

Sports Medicine clinic begins today

The 35th Annual Davis Mountains Sports Medicine-Sul Ross Sports Medicine clinic will be held Jun 1-3. The cost is \$120 per person and registration begins at 3 p.m. today.

This annual clinic began in 1985 at Prude Ranch, with the support of John Robert Prude. Since that time, it has changed locations in and around Fort Davis, and this year it is being held at the new Jeff Davis Community Center on Cemetery Road.

The full function of the clinic has been donated to the Sul Ross Sports Medicine Department under the direction of the Associate Athletic Director Billy Laxton. The proceeds from this clinic benefit the Truman-Joanne Spoon, Student Trainer Scholarship Fund and support the student trainers in the program.

Participation in the clinic from athletic trainers around West Texas and the rest of the state

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FEATURED
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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023297"
May218"



Burn Ban ON

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



Rain keeps county road, bridge crews busy

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held their regularly scheduled meeting last Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. with reports from the road and bridge department about keeping busy due to recent rain, auction profit updates on surplus items, and budgeting concerns.

The meeting opened with public comments by part-time Terlingua resident Bob Stamer, who regaled the court with the

headaches and issues he has encountered with construction contractors in South Brewster County. Stamer told the court that there were problems with contractors not issuing invoices, no contact address for the businesses, shoddy work, and he was questioning the requirements of insurance, permits, and standards. He told the court he believed the county should look into at least having a standard criterion for people



Greg Henington

claiming to be contractors so that the persons who are hiring the work being done and the tourists who visit are not injured physically or financially with substandard construction.

Judge Greg Henington combined his report with that of item seven on the agenda, relating to the Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc. Brewster County hired the auction company to aid in getting rid of surplus items that the county

had possession of but that were no longer in good working order or that had been replaced by more updated equipment. Henington told commissioners that to date, the county had received \$52,220 from surplus or salvage equipment, with most of that being heavy equipment from the road and bridge department.

Road and Bridge superintendent Frenchie Causey told com-

See COUNTY • 6

Running for home!



Locals took off running in front of Kokernot Field this past weekend for the annual Alpine Cowboys Home Run 5k and 10K.

Courtesy photo

Texas Mountain Trail leads to adventure

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Texas Heritage Trails Program was the brainchild of former governor of Texas John Connally. In 1968, in conjunction with the HemisFair, Connally, along with the Texas Highway Department now Texas Department of Transportation established 10 scenic driving trails in Texas. In 1997, the state legislature tasked the historical commission to create a statewide heritage tourism program. Their response was a program based on local, regional, and state partnerships centered around the 10 driving trails created by Connally.



Located in Big Bend National Park along the banks of the Rio Grande, the Hot Springs Historic District are remnants to the testament of early settlement in the Big Bend. This particular building was built by J.O. Langford and served as the Post Office for the resort he built in the early 1900s. This is just one of many places to visit within the Texas Mountain Trail region.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

See TRAIL • 6

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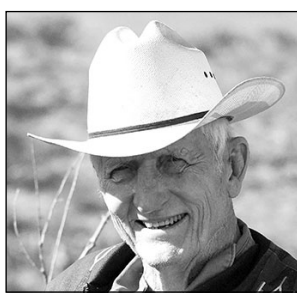
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OBITUARY

Roy Thomas McBride

Roy Thomas McBride passed away on Tuesday, May 24, on a ranch near Alpine. He was almost 87 years old and resided in Alpine most of his life. He was an international wildlife biologist, entrepreneur, inventor, manufacturer, and rancher. He married Jere Jean Johnson of San Antonio in 1957, and they are both survived by three children (Rocky, Randy, Rowdy), his daughter-in-laws Monica and Mistie, five grandchildren (Cougar, Caleb, Micah, Rylan, and Mayson), along



with great-grandchildren Stryker and Lynx.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m. at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine.

Roy's legacy also includes his deep friendships throughout the ranching community in western and southern Texas, and among the

wildlife biologists and mountain lion hunters who were his treasured peers in many places.

Roy is widely remembered by many as a modest genius and entrepreneur who had traveled throughout many continents in the capture and study of large predators. He was considered a foremost authority and biologist of various predator species, who had not only captured these animals' using dogs and other trapping methods but had also published peer-reviewed scientific studies of their populations and habits. He was

extensively involved in largescale efforts to save and revitalize threatened predators ranging from the Florida Panther to the Mexican Gray Wolves and the Red Wolves in the Southwestern U.S. His wildlife and capture contracts also encompassed working with jaguars, leopards, jackals, bobcats, ocelots, and other small predators on several continents. As an inventor and manufacturer, his patents and predator control devices are currently used by governments and private industry in numerous countries.

Roy also owned and operated a cattle ranch in the Chinati Mountains south of Marfa.

A graduate of Sul Ross University with both bachelor's and master's degree in wildlife biology, Roy had formerly attended Texas A&M on a football scholarship, where he was one of the original "Junction Boys" who played under Bear Bryant until his initial career in trapping led him to South and West Texas where he finished his studies.

His fitting departure was characteristic of his life, in that he was hunt-

ing with his hounds at the time of his passing.

Most importantly, Roy was a man of faith, with a heart for God and a deep understanding of the salvation afforded to all of us through Christ Jesus.

He will be incredibly missed and treasured in the hearts of many.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Alpine Christian School.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Memorial Day and the Grand Army of the Republic

Holidays can sometimes be confusing. I was always clear about Veterans Day in November. When I was growing up in Odessa on November 11 the veterans of World War I were plentiful and always downtown near the courthouse and post office. They would offer paper poppies for us to wear. As John McCrea wrote, "In Flanders Field where poppies grow, between the crosses row on row." We knew the importance of Veteran's Day, celebrating the end of World War I.

Memorial Day was the weekend that school was out for the summer, vacation in those days bracketed by that holiday and Labor Day when the new school year began. For those years Memorial Day was one of the best holidays ever, and the marker for the end of school was about all we knew about it. But there is a long and deep history to Memorial Day.

One of our Southern Traditions was a day set aside for cleaning the cemetery. As the Texas writer William Humphrey writes in his novel *The Ordways*, "And once a year in late October after the crops had been gathered...there came a Saturday when we got up early, and finding the weather clear and still, put on old clothes, packed a lunch basket, and drove out of town to our ancestral homes for graveyard working day." This was a tradition that may have influenced the creation of what would become Memorial Day.

However, the concept of Memorial Day as we know it came from Civil War General John Alexander Logan and the Grand Army of the Republic, the GAR. After the War of the Rebellion, veterans began to come together in groups to share their common



FIDDLER'S GREEN

by Larry Francell

experiences, as best described by Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, "We have shared the incommunicable experience of war, we have felt, we still feel the passion of life at its top, in our youth our hearts were touched with fire." Eventually most of these individual groups came to gather as the Grand Army of the Republic.

By the end of the nineteenth century the GAR was a powerful political lobby that helped elect five presidents, and advocated for veteran pensions, even those soldiers that served in the black regiments. The organization hosted reunions and provided charity within the state departments and local posts. There was a

GAR Post in Fort Davis organized by Union Veterans and interestingly named for Jefferson Davis, but not the Confederate president, rather the Union General Jefferson Columbus Davis, the other Jeff Davis.

The GAR was organized in April 1866 by Union Army Dr. Benjamin Stephenson, on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty." The first national Commander in-Chief was retired General John A. Logan. Logan began the war as a democrat and was one of Lincoln's politically appointed generals. However, Logan proved his loyalty to the Union and fought with U.S. Grant and later William Tecumseh Sherman ending the war at the final surrender of Confederate forces at Durham Station, North Carolina.

In general order Number 11, May 5, 1868, Logan declared May 30 to be "Decoration Day," the day to honor the Union dead, soon to be known as Memorial Day. On that first Memorial Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery

where 5000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there. By 1900 all the northern states had made Memorial Day a holiday, and the southern states began their own day to honor the dead, but it was not until 1971 that Memorial Day became a national holiday, now celebrated on the last Monday of the month of May.



NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED 2023 ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2023-05-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 - ANIMALS TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM FEE STRUCTURE FOR ALL ANIMAL SERVICES FEES; AMENDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR KENNELS, PRIVATE BOARDING, BOARDING AS A BUSINESS, RAISERS, OR BREEDERS OF DOGS, CATS, AND OTHER ANIMALS.

ORDINANCE 2023-05-03: AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 6, 2023, GENERAL ELECTION HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITIZENS OF ALPINE TO THE OFFICES OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 3, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 5.

COPIES OF THE ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N. 13TH STREET, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING CITY_SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT 432-837-3301, OPTION 1.

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Pastel Workshop held recently

Internationally renowned pastel artist, Nancy Lilly, was in Alpine recently teaching her method of painting on a textured panel to a group of artists from around Texas. The three-day workshop, sponsored by the Big Bend Arts Council, covered preparing and applying grounds, composition, color, and the application of a non-toxic fixative to achieve texture and freshness in a painting.

Those attending the workshop were given a 17-page handout, a drawing kit, a colored textured panel, reference photos, various sized vine charcoals, and a painting exercise designed to demonstrate painting performance on various textured surfaces. Nancy was very generous with her time, sharing tips and techniques outside of instructional hours during lunches and after class. "This was the perfect



Nancy Lilly, pictured here, explains the nuances and techniques she uses in her artwork during a three-day workshop that was held in Alpine recently.

workshop to bring to Alpine," Sharon Haney, the workshop organizer, said. "Artists very familiar with the pastel media and those that had less experience with pastel gained an abundance of knowledge for future use."

Nancy Lilly holds a BFA from the University of Texas, Signature Status with the Pastel Society of America, and the designation of Master's Circle from the International Association of Pastel Societies. Her

work has been featured in art magazines and her award-winning depictions of historical Texas missions and iconic western landscapes are known for their luminescent handling of atmosphere and sunlight.

Ponton honored with special resolution



Alpine City Attorney Rod Ponton and Sen. Roland Gutierrez

Courtesy photo

Alpine City Attorney Rod Ponton was honored on the floor of the Texas Senate on May 22 with a special resolution. This senate resolution SR 626 was co-sponsored by Texas senators Roland Gutierrez and Cesar Blanco.

The resolution commemorated Ponton's distinguished 41-year legal career devoted to the needs of Far West Texas. "I am honored by the resolution, and will continue to advocate for the needs of Far West Texas," noted Ponton.

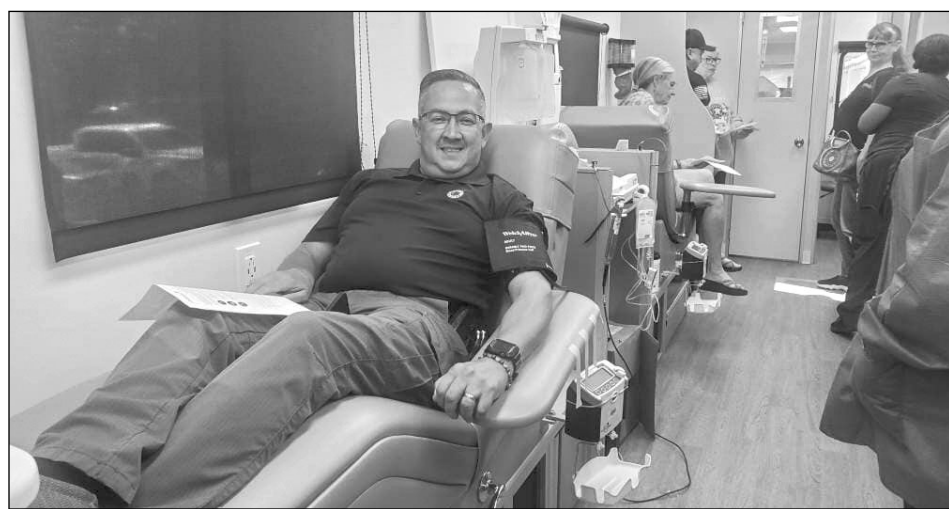
City hosts interdepartmental taco contest



The City of Alpine held an interdepartmental taco contest recently. Three teams, consisting of the administration, the Alpine Police Department, and the utilities department cooked up their best taco recipes for a chance at the trophy and bragging rights for best tacos of 2023. The utilities department took the win in a unanimous decision between the guest judges. They were also the reigning champs from 2019, when the last contest was held.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Chief donates blood during Memorial Day drive



Chief Darrell Losoya took time to give blood at the Alpine Police Department's first annual Memorial Day blood drive.

Courtesy photo


Permian Basin awards grants

For its spring community grant cycle, the Permian Basin Area Foundation awarded a total of \$1.8 million in grants to nonprofits serving West Texans.

Local nonprofits receiving portions of the \$1.8 million were the Big Bend Conservancy, the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, Frontier CASA, Marathon Primary Care Services, Inc., and the McDonald Observatory.

Grants Administrator Raymond Williams stated, "The Foundation is honored to extend support to so many organizations throughout the Permian Basin and Trans Pecos region. These non-profits are not only advocates for progress, but conduits for change as well, and we are grateful to support them."

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1091 head of cattle sold on Monday, on a steady to higher market, with excellent buyer attendance. This is the top of the market and prices range down from this according to quality, quantity, condition, and fill

COMPARED TO LAST WEEK:
Stocker Calves: Steady to \$6.00 higher
Feeder Cattle: Steady to \$7.00 higher
Packer Cows and Bulls: Steady to \$2.00 higher

300# - 400# Steers	290.00 to 293.00
300# - 400# Heifers	252.00 to 256.00
400# - 500# Steers	262.00 to 290.00
400# - 500# Heifers	252.00 to 255.00
500# - 600# Steers	254.00 to 262.00
500# - 600# Heifers	224.00 to 255.00
600# - 700# Steers	219.00 to 254.00
600# - 700# Heifers	177.00 to 224.00
700# - 800# Steers	190.00 to 219.00
700# - 800# Heifers	168.00 to 177.00
Packer Cows	100.00 to 110.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	80.00 to 90.00
Packer Bulls	105.00 to 126.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00 to 90.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	1350.00 to 1675.00
Bred Cows - Top Half	1200.00 to 1325.00

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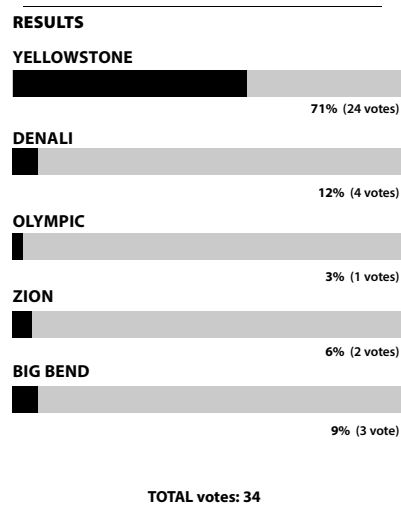
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHICH OF THESE NATIONAL PARKS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?



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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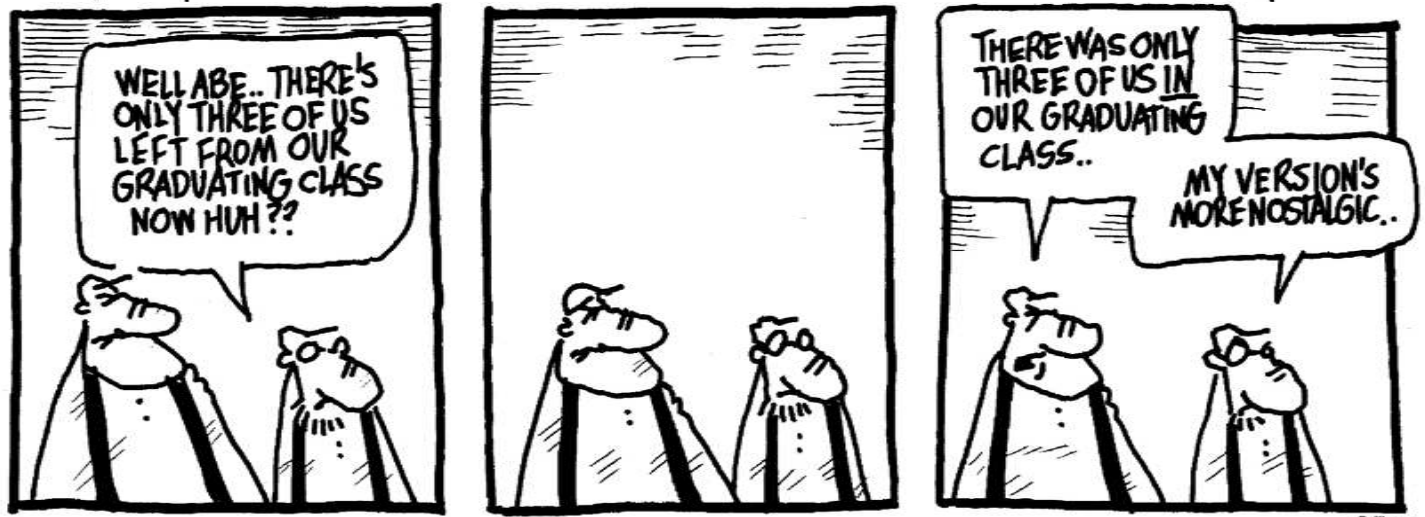
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BOONIEVILLE



Tourism: A driving force in revenue

The City of Alpine celebrated National Public Service Appreciation Week in May. It's a great time to thank and acknowledge the nearly 90 men and women who work hard every day to make Alpine a great place to live.



HEATHER YADON
City of Alpine
Tourism Coordinator

It was also National Tourism and Travel Week so as the Tourism Coordinator for the City of Alpine I received double celebrations! What exactly does a Tourism Coordinator do to help the citizens of Alpine? Well essentially, it's my job to greet guests when they come to the Visitor Center, attend events statewide and encourage people to visit here, do social media for Visit Alpine and, my personal fa-

vorite, clean the bathrooms. But joking aside, I like to call myself Alpine's Cheerleader. I spend most my days with a smile on my face telling tourists about all the wonderful things to do here, great places to shop and amazing places to eat.

Yes, I know tourists go the wrong way on the one way, they can't park at Porters, and let's face it most of us locals aren't so great at that either, or they make reservations at our favorite restaurants so we can't just walk in. But there are literally millions of reasons why we should be glad to have them here and most of them are dollars.

In 2022 almost \$50 million was spent in Alpine by

travelers, and \$2,817,383 in local tax revenues came from tourism. That's about 20% of the total City budget! There was also \$3,512,689 in state tax revenues, which led to \$1,088.58 tax savings for every person in Alpine.

That means because of tourists a family of 4 didn't have to pay \$4354.31 in taxes!

Tourism brings 920 jobs in Alpine. That's 25% of Alpine's jobs.

And the direct earnings from travel and tourism in Alpine is \$28,793,595.

I love to cheer about Alpine and I think we could all cheer the actual City of Alpine more. The jobs we do and services we provide aren't just important they are essential. And we show up every day because we care. We should all be cheerleaders for Alpine. I ask you to

think about this when you are upset with a city employee or service on social media.

We teach kids to practice kindness and not bully and I'd ask all of you to lead by example and do the same. If you aren't happy with a city service, address the manager or director. If that doesn't resolve the issue talk to the City Manager. If that doesn't solve the problem talk to your City Council Representative. And don't just be involved when you're upset. Be engaged with what's happening in our city all the time. Or even better, bring your skills and come join the team! The City of Alpine offers competitive pay and amazing benefits and is always looking for good people who want to make a difference.

Be the best you that you can be

"Opportunity knocking usually sounds like hard work, so most people don't answer the door."

"I heard it from friend and mentor Jim Chionsini as one of his 'Old Italian Sayings.' He likely borrowed it, but he was, among other things, a master at repackaging good advice."

An imaginary light from above formed a halo around the camera in the display case. I was in Howard Petty's Camera Shop in downtown Mount Pleasant. Many years ago.

It was a Holy Grail moment in my college-kid eyes. I never saw a used camera with its nicks and bumps. I saw only a Minolta SR-7 35 mm single-lens reflex camera at that moment. A real camera. As opposed to my mother's borrowed Kodak Brownie I was using when I first felt the magic of photography.

I thought about my first real camera last week while reading about 2023's generation of high school graduates. I'm sure many clearly envision what they want to do in life. And some will complete that journey with success.

Others may be more like me the night I walked the Mount Pleasant High School stage.

During those dark ages, graduating seniors wrapped up the school year with an obligatory counseling session with Mrs. Sanders, the sweetest and most caring teacher ever to walk the halls

of MPHS. I don't remember whether she actually taught classes or was a full-time counselor. But I remember that she was always smiling, and conversations with her could make the worst day better.

"So, what are your plans after graduation, Leon," Mrs. Sanders asked. With a smile, of course.

"I've enjoyed Mr. Murray's mechanical drawing classes. I think I want to be an architect," I told her.

"Excellent choice," she replied. "Where do you plan on going to college?"

"I think I'm going to Kilgore Junior College for two years; then a four-year university after that."

"Good decision. I'm sure you will do well," Mrs. Sanders said with a pat on my hand.

High school counseling 50-plus years ago was a little more informal than it is today.

Real-world reality ruled out portions of the plan I shared with Mrs. Sanders. Minor mishaps like a couple of failed math classes. No one told me math was not my strong suit. Or that my brain may have been better wired for creative thinking, right brain stuff. I'm not sure if left brain; right brain was even a thing then. I wasn't sure I had a brain at that point in life.

I left Kilgore after a year; knowing things like psychol-



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

ogy, writing, music, and art felt good as opposed to anything involving calculating numbers.

Five years to get a four-year degree in psychology and art at East Texas State University, a few jobs failing to hold

my interest, and a year of laboring to figure out where I belonged followed.

Enter a long-time friend who would become a mentor for my future, Morris Craig, who offered me a job. "While you're deciding what you want to do, come work for me," Craig said. "I know you're a photographer. I can use you at The Monitor."

Thus began the path that has provided great gratification, a prosperous livelihood, and unforgettable memories for 50-plus years. All because I asked, "How much for that one, Mr. Petty, pointing to the used camera at which I had been gazing."

"That's a good camera," he said. "I'll let you have it for \$50."

I stared a moment longer. Where would I ever find \$50? Working every hour possible between classes to pay for school? Before I could respond, he added, "And you can pay it out for \$10 a week, if that helps."

After another short silence, I looked up and said, "I'll take it. If you will teach me how to use it."

"Deal," he smiled and placed the camera in my hands.

I can't tell you who spoke at my high school graduation. Or my college graduations. Maybe a school official or a former graduate. Maybe someone well-known or super successful in life.

No one has ever asked me to speak at a commencement. A record I'm confident will remain unbroken. But if anyone ever did, it might go something like this.

Always have a dream. A vision. An idea of what you want to do and how you want to do it. Make it your own. Do all you can do to achieve it.

But don't get discouraged if it doesn't work out immediately. Don't give up. No one is limited to just one dream. Or just one chance in life.

What may become the future is not love at first sight for everyone. But you are not just everyone; you are you. So be the best you that you can be.

And when doors open for you in life, always remember those who oiled the hinges for you along the way.

Someone who sells you your first camera. On a payment plan. Someone who offers you a job at a newspaper. At a time when you have no idea what you want to do.

And be mindful when imaginary lights from above form halos around signs right under your nose.

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Heard on the STREET

What is your favorite part of playing baseball in Alpine?



Andrew Capone: My favorite part is the winning culture they instill and the expectation they have to be the best. It's been a blessing to play for this town and I give them my all each and every game.



Alex Canty: My favorite part is the support that the community gives every night, always being with the boys, and the mountains and views you get here in Alpine.



Manny Garcia: My favorite part is the community. From the fan base to the brotherhood, we've established as a team, there is no better feeling than winning a home game.



Josh Laurie: It is definitely the fans. The atmosphere and support they bring every game and around the community is great. It gives us a feeling that we're playing for something more.



James Prockish: My favorite part has to be the atmosphere. It's a great place to not only play but to be. I like the feeling of coming back after a long road trip and rolling up to the field and it feeling like home.

Send your community events to editor@alpineavalanche.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 Volunteers Needed, The Museum of the Big Bend is seeking volunteers to help in the new Marilyn Ann Caldwell welcome center in the museum's gift shop. Help is needed Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Rebekah Antrosio at 432-837-8145 or Rebekah.antrosio@sulross.edu

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.

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 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 Choral rehearsals, on Monday

evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

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 Al-

pine 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

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Dr. Joshua Pass - Optometrist
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Utility workers repair broken main



Workers from the utilities department with the City of Alpine worked diligently recently when a water main broke in the vicinity of Harriet and June streets.

Courtesy photo

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Barney. Take a look at this handsome guy! Barney is a little bashful at first, but when he comes out of his shell, he is an incredibly charming boy. He has the heart of a runner and would spend all day playing in the yard if he could. He loves the company of another dog or several. If his beautiful eyes don't stop you in your tracks, we're sure his charm will. This guy desires all the love and attention a new family can offer. Did we mention he does well with other dogs and is house-trained?

If you are thinking about a feline for your family, now is a great time! Both Alpine Humane Society and Alpine Animal Services have

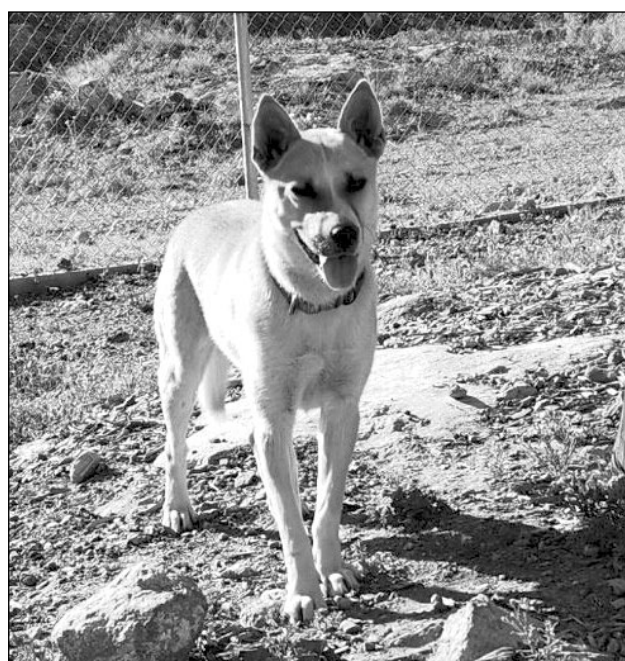
lots of kittens available. Kittens always do best adopted in pairs, and we can advise you of some purr-fect combinations. Kittens receive all needed shots and are spayed or neutered and micro-chipped before they come home to you.

You can visit kittens at the AHS Thrift Store Cattery and Alpine Animal Shelter. With Summer upon us and kids home from school, this is an ideal time to add new furry family members.

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 informa-

tion 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. 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.



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Sponsored by the City of Alpine and funded by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGOOG) Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program

TRAIL • FROM 1

The initial trail region was the Texas Forts Trail Region, which was established in 1998. This led to other heritage regions applying for the program and the completion of the 10 regions established in 2005 with the additions of the Texas Pecos and Hill Country regions.

What seems to be an arid desert surrounded by mountains with little to offer, is quite the opposite. The Texas Mountain Trail region encompasses the area along the Southwestern border of Texas. It highlights the history and cultural significance established in the region by nomadic tribes and the pioneers that settled the area.

These unique desert mountain communities of far West Texas offer

the visitor the historical timeline of each area via museums, hikes, scenic vistas, and other tourism attractions.

This region is comprised of communities from the City of El Paso and those along the Rio Grande Valley from San Elizario to Presidio and down to Terlingua. It also encompasses the communities along the I-10 corridor of Sierra Blanca and Van Horn and then dips down to include Alpine, Valentine, Marfa, Fort Davis, and Marathon.

Driving the Texas Mountain Trail itself would take an entire day without any stops. The trail is 710 miles of highway and includes Big Bend National Park, Guadalupe Mountains

National Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park, and Fort Davis National Historic Site among others. Miles upon miles of hiking trails and unspoiled desert are available to visitors in the area.

Areas with pictographs and bedrock mortars used for grinding corn and other plant material by early Native American settlers are present in the region as well as ruins of original settlers to the area.

Museums and historic sites such as the Magoffin Home State Historic site in El Paso and Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine display artifacts along with original architecture and furnishings that date back to the early turn of the 20th Century and before.

In the state of Texas, the Texas Mountain Trail region is one of 10 heritage tourism regions. All of these regions are their own 501(c)(3) non-profit and are partially funded by the Texas Historical Commission.

Although their initial funding is a part of the THC budget, they are not state employees. Each region has an executive director that is governed by a board.

The executive director for the Texas Mountain Trails region is current Alpine local, Wendy Little.

Prior to coming on board for TMT, Wendy spent 11 years with the Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau. She was one of only two employees when she

began her journey into the tourism industry in Boerne and by the time she departed for her new position, she was one of 11 and was their Director of Marketing.

Little became the Executive Director of TMT in January 2015.

"I am a total history nerd, and I love tourism, so when this position came available, I jumped at the chance," exclaimed Little.

According to the website, their mission is "to benefit visitors and residents of far West Texas by supporting and facilitating recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities that promote responsible economic development through heritage tourism." Heritage tour-

ism includes buildings, hikes, historical cities and places, and anything helping to preserve the history and cultural traditions that enables the tourist to learn about and be surrounded by the stories of people past and present.

"I love the mission of the TMT and the Heritage Trails overall. I'm very lucky to have a supportive and active board to work with that shares this same vision," Little said.

Little summed up her experience of the Texas Mountains Trail region by saying, "I get to travel my beautiful region, meet lots of great people, and get paid to do it. I just love my job."

American Legion honors the fallen



Judy Stokes, a member of the American Legion Post 79 women's Auxiliary displays one of many flags placed on graves of soldiers by the Legionnaires and the Auxiliary in honor of Memorial Day, last Friday at Elm Grove Cemetery.

COUNTY • FROM 1

missioners that Benge Road had been completely washed out by recent rains and that his team bladed the road so that it was back to where it should be. "I expect that after the rain we received overnight that we will have to go blade it again, along with several others in that area of the county," Causey stated.

Causey also reported that all of the roads in the north double diamond area had been bladed by his crews and that they had been spreading emulsion on cemetery road and also on west Fort Davis Street. Finally, Causey thanked the sheriff's department for allowing the use of jail trustees to help his crew load trailers with all of the old tires that had been collected for disposal.

In budgeting news, Judge Henington asked County Auditor Patty Roach about the \$730,000 that was in the budget in expected revenue from the housing of federal prisoners. Since there were not going to be a surplus of federal

"I don't believe that we will reach that budgeted prediction with just the Odessa prisoners, so that is something that we will have to take a close look at to see how we will manage it."

— County Auditor
Patty Roach

prisoners being held at the jail, only those from Odessa, Henington was concerned that there was going to be an issue with meeting that expected revenue. Roach said, "I don't believe that we will reach that budgeted prediction with just the Odessa prisoners, so that is something that we will have to take a close look at to see how we will manage it." Henington told Roach that he would like to get together with she and County Treasurer Julie Morton to discuss this and see what their options were.

Because Brewster County receives grants that exceed \$750,000, they are required to have a yearly audit. Henington told the court that the audit for 2020 lacked one item being completed, and then the 2021 and 2022 audits could be tackled.

Morton told commissioners that she hired a part-time employee to assist in gathering all the information and paperwork to be ready for the two audits to follow the completion of the 2020 audit. Morton said, "I have done some preliminary training with her, and she will officially begin work in my office on gathering the audit materials tomorrow."

In other county financial news, the county auditor had a budget amendment and a line-item transfer for court approval. The budget amendment was for an amount of \$20,031.14 from back in January for the GovOS company that was hired to work on HOT tax collection for the county. Roach

told commissioners that while it was approved, it had not been added to the county's general fund portion of the budget and that she needed approval to do that so that she could do a line-item transfer from the tourism department's budget to balance that amount being added to the general fund. Roach's line-item transfer request was \$500.00 from the county judge's travel funds to his equipment fund for the purchase of a new printer for his office. Both were approved.

Finally, although recent rains have helped, Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore requested the approval of another 45 day burn ban for the county along with the restriction of fireworks for the upcoming July 4 holiday, to include restricting skyrockets and those items with sticks and fins. Both items were approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the commissioners' court is scheduled to be held on June 13.

CLINIC • FROM 1

will allow them to receive CE credits towards their state licenses.

The following lecturers are scheduled to appear for the three-day clinic.

Sarah Balch from Hereford High School, Kevin Pearce of Grape Creek High School, Sherry Ann Miller of Angelo State University, Matt Owens from Cedar Ridge in Round Rock, Dr. Alana Fields

of Stephenville, Dr. Jeffrey Freyer from ProCare Orthopedics in Odessa, Dr. Jesse Dickens from West Texas Orthopedics in Midland, Dr. Tandy Freedman of Freedman Sports Medicine out of Dallas, and Spot Mayers a graduate of the Sul Ross Sports Medicine program from Houston.

For more information contact Doc Spoon at 915-449-7017.

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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

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LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

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Cowboys To Open Season June 12th

The Alpine Cowboys expect to open their 1954 season with a pair of games at Kokernot field here June 12-13, with the opponents yet to be chosen, H. L. Kokernot Jr., sponsor of the Cowboys, said last week-end.

The Cowboy team will be made up of Sul Ross college players and high school graduates who are prospects for the team, Mr. Kokernot said. Tom Chandler of Dallas will again manage the team and will be assisted by Pete Swain and Chuck Ellis. Chandler expects to arrive here the first of next week, accompanied by two or three players from his Adamson High school (Dallas) team.

Mr. Kokernot said that he did not expect to enter his team in any tournament this year, "unless I decide to hold one of my own here." The team, which played last season in the Southwestern semi-pro tournament at El Paso where it has won championship honors for a number of years, has been shifted to the Texas district but Mr. Kokernot indicated that he would not enter the club in that event.

Joe Lama of El Paso is the new National Baseball congress commissioner for the El Paso tournament succeeding Rex Wilson.

June 4, 1954

The Alpine Cowboys baseball team will begin this year's season with a pair of games here at Kokernot Field on June 12-13. Team sponsor H. L. Kokernot said that the team will be comprised of Sul Ross college players and high school graduates who are team prospects. Tom Chandler of Dallas, will manage the Cowboys this season along with assistants Pete Swain and Chuck Ellis.



June 4, 1954

Alpine local and son of Mrs. Louis Rodriguez, Pfc. Joe Larky Rodriguez recently graduated from the Marine Field Musicians school. Rodriguez is now a part of the Marine corps band in San Diego, Cal.



June 4, 1954

Southwestern Bell Telephone recently held an open house here in Alpine, where local installer Robert Causey showcased a Tick-Tack-Toe machine.

Save America Petition

Every patriotic citizen in Brewster county is urged to clip the following petition, paste or copy on a blank sheet of paper obtain 25 or more signatures thereto and mail immediately to Senators Morris Sheppard or Tom Connally in Washington for submission to other members of the Texas delegation in Congress:

We urge you to work and vote for immediate passage of the pending bills by Congressman Martin Dies and others to bar all alien Nazis, Fascists and Communists from entrance into this country and to deport any now here along with aliens whom the police certify to be revolutionary agitators. We further urge prompt enactment of other legislation providing instant apprehension and punishment for all native-born or naturalized citizens giving aid and comfort to foreign dictators by carrying on "fifth column" activities here.

We favor immediate passage of laws making it mandatory for all radicals to be catalogued, photographed, fingerprinted, segregated or imprisoned or kept under constant surveillance by federal and local authorities during the period of National defense preparation in time of peace as well as in event of war.

We implore you to legislate these traitorous trouble makers into the penitentiary or back to the country from whence they came. This is no time to temporize with these radical groups.

We recommend adequate appropriations for the Dies committee investigating un-American activities and propaganda and advocate its continuation until America has been made safe for Americans.

June 21, 1940

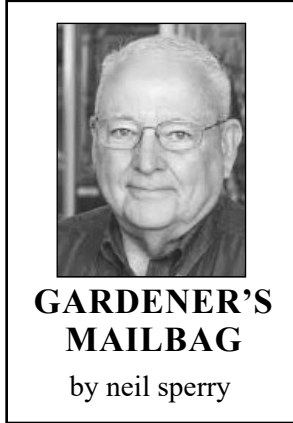
A call for a petition to "Save America" is urging the citizens of Brewster County to reach out to their fellow patriots and gather 25 or more signatures to send to their senators Morris Sheppard and Tom Connally. The impetus behind this petition is to encourage law makers to pass legislation banning all alien Nazis, Fascists, and Communists from entrance into this country along with any others who authorities certify to be revolutionary agitators.

Flower invading St. Augustine not Virginia creeper

Dear Neil: This looks like Virginia creeper, but the flower is wrong. It has recently shown up in my St. Augustine. How can I get rid of it without hurting the St. Augustine?

This is called dayflower, a relative of wandering Jew. As luck would have it, it's a relatively weak weed against St. Augustine. You could use a broadleafed weedkiller spray to control it. Apply it from a trigger bottle or a tank sprayer, not a hose-end sprayer for the most precise distribution. Apply it soon, while evening temperatures are still below 85 or 88, and do not apply it when the sun is hitting the St. Augustine directly. The label will explain the precautions to avoid any burning of your St. Augustine. It appears that your St. Augustine is healthy. Keep the grass vigorous and it will crowd out both the dayflower and the bit of bermuda that is co-existing with it.

Dear Neil: My downspouts have washed away soil and turfgrass, Celebration Bermuda in my backyard. I'm going to redirect the water flow to the street. I



GARDENER'S MAILBAG

by neil sperry

understand that adding soil is not the answer, but how can I hide all these roots?

This is a really unusual situation. I've been sent probably thousands of sets of photos of trees' roots on top of the ground over the past 47 years, and yours are among the very few where there truly has been real erosion. I can see that in the sandy soil piled up against the side of the fence. My first suggestion to you is going to be that you find a certified arborist or a veteran landscape contractor or, better yet, both, to discuss this situation with each other and with you. The eroded soil needs to

be removed from its position against the fence and returned to its original home, wherever that might have been probably on the other side of the trunk. If that exposes more roots in the process, do it anyway. If it's going to expose a lot of roots, perhaps wait until October, after summer's hot weather. Next, talk to the arborist about which roots can be removed entirely. Hopefully it will be all of them. Sure, the tree needs them, but you don't want roots above ground. Encourage the tree to develop deeper roots by keeping it watered deeply and by removing surface roots that could trip pedestrians. They can also push up fences and break sidewalks. The arborist will be the person to hold your hand through all this. If you have bare ground and you need to stop erosion, use green liriopie beneath the tree for shade and purple winter-creeper euonymus for sunny spots.



Dear Neil: I'm asking about St. Augustine along the Red River near Wichita Falls. I know winter and last summer's drought were hard on the grass, but my neighbor's lawn looks great compared to mine. We do use different lawn care companies. Could the Dimension that was applied to my lawn in early April have hurt my grass? My lawn is on the right in my photo. Otherwise, the lawns are cared for almost identically.

I don't believe Dimension would harm your St. Augustine. It is labeled for use on any existing turf. That is,

however, verging on late to be applying it, even as far north as you are, but that's not a factor in this discussion. Things I would investigate include the variety of St. Augustine each of you has. I have Raleigh, and I have found that it is slightly less cold hardy than some of the others. Palmetto is written up as being slightly tougher against cold. That could be a difference. And it's an odd observation, but I see a lot of mineral staining on your neighbor's fence and not

much on yours. That would be from irrigation water. Is there a chance that your neighbor is watering more than you are at critical times? Check timings for chinch bug treatments, since they were such a huge problem last year. Hopefully in all that you can find the beginnings of an answer.

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

ACROSS

- 1 "happy as a ____"
- 5 flying saucers
- 6 "legal eagle" charges
- 7 New Braunfels FM
- 8 surgical recovery area in a hosp.
- 9 TX Kenny Rogers early group: "The First ____"
- 16 TXism: "in this ____ of the woods"
- 18 TXism: "____ the horse's mouth" (confirmed)
- 21 "____" Aldrich helped TCU be the national champ in 1938
- 22 Fort Davis football class (2 wds.)
- 23 TXism: "the bigger they ____, the harder they fall"
- 24 TX Farrah Fawcett, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 30 UT Southwestern Medical Center is a leader in treatment of multiple ____
- 34 8th governor Clark of Texas, for short
- 35 TX Harrelson 2004 film: "She ____"
- 36 country FM station in Abilene
- 37 TX singer songwriter, Griffith
- 39 "____ Bend" is a curve in the Gulf Coast
- 43 famous writer Mark who owned land in Archer County

- 44 many Texas towns had a prisoner of ____ in World War II
- 45 birth st. of honorary Texan, John Wayne
- 46 man in 45-across was every ____ cowboy
- 47 like a proton but with no electric charge
- 49 fortunately
- 52 dir. from Weatherford to McGregor

DOWN

- 1 Dez Bryant city
- 2 TXism: "he'd argue with ____ post"
- 3 TXism for "store bought molars"
- 4 Sulphur Springs AM
- 9 past Oilers WR, Givins (init.)
- 10 TXism: "dead as a ____"
- 11 TXism: "pay ____ never mind" (ignore)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- 12 cowboy bolos
- 13 TXism: "if the saddle squeaks, ____ paid for"
- 14 Texas-based 1943 film: "King ____ the Cowboys"
- 15 gun rights grp.
- 17 "____ Cavern State Park"
- 19 in Upshur County on U.S. 259 (2 wds.)
- 20 Hondo is seat of this county
- 24 former Ranger closer, Henke (init.)
- 25 large tub
- 26 meat & veggie dish cooked in a pot
- 27 state residents
- 28 TXism: "strong as ____ breath"
- 29 save from danger
- 31 "____ Brown & His Band of Renown"
- 32 TXism: "could ____ through a crowbar" (hot chili)
- 33 fish-eating duck
- 38 hammer targets
- 40 TXism: "does a ____ have a climbing gear?" (yes)
- 41 17th governor, Roberts (init.)
- 42 TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of ____"
- 48 TXism: "siestas"
- 50 TXism: "raining ____ and dogs"
- 51 Korean car
- 56 TXism: "hot as ____ griddle"
- 57 language of the Romans

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Sports

Cowboys gear up for 2023 season, All-Star Game

BY ETHAN EIBE
Contributor

Sports Schedule

06 ALPINE COWBOYS BASEBALL

- 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.

In the simplest of terms: 2023 is a pivotal year for the Alpine Cowboys. The last two seasons have concluded with first round playoff exits featuring the opposing team celebrating on the Kokernot Field pitcher's mound. The Cowboys, on the hunt for their first Pecos League championship since 2019, enter the 2023 campaign with something to prove.

Field Manager Sean Persky returns for his fifth season at the helm and seventh overall with the organization. Former Cowboys pitcher Alejandro Amezcua joins the coaching staff as the team's new pitching coach. Persky presided over the 2019 championship team, on which

Amezcua was a player, and knows what it will take to bring Alpine a third title.

"Having a group of guys that have playoff experience, experience at the professional level and understand the dynamic of the Alpine Cowboys are what it takes to bring home a championship," Persky said. "We've got some quality returners and some very talented new guys."

Several members of last year's Cowboys squad received promo-



The Alpine Cowboys began this season's play yesterday in Roswell.

tions to higher independent leagues. All-Star first baseman Bryce Donovan was selected 13th overall in the Pioneer League draft by the Billings Mustangs. Catcher Dylan Nolan was picked up by the Kane County Cougars of the American Association.

Third baseman James Prockish received an invitation to spring training with the Frontier League's Ottawa Titans but has since been returned to the Cowboys. Relief pitcher Jared Strait spent time after the 2022 season with

the Frontier's Empire State Greys and will be back with Alpine this year.

Notable returning players include the Mountain Division's reigning Most Valuable Player Mark Traylor and speedy center fielder Andrew Ca-

pone. Traylor will be out of action to begin the season as he recovers from early May hernia surgery. He is expected to return June 10 when the Cowboys face the

See COWBOYS • 10

Alpine Cowboys Home Run 10k



Hatfield Cason crosses the home plate finish line after completing the Alpine Cowboys Home Run 10k this past weekend.

Courtesy photo

SUMMER SAVINGS WAVE

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AMS softball teams compete in Van Horn



Alpine Middle School softball teams traveled to Van Horn on May 20 to compete in a tournament against area teams. The AMS Purple team won the championship, while the AMS Gold team placed third.

Courtesy photo

Alpine Cowboys Home Run 10k



Bob and Lucy Ward man a "water stop" for participants in this past week-end's Alpine Cowboys Home Run 5k and 10k race.

Courtesy photo

AMS eighth-grader qualifies for rodeo state finals



Rode Babb, an outgoing eighth-grader at Alpine Middle School, qualified for the Texas Junior High State Finals in the Chute Dogging and Team Roping. Rode is the son of Haley and Levi Babb. The state finals were comprised of over 850 athletes from all over the State of Texas and held in Gonzales.

Courtesy photo

COWBOYS • FROM 8

Austin Weirdos on the road.

Persky spent the off-season exhaustively recruiting players and called this spring training "the most competitive one in the last seven years." In addition to the 13 returns, Alpine invited 34 new players to camp, which began May 15. A solid collection of young outfielders will look to complement Capone in Traylor's absence.

Alpine shored up its middle infield with returners Manny Garcia, Josh Laurie and Alex Canty. The catching core consists of Kam Holland and newcomer Jake Sisto, though a third could be added.

The Cowboys' pitching staff will be spearheaded by ace right-hander Matt Hess, who impressed in limited action last season after debuting in late July. Notably, last year's No. 1 starter Buzz Shirley is not in the organization's plans for 2023. Starter Ryan Greco and bullpen arms Michael Castillo, Jonathan Triesler and Strait are the only other returners to the pitching staff, which will feature mostly rookies.

"What I have seen so far, we should have a great group of players that will bring Alpine a 2023 championship," Cowboys general manager

er Kristin Cavness said.

The Pecos League awarded the 2023 Mountain Division All-Star Game to the Cowboys May 6. The game will be played at Kokernot Field Sunday, July 16 at 6 p.m. A home run derby will take place before the game, which will bring the best of the Mountain Division's eight teams into town.

Alpine has not hosted an All-Star Game since the now-defunct Continental League held their mid-summer classic at

Kokernot in 2010.

"For the community, it's a great opportunity to come out and see the best that the league has to offer. It's always a fun event. It's the best of the best," Persky said.

The Cowboys open up their 54-game schedule on the road in Roswell, New Mexico, against the defending-champion Invaders Wednesday, May 31, at 8 p.m. CST. Alpine's home opener is slated for Saturday, June 3, against the Austin Weirdos at 7 p.m.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MATEO MIRANDA

Mateo is a team leader and mentor to his teammates and continues to help lead the Bucks.

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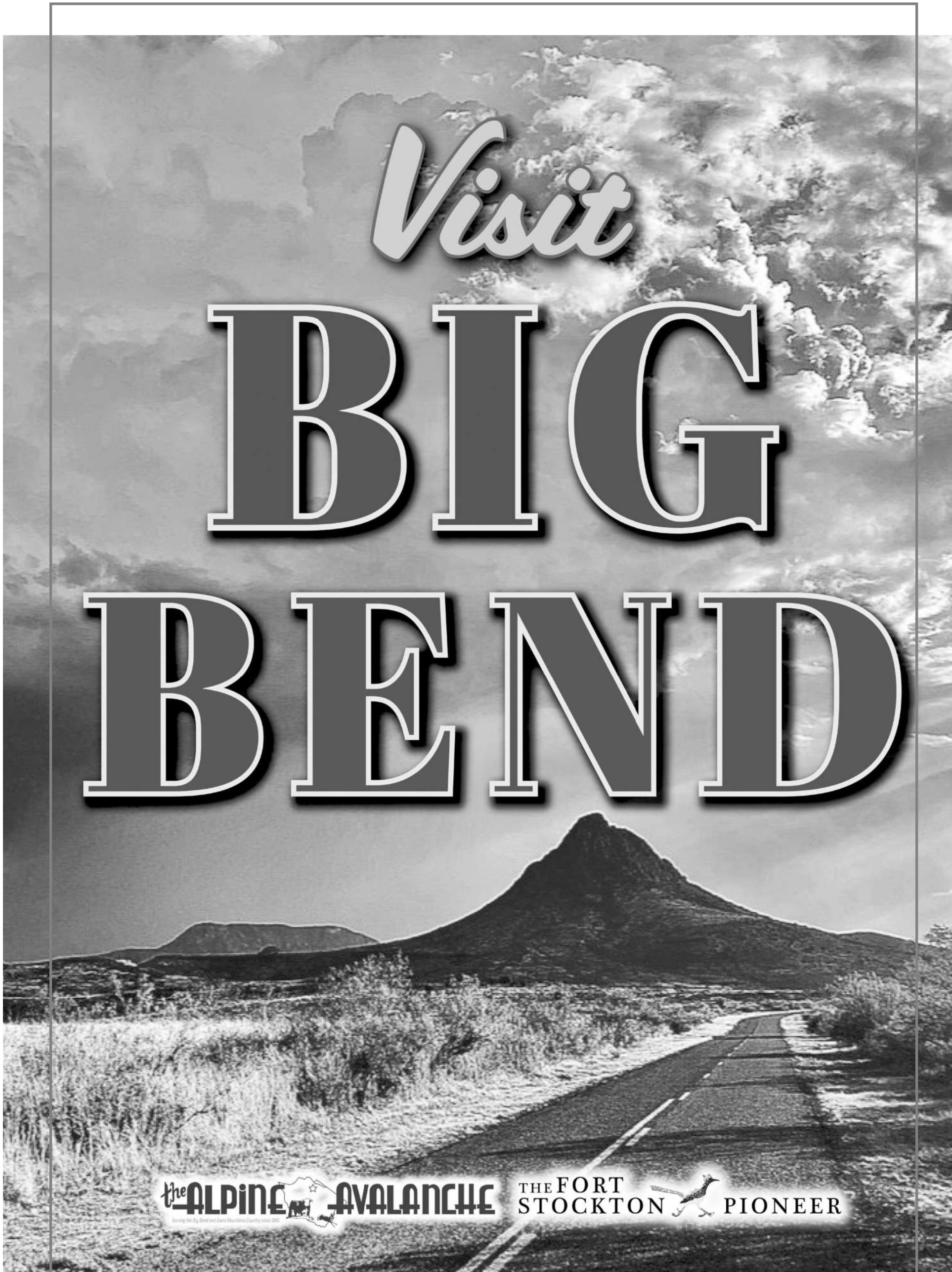
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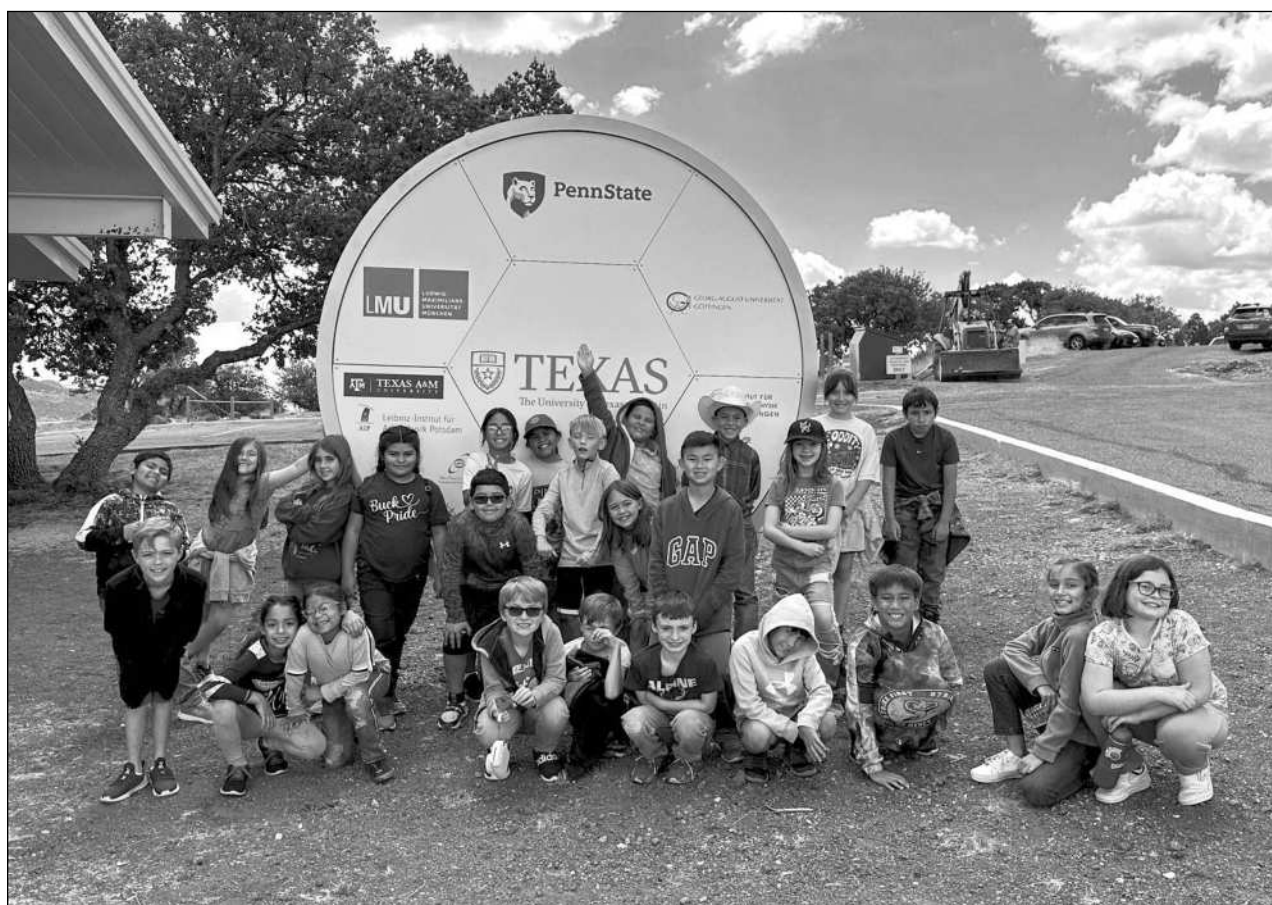
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Alpine third-graders visit observatory



The last week of school saw Alpine Elementary third-graders enjoy a visit to the McDonald Observatory, where they observed views from the top of Mt. Fowlkes and learned about the Hobby-Eberly Telescope.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Azra Gunes



Azra Gunes

In what activities did you participate in high school?

During high school I participated in Marching and Concert Band, Academic UIL, FTC and FRC robotics competitions, and National Honor Society.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

All my teachers had a profound impact on me, but I am especially thankful to Mr. Saunders, Mr. Crenshaw, and Coach Valenzuela for challenging me with something new every day and preparing me for my life after high school.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?

My favorite moment of high school was the Regional Academic UIL Competition in Abilene last year. It

allowed me to spend time doing what I love, and I am grateful to be a part of such a group of like-minded people.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan to pursue my Bachelor's in computer engineering, and then continue towards my master's and doctorate in the same field. I would like to work as a senior computer engineer in a high-profile company as I get more experience.

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Devotional Page The Holy Spirit is the Present Tense of God

BY REVEREND BILL COTMAN
First Presbyterian Church of Alpine

There are many claims about what God does, or does not, like being used in today's public discourse. Politicians have always claimed God was on their side, or in agreement with them, no matter what they are peddling at the time. In 1949 T.S. Eliot said: "The worst of all things to do is to advocate Christianity, not because it is true, but because it might be beneficial." Eliot's concern was the public misuse of a cultural Christianity to promote nationalism. He had seen the problems it created in World War I, and again in World War II; and he felt that people should come to God because of who God is rather than for how we can benefit. Christian Nationalism's been around since the 1800s, but it was not a concept most people had heard of until fairly recently. What concerns me, as a Christian pastor, is that a majority of Americans today have no faith affiliation and may be disillusioned by people claiming that their Christian faith is an explanation for some of the less-than-Christian things they do or say.

Pentecost is an ancient Hebrew Spring harvest festival, 50 days after Passover. For Christians, Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter; it is celebrated to recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, realizing that God's very life, breath & energy lives in believers. On the day of Pentecost, when Je-

sus' disciples and thousands of others were gathered in Jerusalem, the Spirit of God is sent to dwell not only among them, but within them individually and collectively. The Holy Spirit is the present tense of God: The One who gives us faith, the One who makes God present among us when we gather in Christ's name; this One is dwelling within all people. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus' Apostles no longer feared, but were energized to proclaim the Good News of Christ, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, God's intervening presence in the world.

We live in a culture, today, of independence and oftentimes unrealistic concepts of "liberty." We are taught to always be concerned about our individual right to do whatever we want & to be whoever we want to be; what we may think of as "freedom." Unfortunately, this understanding does not take into consideration that we must live in relationship with others. Followers of Christ must be considerate of the rights of others to be who they are. We cannot live in isolation; Christians have to consider the wellbeing of others as well as ourselves. 1John 4:20 tells us that if we say we love God & don't love each other, we are liars! If we care for each other the way God cares for us, we will never be without hope. Jesus says that the witness of the Christian community is not going to be in its words, but in the way we live. His indwelling presence in the community of faith is his continuing presence in the world.

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Recently I purchased myself a Mediterranean cookbook because my knowledge about that cuisine is fairly limited. I'm aware of course that there is a use of a variety of spices and vegetables but have never been exposed to much of it.

In typical "me" fashion, I had to change things up. There was no way I could just follow a recipe the way it is written. Because why begin



conforming now, right? So, the difference was,

instead of shoving the chicken into a pita pocket with olives or pickles and arugula as the recipe suggested, I decided it needed to resemble the Greek dish spanakopita. If you are not familiar with that dish, it is a spinach dish surrounded by layers of flaky phyllo. The rest of the chicken shawarma was prepared according to directions, but I just thought surrounding it in phyllo would add a

unique twist.

Another element I added was homemade jalapeno hummus. Hummus is quite simple to make, and there are numerous recipes that can be found online, or you can purchase it at the store.

Although this dish requires considerable prep work and takes some time to come to fruition, I promise that the depth of flavors is well worth the time and trouble.



Chicken Shawarma in phyllo with jalapeno hummus and tzatziki sauce.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Chicken Shawarma in phyllo with tzatziki sauce

Ingredients:

- 1/3 tbsp. ground cumin
- 1/3 tbsp. ground turmeric
- 1/3 tbsp. ground coriander
- 1/3 tbsp. garlic powder
- 1/3 tbsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper or more to taste
- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 large onion thinly sliced.
- 1 large lemon, juiced.
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Fresh arugula
- Pickles or olives if desired

Directions:

In a small bowl, combine the cumin, turmeric, coriander, garlic powder, paprika, cloves, and cayenne pepper and set aside.
Pat the chicken thighs dry and season with salt on both sides, then thinly slice into small, bite-sized pieces.
Transfer the sliced chicken to a large bowl and add the shawarma spices and toss to coat. Add the onions, lemon juice, and olive oil and toss again.
Cover tightly and refrigerate for three hours or overnight. If pressed for time, skip this step, or reduce time by half.
Preheat oven to 425.
Remove the chicken from the refrigerator

and allow to sit at room temperature for a few minutes.
Transfer and spread the marinated chicken with the onions in a single layer on a large, lightly oiled baking sheet.
Roast for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. While the chicken is roasting, on another baking sheet, begin layering half sheets of phyllo dough, coating each layer with butter, approximately six to eight sheets thick. Place roasted chicken and onion mixture into the middle of the phyllo and fold over to create a triangle shape. Fold ends in to contain chicken and then place back into the oven until golden brown. Serve immediately.

Ingredients:

- 1/3 English cucumber partially peeled and sliced.
- 1 tsp. Kosher salt
- 4 to 5 cloves garlic peeled and finely grated or minced.
- 1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving.
- 1 tsp white vinegar
- 2 cups Greek yogurt
- 1/4 tsp. ground white pepper
- Fresh dill optional
- Fresh mint optional

Tzatziki Sauce

Directions:

Grate the cucumbers in a food processor, then toss with 1/2 tsp. of salt. Transfer to a fine mesh strainer over a deep bowl to drain, about 10 minutes.
Spoon the cucumber into a piece of cheesecloth or a double-thickness napkin and squeeze dry and set aside.
In a large mixing bowl, combine the garlic with the remaining 1/2 tsp. of salt, olive oil, and vinegar.

Mix to combine evenly.
Add the grated cucumber to the garlic mixture, stir in the yogurt and white pepper and combine thoroughly.
Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours.
When ready to serve, stir to refresh and transfer to a serving bowl. Drizzle with more extra-virgin olive oil if desired and garnish with fresh dill and mint if desired.

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