

## More than 115 years of dancing at the Post

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Marilyn Shackelford, 82, and a Marathon native, began dancing at the Post in 1945 at age four. Coincidentally, her first dance was with her long-time beau and husband Macky Shackelford, who was five at the time of their first dance.

In the last 115 plus years, the July 4th dance has been held in Marathon, at the Post, annually, with only a few exceptions.

According to Marilyn, her grandmother told her that there was not a dance in 1916 because the soldiers stationed at the Post, known officially as Fort Pena Colorado, had to leave to attend to a raid that was happening on Glenn Springs, in what is now a part of Big Bend National Park.

In 1922, there was a railway stop between Alpine and Marathon called Haymond. Haymond had built up with a small grocery store and other conveniences, so the annual dance was

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FEATURED

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**Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport**

2023 . . . . .4.71"  
July . . . . .1.03"



**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.**



## AISD's deficit budget offers grim outlook

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD board of trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting on June 21 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a special called meeting held on June 28 in the board room of the AISD administration building.

Single Member District 2 trustee Joe Portillo was absent for the June 21 meeting and Single Member District 6

trustee Dr. Adrian Billings was absent for the June 28 special called meeting.

While the regular meeting tackled the usual reports and updates from the three AISD campuses, the focus was on a budget workshop, to discuss the challenges for the upcoming school year and what the following years will look like once the Formula Transition Grant ends.



Dr. Michelle Rinehart

House Bill 3 that was passed in 2019 was supposed to bring funding for public school districts up to at least a 3% increase per student, to allegedly balance all of the districts in Texas.

This was not the case for AISD, nor many other rural districts. "The formula used by the state to determine the funding increase actually worked against AISD, and we received less money than we'd previous-

ly received in state supported funding. After 2025, this grant will no longer serve AISD, and the outlook is grim," said Dr. Michelle Rinehart.

Clay Braden, now the former CFO of AISD and the new CFO Chris Valenzuela, along with Dr. Rinehart, worked diligently to come up with a budget for the 2023-2024 school year that will begin on July 1. While the

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## Making July 4th the 'Coolest' in Fort Davis



One of the many entries in this last Saturday's "Coolest 4th of July" parade in Fort Davis featured kids decked out in red, white, and blue and waving American flags.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## New board partners city, county for emergency services

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

A new board, the Alpine Emergency Services Board, colloquially referred to as the Alpine Fire department, has been established to oversee the emergency services for the area.

The seven-member board is made up of local citizens and is a joint effort between the city and the county.

Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington, who has an extensive background in fire department management, and is familiar with many of the possible structures, approached the city with a reorganization plan that would expedite the emergency management process.

Previously, while the county owned the building and the city owned the equipment, the city had taken on the expense of

the fire department and would bill the county for county services later. With a bit of a convoluted structure, this system had its faults.

Henington suggested returning to the shared county and city expense structure, alleviating the city's responsibility, while granting the county the ability to revitalize the management system.

"I like structure," said Henington. He went to the city and proposed that it should all be brought under one umbrella, and with his experience, volunteered the county to take on the development.

With this partnership comes a split in expense, the return of equipment to the county building, and three member spots for city and four spots for county. Members will be appointed by



Greg Henington

each entity and can serve for three-year terms.

Part of the agreement for this 50/50 expense split was the development of the Alpine Emergency Services Board, which is set to provide business management and oversight for the fire department.

This board is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, that receives funding from both city and county that will report to the city council and the commissioners court at quarterly intervals, improving accountability and business leadership.

The board's first and current members have been selected. Chaired by Paul Loeffler, the vice president is Aaron Rodriguez, the treasurer is Stacey Wood, and the secretary is Rusty Moore. Other members include Albert Lujan, Al-

bert Benitez, who both have firefighting backgrounds, and Stephanie Elmore, who is the Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator.

The board will meet monthly, with the most recent occurring on Monday, July 3. It will function as a policy board as opposed to an operations board.

"I believe that anytime a government tries to run something operationally, it isn't very good at it. Just my opinion. But I think there are government functions, and this is one of them. Let's put it in the hands of the citizens, and oversee it," said Henington.

When it comes to separate management bodies, Henington believes that overseeing them to make sure they are complying with the rules and regulations offers efficiency.

See BOARD • 6

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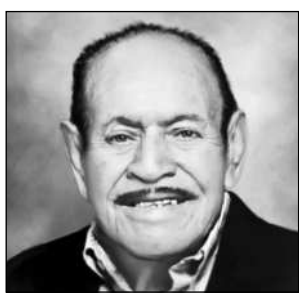
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## OBITUARIES

### Benito Aranda Cobos



Benito "Ben" Aranda Cobos Jr., 89 years old, passed away peacefully on June 27, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Alpine.

Ben was born on April 13, 1934, to Benito Franco Cobos and Elvira Aranda Cobos in Alpine. Ben was part of the Cobos family that was one of the first settling families in the late 1800's in Murphyville,

which is now known as Alpine. He is survived by his wife of sixty-eight years, Manuela Ramos Cobos. He is also survived by his sisters Faye Leos and Viola Voris and

preceded in death by his parents, brothers Jose Alfredo Cobos and Patricio Cobos and sisters Enedina Cobos and Elma Macias.

Ben and Manuela were married on April 2, 1955, in Alpine. They had a total of eleven children, Gracie Cobos Davila, Felix Cobos, Virginia Cobos Caballero, Ben Cobos III, Oscar Cobos, Raymond Cobos, Gloria Cobos, Felipe Cobos, Clovis Cobos, David

Cobos, and Lori Cobos. They have twenty-four grandchildren and twenty-six great-grandchildren.

Throughout his earlier years, Ben worked at Casner's Automotive Dealership and the City of Alpine. In his later years, he loved being outside in his garage working on his antique trucks and cars while listening to his music records, working on his yard, and sitting on

his front porch enjoying the beautiful Alpine weather. He was a strong-willed, hard-working man who had a tremendous love for his wife and family and had a great sense of humor which involved joking around and playing pranks on everyone.

Ben instilled in his children the importance of hard work, self-worth, resourcefulness, and family. Most important, his strong belief in

accepting Jesus Christ as savior before departing from this world and reuniting with departed loved ones again. He leaves behind many great memories and will be greatly missed by his wife, family, relatives, and friends.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

### Gabriella "Gabby" Allyse Rodriguez



It is with great sadness and extremely heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Gabriella "Gabby" Allyse Rodriguez, beloved mother, daughter, fiancée, friend and her unborn son, Ezekiel Nathaniel Rodriguez Gonzalez.

Gabby was born March 16, 1996, in Del Rio, to parents Lupita Celaya and Roy Oscar Rodriguez.

Gabby lived life fully

and with no regrets, she was a kind and considerate person who cared deeply about her family and friends. Her sudden death has left a huge hole in so many hearts.

Gabby leaves behind her fiancée, Raymundo Gonzalez, and son Eliz-

ardo Roy Villanueva; brother Jonathan Roy Rodriguez and mother Lupita Celaya; paternal grandparents Roy Rodriguez and Elva Rodriguez; maternal grandmother Hortensia Celaya, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and niece.

Gabby was preceded in death by her father, Roy Oscar Rodriguez and her maternal grandfather, Castulo Celaya.

A viewing was held Friday, June 23, from 5-7 p.m. at Alpine Me-

morial Funeral Home. A funeral service was held Saturday, June 24, at 10 a.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

Her family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, words, and acts of love they have received.

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

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## Downtown Hoedown



Kathy Reed visits with Carl and Andy Covington at this past Saturday's "Downtown Hoedown" held on the corner of 5th Street and Holland Avenue. A good crowd of area locals showed up to enjoy good food, good music, and good company.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## VBS mule team



The First Baptist Church of Fort Davis hooked up their mule team to take their Vacation Bible School participants down the main street during this past Saturday's 4th of July parade.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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## Request for Proposals

The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine, Texas, will receive Requests for Proposals for the 2020 CFP, **UNIT Modification Project** at TX284, Unit Sites "B" and "C" until 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at the Alpine Housing Authority Office at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Alpine, Texas, 79830, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for the modernization work.

Proposed forms of Contract Documents, and Specifications, are on file at the Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Alpine, Texas; at the Administrative Office at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Alpine, Texas.

Attention is called to the provisions for equal employment opportunity, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. As amend. 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3), and payment of not less than the prevailing salaries and wages, as set forth in the Contract Documents, that must be adhered to on this project.

The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals or to waive any informality in the Bidding.

No Bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without the consent of The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine.

Proposals are to be submitted to the attention of: Ms. Elva Torres, Executive Director at P.O. Box 1274, Alpine, Texas, 79830 or physical address at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Alpine, Texas 79830

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## Sul Ross nursing students receive donation



**Katie Miller, PBAHEC director; Dr. Bonnie Warnock, dean of the College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Science, Angela McGuyer, instructional technologist, Sul Ross Department of Nursing; and Bianca Gray, PBAHEC.**

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Permian Basin Area Health Education Center, or PBAHEC for short, recently donated lab equipment to the Sul Ross Department of Nursing worth more than \$2,700. Among the equipment donated were

IV start kits, tourniquets, syringes, needles, tubing, and simulated medication dosages.

The PBAHEC is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration along with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. They serve 27

counties in West Texas, and they also offer several scholarships that are available to Sul Ross' nursing students.

Their goals are to introduce secondary education students to health careers by providing clinical training in rural and underserved commu-

nities for students who are pursuing a health care profession, supporting health care providers and organizations with continuing education, recruiting assistance and other activities, and promoting healthy living in the communities in which they serve.

Courtesy photo

## Senate passes tax bill as second special session begins

The Texas Senate on the first day of the Legislature's second special session unanimously passed a tax bill last Wednesday that increases the homestead exemption and includes a pay hike for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The first special session ended with the Senate and House unable to agree on how to provide property tax relief.

The Senate bill provides a \$2,000 pay increase for teachers in urban districts over the next two years, and a \$6,000 hike for teachers in rural areas. It increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan are set to meet in an attempt to come to agreement on the property tax issue, after Patrick texted the best way to resolve debt differences between House and Senate versions would be to meet face-to-face.

"They have responded; we're looking forward to a meeting. ... Whenever that is, I believe we can get this resolved quickly," Patrick told the Statesman.

During the first special session, the House passed its version of a property tax package on the first day and immediately adjourned for the remainder of the 30-day session.

## I-20 Wildlife Preserve to enlarge outdoor classroom

The I-20 Wildlife Preserve will enlarge its outdoor classroom in an entirely new way this summer when they welcome high school students into its new Conservation Job Corps program Monday morning.

The program blends life skills lessons, such as learning to use tools, with classroom instruction, and hands-on exploration and observation. Students will have the opportunity to investigate several Texas ecosystems, as well as meet with experts, scientists, and graduate students on their field trips across the state.

"It is our hope that the program will encourage them to learn in nature and become lifelong advocates for the lands that surround them," explained Wes Faris, executive director of the Preserve.

The I-20 Wildlife Preserve is a learning environment like no other. It is a 100-acre riparian forest campus in Midland. It serves the people of 19 counties, including Midland, Ector, Pe-

cos, Howard, Crane, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Andrews, Ward, and Reeves.

The Preserve is a wild space – not a park. The 86-acre urban playa lake is the highlight of the wetlands, floodplain thickets and prairie grasslands found there. The urban playa lake is an ephemeral wetland, and the shallow, clay-lined basins are a primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer.

While the Ogallala is vast, it is a rapidly depleting source of groundwater that is vital to all life in the Permian Basin and across much of the country's high plains. There has never been a more important time to learn about the protection and management of groundwater.

"These scientist-students will find incredible teachers and mentors in Jaxon McAndrew, the Preserve's Conservation Land Manager, and Evelyn Guerrero, a UT Permian Basin student doing pollinator research at the Preserve. Our students will spend the next month working and

learning on the Preserve and traversing several other Texas ecosystems," Faris added.

They will take a field trip to the Trans-Pecos, where they will learn about wildlife management and native prairie restoration from Borderland Research Institute graduate students. At the Nine Point Ranch, they will learn to band Montezuma quail.

No West Texas exploration would be complete without a trip to the Monahans Sandhills, a unique dune ecosystem that is home to bluestem grass and sand reeds that help stabilize the soil. In the summer, the park will bloom with yellow sandhill sunflowers, pink penstemons, bright white heliotropes, yucca flowers and so much more. The Sandhills are home to Jerusalem crickets, javelina, mule deer and the sagebrush lizard.

Students will also explore forest ecosystems and meet the Caprock Task Force at Reese Air Force Base. Then, they'll see seedlings being nurtured at the West Texas

Nursery in Idalou.

"Texas A&M University and the Texas Forest Service use the seedlings in their reforestation projects, and the trees grown there are also used in all kinds of urban restoration projects, attracting more wildlife and creating natural windbreaks on properties," Faris said.

Students will then head to the Gulf Coast. In Corpus Christi, they will learn about marine biology at the Harte Research Institute. Then they'll head to the San Antonio Zoo. There, they'll meet up with zoo biologists who have been working with Texas Christian University on a grow-and-release program for the horned lizard.

Since opening in 2013, the I-20 Wildlife Preserve has served thousands of West Texans through programs in education, wellness, citizen science and land management. This new

Conservation Job Corps program is an expansion of its vision of being a "living laboratory."

Faris said he is hopeful that the program will continue to grow.

"We hope to enroll even more future scientists and nature enthu-

siasts from across the Permian Basin over the next few years. Their work will help preserve the ecosystems in the Permian Basin and Texas for generations to come."

The program begins Monday, June 26, and wraps up July 21.


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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON **JULY 26, 2023** TO ASSESS COMPLIANCE AND TO ABATE VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY'S DANGEROUS BUILDING ORDINANCE AND INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE. THE BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION MAY FINE AND ORDER ACTION TO ABATE NUISANCE CONDITIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY'S MINIMUM PROPERTY STANDARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

1. PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE IF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1203 E AVE H IS A DANGEROUS STRUCTURE AND TO DETERMINE IF THE OWNER WILL BE ORDERED TO SECURE, REPAIR, REMOVE, OR DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS AND IS IN VIOLATION OF THE CITY'S DANGEROUS BUILDING ORDINANCE. THE PROPERTY IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT NINE (9), BLOCK FORTY-TWO (42), HANCOCK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ALPINE, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNER IS ROSA MARIE RUIZ, 1205 N 10TH ST. THE PARCEL ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS R10787.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT **803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE** TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM) OR BY PHONE AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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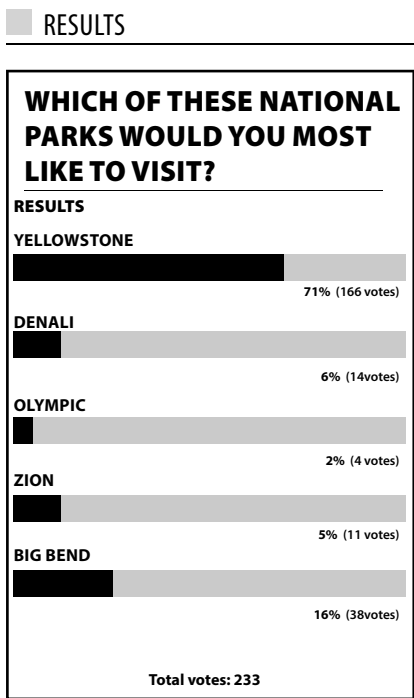
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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL



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Now the Avalanche asks:

Which of these would you say is man's greatest achievement?

- Technology
- The Written Word
- Industrialization
- Scientific Discoveries
- Art and Music

Vote for this week's poll online at: [www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://www.AlpineAvalanche.com)

## LETTERS

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

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## Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats

Now that I'm six months into the County Judge position, friends are always asking me "Greg, are you regretting running for the position?" or "Greg, is being the CJ like having your wisdom teeth removed?"



GREG HENINGTON  
Brewster County Judge

Well, the simple answer is not at all! In fact, I'm really enjoying being able to serve my community - despite its busy agenda and the challenges I could not have dreamed of a year ago.

With that answer allow me to give you an analysis of how I see Brewster County. This is from my perspective

only, so don't assume this is set in stone somewhere.

The strengths of Brewster County are that it is financially stable with a robust budgeting process. We also have the best and most dedicated employees of any county in Texas as well as a strong county law enforcement presence. With strengths come weaknesses, and thus far Brewster County has some systems and processes that are in need of streamlining and updating. The accounting software that we currently are using is out of date and needs replacing, and there

are many county projects that were put on hold during the pandemic that need to be revitalized.

Despite these weaknesses, Brewster County offers many opportunities and sits at the top of several lists. For instance, the county is sitting at the top of the state's list for broadband expansion. Such expansion makes Brewster County very favorable for the right business investment. Travel and leisure also remain strong within the United States at this time, and Brewster County is poised to receive the benefits of those tourism dollars.

Threats to the county are not new, and one of the biggest is the unfunded man-

dates that Brewster County must implement, but without the support from the state. The county is also under inflationary pressure, which is driving up the cost of operations, and there also continues to be supply chain shortages for the county. By no means are these items exhaustive of our challenges, but it should give you an idea of what lies ahead for Brewster County. As always, feel free to come and chew the fat with me at the courthouse or email me with questions at [greg.henington@co.brewster.tx.us](mailto:greg.henington@co.brewster.tx.us). I can be reached at 432-837-2412. If I'm not in, ask Kimberly or Geni to set up a time for a visit.

## Two 'dumb stuff' records are still intact

*"Don't worry about getting older. You're still going to do dumb stuff. It's just hurts a little more."*

— A saying that used to be funny

Even at this age, two of my dumb stuff records are still intact. Neither is worthy of notoriety. But one of them, I seem destined to challenge every so often.

Last week's attempt resulted in another unscheduled visit for medical attention, replete with all the stereotypical "yes or no" questions.

Are you allergic to anything?

"Falling on concrete," I said with a grin and a grimace.

Recent surgeries?

"No."

Recent illnesses?

"No."

Ever broken any bones?"

"No," I offered. "And that's a record I hope is not broken today."

I thought it was funny. Apparently, not everyone appreciates my humor.

Accidents in the last five years?

"You mean prior to the one this morning?"

Have you fallen lately?

"Well, since you brought it up, let's talk more about this morning."

Falling was not on my list of things to do that morning. Beautiful day. Sun shining. Summer in full broiler mode.

I had acres of concrete parking lot to walk back to my car. Perfectly level surface. Cup of coffee in one

hand and reaching in my pocket for car keys with the other.

That's when it happened. For unknown reasons, putting weight on my right leg caused it to respond with, "I don't think so, not right this minute."

Natural reflexes called on my left leg as a backup. "Hey man," it shouted. "I'm not done with my job over here yet."

Conflicting forces collided, and gravity sent me rolling on the concrete. Fortunately, my guardian angel working the day shift was Johnny. Johnny on the spot.

I've been through several guardian angels. Some, I've scared the daylight out of. Others, I've worn out or simply caused them to throw up their hands and resign.

Last week's was right there. Despite torn slacks, scraped elbow and a knee, and coffee stains everywhere, I felt decent standing up. "Dodged another bullet," I thought.

Then I tried to walk.

No stranger to accidents or emergency rooms, things like wrecks, ladders, lawnmowers, and temporary losses of good judgment over the years include a motorcycle wreck. The night a team of angels was riding with me.

The late-night trip from where I worked at the newspaper in Naples to home in Mount Pleasant ended when the bike's rear tire surrendered its air at about 70



LEON ALDRIDGE  
Guest Columnist

miles per hour. Catapulted me over the handlebars. I took the windshield with me. Meeting the pavement head-on, literally. I still remember thinking, "This is going leave a mark."

After surfing the pavement and narrowly missing the tumbling motorcycle, I stood up slowly and looked around. In the middle of a dark four-lane highway where I could see no car lights in either direction, I realized the extent of good fortune that was allowing me to do so.

A quick inventory revealed that I had not simply survived but did so miraculously without gaping holes or missing limbs. Removing my helmet was most sobering. Much of the outer shell on the right side was missing. Ground completely through to the padded lining. Angels again.

Angels were still at work when I walked towards a light at the top of the hill, where I found a friend who provided comfort and a trip to the emergency room. A call was made to family physician Dr. Lee McKellar, who arrived minutes later.

A patient care procedure sadly not seen in today's health care world.

"What happened," doc asked while checking me over.

"I had a motorcycle

wreck. Near your house on 67."

"Why didn't you come on up to the house," he asked.

"Guess a late-night visit to your house just didn't cross my mind," I laughed.

Determining that nothing was broken, and a shoulder separation was the worst of my injuries, he "harnessed" me back together with plans for a morning visit with an orthopedic surgeon who missed his calling as a comedian.

He outlined the six-week plan for repair and healing, saying, "You'll be good as new. With one exception ... your collar bone will heal with a slight bump on your shoulder. Which shouldn't be a problem unless you plan on wearing strapless evening gowns."

The verdict last week was again nothing broken or fractured. I reached up and felt the collarbone bump that's been there for decades as I waited for providers and insurance companies to haggle things out before providing treatment. A patient care procedure sadly seen far too many times in today's healthcare world.

This time, it was just concrete rash and hyper-extended muscles and tendons that scream in agony when I sit. Or walk. Or bend. Or lie down. Or think about it.

But thank the Lord, as of last week's spill, both records remain intact.

I've never broken a bone. And I've never worn a strapless evening gown.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Biden	Tony Gonzales	John Cornyn	Ted Cruz
The White House	United States House of Representatives	United States Senate	United States Senate
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW	Washington, DC 20515	517 Hart Senate Office Building	185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20500	202-456-1111	Washington, D.C. 20510-4305	Washington, D.C. 20510-4306
		202-224-2934	202-224-5922



# Heard on the STREET

*What food combinations do you love that people might think are weird?*



**Alyn Covington:** Chicken quesadilla with raspberry jam. When I want to make an easy snack, sometimes I pair a tart jam with a chicken quesadilla. I just like how everything comes together; a little sweet, a little crisp, and very cheesy.



**Holly Black:** Dipping french fries in a Wendy's Frosty. Also, surprisingly enough, peanut butter on a cheeseburger or swapping out the bun on a burger for a glazed donut.



**Monty Welt:** Honey on pizza crust is the bomb.



**Ryan Zent:** Dipping pizza crust in Coke or Dr Pepper. I think I've been doing that since junior high. I can't really describe it, but it's almost that sweet and savory combination without being extreme and if you do it right, it softens the crust without making it soggy.



**Lori Ann Overstreet:** My favorite cereal with a spoonful of peanut butter! French toast with peanut butter and maple syrup! I also love to eat spicy chips and a yogurt smoothie shake, it's amazing.

Send your community events to [kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org) or stop by and visit the circulation desk for more information.

**July 7-23 Theatre of the Big Bend,** 8 p.m. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" to be performed each night.

**July 7 4th of July Celebration,** at Post Park in Marathon with games, food trucks, and music to begin at 5 p.m.

**July 8 "Dancing with Big Bend's Stars,"** 6:30 p.m. fundraising dance competition for the Alpine Public Library at the Granada. Visit [alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org) or call 432-837-2621 for more information.



## ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous,** 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or [aa-intergroup.org](http://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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbc-chorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbc-chorale.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

# 'Coolest 4th' parade



Horses are always a big part of the "Coolest 4th of July" parade held in Fort Davis.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

# Fort Davis history lesson



Families gather around the stage on the lawn of the Jeff Davis County courthouse last Saturday to listen to the history of Fort Davis during their 4th of July celebration.

Photo courtesy of Kara Gerbert

# PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Bean. Bean may be small like a bean but he's mighty. He enjoys tackling his siblings and showing them who is in charge. Lighting quick, he likes to keep everyone on their toes. Sure, his big brother may pin him down, but he knows he is no match for Bean's reflexes. Bean is sure he can take anyone, but he would love to have a teammate in his corner. Adopting him with a sibling or any other kitten will make a happy life for them and plenty of entertainment in your home.



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. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is located at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit [PetFinder.com](http://PetFinder.com) or [www.alpinehumanesociety.org](http://www.alpinehumanesociety.org), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

Pet of the Week promotions are courtesy of Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles 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

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**REATA RESTAURANT**  
**COCINERO:** Beef • Chicken • Shrimp  
**STARTERS:** Tortilla Soup Bowl • Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup • Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup • Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos  
 CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney  
**SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:**  
 (Your choice of any two items)  
 Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup  
 Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich  
 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

[www.alpineavalanche.com](http://www.alpineavalanche.com)

**CITY OF ALPINE**  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON JULY 11, 2023 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCE:  
**ORDINANCE 2023-06-01: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL FOUR WAY STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND SUL ROSS AVENUE, THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND AVENUE A, THE INTERSECTIONS OF 7TH AND HENDRYX AVENUE, AND THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND DEL RIO AVENUE.**  
 THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

## Multiple generations converge for Coolest 4th of July



Fort Davis' next generation of Jarratts enjoyed the festivities and booths after the parade at this past Saturday's "Coolest 4th of July." Pictured are John Wesley, Lance, and Amelia Margaret Jarratt.

### BOARD • FROM 1

"I think those kinds of partnerships, if executed properly, work," Henington said.

Some of the inspiration for this board's development came from

the Emergency Service District in south county, Terlingua. About 20 years ago, a non-profit board was created to help manage their needs.

"It got citizens involved in the decision making in the fire department, which I think is very important, because fire departments are citizen oriented," Henington said.

### AISD • FROM 1

new budget that was presented to the board was still a deficit budget of around \$178,000, it was smaller than the previous year's deficit budget of almost \$3 million.

In conjunction with the budget, a new compensation package for teachers was brought before the board. The proposal was for an expansion of leave days for teachers from eight to 10, an additional \$3,000 retention pay for certified teachers, the expansion of the longevity cap for teachers that have been working 30 years or more; the district cap is currently 25 years, and raising non-certified teachers pay to the state minimum.

Non-certified teachers are currently earning \$26,500 and the increase to state minimum would bring their salaries to around \$34,000. The caveat being that with non-certified teachers, they have a three-year period in which to earn their certification, and then their position expires, and they are required to reapply for their position. The idea was that the added money in salary would encourage and aid them in completing their certification.

All staff and employees would also still see the \$1,000 allotment in December for the new fiscal year.

It was not all dismal news in relation to funding, as Dr. Rinehart reported to the board that with the partnership of the Permian Basin Area Foundation which manages the Alpine Public Education Fund, several projects the district was working on were already fully funded and some of the others were partially funded through grants that come in through the PBAF.

In other news, the

childcare center that will be located at the Alpine ISD Administration building was undergoing some minor demolition. Two of the five rooms slated for the center had carpet removed and it was replaced with other flooring, conduit that housed old phone lines and the like that were not in use had been removed, and a small, non-support wall was taken down.

The board then scheduled the special called meeting for June 28.

At the June 28 meeting, the board was called to revisit the budget along with the new recommended compensation plan presented at the previous meeting, as well as tax rates.

Braden, who joined via audio conference told the board that the taxes collected for the maintenance and operations of AISD was \$316,000 less than expected for the year. "I'm sure this is a combination of people not paying their taxes, along with the CAD discrepancies," Braden said. Rinehart followed up with the fact that the discrepancy between the state comptroller's office and the Brewster County CAD was a \$313,000 difference.

The board is unable to vote on a tax rate at this time, because they must wait until August when state numbers are available. Braden discussed the possibilities of several changes in the rates that would allow the district in one instance to pay off their bond note earlier than the 30-year life of the note but would cost local taxpayers more. He also discussed leaving it as is, which would allow the district to still be able to make their payments, but they would be held to keeping payments for the life of

the loan for the 30-year period.

The compensation plan discussed at the June 21 meeting was a part of the \$176,121.33 deficit budget that was presented for approval by the board on Wednesday night. Dr. Rinehart did remind the board that of that \$176k plus budget that approximately \$120,000 of it was for the digitization of records that the board had approved earlier in the year.

The district has decreased the number of paid positions by seven, either through consolidation or attrition, which saved the district approximately \$360,000, but was unable to pass a budget that did not sit in the red.

The 2023-2024 deficit budget of \$176,121.33 was approved unanimously after some discussion.

Another item approved by the board was a quote by Javier Vargas to complete the demolition and remodel of the childcare center. District 2 trustee Joe Portillo asked whether or not Mr. Vargas was bonded and insured, and Braden then placed a phone call that confirmed he did hold a \$1 million plus insurance policy and was bonded.

While a budget for the childcare center must be approved separately from the general budget according to Braden, at this time the construction work is fully funded via grants. Along with the minor demolition that is currently being done, there will be sinks and cabinets added, new paint in the rooms, a playground surrounded by a fence, and a few other items. Dr. Rinehart told the board that the furniture had already been purchased and should be arriving soon.

Finally, just prior to entering into closed ses-

sion to discuss personnel items, Dr. Rinehart read a resolution to the board that she said she intended to share with other rural superintendents, along with Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, as well as the Speaker of the House Dade Phelan, members of the legislature and Mike Morath. "In speaking with our representative Eddie Morales recently, he told me that emails do no good. They can be deleted, but large numbers of people coming together, with written explanation of how their districts are failing due to the lack of state support and funding is the only way to get their attention," Rinehart said.

The resolution laid out the financial issues facing the district and the amounts of funding that are lacking it was also a call to the Texas legislature and the governor to utilize the excess funding the state has found itself with and to fund the district with the money it is supposed to receive.

The next meeting of the Alpine ISD board of trustees is scheduled for July 19 at 5:30 p.m.

### POST • FROM 1

held there that year instead of the original location.

As with many things, 2020 would also see a cancellation of the annual dance due to the onset of the pandemic.

During the early years, Marathon had a lumber yard, and men from the community would purchase sheets of plywood to construct the dance floor at the Post. Once the dance was concluded, they would disassemble the dance floor and sell the lumber back as used lumber.

For the past thirty plus years, there has been a large, concrete slab on which dancers 'scoot a boot' to under the West Texas night sky.

"Back when we were growing up, the dance was much more formal. The men would dress up in suits and the ladies would wear formal type dresses," Marilyn said. "I remember that first dance I had with Macky. I had on this beautiful blue formal dress and Macky had on a white shirt," Marilyn added.

In the late 1940s, then Sheriff Jim S. Skinner decided that the removal of men's hats on the dance floor during the annual dance needed to be a law. So, he made it one, and

anyone found violating his law would be asked to leave the dance floor if they did not comply. While it may no longer be an actual law, it is a time-honored tradition that remains and there are plenty of people who still police the dance floor for the removal of hats.

For the past 30 or so years, the live entertainment for the dance has been local rancher, musician, and actor Craig Carter and his Spur of the Moment Band.

According to Kelly Springfield, with 'Friends of the Post', who is helping to spearhead this year's event, "Craig and his band will hit the stage at 8 p.m. on Friday night, July 7. There will be other music beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing until Craig takes the stage. We will also have food trucks, volleyball, and games for the kids. This event, as always is B.Y.O.B., and while it is free of charge, donations are greatly appreciated," said Springfield. "I hope to see a large crowd like we had back when I was attending this dance while I was in college. It was always a great time, and this year won't be any different," Springfield concluded.

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## LOOKING BACK

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AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche

June 7, 1946

Tarzan is coming to Texas. Young and old can see the wild man and the wild leopard woman this week at the Granada Theatre. The stars at night are big and bright as Judy Garland in "Harvey Girls", also available for viewing this Wednesday and Thursday.

Granada Theatre		
FRI. - SAT.	SUNDAY - MONDAY	TUESDAY
—Two Good Shows for the Prize of One—		
'Gold Mine in the Sky' Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	'TARZAN AND THE LEOPARD WOMAN' JOHNNY WEISMULLER D. JOYCE	Col. Effingham's Raid' Charles Coburn Joan Bennett
—BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS—		
'Behind Green Lights' William Gargan Carole Landis		'Harvey Girls' Judy Garland John Hodiak

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1940

### \$500 REWARD!

For information leading to arrest and conviction, carrying penitentiary sentence, of anyone stealing cattle, handling or disposing of stolen cattle from the Henderson Ranch. You furnish information or tips so we can get the evidence. Your name will be kept confidential. Communicate only with W. G. Henderson, owner.

1-5-52p. W. G. HENDERSON

June 7, 1940

W. G. Henderson, property owner of the Henderson ranch, has had enough of thieves stealing cattle. Offering a \$500 dollar award, Henderson asks anyone with information that will lead to the cattle rustler's arrest.

June 18, 1948

Compared to three years ago, there are twice as many water users in the area. According to city officials, pumps are running around the clock to keep up with the increased demand. At approximately a million gallons per day, city water users are urged to reduce their use, or restrictions may have to be enforced.

### WARNING! CITY WATER USERS!

City water users are warned that the water situation is serious.

There are twice as many users (according to meter count) as there were three years ago, it was stated, and approximately the same amount of water available. Pumps are running 24 hours a day trying to take care of the needs of consumers who are using approximately a million gallons daily, it was said.

Water users are warned that unless water consumption is reduced to the minimum requirements that rationing may have to be resorted to. The city commission appeals to water users to use water sparingly until the drought is broken and help avoid this step.

Attend The

## 65th Anniversary RODEO

PECOS, TEXAS

THREE NIGHTS AND ONE MATINEE

### July 2, 3, 4

NIGHTS: 8:00 P. M.

July 4 Matinee: 2 p.m.

June 7, 1946

Pecos will be hosting its 65th anniversary Rodeo, July 2-4. With three nights and one matinee. Attendees will be able to witness this state tradition and see the best that the country has to offer in our own neighboring town.

# Mystery plant should be removed with haste

Dear Neil: Please identify this mystery plant that is growing in my lantana bed. I don't want to pull it if it would be an attractive groundcover, but I don't want it to take over the entire bed.

This is the weed known as purslane. Don't confuse it with "hybrid" purslane the summer annual with flowers that resemble moss rose portulaca. What you have is a vigorous weed that will quickly seed its way across the entire bed. Hoe it out before it blooms and makes seeds. While you're at it, remove the other weed in your photo. Sheep sorrel, oxalis, is also very invasive. It looks like clover, but its seeds are dispersed explosively across many square feet. You're familiar with a couple of cultivated species of oxalis that are very attractive landscape plants.

Dear Neil: There was a large catalpa tree in our backyard when we moved here. Every summer for the past several years, by the time July arrives, it starts



GARDENER'S MAILBAG

by neil sperry

shedding many of its leaves. The yard has been watered regularly and we've had a fair amount of rain, so we don't think it's gotten too dry. Is this a symptom of some kind of problem?

Large-leaved trees such as cottonwoods, fruitless mulberries, sycamores, and your catalpa are notorious about dropping leaves once it turns really hot and dry in mid-summer. As conditions in mid-spring were cool and wet, the trees must have figured that they were going to have ample rain the rest of the growing season.

Suddenly they realized that they weren't going to be able to sustain all those large leaves. You'll notice that it's the older leaves, farther down on the branches, where the leaves turned yellow first. If you think about it, it's the same thing that happens to a poinsettia when it gets too dry. The bottom leaves turn yellow and fall off.

Dear Neil: I'm really fond of fanflowers, but I don't see people using them much. Is there a reason?

It also goes by its generic name Scaevola. I'm with you. It's a great annual for Texas landscapes and gardens. I've grown it for 35 years, and I've yet to see any insects or diseases bothering it. New



Blue Wonder and its white form were first, and others have come along. I was not impressed with the pink type. I've used it as a hanging basket plant, in large pots where it's the "spiller" plant that tumbles over the edges, and in flowerbeds where it trails much as trailing lantanas or verbenas might. It does best in a sunny setting, although as with most flowers, a little bit of shade in the afternoon is welcomed.

Dear Neil: We have pecan seedlings that were planted by squirrels coming up in a flowerbed next to our house. We keep trying to get rid of them, but they keep coming back. We're afraid their roots will damage the foun-

tion. What can we use to eliminate them?

I live and garden in a pecan forest, so I have sung this same hymn many times. I make it a practice to cut the seedling pecans when they have only one or two sets of true leaves. By the time they're eight or 10 inches tall and have several leaves, their roots are so well established that you have to dig them out manually. You can apply a broadleafed weed-killer spray directly to their

new growth to kill them, but there is risk of damaging adjacent shrubs and even shade trees if they're within 2-4 feet. You would have to use a trigger-squeeze bottle for precise application. I really would not recommend that. Digging by hand is safer.

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

### ACROSS

- Andrews County is in \_\_\_\_\_ Texas
- Orange County \_\_\_\_\_ Center
- therapeutic baths
- pecan: state \_\_\_\_\_
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ dog lie"
- TX cosmetics queen Mary Kay
- ad on KHOU-TV
- state no. of OK
- TXism: "he ain't got both \_\_\_\_\_ in the water" (slow witted)
- TX Fulghum book: "All I \_\_\_\_\_ Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten"
- Tex-Mex dish
- apt radio station for a F-150?
- TXism: "he could out \_\_\_\_\_ six-legged bobcat"
- actress Lois of "The Honkers" with Slim Pickens (init.)
- TX singer Buddy's widow: "Maria \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "mighty \_\_\_\_\_" (okay)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ arm wrestle King Kong"
- TX Jeffrey Jacquet old TV show: "Mork \_\_\_\_\_"
- TX Quannah Parker's father
- edible starch obtained from a palm
- food poisoning

- illegal \_\_\_\_\_ improperly crosses Texas border
- honorary TX Ranger: \_\_\_\_\_ Stanley Gardner
- TX King Vidor directed 1946 western "\_\_\_\_\_ in the Sun"
- former Astro Caminiti played \_\_\_\_\_ base
- sounds of hesitation
- TXism: "don't give a hoot \_\_\_\_\_ holler"

### DOWN

- Austin western suburb (3 wds.)
- early Texas mail: "Pony \_\_\_\_\_"
- TX romance novelist Judith \_\_\_\_\_ McNaught
- TX Nimitz went \_\_\_\_\_ for a career
- TXism: "hair raisin"

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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- TX Kristofferson's "Why Me \_\_\_\_\_"
- type widths
- TXism: "round ' \_\_\_\_\_ up"
- name of SMU mustang mascot
- "good night" girl natl. collegiate sports grp.
- "Rawhide" trail boss, Favor
- assert without proof
- "L" of TX LBJ
- book: "The Years \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson"
- pos. of former Cowboy Jason Witten
- "chicken \_\_\_\_\_ king"
- TXism: "hombres"
- TXism: "sling it on the wall \_\_\_\_\_ if it sticks"
- Hedy of Texas-based "Boom Town"
- Laredo TV station singer Coolidge

- TX Mac Davis' "Baby, Don't Get Hooked \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "ate some gravel"
- ringlets, curls
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ punch" (glad)
- broken arm support
- British continent
- he roped the calf by \_\_\_\_\_ leg
- tres singers
- Miami Hall of Fame QB, Bob singer, TX Charley

### BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

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# Sports

## Two All-Star games set for Pecos League

The Pecos League will hold two All-Star Games this month. The Pacific Division All-Star Game will take place next Sunday at Martinez' Waterfront Park while the Mountain Division's stellar event is set for Sunday, July 16 at Kokernot Field in Alpine. The league schedules two intradivisional All-Star Games per season due to time and budget limitations, with each team stocked with players from four divisional rivals. Unlike MLB, there will be no three-

day break for players not selected, with regular season games played the days before and after each All-Star tilt.

Tucson has slipped past defending champs Roswell in the Mountain standings after winning all five of their games over the past week, including a 30-23 Sunday slugfest in Santa Fe during which the Saguaros scored seven runs in the top of the tenth inning. B.J. Minarcin batted 5-for-7 with a double and triple for the winners, scoring four runs and driving in four more as the Cacti went to 16-3 on the road this season.

The Invaders lost four of seven games last week, although they did score a 6-4 home win over Garden City Sunday, thanks in part to leadoff hitter Seth Schroeder's three hits, two runs and two RBIs. Leo Gallegos cracked a two-run homer for the Wind. Trinidad is a solid third at 16-9, two games ahead of Garden City. The Triggers absorbed a 4-1 loss in Alpine Saturday as James Prockish went 3-for-3 with a run and a ribbie for the Cowboys. Jordan Anderson



The Alpine Cowboys will host the Mountain Division All-Star game at Kokernot Field on July 16. Here the Cowboys took on the Tucson Saguaros earlier in the season.

Photo by JT Maroney

cracked his 10th homer for Trinidad.

Pacific Division leader San Rafael lost four of six last week as second-place Monterey went 4-2 to close the gap. The Pacifics won a 20-6 Sunday beatdown at Bakersfield in 102-degree weather. Kevin Johnson had five hits for San Rafael as Nick Smith and Kyle Guerra combined for six hits, six runs and nine RBIs. Monterey ended their weekend with a thud, losing a 15-2 home beatdown Sunday to streaking Lancaster,

who've won four straight to pull into fourth as Evan Antonellis belted a three-run homer for the Sound Breakers and Gilberto Rosario and Nico O'Donnell combined on a two-hitter.

Bakersfield's Sunday loss to San Rafael was their second in six games as the Train Robbers are a solid third in the division at two and a half games ahead of Lancaster, who, along with Martinez leapfrogged over struggling Marysville into fourth and fifth places, respectively.

### Sports Schedule

#### 06 ALPINE COWBOYS BASEBALL

July 6 @ Santa Fe Fuegos 6 p.m.	July 10 @ Garden City Wind 6:35 p.m.
July 7 @ Santa Fe Fuegos 6 p.m.	July 11 @ Garden City Wind 6:35 p.m.
July 8 @ Santa Fe Fuegos 7 p.m.	July 12 @ Garden City Wind 6:35 p.m.

## Cowboys crew



Derek Pollacchi, Ethan Eibe, and Aaron Rodriguez pose for a photo this past Saturday as the Alpine Cowboys hosted the Trinidad Triggers. Pollacchi called many games for the Cowboys before moving on to work at Sul Ross. Eibe has since taken on that roll for the Cowboys as well as covering the games for the Avalanche's sports page, while Rodriguez is their IT specialist.

Courtesy photo

## Starting the 4th off with a bang!



Alpine Cowboys' starting pitcher Cameron Mulvihill brought home the 'W' for the Cowboys in the first game of their double header against the Roswell Invaders on Tuesday.

Courtesy photo

## SRSU welcomes new men's head soccer coach

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Sul Ross has a new men's head soccer coach. Bailey Guffin, former head coach at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, will take over and lead the men's team this season.

Guffin has ties to Sul Ross' new offensive coordinator, Christian Escobar, of the Lobos football team. Escobar served as an assistant football coach at OPSU. Their friendship helped lead Guffin to make the move to Sul Ross.

As head coach at OPSU, Guffin led his team to a 4-8-1 record.



Bailey Guffin

"The facilities and town are great. For us, it felt like a really good fit. It's about building a program that I think a lot of people can kind of hopefully fall in love with."

— Bailey Guffin, Sul Ross men's head soccer coach

OPSU received national attention in 2021 when it received votes in the national poll after going 10-3-3 overall and 6-2-1 in conference play.

He's coached All-American player Liam Pritchard who led the 2021 squad with nine goals, along with a second team All-Sooner Athletic Conference player in Catalin Nastuta in 2022.

Goodwell, Okla. is the home of OPSU and has a population smaller than Alpine, so a move to a small town was not a difficult change for Guffin and company.

The opportunities on the horizon for Sul Ross athletics was one of several reasons Guffin found the SR program attractive.

"The facilities and town are great. For us, it felt like a really good fit," Guffin said. "It's about building a program that I think a lot of people can kind of hopefully fall in love with."

Guffin takes over for Jon Evan, who along with the Karleen family of Alpine and the Big Bend Youth Soccer Association made recent improvements to the soccer field at Sul Ross.

## Cowboys to host baseball camp



Alpine Cowboys talk to kids who participated in the Cowboys' baseball camp held at Kokernot Field.

Courtesy photo

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Cowboys will host a baseball camp on July 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The camp is open to kids ages six and up and participants will need a glove and

workout clothes, which includes running shoes, shorts or baseball pants, and a water bottle and a hat are highly recommended. The Cowboys' players will work on batting, fielding, and throwing and catching with each group of kids.

Children will be grouped into younger and older groups. There will also be a water balloon fight and hot dogs, chips, and a drink will be provided. For more information contact Katie at 512-644-6397.

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On June 29, 2023 in the Brewster County Court in Case No. PR 03131 styled in Re: ROY T. MCBRIDE, deceased, ROY T. MCBRIDE JR. qualified as Independent Executor of the Estate of ROY T. MCBRIDE, deceased, who died May 24, 2023. Letters Testamentary were authorized to be issued to ROY T. MCBRIDE JR. on June 29, 2023. The Deceased's Will was dated February 23, 1976. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by the Texas Estate Code. Claims may be sent to ROY T. MCBRIDE JR, Independent Executor for the Estate of ROY T. MCBRIDE, c/o William C Boyd of Patterson Boyd & Lowery PC 2101 Louisiana St. Houston Texas 77002 Phone 713 222-0351 Fax 713 759-0642 Email: wboyd@pattersonboyd.com



**AVAILABLE POSITIONS**



**Administrative Assistant**

BBT, the best place in Alpine for a career, is looking for an Administrative Assistant. This role will be in support of management and will have various administrative duties. This role requires handling confidential information, so understanding discretion and the ethics involved are a must. Candidates must have good verbal and written communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft Office products, be a good problem solver, and have excellent organizational skills. BBT offers excellent benefits and a \$1,000.00 signing bonus upon completion of a successful 6-months of employment. . . terms and conditions apply.



**Engineering Support Specialist**

Do you dream of maps and roads and the best way to get there? Then this Engineering Support Specialist opportunity at Big Bend Telephone may be the perfect job for you. In this position, you will be collaborating with the GIS Administrator and Engineers on projects and mapping areas of West Texas. Candidates must have two (2) years of work experience using Microsoft Office with a special emphasis in Excel and Word. There is a signing bonus for new hires (terms and conditions apply) and long-term career potential for the right motivated candidate. BBT participates in E-Verify and promotes a Drug-Free Workplace. We are an EOE Employer and we encourage veterans to apply



**Experienced Accounting Assistant**

BBT is seeking a full-time experienced Accounting Assistant. The ideal candidate must be well organized, able to multi-task, work under deadlines, have excellent communication and analytical skills, General Ledger and Excel knowledge, as well as a minimum of 3 years of experience in Accounting. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license, have a good driving record and be insurable under the company's insurance policy. Applicant may be required to work overtime or on weekends and holidays as needed and may be required to attend out-of-town training and/or meetings requiring travel by car, bus, plane or other means of transportation and overnight stays. Hiring Bonus, Competitive Compensation and Benefits Package included. This company participates in E-Verify



**Technology Service Associate (Fort Stockton)**

Are you looking for a career as a Service Technician who wants to provide Big Bend Telephone's exceptional customer service while working in the Fort Stockton. Then BBT is the place for you to grow and develop with the ever-changing communications industry and is committed to providing stellar customer service and first-rate technology. The entire Big Bend team plays a role in developing strategies to increase the sales and usage of our products, services and equipment while reinforcing our brand. The ideal candidate will be technically inclined, have a strong desire to succeed and capable of delivering world-class customer service. The job entails networking comprehension, installation and troubleshooting of fixed wireless, fiber to the home, Wi-Fi services, IP Phones, and other customer premise services as well as repair and troubleshooting. Position requirements are minimum High School Diploma or GED equivalent with 2 years of experience in a related field. Applicants must possess a valid driver license, have a good driving record and be insurable under the company's insurance policy. There is a \$1,000 signing bonus for new hires (terms and conditions apply) and long-term career potential for the right motivated person.



**Customer Operations & Sales Representative**

If you're looking for a great place to work, then BBT may be the place for you. BBT is looking for a candidate with excellent communication skills and a desire to assist BBT customers with internet, customized voice solutions, and support. BBT Customer Operations & Sales Representatives not only support our existing customers, but also can recruit new customers which adds earned commissions to a salary that is already very competitive. BBT offers excellent benefits including health insurance and 401(k) with a generous company match. The successful candidate will be eligible for a \$1,000.00 bonus after a successful 6 months of employment.

**For more information we invite you to visit**  
<https://www.bigbend.com/about-us/employment/>

**Email resume to: HR@bigbend.com**  
**OR Mail a current resume to BBT, Attn: HR**  
**808 N. 5th St. Alpine, TX 79830**  
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- Susie Gonzales



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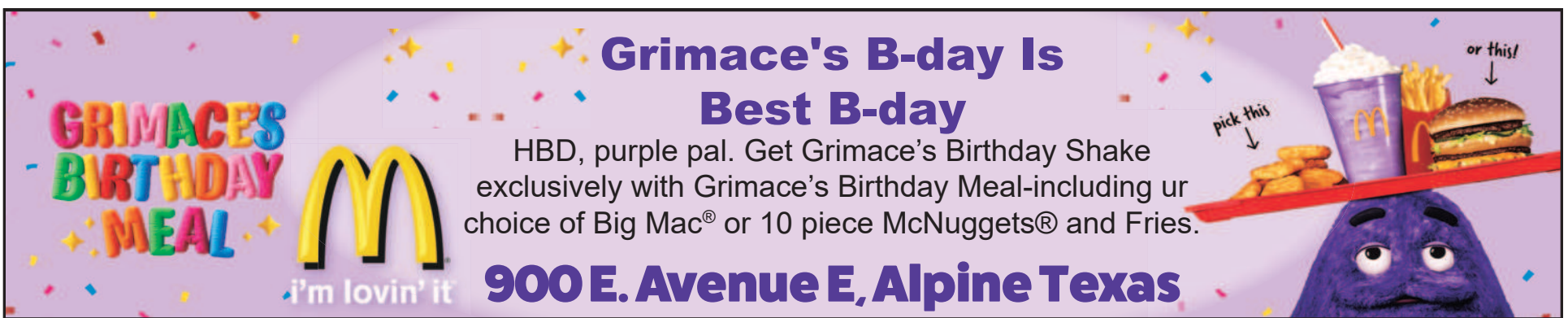
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# Light and fresh local eats that won't disappoint

Recently I received a call from an old friend who was coming to town, and she asked if I wanted to meet up for lunch. As luck would have it, it was a Tuesday in Alpine and most sit-down restaurants were closed.

Since I had yet to try out the newest Mexican food place, Sazzon BajaMex Culinary, I told her I would meet her there. I was glad that I did.

Despite a cornucopia of taco options, my choice was the Sazzon Bowl. In essence it is a taco salad, but different than any I have had at other restaurants.

Thankfully, it comes in a regular bowl as opposed to a fried tortilla bowl. Not that I don't love a good fried tortilla, but it is not exactly on my diet plan at the moment.

This take on a taco type salad is full of leafy lettuce, refried beans, sour cream, rice, pico de gallo, and cilantro lime dressing along with your preference of carne asada or chicken. It is also garnished with pickled red onions and a thinly sliced radish along with a light dusting of cheese. It was delicious! Fresh, light, and perfect for summer eating.

Along with this culinary delight I added a refreshing cucumber pineapple aqua fr-



**HEAD OVER MEALS**

by kara gerbert



**Carne Asada Tacos**

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

esca. Lightly sweet, with the freshness of cucumber, it hit the spot and I took a to-go cup. They do different aqua frescas on different days, but I would guess they all hit the spot in the summer heat.

This restaurant, located at 901 E. Holland, offers choosing's of ocean delicacies such as tropical octopus tacos and fish and shrimp tacos, and Sazzon fries, available as an appetizer or an entrée that is loaded with cheese, crema, pickled onions, and other Mexican flavors.

They offer huaraches loaded meat options such as carne asada, and carnitas as well as daily specials that cover everything from Mexican plates to birria tacos, all loaded down with fresh cabbage, your choice of sal-

sas, and onion, cilantro, and lime. Their Baja menu offers seafood ceviche, and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. they serve chilaquiles.

There is literally something for everyone, and especially those who love adventurous eating.

Besides the delicious food and aqua frescas, the coolest thing about this place is how colorful and vibrant the food itself is. As an avid food show addict, I watch food shows all the time.

The presentation of a dish is something that any good chef should be concerned

with. It will sell a plate of food quicker almost than word of mouth. And everything that I saw come out of their kitchen was vibrant, fresh, and looked like something out of a five-star restaurant. With the owners Adriana and Oliver hailing from Baja, California it's no wonder all their food is as beautiful to look at as it is delicious.

With plans to go back, I really want to try out their stuffed jalapenos and birria tacos, and someday I may just have try those octopus tacos too!

## Carne Asada Tacos including marinade

*For the marinade:*

Ingredients:	4 garlic cloves, minced
1 ½ lbs flank steak	1 teaspoon cumin
1/3 cup olive oil	½ teaspoon chili powder
3 limes, juiced	Salt and pepper to taste
½ cup fresh cilantro, chopped	

*Directions:*

Whisk together all the marinade ingredients in a bowl and pour over the steak until both sides are well coated. Cover and marinate for 1-4 hours in the refrigerator, before grilling.

Grill the steak on medium-high heat for five to seven minutes on

each side.

Remove the steak and place on a cutting board and let rest for another five minutes.

Using a sharp knife, slice the carne asada at an angle against the grain, and then chop into smaller pieces for the tacos.

*For the tacos:*

Ingredients:	chopped
Carne asada	½ cup fresh cilantro, chopped
2 avocados	6 corn tortillas
3 tablespoons of cotija cheese	Limes for garnish
1/3 cup onion, finely	

*Directions:*

Heat tortillas on a comal, or the grill, or wrapped in a paper towel for 40 seconds in a microwave.

Mash the avocado or use guacamole if desired and spread a large spoonful or two onto

each tortilla.

Top the avocado with the chopped carne asada, sprinkle with the cotija cheese, diced onion, and cilantro, and then squeeze fresh lime juice on top, serve and enjoy!



Marathon Moon Horse was the feature band this past Saturday evening at the 2nd "Downtown Hoedown" sponsored by Sky Island Culinary and West Texas Italian Delicacies.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*



This classic Ford Fairlane was one of several classic cars on display at Saturday's 4th of July parade in Fort Davis.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*



Lanelle Brown of Valentine mans the West of the Pecos Cattlewomen booth this past Saturday during 4th of July celebrations in Fort Davis.


*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

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