Fort Davis ISD moving ahead

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Regardless of the grim financial outlook that plagues Fort Davis ISD, Graydon Hicks, FDISD's superintendent does not let this stop his dedication to his faculty, staff, or the students and their education. This never say die attitude is what founded our little neck of the woods; after all, you must be tough to settle and survive far West Texas.

According to Hicks, his schools are fully staffed, and he expects it to be a good year.

All of the usual extracurricular activities that students engage in will be going strong also. This fall will see Indian football and volleyball, followed by basketball, tennis, track, and golf. Students will also participate in UIL academics, cheer, Spanish club, and robotics.

As with all schools

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INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports pages 8-9

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport



Burn Ban ON

16 pages

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO
THANK A VETERAN, A MEMBER OF THE
A MEMBER OF THE
ARMED FORCES.
ARMED FORCES, OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER EVERY DAY.
5

Hearing set August 29 for tax rate

BY JOH COVINGTON

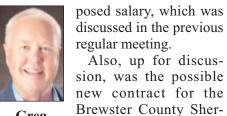
Staff Writer

The Brewster County commissioner's court held a special meeting on Friday, August 11. During this meeting, the first item addressed on the agenda was the real estate property that the county has been in the process of purchasing. As of Friday, the property was still in need of inspection, which has been arranged.

Due to the large number of protests that are ongoing, many of which are expected to extend into September 8, according to the county tax assessor and collector, Sylvia Vega, the property tax rate had not been approved at the regular meeting held earlier in the week. In this meeting the court went ahead and approved a proposed tax rate, to be further discussed in the public hearing scheduled for August

This proposed tax rate is the voter approval rate of \$0.366547 which is what the county's budget has been based upon. This is a lower rate than last fiscal year which was \$0.395545.

During this meeting the court also took action to approve and publish the elected officials pro-



Greg Henington

regular meeting. Also, up for discussion, was the possible new contract for the

iff's Office with Axon, a

company that provides and maintains body camera and taser equipment. While this would be a beneficial change, the county is going to postpone this decision in order to better understand the grants, budget, and contract options. The tasers alone are estimated to cost approximately \$20,000 and the body camera equipment would be about \$45,000.

In the previous regular commissioner's court meeting held August 8, the court approved the re-plat of lots 10 and 11 to be reconfigured in the Sunny Glen Estates. They delayed the re-plat of the 6.7-acre lot in the Mesquite Tranquility subdivision, because the applicant needs to discuss and get approval from the groundwater district for the division of the four lots.

In other news, the court approved the updated interlocal agreement contract with the public defender's office, between

See COUNTY • 6

New year, new adventures in learning



Ayven Loza, Noah Rodriguez, and Melinda Rodriguez are all smiles as they embark on their first day back to school for the 2023-2024 school year.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

For the love of hummingbirds and people

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The annual Davis Mountain Hummingbird Celebration returns on August 17, inviting bird and nature lovers from near and far to experience West Texas like never before.

The celebration has roots that started in backvards with hummingbird feeders and evolved into a renowned event built by volunteers. All evidence shows this as a passion project for evervone involved.

Cecilia Riley, the coordinator of the event and president of the Trans-Pesos Bird Conservation board said, "This event is all organized and led by local volunteers, none receive any salary, and all clearly love sharing birds with people and helping our communities thrive

via nature tourism." According to the Far West Texas Newsletter, the occasional newsletter of the DMHC, the first event was held in the early 90s at the Prude Ranch, coordinated by John Robert Prude and Kelly Bryan. Eventually, other local groups became involved with hosting the hummingbird lovers that came from all over the United States and abroad and today, the event is sponsored and hosted by the Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation and the DMHC in Fort Davis.

This year's celebration is one for the books and stands out due to kind donations. For the first time, the event will have all the indoor space needed for the socials, vendors, and the silent auction. "We have an awesome new venue for this year's festivities: The High Frontier in the Davis Mountains. Two large indoor spaces with AC have been generously donated by Mr. Tim Crowley," Riley said. The location is just south of Fort Davis off Hwy. 118.

The presentation lineup includes names like Jennifer L. Bristol, the keynote speaker for this year. Bristol has a track record of helping families, particularly youth, with connecting with the wonders of nature, and has authored several guides on birding. Also speaking is Dr. Johnny Bliznak, who has been photographing hummingbirds for 15 years in both North and Central America, Kaylee French, the West Texas Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Nature Conservancy, Michael Gray, who has been photographing wildlife for over 45 years all over the world, Stephen Hummel, a familiar name in the Dark Skies initiative as well as a renowned night sky photographer, and Romey Swanson, the Executive Direc-



Bird enthusiasts in 2018

tor of the Devils River Conservancy. All the speakers have roots in wildlife adoration that span years, many shaping conservancy for the future.

Another thing that will make this year memorable? The drought. With the factors of harsh environment, heat, and lack of water, the native birds depend even more upon the feeding stations provided by the landowners and conservationists. While the climate is harsh on gardens, those participating in the field trips will see more hummingbirds than in rainy years.

"Due to the dry weather, hummingbird activity at all of the feeding stations our tours will be visiting is huge this year! Hummingbird diversity and numbers of individuals will impress our guests from across Texas and many other states from as far away as Connecticut and California," said Riley.

According to Riley, this celebration displays Texas in ways people never seem to expect. She mentions the rugged mountains with Ponderosa Pines, the diverse desert landscapes, as well as the friendly homeowners and ranchers who love sharing their birds with visitors.

Strangers also get to explore off the beaten path, the dusty dirt roads as much of the rural area. And last but definitely not least, the enchanting dark skies filled with stars.

Field trips are scattered across Jeff Davis, Brewster, Presidio, and Reeves Counties. Once at their destination the Leasers assist them with bird identification and landowner hosts show them around their properties and feeding stations.

Field trippers pick up their breakfast and go bags starting at 5:30 a.m. then line their vehicles up into a caravan. Sixteen different field trips each with 12 registrants and one or two experienced leaders depart each morning, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Individuals drive their own vehicles, with carpooling, then follow the Leaders vehicle to their destination.

See HUMMINGBIRD • 6













Proudly Serving Our Community



OBITUARIES

Robert Cloman Clanton

On August 3, Robert Cloman Clanton passed away peacefully with his wife of 66 years by his side. Robert is lovingly known as Bobby by his friends, Dad by his five children, and Granddad by his nine grandchildren. Robert was born on April 22, 1936, in Alpine, to Lucile Cloman Perry and John Arthur Clanton. He was raised in Alpine with many fond memories that he often shared with friends and family. Robert graduated from Alpine High School. Robert married



Barba Evelyn Dunn on March 16, 1957. A passionate outdoor enthusiast and avid World War II history reader, Robert was happiest when he was surrounded by his five "kids" and numerous grandkids. Robert was known for his patient, curious, and wise disposition. His dry sense of humor was never overlooked.

After a brief stint with Humble Oil Company in Oregon, he returned to West Texas. Robert graduated from Sul Ross State University with a bachelor's and a master's degree in education. As a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent he would often say: "I'm in the People Business." Robert worked in many communities across far West Texas, including El Paso, Clint, Alpine, Ft. Davis, and Balmorhea before retiring from Blooming Grove ISD. A fierce advocate for public schools, he served as President of the Texas Association of Rural Schools and often lobbied the State legislature to ensure far West Texas public schools were funded equitably. After retirement, he became a founding partner of JR3, an education consulting firm. When he wasn't in school or with family, Bob served as a Mason, a church deacon, and as Office Secretary/Board of Directors for Paisano Baptist Encampment. He stood for what he believed in.

Robert is survived by his wife, Barba, and five

children, nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Children: Peggy Clanton DeSpain married to Raymond DeSpain Jr., Terry Clanton, Henry Clanton married to Allison Clanton, Elaine Clanton Nelson married to Brad Nelson, and Roberta Clanton Cromeens. Nine grandchildren: Brian DeSpain, Brittany Roten married to Charlie Roten, Robert Clanton, Breanna DeSpain Ball married to Daniel Ball, Reid Clanton, Reagan Nelson, Rachel Clanton, Landry Nelson, and Sterling Cromeens. Six great grandchildren: DeLainey Roten, Jackson Roten, Beau Robert DeSpain, Madalynn Ball, Annalee Roten, and Maevery Ball. He is survived by his younger sister, Madelon Ann Sawyer and two nephews Lynn and Scott Sawyer.

The family plans to schedule a joint Celebration of Life Memorial for Bob and Barba in God's time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his honor be made to your church, Paisano Baptist Encampment, or an educational charity of your choice.

Unitarian Universalists

Fellowship of the Big Bend

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

There will be a celebration of the life of Brian Kokernot at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1308 Nth 5th Street in Alpine.

The celebration of life will commence at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, August 20th.

Food to share is encouraged.



Drew Kennedy and Josh Grider kicked off the 2023 Marathon Songwriter's Festival at the Brick Vault in Marathon Friday afternoon. See more photos on pages 5 and 10.

Alpine Retirement Low income Housing

Sunshine House Senior Citizens Center Meals on Wheels 402 E. Holland Ave. • Alpine, Texas 79830 • 432-837-5402 www.sunshinehousealpine.com

Thank you for the following donations:

Rhoda Hockett in honor of Paula Wilson and Lonnie Rodriguez

NOTICE:

Meal pricing will be raised to \$8 starting August 1.

Our Vision: A hunger-free, healthy community.

Our Mission: To provide quality nourishment and social enrichment in the lives of seniors, the homebound and disabled in Alpine, Texas.

Join us for lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30 - 12:30. • Cost is \$7.00 per person.

Sunshine House is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Julie A. Stovell

Melanie R. Pace

Suzanne Sheaffei

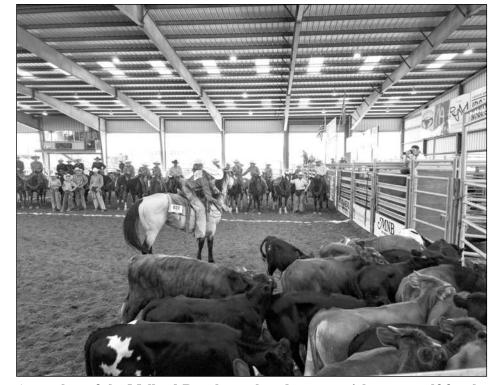
62 and over 1 Bedroom Units All Electric

Subsidy accepted To apply go to:

alpineretirementhomes.com
Or call: 432-837-2259

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Pickin'em out



A member of the Mellard Ranch youth rodeo team picks out a calf for the team branding competition held this past Saturday at the Sul Ross SALE arena. See more photos from the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo on pages 3 and 10.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR DIRECTOR OF TOURISM RFP 2023-08-01

The City of Alpine is soliciting qualification-based sealed proposals for Professional Services for Director of Tourism for the City of Alpine. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at www.cityofalpine.com/bids.

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on September 1, 2023. In order to be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the specific conditions and general requirements included in the RFP. Proposals should be clearly marked "Sealed Proposal for RFP 2023-08-01 Professional Services – Director of Tourism" and submitted to the address below:

City of Alpine City Secretary 100 N. 13th St Alpine, Texas 79830

Questions regarding this project may be directed to the City Manager, Megan Antrim, at city.manager@cityofalpine.com. Any questions or concerns must be addressed in writing by the deadline to submit additional written questions as of 5:00 p.m. on August 24, 2023. The tentative award date for this project is September 19, 2023.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

 PROPOSED TAX RATE
 \$0.366547
 per
 \$100

 NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE
 \$0.349398
 per
 \$100

 VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE
 \$0.366547
 per
 \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the $\underline{2023}$ tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for $\underline{\mathsf{BREWSTER}}$ $\underline{\mathsf{COUNTY}}$ from the same properties in both the $\underline{2022}$ tax year and the $\underline{2023}$ tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that $\underline{\sf BREWSTER\ COUNTY}$ may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that <u>BREWSTER COUNTY</u> is proposing to increase property taxes for the <u>2023</u> tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON <u>TUESDAY</u>, <u>AUGUST 29</u>, <u>2023</u>, <u>9:30 A.M.</u> at the <u>BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE</u>, <u>COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM</u>, <u>201 W. AVE. E, ALPINE, TEXAS</u>. The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, <u>BREWSTER COUNTY</u> is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the <u>COMMISSIONERS COURT</u> of <u>BREWSTER COUNTY</u> at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal:

GREG HENINGTON, BREWSTER COUNTY JUDGE; JIM WESTERMANN, COMMISSIONER PCT. 1; SARA COLANDO, COMMISSIONER PCT. 2; RUBEN ORTEGA, COMMISSIONER PCT 3; MO MORROW, COMMISSIONER PCT. 4

AGAINST the proposal: NONE
PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state. The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by BREWSTER COUNTY this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.395545	\$0.366547	Decrease of \$0.028998
Average homestead taxable value	\$152,184	\$166,927	Increase of 9.68%
Tax on average homestead	\$601.95	\$611.86	Increase of \$9.91
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,537,522	\$4,936,829	Increase of \$399,307

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

BREWSTER COUNTY spent \$ 92,334 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedures, less the amount of any state grants received. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$ 8.146 . This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000329/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for <u>BREWSTER COUNTY</u> at <u>432-837-2214</u> or <u>taxassessorcollector@brewstercotad.org</u> or visit <u>www.brewstercountytx.com</u> for more information.

New state legislation will help secure local schools

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Beginning September 1, recent legislation passed by the State of Texas requires that a sheriff of any county with a total population of less than 350,000, in which a public school is located, must hold a semiannual meeting to discuss school safety. This legislation comes on the heels of the tragedy in Uvalde in May 2022, while also reminding those in Alpine of the school shooting that occurred at Alpine High School on September 8,

The Avalanche spoke with Brewster County



Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson

Sheriff Ronny Dodson about his plans for his first meeting. "Because there are multiple school districts within Brewster County, I am able to hold one big meeting for everyone. Any schools who receive public funding are required to attend this meeting," Dodson said.

While one of the many school funding issues locally is school safety, Brewster County is blessed in that they have a large presence of law enforcement officials from multiple agencies. Dodson said, "I am send-

ing out email notifications to all law enforcement agencies in the area that would respond to an active shooter situation. These include of course my guys, Alpine Police Department, DPS, Border Patrol, Texas Rangers, all Fire Departments as well as EMS, and any other state or federal law enforcement officers that would respond, including Sul Ross' police department."

Superintendents from each school district must also attend. These would include Alpine ISD's Dr. Michelle Rinehart, Marathon ISD's Dr. Ivonne Durant, Terlingua CSD's Reagan Reed, and San Vicente ISD's Jessi Milam. Dodson would also like to see school principals.

Dodson's plan for his first meeting is two-fold. "In my first meeting, my goal is to ask every district for an active shooter plan.

What is their protocol if an active shooter event were to occur. They may or may not have this available, if they don't, then they must have it by the second meeting. I will also ask every law enforcement agency, fire department, and EMS representative what assets they will bring to the table," Dodson remarked. "It is important that every school have an active shooter plan in place, and that not only am I aware of what these plans are, but that the other agencies are aware also." "Knowing what each law enforcement agency, as well as fire and EMS can offer during such an event

is very important, because it allows us not only to be on the same page, but we know what we have to work with when faced with such a situation,"

Dodson added. As soon as possible, Dodson is required to submit a report to the Texas School Safety Center (TSSC) which identifies all the attendees of the meeting along with the subjects that were discussed. This report will be maintained and available on the TSSC website but may not make public any parts of the report that they determine may expose a safety vulnerability of a school district facility.

BRI hosts summer job corps crew

Borderlands Research Institute hosted this summer's job corps crew from the I-20 Wildlife Preserve and Jenna Welch Nature **Study Center located** outside Midland. The students, along with BRI graduate assistant Caleb Hughes learned how to use a Yagi tracking antenna during their field trip to the Nature Conservancy's **Davis Mountains Preserve.**





Marathon School Board extends superintendent's contract

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The Marathon School Board of Trustees met in executive session on August 1 to discuss Superintendent Dr. Ivonne Durant's performance evaluation, as required by district policy and her employment contract.

Judy Briones, Board president, said, "We are overjoyed with Dr. Durant's first year of outstanding service to our students, staff, and community."

This year, under Durant, the district secured telemed services for mental health professionals for students which has been used extensively. They acquired a Rural CCMR grant that provided valuable service to the students' academic endeavors, and garnered a \$310,000 grant to secure students, improve the environment, cool down the gym, and provide more community services, according to Briones.

Durant was recognized as a strong advocate for all the students, parents, and staff in the district during the meeting and as having prepared the soil for the first stages of development of one unified learning community.

"She has made strides towards collaboration to

enhance services for students and parents in our district, committing to home visits, and even teaching a Spanish class for high school students. She is engaged and

highly visible in our schools and community. We recognize her efforts in improving stakeholder involvement through meaningful work-study programs for students and building relationships within our community,"

said Briones. The board congratulated the academic progress during Durant's leadership while acknowledging that some goals related to student achievement may take multiple years to attain. Durant's focus has been apparent, and the board expects to see other improvements because of her plans for the coming

Durrant's commitment

Ivonne Durant

ing community, a coherent system of instruction, and establishing systems to help the district to be more efficient, productive, and joyful has been apparent in her first year.

to building a learn-

Briones thanked Durrant for a job well done. "Based upon the superintendent's leadership, overall outstanding evaluation, and, consistent with the terms of her contract, we will extend her current contract by one year through 2026. All of our students deserve a strong leader, and we have one in Superintendent Durant," said Briones.

The extension followed

a unanimous 7-0 vote. Durrant responded to these statements and the decision, "I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for their trust, commitment, feedback, and support of the work we are doing in Marathon. Without their

collaboration, cooperation, and shared values, we could not have accomplished our goals."

Durrant also expressed gratefulness for the Marathon team, "I am fortunate to work with an amazing team of committed people who value our students and the work we are doing together to make the Marathon school students the best. We have a great school district with committed teachers and support staff who are dedicated to making sure all students show progress and they did just that!"

Dr. Durrant looks forward to continuing the work they began twelve months ago and the difference that they will make for the students, their care givers, families, and the team members.

Hold on tight!



Participants in the youth portion of this past weekend's Big Bend Ranch Rodeo attempt to control their steer for the steer riding event while the arena announcer looks on.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



Rite of Christian **Initiation of Adults** (RCIA)

- Are you a visitor to the church who's not Catholic but feels drawn to the Faith?
- Are you a baptized Catholic who's never received Communion or Confirmation?
- Are you a Catholic who just wants to know more about the Faith?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions you should consider participating in the RCIA Process.

On September 5, 2023, at 5:30PM, weekly classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults a journey of faith – a journey toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ begin. Please call the Office of Our Lady of Peace Church for more information 432-837-3304.

Dan Platt, Jr.

Home Auto



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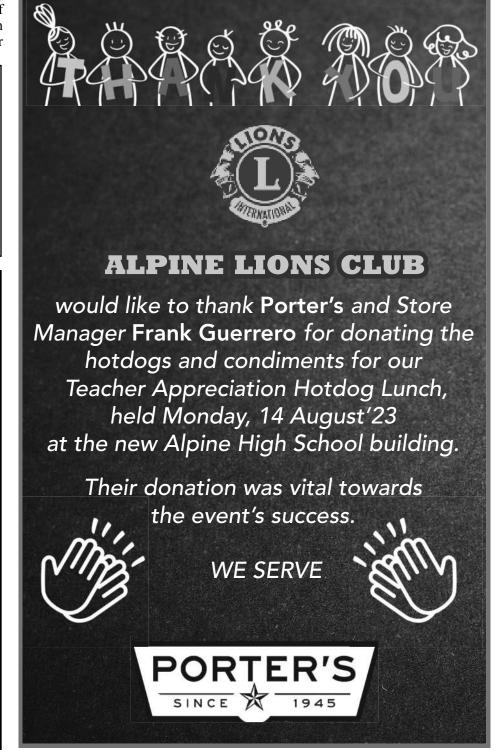
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Commercial

Big Bend Regional Hospital District Budget Hearing August 31, 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Big Bend Regional Hospital District has caused to be prepared an annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on said proposed budget will be held on August 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the BBRHD Administrative Office at 105 W. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX 79830.

Buddy Cavness Chairman / Board of Directors



111011S

NLINE POLL

RESULTS WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE **SPORT TO WATCH OR** ATTEND IN PERSON? RESULTS FOOTBALL VOLLEYBALL TRACK AND FIELD 0% (0 votes SOCCER 25% (1 vote BASEBALL 0% (0 votes RODEO 50% (2 votes BASKETBALL 0% (0 votes Total votes: 4

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is your favorite sport to watch or attend in person?

- -Football
- -Volleyball
- -Track and Field
- -Soccer
- -Baseball
- -Rodeo
- -Basketball

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

ETTERS

Send us your letters.

Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published.

Letters should be no more than 300

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.

Sta<u>ff</u>

₩ALPINE AVALANCHE

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



BOONIEVILLE



New changes, same great outlook!

It is always amazing how quickly summer comes and goes, and a new school year begins! This is where we are now, the 2023-2024 school year has started. Believe me when I say that our staff is so excit-

ed to see your children. This year is exciting because we have a few changes/additions that we think are going to take our campus to the next level. These changes have been communicated to staff and students, but we will continue to do so. You will see a new face or two in our Science, English, Math, and Athletic Departments. These new staff members are truly passionate about being



JARRETT VICKERS Alpine High School principal

students. With some of the

changes, you will see a lot of consistency from last year to this year in some of our processes and protocols. We aim to improve ev-

in Alpine but also

passionate about

ery day and be as efficient as possible in everything we do.

One of those changes is that you will see less construction work going on around the high school because it is complete. This caused some hurdles we had to overcome last year, but hopefully are behind us. With construction being complete our courtyard will open. This is extremely exciting! This will allow students and teachers to gather, while still being in a safe and secure environment.

Two other changes are that there will only be four minutes in between passing periods and open campus lunch will be available to all students. Last year we allowed five minutes in between periods because it was a new building, and it took a while to figure some things out logistically. Keep in mind open campus lunch is a privilege and may be rescinded at any

We are also continuing to push attendance. It is proven that the more students come to school the more they learn, the more they retain, and the more successful in the classroom they are. We will be implementing six weeks attendance incentives available to all our students in an effort to further entice outstanding attendance.

Finally, my message to the staff this year is that we want to be very intentional about everything that we do. We want to be intentional about how we work with students, we want to be intentional about our communication with parents, and we want to be intentional about how we work collaboratively together. We think that this will only build on the thriving climate and culture that AHS already embodies.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, we urge you to reach out to campus administration or your child's teacher directly.

Let's have a fantastic year! Go Bucks!

That was one thing I had never forgotten

"I'll never forget you, vou're a sweet memory.

It's all over now, don't she observed. worry 'bout me.'

— *Song lyrics,* ways right. Don't Worry 'Bout Me, by Marty Robbins

Too often these days, I ramble on about old times, family, and friends. Remembering stories about those who cross my mind. A name recalled in conversation. Someone rooted in the memory of an old song.

Like the song I heard last week that reminded me of Dorothy.

Dorothy Beggs left this life and her beloved hometown of Naples Friday, August 27, 1999. Services were the following Monday. Many things said about Dorothy at her funeral, I remembered.

"Dorothy was a caring person who expected nothing more of anyone than to be themselves and do their best," the preacher said.

That, I knew.

I knew it because I passed Dorothy's desk on the way to mine every morning, and she always had something to say. Always with a smile. We both worked for Dan Hampton in Naples during the mid 70s. Dan operated a building business with offices in the back of his parent's lumber yard on Main Street.

She might offer a compliment for a job well done some days. Others, it might be an occasional admonition. That perhaps I was capable

of a little bit more or a little bit better than

And she was al-

I also remembered that anytime Dorothy detected a kind word might make someone's day better, you could count on her for

that as well. As I sat among the crowd assembled to celebrate Dorothy's life that Monday afternoon 24 years ago, one day in particular that she made somebody's life better came to mind. August 8, 1974. The day Richard Nixon resigned his presidency. Dorothy was what my grandfather would have called a "Yellow Dog" Democrat. As such, she was also a hard-core supporter of Congressman Wright Patman. As was a generation of loyal East Texans who returned him to office for 24 consecutive terms, from

1929 to 1974. I was a young conservative Republican who had voted for Nixon in the first presidential election in which I was old enough to cast a ballot. Therefore, it was natural that Dorothy and I often jousted on political views. But always with laughter and respect ... back when sensible people with differing opinions could do such things.

I remembered that friends meant more to Dorothy than politics. On a day she could have delighted in the misfor-



LEON ALDRIDGE Guest Columnist

lican president, she stopped me desk where her radio was recounting the resignation. "The news is bothering you, isn't it," she

tunes of a Repub-

I confessed that it was. "Sit down," she said, turning off the radio. "We can worry about work later. Let's talk." And it wasn't politics she began to talk about, but about the good in humanity that often seems to be overshadowed by the desire of some folks to bring down others for petty faults no different from their own shortcomings. I listened. And she didn't let me go until she was convinced that I had at least a little different slant on the day's events.

asked?

When I returned to the Monitor in 1998, Dorothy was among the first to come by the office and "welcome me home." She was also usually the first to report an error in the paper. Not to chastise or to criticize, but because "Someone must have given you the wrong information," she would say. "And I just wanted you to know the facts."

I smiled, listening to her eulogy that day years ago, when the mention of her exuberant dedication to the Naples Buffaloes was recited.

I knew that, too. I knew she was a proud

graduate of Naples High School who loved the Buffaloes, class of 1952 if I'm as I passed her remembering correctly.

> There was one thing, however, that I had torgotten about Dorothy until I heard Marty Robbins' classic country tune "Don't Worry 'Bout Me" filling the First Baptist Church sanctuary. It may have seemed a little unusual for a funeral service, but it would not have been a proper celebration of Dorothy's life without her favorite song.

> In a column published in The Monitor when Dorothy passed away, I noted, "I've crossed paths with many of 'the gang' from Hampton's. I've seen Mr. and Mrs. Hampton, Dan, Dorothy, Dennis Allen, and "Booger Red." Norman Carter came by the office, but I missed him. I've even thought it might be fun to have a 'Hampton Builders reunion.'

> "I guess the idea will have to wait," I concluded. "Dorothy's walk on earth ended last week. I, like many others, will miss her. And I suspect I'll never hear the song, 'Don't Worry 'Bout Me' again without thinking of her."

> It was her favorite song, but in her absence, it's also likely the words by which she would have wanted us to remember her. While she worried about others, she didn't want anyone worrying about her.

That, I had never forgot-

TER TO THE EDITOR

Going Green

Is global warming caused by human greed, with a lustful wanting to fill mankind's needs? Does it cause greenhouse effects that fill the seas,

bringing mankind down on his fragile knees? There's misery from hurricanes and killer bees, fire, drought, flood, and death from zero degrees. Tidal wave and tsunami from the seas, there's hunger from famine plus killer disease. Why can these so-called new events all be found in the planets long history should you look around.

Just what do these Greenies really mean with their politicized stories about "Going Green"?

James R. Le Blanc Fort Davis, Texas #ALPINE AVALANCHE

Heard

STREET

What did you want to be when you were younger and why?



Viviana Sanchez: When I was little, I don't think I ever had a set occupation. What I wanted to be when I got older would always change. Some of the ones I remember were teacher, vet, and reporter. Although these seem very different. As I got older, I realized they were similar, in that, I wanted a job where I could help people. These jobs all can have an impact on people's lives, and I can remember where someone in these occupations made an impact on me. I graduated college a year ago so I have had exposure to a variety of



jobs where I can impact other people. I am always

looking forward to the

future.

Justice Santa Cruz: I always knew that I wanted to have fun at work and to be as creative as possible. Because of this, I always saw my adult self in front of an easel, on the back of a best-selling novel, or on a stage under the spotlight. Creativity has always been important to me. Being able to express myself in a space where others can enjoy what I've created was such a huge dream for me and it still is. Being able to do it full time is just the cherry on top!



Kaley Masterson:
 I wanted to be a veterinarian for as long as I can remember! I'm still on track to be one too. It's different than I was expecting but animals are still my life.



Lupe Perez: I wanted to be a flight attendant because I would always travel to Mexico and since I was an unaccompanied minor, they were the ones that took care of me. It was an awesome experience and I still want to become a flight attendant someday.



Claudia Perez: I wanted to be a teacher because I've always loved kids. And I have always believed that I have the patience and understanding to teach

Send your community events to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 17-20 Davis Mountains Hummingbird Festival, 12 p.m. check in at the High Frontier Commons on Thursday, with vendor booths & silent auction from noon to 6:30 p.m., & a welcome reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with hors d'oeurves and local music. For more information visit davismountainshummingbirdcelebration.com or email info@davismountainshummingbirdcelebration.com.

Aug 22 Big Bend Pest Management CEU Webinar, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Free to the public. To register go to https://bit.ly/BigBendCEU. For any questions contact Miki Harris: miki.harris@ag.tamu.edu or Luke Hendryx: luke.hendryx@ag.tamu.

Aug 25-27 FREE WEEKEND,Davis Mountains Preserve

Sept 2 Brewster-Jeff Davis 4-H Kickoff Event, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Brewster County Courthouse lawn.

Sept 15-16 West Fest Cabrito Cookoff, 6 p.m. registration for



cookers at Post Park in Marathon, benefitting the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department.

Sept 23 FREE ENTRY, to Big Bend National Park

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.

Marathon's Brick Vault

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 Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

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

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

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210

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Walt Wilkins started the afternoon of music off at Marathon's Brick Vault. The popular spot was bursting with music lovers this weekend for the Marathon 2023 Songwriters Festival. Wilkins' amazing voice and songwriting ability entranced the guests and exhibited a love for the area.

Photo by Joh Covington

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Flint. Flint is the softest kitten at the Shelter. His sister Jade is also here with him, and they are both looking for homes. A sunny spot and some lovin' will quickly settle these kittens into a new home.

There are dozens of available cats and kittens at the Alpine Animal Shelter, the Alpine Humane Society Cattery, and in our foster homes. All are awaiting adoption into loving families. Kittens do very well when adopted in pairs. Petfinder.com is the best place to see all available pets.

If you are a client of any local food pantry or Meals on Wheels program in our region, or just someone who has unexpectedly run short of dog or cat food, Alpine Humane Society can assist you with food for your pets. Our Pet Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the corner of 5th Street and Avenue A.

Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the Shelter at 432-837-9030.

The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-



2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumanesociety.org, and see us on Facebook and Instagram

Request for Unit Modifications Bids

The **Housing Authority of the City of Alpine, Texas**, will receive Requests for Bids for the 2020 CFP, **UNIT Modification Project**, of TWO UNIT's, one on each Sites "A" and "C" until **5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, August 23, 2023** at the Alpine Housing Authority Office at 1024 North 5th 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 5th 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. 170lu (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 5th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830

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BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL PROPOSED SALARY CHANGES FOR FY 2024

In compliance with section 152.013(c) of the Local Government Code, The Commissioners Court does hereby give notice of salary and allowances for the elected officials of Brewster County. Elected officials' salaries will be set on Tuesday, August 29th, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., as part of the FY 2024 budget adoption process. The public meeting will be held at the Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W. Avenue E, in the Brewster County Commissioners' Court room, Alpine, Texas 79830. The officials and the proposed salaries are shown below:

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
	2023	2024	
Elected Official	Salary	Salary	
County Judge	85,511.16	85,511.16	\$ -
County Clerk	57,430.00	60,396.50	\$ 2,966.50
County Commissioner, Pct. 1	26,471.80	27,990.39	\$ 1,518.59
County Commissioner, Pct. 2	26,671.80	28,090.39	\$ 1,418.59
County Commissioner, Pct. 3	31,519.80	32,938.39	\$ 1,418.59
County Commissioner, Pct. 4	26,371.80	26,371.80	\$ -
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	47,286.93	49,651.28	\$ 2,364.35
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2	26,371.80	27,690.39	\$ 1,318.59
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3	36,000.13	37,700.14	\$ 1,700.01
County Attorney	87,330.00	90,196.50	\$ 2,866.50
District Judge	7,841.60	7,841.60	\$ -
District Clerk	57,330.00	60,296.50	\$ 2,966.50
County Treasurer	58,030.00	60,996.50	\$ 2,966.50
County Tax Assessor/Collector	59,330.00	62,196.50	\$ 2,866.50
County Sheriff	73,294.16	80,394.83	\$ 7,100.67
Constable, Pct.1	18,050.02	18,837.52	\$ 787.50

COUNTY • FROM 1

Culberson County and Brewster County. They also approved the renewal of the interlocal agreement with the Rio Grande Council of Governments for the Public Safety Answering Point Service, which provides 911 calling services.

Other court approvals were the Yarborough Foundation Grant for the Brewster County Sheriff's Office. This grant provides replacement tires for department vehicles.

The renewal of the in-

terlocal agreement with Alpine ISD for school resource officers for fiscal year 2024 was also approved by commissioners along with the interlocal cooperation agreement with both Pecos County and Ector County for the housing and care of those county's inmates.

In addition to other approvals on grants and interlocal agreements, the county approved the Election Judge and Alternate Judge list for the

term of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024.

Road and Bridge superintendent Frenchie Causey gave his report to commissioners. Causey said his department has been handling a lot of damaged and washed-out county roads because of, and despite, recent rains.

Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore reported to the court the need for new radios for the fire department.

The treasurer's office

shared that the internal audit for the county was complete and will be presented at the next meeting on August 22.

During this meeting the court approved to rescind the Brewster County COVID policy, allowing for 80 hours of COVID leave, which has now been deemed unnecessary.

The next regularly scheduled commissioners court meeting will be held on August 22 and will have a public hearing on August 29.

HUMMINGBIRD • FROM 1

"Our field trips start early! Leaving in early morning darkness to arrive just at daylight when bird activity is at its best," said Riley.

The rewards of an event like this are numerous, for those that get to share their love of the area and those that travel to experience it. The main goals of this celebration encompass that. The goals according to Riley have been

public education and sharing beautiful birds with locals as well as visitors to the Trans-Pecos. They want to demonstrate the value of birds to local landowners & communities while helping local economies generate much needed revenue, as well as gaining support for the bird conservation efforts of Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation.

FDISD • FROM 1

in our area, FDISD is feeling the pressure of the lack of state funding. "We have nothing left to cut. State funding formulas and recent legislation continue to drive our fund balance to new lows," Hicks said.

The district has reached the bottom of the barrel in terms of operating funds. "We have no fluff anywhere, yet we always seem to pull through," he said.

Hicks sees FDISD's biggest challenge going forward as cash flow, but he has been diligently working on that.

Another concern is the potential for extensive maintenance costs. Most of the buildings at FDISD are 100 years old, and with that comes excessive cost. He believes, despite the challenges that presents, that they are up to the task.

For the past eight years, Hicks has been diligently working to express the need for an overhaul in terms of the public-school finance system. "I have provided very specific recommendations to our legislators in an effort to remediate our losses, but I am not optimistic they will be implemented," he replied. "We are pursuing some innovative options to increase our enrollment in an effort to increase our calculated allotments from the state, and I expect we will be successful," Hicks added. One such option includes partnering with private schools. By doing so, students from the private school can be enrolled at the public school, which by the increase in enrollment allows for more state funding. A portion of the extra funding can then be funneled back to the private school. There are no strings attached to the money the private school receives, so long as the students accounted for are from the third grade or higher.

This allows for the private school to bolster their technology, curriculum, and teaching at the same time giving FDISD

a much-needed increase in operational revenue. There's also the possibility of the extra revenue from the state due to a partnership funding the salary of a private school teacher as an employee

of the public school.

Another option FDISD has employed for the past four years, is having intermittent four-day weeks. "Sometimes the students get the four-day weeks and Fridays are teacher workdays, and other times everyone takes Friday off," Hicks replied.

replied.
So far, despite going to Austin, sending emails to legislators, the Lt. Governor, the Governor, the Texas Education Agency, and the Region 18 service center, little progress has been made in fixing the school funding issue.

Hicks believes that state leadership, no matter how they try to disguise it, would just as soon get rid of all publicschool funding. "I dare them to prove me wrong. If the state was really interested in helping taxpayers, why would they ONLY target public schools? Why wouldn't they put taxing limitations, even compressions, on county governments, hospital districts, or municipalities?" "We don't waste anything, nor do we splurge on anything, however we make sure our kids get what they need," Hicks added.

Although their operating margin is the leanest in the area, perhaps the whole of West Texas, the fight goes on. Hicks referenced Ronald Regan by saying, "Didn't he say something like: "the scariest thing a person might hear is 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help'," Hicks replied, "It is no different now."

Fort Davis ISD will begin classes on Monday, August 28 and all school board meetings are always open to the public and posted on their website, along with athletic events and other information pertaining to FDISD.



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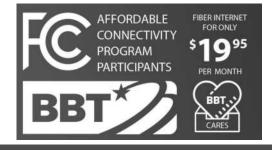
BBT, the leading telecommunications provider in West Texas, is introducing the BBT Fiber Care Package, a groundbreaking and affordable internet plan exclusive to participants of the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The FCC Affordable Connectivity Program is designed to ensure that every American has access to affordable, quality broadband services.

The BBT Fiber Care Package offers fast Fiber internet speeds of 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, ensuring quality online experiences. With the ACP's generous \$30 monthly credit, qualified recipients can now enjoy this remarkable package at an exceptionally low cost of only \$19.95 per month.

"BBT believes in the power of connectivity and its ability to positively impact lives. With the BBT Care Package, we are taking significant steps to provide affordable internet solutions to those who need it the most," said Rusty Moore, General Manager at BBT. "Our partnership with the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program allows us to connect even more households in our community, fostering opportunities for education, employment, and enriching experiences online."

To take advantage of the BBT Fiber Care Package and explore the benefits of Fiber-fast internet, participants of the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program can reach out to BBT at 800.592.4781 or visit https://www.bigbend.com/fcc-affordable-connectivity-program/for more information and sign-up details.





CITY OF ALPINE SEPTEMBER 2023 WARRANT ROUND UP

WEEKEND!

Alpine Municipal Court announces the Quarterly Warrant Roundup. Individuals on the following list are requested to contact the court and resolve their citation matter before September 13, 2023. Citizens may voluntarily take care of their citations without concern of being arrested before this date. If your name is not on the list, but you are not sure if you have an outstanding citation with Municipal Court, please call 432-837-0808 or send an email to court.clerk@cityofalpine.com.

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LEIJA, ANTONIO

LEVARIO, GILBERT LLANEZ, HOLLY M MACLEAN, KIMBERLY A MARTINEZ DIAZ, LEMAY MARTINEZ, LAUREN MELENDEZ, NIETO EDGAR MOLINAR, CELEDINO R MOLINAR, DORA R MOLINAR, EDUARDO GARCIA MUNOZ, LUIS NELSON, JOHN THOMAS OCHOA, JUSTIN RAY OGUAGHA, VICTORIA PATTERSON, SKYLER DWAYNE PENA, SERGIO ARMANDO PEREZ, GIOVANA MABEL PINEDA, NOAH PETERS, RALPH W PORTILLO, BRANDON S RAMIREZ, MATTHEW RANGEL, CELSO J RAY, FRANCO REDDING, JOSEPH EUGENE RODRIGUEZ, ALEXANDRA ROMAN, KATELYNN RUILOBA, JOSH SANCHEZ, MIGUEL TAYLOR, DAMMION A TERRAZAS, DEZARAY THOMAS, SARKEITHIAN TORRES, LESLEY GUADALUP VANDIVER, DONNIE SCOTT VEGA, DOMINIQUE VICTORINO, JESSE MANUEL

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LOOKING BACK

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August 10, 1945

Visit your local college of Sul Ross to see the college students perform Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. The romantic comedy play will be shown this Tuesday and Wednesday. Let's see if Sul Ross does Shakespeare's work justice.

THREE OUTSTANDING CITIZENS OF THE SOUTHWEST ARE TO BE **GUESTS OF ALPINE AUGUST 16**

Barbecue and Other Events Are Being Planned For The Occasion

Alpine will enjoy the distinction of having three outstanding citizens of the Southwest as its guests Aug. 16, it was announced this week. The Alpine chamber of commerce is making extensive preparations to entertain Cengressman R. E. Thomason, Adjutant General Arthur B. Knickerbocker of Texas and Adjutant General Ray Andrew of New Mexico.

August 10, 1945

On August 16, Alpine will be hosts to Congressman Thomason, General Knickerbocker and General Andrew. The city's chamber of commerce is planning a barbeque and dance for the three "outstanding citizens of the southwest."



August 16, 1945

The young burglars that stole from the Sul Ross Museum have been caught. Four young boys, all under the age of 10, broke into the museum through a back door and stole several historic items. The boys were reprimanded and released to their parents after the items were retrieved.



August 16, 1945

These photos show a time when fraternization with German women was a finable offense. These soldiers have their backs turned to the ladies because being seen to engage with them could mean a \$65 fine. Note the difference of when that rule was done away with, socializing ensued between the girls and the GIs.

Inappropriate mowing levels can weaken grass

Dear Neil: You recently recommended that we continue mowing our lawns at the recommended heights during the hot weather.

Our local water district wrote: "Taller grass holds moisture better and slows down evaporation. It also encourages your lawn to grow deeper roots. There is a direct link between grass height and root depth. As a rule, the higher the grass is cut, the deeper the roots go. And lawns with deeper roots can better endure the stress that comes with summer heat. If you're cutting your grass short, try raising your blade a notch or two. A mowing height of three inches is a good all-around height for most grasses." Do you have any comments on what they have written?

I am absolutely fine with what I have written for more than 50 years of my career. Tall grass quickly becomes weak grass, especially with the runner-producing types of grass we grow here in Texas, as opposed to bunching grasses of the North, where this concept might have originated. Tall grass becomes sparse, and weeds move in. What they have written sounds logical, but it doesn't work that way in nature. At



by neil sperry

MAILBAG

least not here in Texas

For the record, I recommend 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches (shorter for the hybrid bermudas), St. Augustine two to three inches, zoysias two to three inches, turf type fescues three to four inches, and buffalograss three to four inches.

Dear Neil: We have recently bought a house built in the 1970s on property with very little topsoil. With vet another really hot and dry summer we seem to be heading into times of permanent water shortages. Is there a replacement for turfgrass? I was wondering about a clover lawn, or some type of creeping vegetation.

Clover specifically would not fare well in those conditions. It needs moist, cool spots with rich soils for its best performance. So will most groundcovers. The general suggestion is xeriscape landscaping, to cut back on the amount of turf that you use, and to choose the most drought-tolerant type of grass you can find for those parts of your landscape that you do dedicate to grass. Some of us thought that buffalograss would be the answer in the early 1990s when it was being brought into the turf market, but we soon found out that bermudagrass would overtake it. I tried one-half acre of the variety '609' buffalograss in 1991, and within three years it was hard to find any of it still remaining. The area had been overrun by

native bermuda, even though only watered it three times as it was becoming established. For that reason, I would suggest common bermuda for those areas where you really do need a little bit of turfgrass. It will exist on very little topsoil. Bring in landscaping mix to build beds for smaller shrubs and groundcovers to cover as much as 30-40% of your landscape and use large shrubs or small native trees that have proven adaptability to the native conditions. Finish with mulch or decorative gravel or small river rock for the rest. Keep the design simple. Look around town at other landscapes, both commercial and private, and take photos of those that you like. Don't be afraid to copy their ideas. Gardeners are always flattered.

Dear Neil: We have English ivy groundcover beneath our trees, and various kinds of weeds are



TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

coming up in the ivy. Is there a product we can use to kill the invasive weeds and grasses without hurting the trees?

I probably worry more about the English ivy than I do about the trees, since the groundcover is right there on the firing line. I would suggest you use a wicktype applicator to apply a glyphosate-only herbicide. I realize that sentence may require translation from a farm supply store or nursery. The applicator would be shaped roughly like a hockey stick, and where the head of the stick would be is where the wick would be. The herbicide would be in the handle, and it would be wicked out to the head where you could merely wipe it across the weeds' leaves. You could be very careful not to splatter it onto the ivy, and even if some of it did hit the ground, glyphosates do not go into the soil, so the trees would be safe. Give that a try and see if it doesn't help you get rid of most of the weeds. What few weren't killed by the herbicide could be dug by hand.

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.

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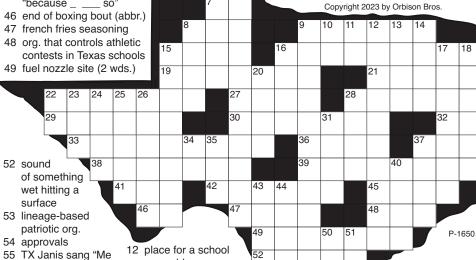
ACROSS

- Oldham County seat 5 TX Jensen Ackles was in "Rust" before shooting incident with this Baldwin
- 6 Spanish "little girl" Fri. night score
- 8 founded in Texas, "Steak and 9 horse racetrack in Selma, Texas:
- Park' 15 TXism: "up and juice" (coffee)
- 16 sold by Texas-based Whataburger 19 with "Inc.," Texas

based cosmetics

- company (2 wds.) TXism: "heavy as the front end of a John 22 2nd place (hyph.)
- in golf, scoring a 3 on 4 is a birdie
- 28 those kids who ain't a seeker marijuana cigarette
- 30 "the food was good, what there
- (small portion) 32 it uses machines that learn (abbr.) 33 TXism: "hot as
- bumper' 36 A.H. founded the Dallas Morning News
- TXism: "the ole ball chain" (spouse) fishing boat that drags baited lines

- 39 front door, e.g.
- 41 this Smith worked for the Astros for 35 years Texas-born astronaut,
- White 45 parental response: "because
- 46 end of boxing bout (abbr.)
- 47 french fries seasoning
- 48 org. that controls athletic
- 49 fuel nozzle site (2 wds.)



and Bobby Mc_ **DOWN**

- Alstyne, TX 2 UT grad, Wallach 3 TX George H.W.
- wanted a kinder and nation 4 TX Tommy Lee
- Jones has won one of these (2 wds.) 8 Padre Island beach
- bronzed (2 wds.) 9 reservoir north of Denton
- "Gig '__ Aggies!" Texas-born saxophonist, "Tex" (init.)
- 12 place for a school assembly 13 former talking horse CBS sitcom (2 wds.)
- Cowboy running back, Tommie (1990-94) 15 Potter County seat
- 16 Lukas of "Leap of Faith" starring Texasborn Steve Martin
- 17 straying from the proper course (noun) live in a place 20 San Antonio public
- 22 home state of Jerry Jones (abbr.) 23 televangelist in Rockwall, TX, Larry

FM station

of Waco notoriety "Stark Museum " in Orange 26 in Ellis County

53

55

on I-35 (2 wds.) sword handle 31 Alamo heroes were

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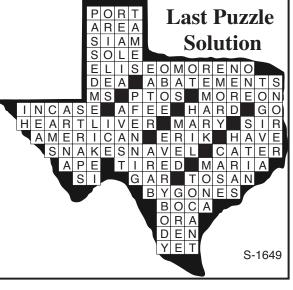
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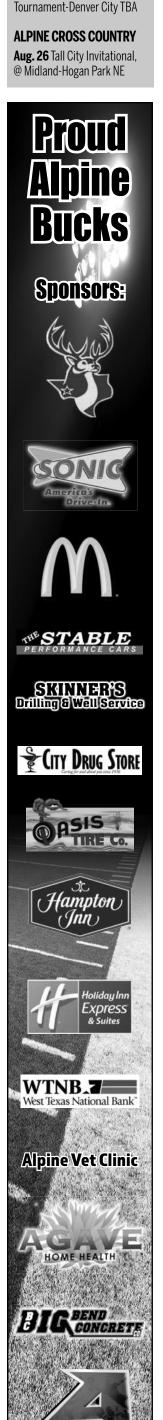
Sports Schedule FIGHTIN' BUCKS FOOTBALL

Aug. 18 Pecos @ Alpine -Scrimmage, JV 5 p.m., Varsity

Aug. 24 Alpine vs Clint Mountainview, JV 5:30 p.m. Aug. 25 Clint Mountainview @ Alpine, Varsity 7 p.m.

LADY BUCKS VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 17-19 San Angelo Tournament, TBA Aug. 22 Alpine vs Fort Davis F/ JV 5 p.m., V 6 p.m. Aug. 24-26 Fillie Festival





Alpine Lady Bucks volleyball team faced off against Wink at home last Tuesday before defeating the Wildcats on their court Saturday.

Photo by Joh Covington

Lady Bucks named 'Best of the West'

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

Alpine Lady Buck pride is alive and well after their first tournament of the season. In the "Best of the West Tournament", hosted at Wink high school, the Lady Bucks owned the scoreboard at the end of almost every set, ending with a seven-win streak.

Head coach Adrian Smith spoke on what this success means for our Lady Bucks, "The Lady Buck Volleyball Program sets the standard for their program moving forward with all three teams performing to achieve tournament placement!"

Alpine faced the Van Horn Eagles first on Thursday and in set one, succeeded with 25-16 and a tighter 25-18 in set two. Alpine got the W 2-0. Hope Dominguez, junior, and Novah Carrasco, senior, were "killing it" in this game, Dominguez pulling a total of 13 kills and Carrasco with 10 over its course.

The Lady Bucks delivered six serving aces together during this game. Senior, Paula Vargas and Carrasco, along with Jaycee Portillo, junior, joined senior Mia Morris' 17 digs, to reach a total of 36 rescuing moves.

Next up, the Lady Bucks faced off with the McCamey Badgers. The Alpine team totaled with 26 successful kill moves and five ace serves, giving them the W 2-0 again, with 25-16 in set one and two.

The attack moves were more evenly distributed through the team in this game. Adayna Garcia, Ali Maroney, and Hannah Juett, seniors, joined Dominguez and Carrasco in offensive kill moves, moving them steadily up the scoreboard. Vargas had helped the team with 20/20 assist serves, with only three ball handling errors.

Portillo and Morris each had 24 out of the 65 digs for the game, narrowly avoiding several close calls.

The last game of the evening was the Lady Bucks vs Red Devils of Rankin. In both set one and set two Alpine secured a score of 25-16, leaving the court with the W, 2-0. During this game, Alpine maintained their attack attempts with Dominguez and Carrasco being slightly less successful than the two previous games, but still delivering 24 total kills. Most of these kills were made possible again by Vargas, who carried out all 23/23 of the successful assists.

Vargas, Carrasco, and Morris, seniors, and Portillo served the opposing team with 10 surprising aces for the team.

In these two sets, Morris carried out almost half of the successful digs for her team for this game, expertly defending from Rankin's attempts.

The Bucks have definitely started showing their strengths and consistency in this tournament, winning each set, starting this season off on a strong foot.

"Tournament Season is all about development within the program through the lens of repetitive competition. During this development process athletes are able to establish team dynamics, team chemistry, positional relationships to build offensive and defensive systems, and progress toward improvement and implementation of skills," Smith said.

The following day, the Alpine team faced the Buena Vista Longhorns, playing two sets and winning 2-0. With 28 kill moves, 38 digs, 24 assist serves, and 21 receptions, the Lady Bucks saw set one 25-15 and set two 25-7.

Next on that final day, they played the Knights from the Midland Classical Academy. The teams played three sets against one another and Alpine

See VOLLEYBALL • 9

Alpine runners off to a good start

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

The Alpine High School's cross-country team participated in their first meet of the season this past Saturday in Pecos. Despite the unending heat that has plagued the area, and always plagues Pecos in the summer, Alpine showed the district how it's done.

Overall team results for the day resulted in the JV boys placing first overall, followed by a third place for the varsity boys and a third overall for the varsity girls.

Individually, there were of course stand outs for the Runnin' Bucks. Senior Mia Morris won the varsity girls division, while junior Hatfield Cason won the varsity boys division. For the JV,

freshman Everett Edwards placed second in the boy's division and freshman Molly Garrett placed third in the girl's division.

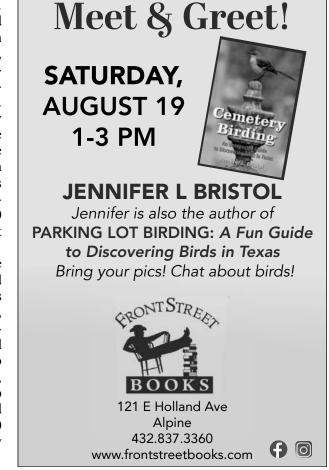
There were 20 medalists overall for the varsity division, which also included Alpine's Hope Dominguez, Colette Fowlkes, Aaron Miller, and John Mendoza. Along with the varsity medalists, three of Alpine's JV squad made the top 10, including Landyn Marta, Ferris Daley, and Solanus Prieto.

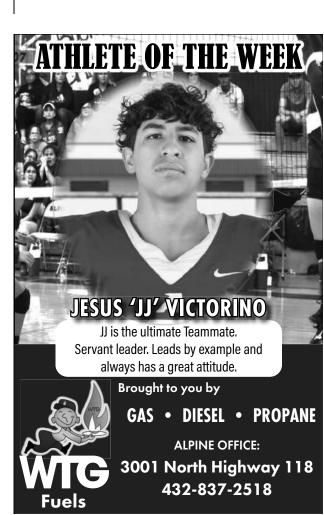
The Runnin' Bucks travel to Midland's Hogan Park on Saturday, August 26 followed by the Red Rock Run in Van Horn on Thursday, August 31. The Tall City Invitational in Midland will also be the first race of the season for Alpine Middle School.



Alpine Runnin' Bucks cross country team are front row: Danica Mulholland, Valeria Crespo, Tannin Ritchie, Madalyn Carter, Landon Velasco, Solanus Prieto, Ferris Daley, Coach Cason, Isla Velasco, and Alexa Renteria. Middle row is John Mendoza. Back row: Raul Renteria, Landyn Marta, Alan Navarrete, Aaron Miller, Martin Sablatura, Marco Salcido, Everett Edwards, Colette Fowlkes, Jaylynn Celaya, Molly Garrett, Elizabeth Marta, Megan Struthers, and Hatfield Cason.

Courtesy photo











Sul Ross athletes Annika Canaba, Kylie Garcia, and Camryn Hardin were named American Southwest Conference Distinguished Scholar Athletes for **Spring 2023.**

Alpine natives named **ASC** distinguished scholars

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Cross-Country runner Kylie Garcia was named an American Southwest Conference Distinguished Scholar Athlete. Garcia exhibited great improvement as a freshman runner and maintained a 3.8 cumulative GPA last spring. She was one of five runners to compete at the ASC Cross-Country Championship and finished with a time of 36:17.3 in the postseason meet. The Lobos finished eighth overall in 2023.

Camryn Hardin was also named an ASC Distinguished Scholar in softball. In the 24 games Hardin played, she put together a .388 average with 26 hits, including three doubles, 12 RBI,

and seven stolen bases. Hardin finished the season with 10 multi-game hits along with tallying a nine-game hitting streak during the month of April, where she put up 15 hits and eight RBI, all while maintaining a 3.5 cumulative GPA for the spring semester.

Last, but certainly not least, one of the best two sport athletes Sul Ross has seen, Annika Canaba was named and ASC Distinguished Scholar for both volleyball and softball, all while maintaining a 3.9 cumulative GPA. Canaba earned second-team recognition on the softball diamond with 40 hits, nine stolen bases, and a .396 average. She was also ranked as the seventh best hitter in the conference, tallying two home runs, 19 RBI,

and a .535 slugging percentage. Canaba put up 30 runs, earning her the 10th ranking in the conference while defensively she threw out 14 runners to lead the conference. In a doubleheader against Mary Hardin-Baylor on April 28, Canaba made history by playing all nine defensive positions during the first game. On the volleyball court, Canaba tallied seven triple-doubles and a team high 289 kills along with 261 assists, 28 service aces, 166 digs, and 35 total blocks. She was named honorable mention All-Region 10 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association and has earned ASC All-Conference nods four times straight in volleyball and

Leading the pack



Hatfield Cason proves once again what a powerhouse he is when it comes to distance running. Cason, a junior at Alpine High School, won the boys varsity division in this past Saturday's West of the Pecos cross-country meet held in Pecos.

Courtesy photo

Mountain Division Saguaros get washed away by San Rafael

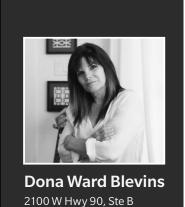
BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

The pennant fight for the Pecos League title between the Tucson Saguaros of the Mountain Division and the San Rafael Pacifics of the Pacific Division came down to a third and deciding game on Saturday. Although the Saguaros forced a game three after their win on Friday of 4-0 over the Pacifics, they were unable to keep up the momentum, and dropped game three with

a 2-0 loss, allowing San Rafael to take the Pecos League Championship

for 2023. Despite the Cowboys loss to the Fuegos in the first round of the playoffs, they put up an impressive season. After the tragic loss of relief pitcher Jared Strait on June 9, the Cowboys were able to bounce back, using that energy for a comeback from fifth place to second, winning 23 of the last 25 games and ended the regular season with a 35-16 record. Besides many of this seasons Cowboys being promoted to higher division teams, fireballer for the Cowboys, Matt Hess came away with the Mountain Division's pitcher of the year title. With a 3.83 overall ERA, Hess proved to be an integral part of the Cowboys arsenal and was promoted to the Ogden Raptors of the MLB partner Pioneer League. The Cowboys organization is now gearing up for the 2024 season, providing another round for the boys of summer to make Alpine proud.



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Sept. 14-17 Eastern NM University-

Portales, NM

Sept. 21-23 Sul Ross State University

Sept. 28-29 Vernon College-Vernon,

Oct. 12-14 Frank Phillips College-

Canadian, Texas

Oct. 26-28 Texas Tech University-

Lubbock, Texas

VOLLEYBALL • FROM 6

won with 2-1, bouncing back after losing the first set.

During this game Carrasco had a total of 12 kills, and the team as a whole had 33. Morris had 28 receptions for this game, and in addition to Carrasco's 15, Portillo's 14, and Dominguez' 11, the team's defense was shining.

Lastly, the Lady Bucks were up against the hosting high school

team, the Wink Wildcats. Set one was very close, Alpine gaining the board only 25-23. Alpine lost to Wink in set two 16-25 but was resurgent for the final set overpowering the Wildcats 25-20. This game was won by Alpine 2-1.

In this game versus Wink, the Alpine team had the highest number of kills for the entire tournament, with a total of 41, Carrasco alone bringing in 18. Vargas got the team to 36 assist serves and Morris had 25 out of the total 62 receptions.

"The atmosphere among our Lady Bucks was one of affirmation, support, excitement, and motivation geared toward the next level of success," said Smith, when asked about the how the team handled the competition.

BREWSTER COUNTY PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

A Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 9:30 A.M. in the Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom, 201 W Ave E Alpine,

Texas. (Public Hearing Dates may be subject to change).

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$192,978 (4.43%), and of that amount, \$68,518 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Alpine Police Department Notice Of Abandoned Motor Vehicle Auction

Pursuant to the provisions of Transportation Code 683.011, 683.031, 683.012, 683.014, Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, we are notifying you as either the LAST KNOWN registered owner or lienholder. The lienholder or registered owner of this vehicle has the right to reclaim this motor vehicle. WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE upon payment of all towing, preservation, and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody, as well as garage keepers, charges for servicing, storage or repair of the vehicle. Failure of the owner or lienholder to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and your consent to a sale of the vehicle at public auction. If vehicle is not claimed, The Alpine Police Department will be holding a public auction of abandoned vehicles on Saturday August 19, 2023 at 10:00 am. Viewing of the vehicles will be from 9:00 am until the auction begins. The auction will be held at 2705 East Avenue I (Cemetary Road) next to the Hal Flanders Recycling Center in Alpine, Texas.

2010	FORD	PK	1FTEX1EW0AFD22186	LP-LLN6131	WHITE	TEXAS
2013	CHEVROLET	СР	2G1FB3D33D9242571	LP-00999B2	RED	TEXAS
2001	FORD	PK	1FTRX17L11NA53772	LP-6010AN	WHITE	TEXAS
1991	FORD	4D	1FMDU34X3MUC81932	LP-KPR9976	WHITE	TEXAS
2009	CADILLAC	4D	1G6DV57V390123874	LP-GDL9979	WHITE	TEXAS
2000	NISSAN	4D	3N1BB51A4YL000866	LP-663858B	RED/ BLK	TEXAS
2017	ТОУОТА	PK	5TFGZ5AN3HX084474	LP-JMR1342	TAN	TEXAS
1999	DODGE	PK	3B7HC13Y7XG235843	LP-9CMV45	BLUE	TEXAS
1996	JEEP	LL	1J4GZ58Y7TC343817	LP=SHF4989	RED	TEXAS
2014	KAWASAKI	МС	JKBRTCC14EB501608	LP- NO LP	GREEN	TEXAS
2003	FORD	PK	1FTRX07L13KD21413	LP- SBT0135	BLACK	TEXAS
1996	BMW	4D	WBAGJ8325TDL36762	LP- BCG8328	BLACK	TEXAS
1994	CHEVROLET	LL	1GNEC16K9RJ317074	LP- PGV4170	BLUE	TEXAS
2014	FORD	PK	1FT8W3DT1EEA66476	LP- LWK652	BLACK	OKLAHOMA



T SONGWRITTERS FESTIVAL



The lively crowd enjoyed the talent and humor of artist John Baumann while trying to escape the heat in the shaded patio. Baumann had the crowd swaying and sometimes laughing while they enjoyed barbeque and drinks.



Guests of the Marathon Songwriter's Festival walked down the road to the Gage's White Buffalo Bar outdoor patio where Max and Heather Stalling serenaded crowds with their beautiful vocals and strings. A few people danced and most gave a standing ovation at the end of the musicians' set. The Gage hosted the crowd with an outdoor bar and some misters to try to beat the heat.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school

Photo by Joh Covington

Marathon, Tx 79842

Photo by Joh Covington

GET A GRIP!



A bronc rider grips the halter rope with his hand and the horse with his legs during the opening bronc riding event at this year's Big Bend Ranch Rodeo. Bronc riders in this event use an everyday, working western saddle just as they would when breaking a horse on the ranch.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



A young lady from the Geronimo Ranch team, works on sorting numbered cattle during the team sorting competition at this past Saturday's Big Bend Ranch Rodeo youth rodeo.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



The Mellard Ranch crew successfully completed the steer riding competition during this past weekend's youth rodeo portion of the Big Bend Ranch Rodeo. Despite her participation in the other events, Dalleigh Mellard did not participate in this portion of the rodeo due to safety reasons, much to her frustration. Pictured are Aiden Mellard, dad Damon Mellard, Dalleigh Mellard, Travis Mellard, and Thomas Mellard.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Restaurant Guide

\$6 a week gets you a spot in our restaurant guide www.alpineavalanche.com

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COCINERO: Reef • Chicken • Shrimn **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

(Your choice of any two items) chicken sandwiches, rotisserie chicken & Cup of Tortilla Soup ● Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup picnic lunches, fruit pies, cobblers, brownies, Cup of Daily Soup ● 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppered Bacon

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The	Marathon Independent School Dist	trict	will hold a publi
meeting at ₋	6:00 PM, Monday, August 28, 2023 in	۱ <u> </u>	ligh School Library/Board Meeting Room, 109 N. 5th

district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited. The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the

proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax __/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations) **School Debt Service Tax** Approved by Local Voters _/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	1.48	% increase	or	0	% (decrease)
Debt service	0	_% increase	or	0	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	1.48	_% increase	or	0	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Prece	eding Tax Year	Current Tax Year		
Total appraised value* of all property	\$	135,452,054	\$	149,503,096	
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$	636,841	\$	529,190	
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$	120,670,585	\$	134,228,619	
Total taxable value*** of new property**	Ś	636,841	Ś	529,190	

- "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
- 'New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17). Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness	
and unpaid bonded indebtedness*	\$ 0.00

Total amount of outstanding a * Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates									
		tenance erations		iterest king Fund*]	<u> Total</u>		Revenue Student	 Revenue Student
Last Year's Rate	\$	0.94290	\$	0.00*	\$.94290	\$	8,594	\$ 4,104
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenand Operations Revenue	e & e &								
Pay Debt Service	\$	0.68800	\$	0.00 *	\$.68800	\$	6,596	\$ 6,102
Proposed Rate	\$	0.8120	\$	0.00 *	\$	0.8120	\$	8,178	\$ 6,636

st The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	<u>Last</u>	<u>Year</u>	This \	<u>rear</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	139,473	\$	151,589
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	70,603	\$	77,881
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$	0.94290	\$	0.8120
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	665.71	\$	632.39
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes			\$	(33.32)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at						
an election is0.8120	. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a					
rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of	0.8120					

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

> Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) 1,980,009

Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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may be cancelled for the next

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Notice to Claimants

4085

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Person and Estate of Miriam Elene Ishmael were issued on April 24, 2023, under Docket No. PR-03118 pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Barbara Ishmael.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Barbara Ishmael, Guardian of the Person and Estate of Miriam Elene Ishmael c/o Julie Balovich, Attorney P.O. Box 385

Alpine, Texas 79830

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: August 9, 2023.

Law Office of Julie M. Balovich PLLC

By: Julie M. Balovich Attorney for Barbara Ishmael, Guardian of the Person and Estate of Miriam Elene Ishmael



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tian Fellowship held Back-toa School festival August 6 with a super hero theme. From left is Leroy Morales, Vaughn Williams, Shannon Dawley, Lori Overstreet, Serenity Morales, and Justin Obink. Courtesy photo

Grace Chris-

Kids kept themselves busy during this past weekend's Big Bend Ranch Rodeo. While parents were competing in or watching the rodeo, these little guys were hard at work as well.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT **Ethan Sweat**

In what activities did you participated in high school?

In high school I participate in football, basketball, baseball, and UIL.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

My favorite coach was coach Valenzuela because he has always pushed me to do the best I could.

What was your favorite moment of the last four years?

My favorite moment in high school was win-



Ethan Sweat

ning bi district my senior year.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan on going to college and getting a criminal justice degree.

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Devotional Page

Not normal times

BY SCOTT HUCKABY

Big Bend Bible Fellowship

COVID impacted just about everybody in the world in some way. And everyone was anxious to get back to normal as the virus ran its course. While most of the public health mandates have ended, there is still a lingering sense that things are not quite back to normal. There are just way too many disturbing trends to think we are back to business as usual despite our normalcy bias that would have us think so. Normal isn't coming back, Jesus is!

The Apostle Peter said that the time leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be characterized by people thinking times are normal when they are not: "Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (1 Peter 3:3-4).

All indications are that we are on the very cusp of Jesus returning. He came the first time to pay the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross thus satisfying the requirements of the Law. But Jesus is coming back to usher in His kingdom on Earth. If this prospect disturbs you, your relationship to the Savior needs refreshing. His return is the "blessed hope" of all born again followers of Christ (Titus 2:13).

Among the disturbing trends of prophetic

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significance is the rise of globalism (Revelation 13:7). The top priority of the globalists is to curb global warming which is viewed as the greatest threat to humanity. So, we are being told that we all need to sacrifice to address this crisis. But as we saw with COVID, the solutions to the crisis will only serve to impose more control over people and will prove to be worse than the crisis itself.

Technological advances offer many blessings to humanity but there is a dark side to recent developments that are significant. Artificial intelligence promises amazing automation, but it will be used by tyrants to control people and will likely be used for the "image of the Beast" (Revelation 13:14-15).

Central Bank Digital Currencies offer some benefits but will be the infrastructure for the "mark of the Beast" facilitating the regulation of who may "buy or sell" (Revelation 13:16-18). We have already been conditioned to embrace the idea of restricting buying and selling due to the COVID mandates.

There are many other disturbing trends of prophetic significance in the economy, nature, geopolitics, religion, and the culture. There are also positive signs in Israel. Now is not a good time to think, "all things continue as they were from the beginning."

The best way to be prepared for what is coming is to trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior be-

fore it is too late.

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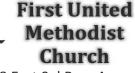
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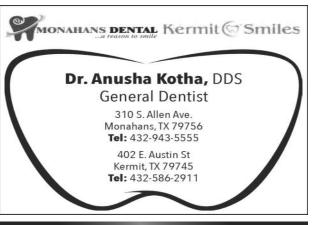
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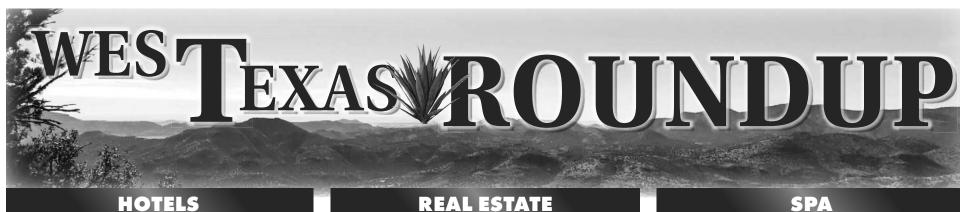


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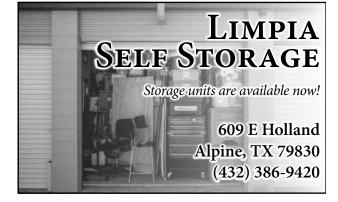


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The quickest tacos in the West

There's some exciting news in the realm of cooking for all you busy home cooks. It's quick, it's easy, and requires minimal effort. That's my kind of cooking, especially when trying to keep excessive heat from building up in your house on these hot afternoons and evenings.

This "new food option" was found completely by accident. As per usual, I was perusing the food aisles at the local gro-



MEALS

by kara gerbert

cery store, searching for those easy meal options and low and behold there it was.



Quicksteak Chicken Tacos

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Being single, I rarely plan elaborate meal options during the summer months. I save those for fall and winter, allowing for a nice pot of soup or chicken and dumplings to simmer over the stove, permeating the house with the smell of home cooking. I don't mind a little extra prep in the cooler months, but in warmer temperatures I want my meals to be quick, fast, and not damage the thermostat. This is just personal preference, obviously.

So, by now I guess you may be wondering, "what is this miracle food you're talking about?" Well, it's called Quicksteak. The company that produces it makes it available in chicken, beef, and corned beef options.

It is available in two locations locally at this time, the large packages can be found at our local

Porter's grocery store. So far, they only seem to carry chicken. I also found smaller, individual serving sizes of it available at Dollar General in beef and chicken. This is found in the frozen section and it's unbelievable how quick and easy it is to cook and have it on your table.

My favorite way to eat Quicksteak is, of course, as a taco. No way you can ever go wrong with tacos. It is just as good with lettuce and tomato on a burger bun with a little mayo and Dijon mustard or piled on top of a bed of greens for a chicken or steak salad. Mixing salsa or chile macho into it while it is cooking gives it a great flavor profile for any way you may want to enjoy it.

So, what is so quick about this Quicksteak? As you know, when cooking chicken, there is usually a cutting board, a sharp knife, and possibly a plate or container that you would use to season the chicken in. The same would go for the beef. The beauty of Quicksteak is that none of that prep work is required and the only dishes that are needed for cooking are a skillet and a spatula.

Open the package and place the meat into the hot skillet for a bit, flip it over on the other side for a few minutes, and then break it apart and stir around on occasion until it is done. It is that simple. No muss, no fuss, and dinner is done in less than 30 minutes.

Some may think this is lazy cooking. Well, it is, and it isn't. There is still cooking to be done, it is just that the excessive prep and extra dishes don't come into play. And to me, that is the best part.

Quicksteak Chicken Tacos

1 package of frozen tortillas Quicksteak chicken ¼ cup chopped onions

½ cup salsa or chile macho (optional)

1/8 teaspoon lime pepper or half the juice of a fresh squeezed lime

Warm corn or flour

Shredded cheese

(optional) Shredded lettuce, shredded cabbage, and diced tomatoes (optional)

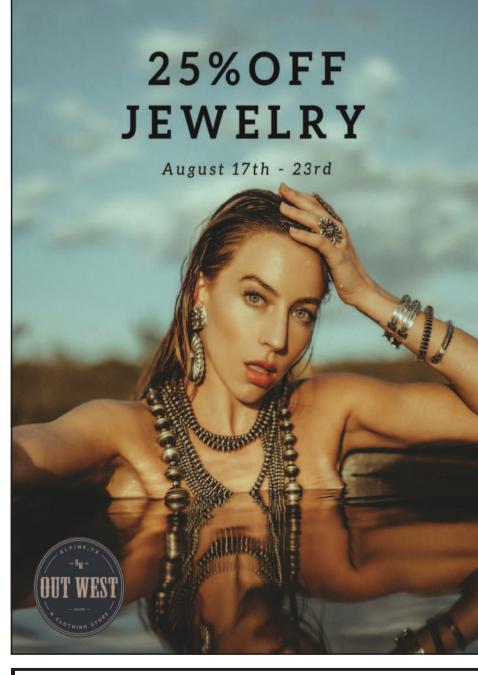
Sour cream (optional)

Directions:

Cook the package of Quicksteak chicken according to directions on the package.

Add in the diced onions and salsa or chile macho (optional)

Place the fully cooked Ouicksteak in warm tortillas and top with cheese and or lettuce or cabbage, and tomatoes. Add sour cream if desired. Serve.



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