

Rep. Gonzales proposes Border Patrol pay raise

Congressman Tony Gonzales -TX-23 recently introduced the Border Patrol Pay Parity Act. This legislation, in accordance with special pay authority, directs the Office of Personnel Management to increase the minimum rate of pay for certain U.S. Border Patrol Agents by at least 14%. This bill has been endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, which represents approximately 18,000 Border Patrol Agents and support personnel assigned to the U.S. Border Patrol.

“Our men and women in green are completely overwhelmed due to failed border policies. They are being pushed to their breaking point every single day and morale is at an all-time low,” said Congressman Tony Gonzales. “It is unacceptable that our Border Patrol Agents, who work tirelessly to secure our borders, are paid less than some of their federal counterparts. This legislation will ensure fair compensation so that

See RAISE • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports page 8A

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023 2.35"
May 1.56"



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 26 pages

Opinions P. 4A
Sports P. 8A
Classifieds P. 12A-14A
Graduation P. 1B-12B

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



Smoke in the Mountains returns to Fort Davis

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

In 2011, the tri-county area, including a very large portion of Jeff Davis County, fell victim to the devastating Rock House Fire. The wildfire decimated homes and livestock, displaced families as well as wildlife, and had fire fighters from across the country working around the clock to contain it.

In 2012, the late Sara Adams came up with the idea of a BBQ cook-off to raise money for the Jeff Davis County Fire Department and medics, who worked tirelessly throughout the entire wildfire event. For three years straight, the Smoke in the Mountains BBQ Cook-off was a rousing success, and one of the first participants to sign up for the competition was the late Robert Rubio and his team. Following his entering the local competition, Rubio went on to enter

ribeye competitions across the state.

In 2022, Fort Davis and Jeff Davis County would lose Adams and Rubio, leaving a hole in many hearts in the area. Friends of the two worked diligently for a year to make Smoke in the Mountains an official non-profit organization.

Due to the success of Adams' idea, and Rubio's competitive ribeye cooking, the board of the newly monikered Smoke in the Mountains BBQ and Ribeye Shootout have re-established this annual fundraising event in honor of both Adams and Rubio.

Jennifer Webster, president of the non-profit behind the shootout, and a competitive cook herself, set up online registration for the event just a few short weeks ago. After only six weeks, the max capacity of 60 teams was already met. “I can't think of a better way to honor



Members of the Board of Directors for Smoke in the Mountains are as follows: seated are Jody Adams, Stephanie Rubio, and Jeremiah Rubio. Standing are Jennifer Webster, Janet Adams, Brenda Vargas, Lynne Baldwin, Jana Stubbs, and Maralea Miller. Board members not pictured are Trae Dutchover, Sandra Chambers, and Kim Keith.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

See SMOKE • 6

Water sprites frolic in the desert!



Alpine Elementary students enjoyed their end of school “Splash Day” event last Friday afternoon.

Courtesy photo

City council members sworn into office

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The City of Alpine held their regularly scheduled city council meeting last Tuesday evening in the council chambers. Besides other items on the agenda, the canvassing of votes and the swearing in of the newly elected council members was the primary focus at the beginning of the meeting.

Council approved the Ordinance 2023-05-03, the canvass of the election unanimously and shortly thereafter, the new council members took their oath of office.

Prior to the swearing in of

new and re-elected council members, several members of the public spoke to the council during the public comment portion of the meeting. These citizens, including the executive director of the Fort Davis chamber voiced their varied opinions on the options or lack thereof for bicyclists in Alpine.

Following the public comments, Mayor Catherine Eaves had incumbent Judy Stokes, Ward 1 and the two new council members, Darin Nance, Ward 3 and Rick Stephens, Ward 5 sign their certificates of election,



Judy Stokes, Ward 1 city councilwoman is pictured here as she is being sworn in for another two-year term on the Alpine City Council. Stokes was the only incumbent to be sworn in at last Tuesday's city council meeting.

Courtesy photo

See COUNCIL • 6

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OBITUARY

Dale Bjorn Christophersen

December 16, 1940 -
March 19, 2023



Dale Christophersen died peacefully on March 19, at the Austin home of his daughter Kirsten, ending his battle with lung cancer and chronic pulmonary disease. He leaves memories of affection and respect in the friends, colleagues, and students he gathered in five decades of teaching and civic engagement in Alpine.

Dale grew up in Aberdeen, S.D. where, as he said with Scandinavian understatement, "winters are real." He worked his way through college and graduate school pulling ties and pounding spikes for the MStP&SSM Railroad, earning a B.A. in Political Science from Augustana College (Sioux Falls, S.D.) and an M.A. from the University of Missouri. He received a teaching appointment at Sul Ross State University in 1965 and moved to Alpine. In his early summers at Sul Ross, he worked as a seasonal ranger at the Fort Davis National Historic Site, where he met Ann Welles, a University of Arizona student also doing summer work there. In 1968, Dale took a leave of absence from Sul Ross to start law school at the University of Texas, but left law school after a semester to marry Ann. The couple moved to Missouri for Dale to pursue doctoral studies, and he ultimately earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Missouri. Dale and Ann returned to Alpine in 1971, their daughter Kirsten was born the following year, and Dale settled into a career as a professor of political science at Sul Ross that would last until his retirement in 2012.

Colleagues and friends saw

in Dale three traits seldom combined in one person: the rigorous intellect of a scholar, an attraction and commitment to the practical sides of community life, and a love of camaraderie with friends of diverse pursuits and interests. Sul Ross gave Dale a stimulating but congenial setting to engage his mind. He appreciated the variety of work possible at a small university, which enabled him to teach political science, criminal justice, federal government, sociology, and philosophy courses at various times in his career, at levels ranging from graduate seminars to introductory freshman courses. He excelled at making accessible to students their intellectual heritage – the great thinkers and structures of government that have shaped the modern world – and he aspired that, whatever field his students chose, they would be empowered to be thoughtful and engaged citizens. In his early years at Sul Ross, Dale was instrumental in developing a Master of Public Administration program for students who wish to pursue public service as a career.

In his own life in Alpine, Dale modeled the practical engagement for which he equipped students. He was an active participant in Kiwanis and served on numerous local boards, including those for hospice care and the public library. In 1989 he was elected

the Brewster County Democratic Chair, and he served in that role for about 25 years. The position, he said, taught him "a lot of things that are useful to know as a political scientist which one doesn't learn from books." Even aside from any formal role, Dale was a dedicated observer and participant in local government, regularly attending city council, county commissioners court, and other meetings. Few people are inspired to attend those public meetings except when a certain issue affects them immediately, but Dale did so routinely, from a deep appreciation of the importance of the work and a desire to assist people trying to do it conscientiously and well. He was an invaluable source of advice and community history for those in office, and his letters to the editor elucidating a current local issue were a staple of the Alpine Avalanche.

In his university work as well as his community life, Dale was attracted to practical questions and committed to outcomes, not just study. He created and directed Sul Ross's unit on Institutional Research and Effectiveness, helping keep the university focused on fulfilling its mission and using productively the resources it was entrusted with.

Finally, in all his endeavors, Dale's love of camaraderie and the value he placed on friendships were palpable and enduring. Dale's close relationship with his brother Jerry was a great source of joy, and their nightly online poker games sustained Dale for years, until just a few nights before he died. While at Sul Ross, Dale served as the pre-law advisor, a role through which scores of future attorneys came to regard him as a mentor and friend. Many graduates stayed

in touch with him, and through these friendships with dozens of attorneys across the Southwest, Dale welcomed a "vicarious connection to the other career I wasn't destined to experience." From 1971 forward, he was a mainstay in what he considered the longest running, though constantly evolving, local poker group in Alpine. In his last several decades in Alpine, the "FOOF" group came into being for weekly drinks and conversation about local issues, first at Railroad Blues and then on the back porch of Dale and Ann's home. This group was also constantly evolving, seamlessly adding new arrivals to Alpine and saying goodbye as people moved away, though seldom losing touch with them altogether. Dale, and through him the FOOF group, craved not agreement but people serious enough to care about issues and discuss them reasonably. The FOOF group assembled for a farewell just five days before Dale's death. Some, having been in FOOF in different eras, met then in person for the first time after knowing each other only through online conversation. Many spoke at that gathering of Dale's central role in helping them feel at home in Alpine when they first moved there, and of the valuable friendships they formed through him.

Questions of philosophy were never purely abstract for Dale. The side of life he saw in summers of hard manual labor on the railroads was never far from his thinking and work, and he was acutely attuned to the inequities in our society. If anything could inspire his ire, it was pursuit of self-interest at the expense of the common good, toward which all of Dale's study and civic work

pointed. But in an era where Tweet-sized bursts of acrimony take up much of public discourse, Dale was consistently the opposite: thoughtful, substantive, gentle, and constructive.

Dale is survived by his wife Ann Welles Christophersen, his daughter Kirsten Moody, his brother Jerry Christophers-

en of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, his sister-in-law Sally Christophersen of Denver, Colorado, his granddaughter Ann Louisa Moody, and his son-in-law Charles Moody. He was predeceased by his parents Ingolf and Mary Christophersen and his brother Paul Christophersen.

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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.

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.

San Vicente superintendent selected for Principal's Center

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Dr. Jessica Milam, superintendent for the San Vicente ISD was chosen to be among 50 school leaders from across Texas to be a part of the 2023 cohort of educators to attend the summer institutes at the Principal's Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

This Harvard Institute program is sponsored by the Charles Butt Foundation, a non-profit whose goal is to pursue a more equitable and prosperous future for all Texas through education and community partnerships.

With the addition of these newly selected cohorts, the foundation will have paid for more than 1,500 educators to attend training at Harvard through the Raising

School Leaders program. This program is an initiative designed to develop stronger school leaders with the hopes they will enhance the quality of education across Texas.

The Charles Butt Foundation covers expenses for the attendees including tuition, travel, hotel, and other discretionary costs for a total investment of more than \$10 million since the program's inception.

Program attendees, including individual principals and campus teams, will participate in one of two weeklong workshops on leadership development, coaching, or school turn around, led by Harvard faculty and other national and international experts. Each individual program is



Dr. Jessica Milam

designed to challenge, empower, and inspire, school leaders to bring a lasting impact to their campuses and communities.

"Great teachers, along with strong school and district leaders, represent the most significant influencers of academic achievement and supportive culture," said Tim Miller, Director of Leadership and Development at the Charles Butt Foundation. "Our alumni often report that their Harvard experience is the best professional development they have ever experienced and that they return to their campuses energized, inspired, and empowered to make meaningful change that benefits all students."

This summer's institutes were geared to-

wards school leaders from districts that were considered rural or had a student enrollment of less than 5,000. "As demographics change in Texas, we recognize that the needs of schools in rural or smaller districts are unique," added Miller.

Following the Harvard Institutes, cohorts remain a part of the program's statewide network of school leaders and are empowered to work together to create change at campus and district levels. Alumni are sponsored to attend the organization's biannual leadership symposium and receive continuous support and professional development.

For more information about the Charles Butt Foundation and their vision, visit CharlesButtFdn.org.

Brick Vault Barbecue appears at Troubadour Festival



The Brick Vault Barbecue out of Marathon participated in the annual Troubadour Festival over the weekend where BBQ fans by the thousands gathered at Texas A&M Universities' newly completed Aggie Park to sample over 35 plus Texas BBQ joints and dance the night away by local musicians and headliners like Shane Smith and the Saints. Pictured are Fernando Castillo, Isaiah Briones, Jerek Lara, Felipe Fierro, and Phillip Moellering.

Photo by JT Maroney

Wildlife interactions explored in West Texas

The Borderlands Research Institute is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas Tech University, and landowners to study long-term wildlife interactions among aoudad, elk, pronghorn, mule deer and desert bighorn sheep in West Texas.



Researchers with Borderlands Research Institute and Texas Parks and Wildlife prepare to place a radio collar on an aoudad for their interaction study.

Courtesy photo

Researchers convened over a three-week period beginning in February of this year to place satellite tracking collars on a total of 306 animals across the five species, for three research projects. These projects will provide information about how mule deer and aoudad compete for food and habitat, as well as what role aoudad play in disease transmission to desert bighorn.

"This study will expand on previous research that has been conducted by BRI graduate students," said Dr. Justin French who is assistant professor and big game specialist at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University. "While previous studies have been a snapshot in time, this more comprehensive project

will provide information over several years that will demonstrate how manipulating aoudad population levels might affect native wildlife populations."

Aoudad share similar habitat selection and foraging behavior as mule deer, which suggests that excessive aoudad numbers could produce competitive effects between the two species. Additionally, at high densities, aoudad are prone to infection of bacteria that cause acute pneumonia. While aoudad appear resilient to this bacterial pneumonia, it is a leading cause of die-offs in desert bighorn, presenting a major obstacle to on-

going bighorn restoration efforts.

The researchers placed 80 satellite tracking collars on mule deer and aoudad in the Quitman Mountains of southern Hudspeth County, 20 on males and 20 on females of each species, and the same numbers in the Chinati Mountains of Presidio County. Both ranges offer high-quality habitat for aoudad, mule deer, and desert bighorn, and are also home to large aoudad populations.

The Quitman Mountains will serve as a control site, where researchers will observe interactions between the species with-

out any major management intervention. However, researchers have partnered with several landowners to reduce aoudad numbers at the Chinati study site in year two of the study. Researchers will examine changes as the aoudad population rebounds in the subsequent two years. This will allow the team to identify thresholds in competition between mule deer and aoudad, providing guidance on how to balance long-term management goals for both species and mitigate habitat damage from too many aoudad.

Simultaneously, the team will monitor the prevalence of the pneumonia-causing bacteria in aoudad at both sites. They hope to see a decline in infection rates in the aoudad population at the Chinati study area after aoudad numbers are decreased. This would indicate that managers can curb pneumonia outbreaks with appropriate aoudad population management. This would be good news for the reestablishment of desert bighorn as aoudad now occupy most of the desert bighorn habitat in Texas.

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO START A DAY?

RESULTS

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

TOTAL votes: 5

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Which of these national parks would you most like to visit?

- Yellowstone
- Denali
- Olympic
- Zion
- Big Bend

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

LETTERS

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

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Civic Engagement seeks to bond students, community

Before I dive into today's topic, I want to congratulate our Spring 2023 graduates. Commencement ceremonies were held last Friday in Alpine and Saturday in Eagle Pass. Over 230 educated, eager Sul Ross State alumni are making their way into the workforce or graduate school. Please join me in wishing them the best of luck.



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ
 Sul Ross president

Part of the university experience is learning how to interact with and serve our communities after graduation. At SRSU, we house these opportunities in the Office of Civic Engagement and Student Assistance.

Civic Engagement is about working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the knowledge, skills, value, and motivation to make a differ-

ence. Our office hosts a variety of programs and events, including volunteer opportunities and voter engagement opportunities, to facilitate student engagement with the community. Student Assistance is about providing individualized support for students as they take responsibility and actively shape their Sul Ross experience. Our office supports students in navigating various issues they may encounter as a student, connects students to the resources they need, and empowers students to advocate for themselves.

The Lobo Pantry, an on-campus resource available for students experiencing food insecurity or financial crisis, is also housed here. All students are currently eligible to use the

pantry once monthly. Dry food items, fresh produce, milk, eggs, bread, and occasionally frozen meat are offered. Donations are absolutely accepted.

Plans are underway for Fall 2023, including the launch of a program called Motivote, an online platform available to help people navigate the voting process and turn out the vote, and "Feed the Funnel," a meal packaging event that will result in 50,000 shelf stable meals for the Big Bend and Permian Basin regions. Look for more information about this incredible undertaking in the coming weeks.

"The Big Event" will promote unity as students, faculty and staff come together for one day to express their gratitude to the community. Watch for more information about this exciting event as well.

Civic Engagement and Student Assistance is always looking for volunteer opportunities.

If your organization needs help and it's appropriate for our students, we'd love to know more. They're already active with groups like Frontier CASA, Keep Alpine Beautiful, Museum of the Big Bend, Sunshine House, and the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend.

The office became a certifying organization to verify service hours and award the Presidential Volunteer Service Award in Fall 2022, the nation's premier volunteer award program, encouraging U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents to live a life of service through presidential recognition. Seven Sul Ross State students have been awarded so far.

For more information about donating to the pantry, volunteer opportunities, or to help sponsor an event, email Director Katy Williams at katy.williams@sulross.edu or lobopantry@sulross.edu.

Knowing when it's time for a trim

"Mowing the lawn, because man is the only animal on the planet that plants, fertilizes, and waters a weed that he has to spend his weekend cutting."
 — Internet humor

"You got a haircut," one of the ladies at church complimented me Sunday.

"Sure did," I acknowledged. "Just so happens Boyd's Barber Shop had one left Saturday. Almost ran out before I got there, though."

Her remark was nice and much appreciated. But it started me thinking about how I use the same criteria to know when I need a haircut and when it's time to mow the grass. Whether looking in the mirror or at the yard, it always starts out, "That's gonna need trimming before long." It usually ends with, "Mmm, I shoulda done it a couple of weeks ago."

Both situations approached that pinnacle Saturday morning when I finally headed to the barbershop before it was back home to drag out the dreaded lawnmower.

I've always wondered who said it first. "Hey, I think I'll cut that stuff growing out there in the yard instead of just letting it grow." Whatever the logic, manicured lawns survived as the norm. Despite the best efforts of some who would be happy to have our yards declared a natural wilderness area.

Seriously, there was a time when Spring was fun. Wondering who would break the winter silence. Be the first one on the block to fire up a lawnmower and set an example for the rest of the neighborhood.

For the record, that was never me.

However, I did earn "Yard of the Month" once from the local garden club. I was caught off guard. Tried to convince the ladies they had the wrong address. Neighbors accused me of creating a hoax.

It was true. I have pictures to prove it.

But the fun began to fade about the time social security checks started coming. I still do my own yard and have all the equipment needed to make it through a lawn care season. Mowers, edgers, rakes, trimmers, fertilizer, Bengay, aspirin, band-aids, and a good chiropractor.

Hire a lawn service, they said. Tried that. While it may take more effort than it used to, I still get that feeling of satisfaction from backing off and enjoying how nice it looks when it's finished.

Almost makes me forget how much effort it took to limp across the street to get a good view of it all. And how hard it



LEON ALDRIDGE
 Guest Columnist

was to start the lawnmower.

Something else I ponder while pushing a mower is what sort of punishment-oriented society invented and approved the lawnmower with a rope pull starter?

Historians and whatever "ologists" digging around centuries from now, searching for clues of ancient society from the 21st century, will unearth many mysteries. One will most certainly be homo sapiens with one arm longer than the other.

They may never conclude it resulted from countless hours of yanking the starter cord on cantankerous, hard-to-start lawnmowers. They may, however, get lucky and stumble onto accounts of the young business-minded kid who put his lawnmower in the front yard bearing a sign that read "Will trade for bicycle."

As the story goes, before long, a preacher walked by and stopped to examine the mower.

"Run all right," he asked?

"Sure does," the boy assured him.

"Just so happens I have a bicycle I don't ride anymore. I'll be back with it in ten minutes," the preacher told him. "So don't let anyone else have it."

Sure enough, he returned, they made a trade, and the par-

son pushed his new acquisition home.

The next day though, he's back. Pushing the lawn mower, just like he left with it. "This mower won't start," he complained.

"Sure, it will," the youngster responded.

"I pulled on that rope for hours yesterday, and it never offered to start."

"You have to cuss it," the boy offered.

"Son," the preacher said. "I've been a minister for 30 years. So, I wouldn't know how to cuss."

"Just keep pulling on that rope preacher," the kid told him. "It'll come to you."

As Spring approached this year, it looked like lawn mowing wouldn't be an issue this summer following Mother Nature's hissy fits. Alternating droughts and Arctic blasts had wiped out half of what I called grass and most of the shrubbery in my yard. What's left is a crop of weeds, dust, and landscaping. A scene suggesting the aftermath of an atomic bombing.

Then came the rains. In torrents. It's still coming. In torrents. So, here I was Saturday, struggling to get rid of shrubs that will never see any shade of green again, mowing weeds, and thinking.

Wondering if that nice lady at church noticed I mowed my weeds.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Already strained water system in question

It has been explained deftly by City Manager Megan Antrim that a paramount concern regarding the proposed expansion of the Skyway Gardens affordable housing complex is whether extending our city water system services to the development would worsen water pressure issues for residents who live further south.

"In the absence of a feasibility study," said Antrim, "it was impossible to predict how the expanded development would

impact water service."

This is a very serious issue. We can't pursue development without first making sure that said development doesn't overtax our existing water infrastructure, causing potential catastrophic impact on other city neighborhoods including Sul Ross, the hospital district, AISD, hotels, motels, restaurants, apartments ... the longer the list, the more strain on the system.

In addition to water infrastructure, another issue we need to not only keep in mind, but, I

suggest, make a part of this and all future development, is the very real need of reducing the "heat island effect." You need look no further than stand in the middle of a parking lot or a graveled over road to feel this radiating heat reflected back at you.

Several studies have found that increased heat increases physical stress, exacerbates preexisting respiratory, kidney, and other problems.

These studies have also shown that planned parklands, and planted native shade trees

and grasses have a huge impact mitigating the "heat island effect."

Based on this, it would be smart to incorporate into all development proposals a "greening" plan.

I'd also put forward the suggestion that the same reclaimed water the country club uses to water its course be used to also revitalize the dying native trees and vegetation along the creek, and, possibly, other properties like Sul Ross.

Amit Rangra
 Alpine, TX

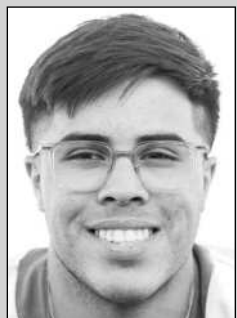


Heard on the STREET

What will you miss most about high school?



Dulce Munoz: I am definitely going to miss the underclassmen I leave behind.



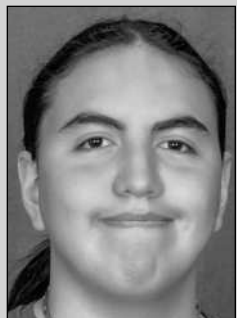
Oscar Velasquez: I will definitely miss sports and seeing all my friends in the hallways during the day.



Ella Wonsowski: I will miss seeing my childhood friends each day and having the support of the whole Alpine community.



Zyan Llenez: I will definitely miss pep rallies, football games, and all of our activities that kept our spirits going.



Adrian Whittington: I will miss the time I spent with the friends I made here in Alpine.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25 Teen Mario Kart Tournament, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Alpine Public Library.

May 27 M.U.S.I.C at the Visit Alpine Pavilion, Musicians Under the Stars In a Circle will be hosting spectators and performers from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Alpine Visitors Center 106 N. 3rd Street.

May 27 Big Bend Legends Team Roping, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Apache Adams Arena, just south of Alpine on Hwy 118. Roping starts at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact Wiley Dabbs 432-294-4042 or Craig Newman 432-538-2238.

June-August Summer Reading Program, The Alpine Public Library is hosting its sum-



mer 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.

June 2-4 Davis Mountains Preserve Open Weekend, 8 a.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Sunday, no reservations required. Visit www.

nature.org for more information.

June 3 Family Mathematics Night, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Alpine Public Library. Open to all ages.

June 5-9 Tech Camp, at the Marathon Community Center for the Pre-K through Fifth Grade 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. For more information visit www.visitmarathon.com.

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 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 bbchorale.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

AMS robotics team gets GEAR Head Award



Alpine Middle School robotics team in the elementary category was awarded the GEAR Head Award recently at a competition held at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Pictured are Brody Warren, Rhyder Vasquez, Sayuri Sanchez, David De Lao, and Isaac Wonsowski.

Courtesy photo

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Creamy. Creamy is our McDreamsicle. The handsomeness of this two-year-old guy is sure to captivate you. A delight to be around, his laid-back and easy-going personality makes it hard not to love him. He will be a cool and refreshing treat in your life.

Alpine Humane Society always wants to be able to say yes to those who call with a pet experiencing an injury or illness. You can help us help more pets with your financial support.

Donors can apply money to our invoices at local vet clinics, drop off checks at our Thrift Store and Cattery, or mail

a check to us at PO Box 1464, Alpine, TX 79831. We never want to reject a care request; your support will make a difference.

Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles Shelter pet adoptions at the City Shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about Shelter pet adoptions, cremation 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 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon-

day 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.



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 2GCEK19V321401261 **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 1FAPP55U64A131731 **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*****

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COUNCIL • FROM 1

followed by each candidate being sworn in by the City Secretary, Geo Calderon.

After the new council members were sworn into office, Mayor Eaves issued two proclamations declaring May 15-21 as National Police Week and May 21-27 as National Public Works Week in the City of Alpine. These proclamations were followed by her report, where she welcomed the new council members and challenged the council to attend other board meetings held in Alpine such as the Hospital District, the Housing Authority, and AISD. Eaves also encouraged the council as well as the audience to join or volunteer for the multiple non-profit organizations that work to make Alpine a better place.

Next on the agenda was a report by the Alpine City Manager, Megan Antrim. Antrim told the council that they had issued a Request for Proposals for street paving

and were waiting to see who would respond.

There were two public hearings on the agenda, with the first one being an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to establish a uniform fee structure for all of the animal service fees, including the amending of permit requirements for kennels, private boarding, boarding as a business, as well as raisers or breeders of dogs, cats, or other animals. A brief discussion ensued, with council members asking about the numbers of animals this may entail if they were considered a breeder and or a kennel or boarder.

The second public hearing was to obtain citizens views and comments regarding the City of Alpine's application for an Alpine Mobility Plan through TXDOT. Antrim told the council, "We have already sent in paperwork for this grant to see if we would even qualify to move on to the second step in the process. Our grant

writer Marci Tuck and I went ahead and did this because the deadline was fast approaching to even be considered. Now that we have been approved for phase two, this is where everyone's thoughts and suggestions come in on how best to proceed with the grant money, so that if council approves this portion and we receive the grant, we have a clear idea going forward on how best to utilize the funding."

Following the public hearing portion of the meeting were the consent agenda items of which there were three.

Items one and two of the consent agenda passed unanimously, but item three, the approval of the March 2023 invoice from Alpine City Attorney Rod Ponton, was asked to be removed by Ward 2 councilor Chris Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said, "For the benefit of the new council members, I believe that the city attorney proceeds with some issues that concern the

city and then bills the city for them without previous approval or discussion with the council or the city manager." Rodriguez, after a discussion with Ponton, in which no consensus was reached, made a motion to remove \$360 from the March 2023 bill submitted by Ponton concerning work he billed on behalf of the Daughtery well. When the vote was called for on the motion made by Rodriguez, newly elected Ward 5 councilor Rick Stephens along with Rodriguez voted to remove the charges from the city attorney's bill, while Ward 1 councilor Judy Stokes and Ward 4 councilor Martin Sandante voted to leave the bill as is. Ward 3 councilor Darin Nance abstained, leaving Mayor Eaves as the tie-breaking vote. Eaves voted to remove the charges on the bill.

Finally, after the consent agenda items were voted on, all seven action items on the agenda were approved, includ-

ing the appointment of Darin Nance to serve as the city representative on the appraisal board, the TXDOT Mobility Grant, the interlocal agreement with Brewster County establishing the Alpine Emergency Services Board for managing the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department, the approval of Mayor Pro Tem, in which Ward 5 councilor Stephens was named and approved, the approval of a contract with Big Bend Concrete for concrete work at Pueblo Nuevo

Park, and the award of the RFP for road materials to Ergon and pre-mix asphalt to Capital Aggregates.

No executive session followed the approval of the action items, and the meeting was adjourned. There will be a budget workshop held on June 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers in which the public is invited to attend and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Alpine City Council will be held on June 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

AMS robotics team wins Best Themed Award



Alpine Middle School robotics team won the Best Themed Award recently at a GEAR competition held at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Pictured are Darius Portillo, Rose DeGuia, Alice Saunders, and Roseline Haas.

Courtesy photo

SMOKE • FROM 1

the memory of two dear friends, Robert Rubio, and Sara Adams, than to bring the tri-county area and our small community together for a weekend full of fun and 'smoking meat' in a parking lot," exclaimed Webster.

Teams as far away as Houston, Kingsville, and New Mexico will converge on Fort Davis and

fill the air with smoke on June 9-10.

Categories for the shootout will include chicken, ribs, brisket, cabrito, and of course ribeye. There will also be a margarita contest, and a salsa contest, and each team will be shooting for the Grand Champion prizes.

"These two people gave their heart and soul

to the community, and it's only right for us to carry on this tradition for years to come AND to raise money for the people who put their lives on the line for our community and the surrounding area," said Webster.

There will be a silent auction and music each day from the Bucket of Bullets band from 5-8

p.m. On Friday June 9, awards for the salsa, margarita, and ribeye competitions will be presented on the lawn of the Jeff Davis County courthouse. A Bar-A Corn Hole tournament will be held on Saturday, June 10 beginning at 10 a.m., and a live auction and main awards will follow at 4 p.m.

RAISE • FROM 1

Border Patrol Agents can proudly continue to wear their uniform and serve our border communities."

"I want to thank Tony Gonzales for his patience and perseverance in helping craft this critical border package. Tony represents 42% of the southern border and has hosted over 100 Members of Congress to see firsthand the devastation and destruction caused by the Biden Administration," said Majority Leader Steve Scalise. "Tony's initiatives from his Security First Act were largely included in the package—from labeling cartels as terrorists to added funding for border sheriffs and local law enforcement, to increased pay for Border Patrol Agents. I appreciate

Tony's leadership is helping secure the border."

"I want to thank Congressman Gonzales for introducing this legislation. Border Patrol Agents are the most important element in securing our border. The investments we have made in fencing, drones, sensors, and other related infrastructure don't matter unless we have the manpower to secure our border. In the last two years we have had over 1.2 million illegal immigrants walk right into this country because we did not have enough agents to arrest them. We could see them but literally did not have the agents available to arrest them and if that is not the definition of a problem, I don't know what is. This

legislation will finally give Border Patrol Agents pay parity with the rest of federal law enforcement. It will allow us to keep our current agents and recruit the several thousand more and secure our border," remarked Hector Garza, Vice President, National Border Patrol Council

The Border Patrol Pay Parity Act would increase the minimum rate of basic pay for U.S. Border Patrol Agents at the grade GS-12 of the general schedule by not less than 14% by January 2024 and increase pay rates for other grades or levels, occupational groups, or other subdivisions, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

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COMPARED TO LAST WEEK:
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Feeder Cattle: \$3.00 to \$8.00 higher

Packer Cows and Bulls: \$3.00 to \$5.00 higher

300# - 400# Steers	284.00 to 286.00
300# - 400# Heifers	252.00 to 257.00
400# - 500# Steers	265.00 to 284.00
400# - 500# Heifers	233.00 to 252.00
500# - 600# Steers	240.00 to 265.00
500# - 600# Heifers	200.00 to 233.00
600# - 700# Steers	211.00 to 240.00
600# - 700# Heifers	182.00 to 200.00
700# - 800# Steers	196.00 to 211.00
700# - 800# Heifers	170.00 to 182.00
Packer Cows	90.00 to 108.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	70.00 to 80.00
Packer Bulls	105.00 to 124.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00 to 90.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	1300.00 to 1625.00
Bred Cows - Top Half	1150.00 to 1275.00

FREE SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING
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A New Year

is the perfect time to talk to your family about financial goals.

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Sports

Fightin' Buck Schedule

06 ALPINE COWBOYS BASEBALL

- May 31 @ Roswell Invaders, 7 p.m.
- June 1 @ Roswell Invaders, 7 p.m.
- June 2 @ Roswell Invaders, 7 p.m.
- June 3 vs Austin Weirdos, 7 p.m.
- June 4 vs Austin Weirdos, 6 p.m.
- June 5 vs Tucson Saguaros, 7 p.m.
- June 6 vs Tucson Saguaros, 7 p.m.

Sul Ross soccer offers newly remodeled complex

The Sul Ross Men's and Women's Soccer Programs are proud to announce the opening of their newly remodeled soccer complex.

The redeveloped, fan-friendly stadium features a front entry portal to greet fans, an awning to protect the faithful from rain, and sun, a railing separating the fans from the playing surface, updated windscreen, brand new world cup style goals and nets, bench coverings for the players and coaches, as well as a new storage shed.

Head coach Jon Evan has worked tirelessly since his arrival two seasons ago to make the five-year-old men's soccer program a great experience for the student athletes.

"This is a special place, and we are extremely grateful in particular to the outgoing administration of president Pete



Alpine's Big Bend Youth Soccer Association and in particular the Karleen family played an essential role in the newly remodeled soccer complex at Sul Ross. Pictured are Abe Karleen, a BBYSA player, his dad and board member of the BBYSA Ben Karleen, and SR men's soccer coach Jon Evan.

conclusion of the season while a national search is underway for the next men's head soccer coach.

Evan served as the first stand-alone men's soccer coach program taking over for Marquis Muse who coached both the women's and men's teams.

In 2021 Evan's Lobos won their first Labor Day weekend tournament as a program at Austin College. Evan leaves behind a legacy of having established the first annual men's soccer alumni game and spearheading completion of the newly redeveloped soccer complex, opening for men's and women's soccer in the fall of this year.

The remodeled soccer complex was officially put to use or the first time when the men's program played host to the first ever men's soccer alumni game on Saturday, April 29.

Gallego and the incoming administration of Dr. Carlos Hernandez, especially the vice president of advancement and athletics Jim Goodman and Bonnie Albright, vice president of finance and operations, for helping to see this project over the finish line," Evan said. "Coach Dominguez and I have always inspired our teams to have pride

in our programs and the resources that we have. This facility is something that our programs, the SR community and the surrounding Big Bend Soccer community will be able to enjoy. We try to give them something special on the field that they can be proud of as well," added Evan.

"We also want to acknowledge ORJ Welding

and the Karleen Family for their fine work in helping us put these structures together. We are forever grateful for them," Evan replied.

The SR women's soccer team heads into its 10th season in the fall while the men's program begins its sixth season in August.

Courtesy photo Coach Evan will be stepping aside at the

Proud Alpine Bucks

Sponsors:



 TEAGAN EMERSON 1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT CATCHER	 JACE CANABA 1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT OUTFIELD	 ADRIAN LUJAN 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT PITCHER	 AIDEN GARCIA 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT SHORTSTOP
 IDEN LUJAN 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT 2ND BASE	 CODY MORRIS 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT 1ST BASE		
 A.J. LLANEZ 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT 3RD BASE	 DEVON ROJO 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT OUTFIELD	 DAVID VALENZUELA 2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT DESIGNATED HITTER	 ALEC RAMOS HONORABLE MENTION ALL-DISTRICT

2023 ALL-DISTRICT BASEBALL

The 2023 Alpine Buck All-District baseball selections were announced, with 10 players named this season. First team all-district selections were Teagan Emerson-catcher, and Jace Canaba-outfield. Second team all-district selections were Adrian Lujan-pitcher, Aiden Garcia-shortstop, Iden Lujan-second baseman, Cody Morris-first baseman, A.J. Llanez-third baseman, Devon Rojo-outfield, and David Valenzuela-designated hitter. Also selected was Alec Ramos-honorable mention.

Courtesy photo

Outstanding athletes



Alpine High held its sports banquet recently, honoring outstanding male and female athletes.

Photos by JT Maroney

Catch each Friday Night wrap up in the **Alpine Avalanche!** Exclusives from coaches, players and fans.



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ADRIAN LUJAN

Adrian stayed positive through injury for most of the season and came back to help on the mound and helping advance the Bucks.

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Coloring Books



Alpine city council member for Ward 1, Judy Stokes presented the Dark Skies coloring books created by the Alpine High School art students to AISD superintendent Michelle Rinehart last week for the Alpine Elementary School.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Adrian Whittington



In what activities did you participate in high school?

I participated in graphic design my sophomore and junior year and yearbook my senior year.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite teacher would have to be Ms. Golden because I spent most of high school with her. She always made sure that I was passing all of my classes and she helped me strive to do better. I don't think I would have graduated without her help.

What was your favorite moment of the last four years?

My favorite moment of high school was the prom.

Adrian Whittington
I went my sophomore year because I was able to hang out with all of the new friends I made.

What are your plans after high school?

My plans after high school are to move to Odessa and work for a HAZMAT spill clean-up company and then eventually move from Texas to some place with a lot of trees.

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Devotional Page "Keep it Simple"

BY COLEMAN REIDLING

First Baptist Alpine

Marcella Hazan was the queen of Italian cuisine. To this day, her traditional recipes are celebrated around the world. While other chefs were in search of the perfect, new ingredient, Hazan was keeping it simple. For example, her delicious marinara sauce consisted of the following: a halved and peeled onion, some tomatoes, and some butter.

When asked about the unbelievable simplicity of her cooking style, she said "What you keep out is as important as what you put in." In other words, don't ruin it by being too fancy. Keep it simple.

In our world today things seem to be going in the other direction. Systems get more and more convoluted. Workplaces get more and more dizzying policies and procedures. Government gets more and more red tape. Preachers' sermons have more and more points. New recipes call for more and more ingredients – some you've never even heard of!

In a world full of folks who make things too complicated, I'm glad God keeps the primary things about our faith simple. 1 John 4:1-10 is a little like Hazan's simple, award-winning sauce.

Verses 9-10 say, *God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through*

him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins (NLT).

Let that sink in. Read 9-10 again. Is that good, nourishing news or what?

James Bryan Smith has written, "The narrative that God loves us and longs for us to love him in return provides a genuine and lasting incentive to change."

It is simple. God loves you. There is a cross to prove it.

It is simple. God desires you to love him back. There is an empty tomb to empower it.

God desires you and me to change from idolatrous and sinful, our default settings, to holy and blameless, his divine settings, all so we could have unfettered fellowship with God forever.

In order to accomplish this, God does not heap up demands or develop complex rules to confuse and eventually crush us. Instead, he loves us. He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. It's not complicated. It is called *real* love.

Do you know this love? It is found only in Jesus. If you do not know this love, then talk to a local pastor about how to experience this real love.

So, whether it is Marinara sauce that satisfies for a meal or a relationship with God that satisfies forever, simple is almost always better. Let's do it God's way: simple.

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Interested individuals can find more information on the employment tab found at www.terlinguacsd.com or contact Reagan Reed via phone at 432-371-2807 or email reed@terlinguacsd.com



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Interested candidates should email or fax resume to **(432)729-3071 Ext. 607** or **texashr@villagefarms.com**, applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX.



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WAGE TYPE: Salaried Exempt

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Veterinary Receptionist

Alpine Small Animal Practice and Large Animal Services
Alpine, TX 79830

Job details

Salary
Dependent on skill level and qualifications

Job Type
Full-time

Number of hires for this role
1 to 2

Qualifications

- High school or equivalent (Preferred)
- Veterinary Experience: 1 year (Preferred)

Full Job Description

Very busy two doctor small and large animal practice seeks full-time veterinary technician. Experience preferred but willing to train the right person. We pride ourselves in customer service, so applicants must be friendly, outgoing and compassionate. Duties for receptionists include but not limited to scheduling appointments, answering phone calls, setting up new clients and patients, preparation and maintenance of medical records, filling some prescriptions, over the counter sales, mailings, computer operations, financial transactions, and front office and reception area maintenance. Receptionists will assume the responsibility for acquiring the medical and legal information necessary for the performance of their duties. Receptionists must possess good critical thinking and problem solving skills, compassion, a positive attitude, follow through and excellent communication and teamwork skills. Multitasking and accepting constructive criticism is essential. Punctuality is expected. We are looking for someone dependable and who's in it for the long haul. Hours are M-F 7:30am -closing. Benefits include paid time off, health insurance and employee discounts.

Please bring your resume by
Alpine Small Animal Practice
3201 N Hwy 118
Alpine, TX 79830
Or call us at **432-837-5416**

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A recipe makeover full of satisfaction

There aren't too many folks who dislike potatoes. One could probably say the same about cheese, although I've met a few. But with anything cheesy that involves potatoes, many times it also involves heavy cream and that means excess fat and calories.

Now don't get me wrong, I do love some of those rich, creamy, cheesy dishes, but let's face it, they're not that good for us.

So, how do you cash in on all the flavor, but cut the fat and calories in something as decadent as potatoes au gratin? Sit back, and I will show you.

A standard potato au



gratin recipe calls for just over two cups of heavy cream, and while delicious, is laden with fat and calories. Two cups of heavy cream come in at 1,642 calories and 176.2 grams of fat. The calories alone are almost all you would need for the day



Potatoes Au Gratin

Courtesy photo

in a 2,000-calorie diet. By trading in the heavy cream for whole milk, the calories drop to 296

and 16 grams of fat. They would be even less were you to use 1% or even non-fat milk. That is a significant difference.

Along with cutting the fat, you can add in more fiber and fewer carbohydrates if you substitute rutabagas for some of your potatoes. One pound of Yukon Gold potatoes has 354 calories, while a one-pound rutabaga has 290. Likewise, a one-pound rutabaga has 11 grams of fiber while a pound of potatoes has 12.1.

By adding rutabagas to make up for some of the potatoes you might use in an au gratin or mashed potato recipe, you increase the amount of fi-

ber intake which aids in weight management and helps with gut bacteria, among other benefits. The total carbohydrates in one-pound of Yukon Gold potatoes minus the fiber is 60.5 grams, while the total carbs of one-pound of rutabagas is 28 grams minus the fiber.

While cutting calories and fat, the addition of rutabagas also allows you to utilize a vegetable that is generally overlooked. So, before you make your next batch of mashed potatoes or bake your next potatoes au gratin, think about making these comfort foods a bit healthier, but still just as delicious as they were before.

Potatoes Au Gratin

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ pounds Yukon Gold potatoes cut into 1/8-inch-thick slices (about 5 potatoes)
- 1 one-pound rutabaga, peeled, trimmed, and cut into 1/8-inch-thick slices.
- 4 thyme sprigs, including leaves for garnish.
- 1 ½ teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon grated garlic
- ¾ teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 ½ cups whole milk, divided.
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 ounces (about 1 cup) of Gruyere cheese, shredded and divided.

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees with rack about 10 inches from the heat source.
- In a large saucepan, add potatoes, rutabaga, thyme sprigs, salt, garlic, Dijon mustard, pepper, and 2 cups of milk.
- Bring to a simmer over medium heat, gently turning vegetable occasionally. (Vegetables will not be submerged.)
- Cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer, turning vegetables and stirring to prevent sticking until vegetables are almost tender, about 12 minutes.
- Whisk together flour and remaining ½ cup of milk in a small bowl until smooth. Stir flour mixture into simmering vegetable mixture.
- Cook, stirring occasionally, until

- thickened. About one minute.
- Remove from heat and discard thyme sprigs.
- Spoon half the vegetable mixture into a 10-inch broiler-safe cast-iron skillet or 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with ½ a cup of the cheese and then top with the remaining vegetable mixture.
- Arrange potato and rutabaga slices as desired and sprinkle evenly with the remaining cheese.
- Bake, uncovered until the mixture is bubbling around the edges about 15 to 20 minutes. Increase oven temperature to broil until golden brown, about one to two minutes. Remove from oven and let cool 10 minutes and then garnish with thyme leaves and serve warm.



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