who followed Jesus in that day first believed that He arose from the dead, and then they followed through by doing the things He said to do. Their lives were transformed, and they, in turn, transformed the world. They were called "People of the Way" because they knew that He was the Way. The same is true for those who believe and follow Him now. He was the Way, and He is the Way, and although we live in an entirely different world, the words He spoke to them are also true for us. We don't have to sit and wait for a voice from heaven to tell us how to live the Christian life; the voice has already spoken; His words are in scripture; they are just waiting for us to follow them. Theologian G.K. Chesterton said, "The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried." So let's give it a try, or try harder. Let's give meaning to our belief in the Risen Christ. Hopefully when Easter 2024 comes around, we will look back and see that our belief has made a difference.







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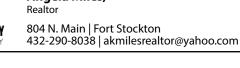
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WAGE TYPE: Salaried Exempt

ESSENTIAL DUTIES&RESPONSIBILITIES:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each of the essential duties satisfactorily. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

\$500 hiring bonus

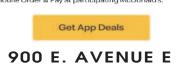
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Fresh takes for your summer table

When you think about what to serve at your summer table, especially at a backyard BBQ, many times cole slaw comes to mind. When most of us think of cole slaw, we also think of that mayonnaise-rich, southern style slaw. But why not lighten the load a bit, and instead of the slaw we're used to, bring in Spanish slaw instead.

naise in Spanish slaw. gredients for one. While Instead, the dressing your southern style slaw that gives it flavor is all consists of green cabbage thanks to pickle juice and carrots, Spanish slaw and vinegar. Now you're adds in pickles, green probably thinking this bell peppers, parsley, would not be very appetizing, but in truth it is tos, otherwise known as just the opposite. In fact, this recipe was one of the most requested by folks who enjoyed it at the former Luby's Cafeteria's. And if you have ever eaten at a Luby's, they had some pretty tasty eats.

So, what is the difference, other than no mayo, in your standard southern more, you could easily



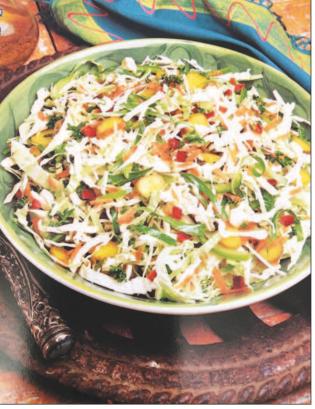
MEALS

by kara gerbert

There is zero mayon- cole slaw? Well, the ingreen onions, and pimenroasted red bell peppers.

Now that's just an alltogether different take on a slaw recipe, but a delicious one none the less.

The only thing not crunchy in the entire dish are the pimentos. And if you wanted to really brighten this slaw even



Spanish Slaw

bell peppers, or perhaps accompany those heavieven a purple one if they were available.

in all the greatness of added health benefits crunchy vegetables that without the excess calocole slaw and Spanish add fresh yellow and red are a great, light dish to ries. Green cabbage is

Courtesy photo er meats and starchy sides favored at summer This Spanish slaw adds BBQ's. Plus, there are



tamin C, and it also con- to reduce insulin spikes, tains other vitamins and by reducing the rate at minerals such as folate, which your body absorbs magnesium, calcium, carbohydrates. Also, beand vitamin B6. The bell cause they have a high peppers are rich in anti- water content, they may oxidants which help pro- help you feel full longer tect your body against and the vinegar has been heart disease and cancer, linked to reduced appeincluding vitamins C, E, tite also. and beta-carotene. And while you wouldn't think looking for something that pickles offer any new and refreshing to health benefits, they offer serve to friends and famup more vitamin K, some ily, or just a lower calocalcium, and even potas- rie item to serve, look sium, which enables your no further than Spannerves to function prop- ish slaw, as it is sure to erly. They also have the please.

rich in vitamin K and vi- added benefit of helping

Therefore, if you're

Spanish Slaw

Ingredients: 1 medium head green cabbage, about 2 lbs., shredded.

1 cup thinly sliced dill pickles.

1/2 cup short, thin green bell pepper slices.

1/4 cup coarsely chopped parsley.

1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions with tops. 1/2 cup shredded carrots.

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine cabbage, pickles, green pepper, parsley, green onions, carrots, and red bell peppers.

In a small bowl, whisk together water, pickle juice, vinegar, sugar, oil, salt, and pepper until

1 tablespoon finely diced red bell pepper or pimentos. 1/2 cup water.

- 1/3 cup dill pickle juice.
 - 1/4 cup white vinegar. 1 tablespoon sugar.
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or vegetable oil.
 - 1 teaspoon salt.

1 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper.

well blended.

Pour dill dressing mixture over cabbage mixture and toss to coat evenly.

Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours. tossing lightly several times. Serves 10.

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