

## Bomb threat at Alpine High School a hoax

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Not even a full week into the new 2023-2024 school year, and area law enforcement agencies and Alpine High School students, staff, and faculty were put to the test.

On Monday morning, local law enforcement received a call via a suicide hotline chat about a bomb at Alpine High School. According to a district announcement from Alpine ISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart, all students and staff were evacuated from the school to Kokernot Park and were safe. Local law enforcement officers were on-site at AHS and were clearing the building during the noon hour and investigating the threat for accuracy. The call was also being traced in hopes of identifying the caller.

See BOMB • 6

## INSIDE



FEATURED

See Fall Sports Preview

### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023 . . . . . 8.09"  
August . . . . . 3.2"



### Burn Ban ON

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



## Alpine High School football season underway

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Bucks football team is quickly approaching its first game and head coach Andy Smith is proud of the adjustment the athletes have made, by growing in their skills and learning new ones.

"I'm very pleased with the team's effort and toughness overall," said Smith in an interview with the Avalanche, af-

ter the team's first two scrimmages.

"Our running game is getting better and I feel that we made great strides as a team from Scrimmage one vs McCamey to Scrimmage two vs Pecos," Smith said.

In the controlled portion of the high school



Athl. Director and Head Football Coach Andy Smith

teams' scrimmage against Pecos, their number one offense scored three touchdowns against Pecos's number one defense. While the Pecos number one defense did not score against Alpine's number one defense. And Pecos and Alpine's number two offenses each scored one

time according to Smith. "Therefore, in the controlled scrimmage, it was Alpine with four touchdowns and Pecos with one," Smith said. They played two live quarters with a running clock after the controlled scrimmage, Alpine scored and it finished 7-0.

"I think we have an opportunity to be very talented on defense," Smith said, remarking on their abilities to run the ball, pursue, and tackle.

Smith has been working with the team since May, and they have been implementing new methods.

"They are responding really well to coaching. We're going to rely on our defense a lot earlier to play well as our kids adjust to a new offense." He believes that defense has a real opportunity to be the strength of the team.

See SEASON • 6

## Reared back and rearin' to go!



Alpine Fightin' Buck quarterback Iden Lujan rears back to throw a pass to his receivers downfield in last Thursday's scrimmage against the Pecos Eagles.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

## Bordo does Italian best

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Every little city in this West Texas area can feel like an island surrounded by desert, and when you're lost at sea, one of your main priorities is food. And good food is even more appreciated here than when you are buried in the options that larger cities provide. Out here, many good restaurants struggle, and some can't make it but there are those that occasionally persevere because they hit that sweet spot.

When traveling between the islands of Alpine and Marfa, for example, for a change of scenery or staycation, one stop is sure to impress any traveler. Bordo, with their fresh baked breads and variety of menu items, paired with the chance to



Bordo's beautiful and fresh Emiliani sandwich with prosciutto and the pasta Arrabiata that has a lovely chili and garlic bite.

meet strangers from other parts of the world, creates a lovely atmosphere out of Marfa's old Highland service station building on west San Antonio Street.

A fresh sandwich from Bordo starts the day off right, no matter how close to lunchtime your breakfast might be. That's why

brunch exists. A sandwich, along with one of their iced Italian sodas, go great with a scoop of whatever sweet gelato or sorbetto they have that day. A day that contains a meal like that makes you feel positively luxurious and maybe a bit spoiled, but splurging is good for

the soul every now and then.

Sitting outside Bordo, and Marfa as a whole, offers up a bubble universe view of how the local and tourist relationship operates.

The Emiliani sandwich is a perfect blend of flavors for those who love

Photo by Joh Covington a little sweet with their savory. The prosciutto di Parma offers that salty bite, and when paired with the peppery arugula, tart lemon, and the sweetness of a honey drizzle, becomes nearly addictive.

See BORDO • 6

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# OBITUARY

## Morgan "Marcus" Lee Osborne



We are grieved to announce, Morgan "Marcus" Lee Osborne (17 years old) was killed the afternoon of August 15, in Midland County.

The bereaved survivors include his stepfamily in Midland, Carla Ianet Gonzalez (stepmother), Kelis Salgado (step-fa-

ther), Alexanndrea Winstead (sister), and Brianna Gatlin (sister).

In Alpine, his adopted family survivors are

Jenny Walker (mother), James Osborne (father), Isabelle Osborne (sister), Seth Osborne (brother), and Macey Walker (sister).

In Belton, his biological family survivors are Tara Whitfield (mother), James Winstead (father), and Sarai Whitfield (sister).

Multiple grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends

across the United States will miss him desperately.

Born on September 7, 2005, in Midland County, Morgan lived his whole life in Texas. His first 12 years, he spent with his adopted family in Alpine, where he was homeschooled and attended Alpine Middle School. Reaching his teens, Morgan was introduced to his biologi-

cal family, expanding his circle of friends, family, and experiences, and lived a few years with them in the Temple/Belton area. Due to the death of his beloved brother, Joseph (JD) Osborne, in November 2022, Morgan spent the last nine months with his stepfamily in Midland. His presence in the Gonzalez/Salgado house was impactful and has left

an enormous loss. Morgan made many friends everywhere he lived, a lover of cars, music and fun, making him impossible to ever be forgotten.

Memorials may be made on behalf of all the families at American Heritage Cemetery Funeral Home Crematory in Midland. There is no funeral scheduled at this time.

# Drilling for water in West Texas

Water has always been the greatest hindrance to growth in West Texas. Even today limited water resources restrict our long-term planning, and growth. This issue was especially true in the 19th Century when the primary mode of rapid transportation was the steam driven locomotive. Without surface water the only solution was to drill.

The first attempt to drill for water in West Texas was the result of the "Pacific Railway Surveys" (1853-54). Designed to determine the "best and most practical" route for the proposed transcontinental railroad, several routes were surveyed during this period. This was done because of sectional interests, and was an attempt to take politics out of the issue: would the terminus be in the North, South or Middle Border? There were vocal interests for each.

Congress placed the War Department, and its Secretary Jefferson Davis, in charge. As a southerner Davis's interests were well known and when the results of the surveys were



**FIDDLER'S GREEN**

by Larry Francell

complete, the southernmost route along the 32nd Parallel was the one he most promoted. He was enthusiastically assisted by Captain John Pope the man who led the survey. But there was one problem. There was not enough water, especially in the area between the Pecos River and Delaware Creek and Pine Springs in the Guadalupe Mountains.

The eastern terminus of Pope's route was Fulton, Arkansas and Pope estimated the costs of a railroad from there to El Paso to be \$40,000,000, and \$61,000 per mile from the Pecos River to El Paso, one hundred and sixty-nine miles. But still that niggling little problem of water. Interest in

this southern route was so strong that Pope was sent back to West Texas before the other surveys were complete. In June 1855 Pope arrived with 41 laborers, technical assistants, the geologist George Shumard, the artist Harry Sindall, and a military escort.

The boring equipment included cable, pipe and tubing, and a small steam engine. According to the estimated latitude and longitude, the site of Pope's camp is to the west of Red Bluff Lake near the Texas-New Mexico border. After three months of effort, they struck water at 641 feet. Drilling deeper they hit two more layers of water, but the well collapsed and most of the tubing necessary to continue was lost.

The project was abandoned, but Pope reported, "Although the practicability of boring artesian wells in the desert was fully tested in the above results which exhibit an abundant and constant supply of water, entirely unaffected by surface rains and easily accessible to pumps." Some of the hyperbole for which Pope was known.

Luckily, we have a visual record of Pope's effort. Little is known of the artist Harry Sindall and few of his paintings still exist, but those that do are excellent works depicting important scenes in early West Texas history. His painting "Camels Crossing a Texas River" (The Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth) is the only visual record of the camel expedition.

Captain John Pope's Artesian Well Drilling Site (The Texas State Preservation Board, Austin) depicts this first drilling effort in West Texas. The tent encampment is to the left on a low bluff and the drilling rig is to the right. There is a tall wooden derrick partially protected by a wooden structure at the base, and a small building enclosing the steam engine driving the equipment. Wagons, men, dogs, and horses complete the scene. This is an early and important painting in our Texas history.

But all of Pope's effort went for naught. When the southern transcontinental railroad was constructed, it came further south through

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- Limpia Creek Hats
- Peach's Leather
- Gumslingers
- Wasserman's
- Top Hand Ropes

# Mayor honors city workers on behalf of Alpine

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine city council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 15. At the beginning of the meeting, the City Mayor, Catherine Eaves, asked representatives from several city departments to come forward to receive recognition for their excellent service.

Benjamin Struthers came forward to receive a certificate for his two years of service with the Parks and Recreation board. After receiving his certificate and taking some photos, Struthers thanked City Secretary, Geo Calderon, and City Manager, Meagan Antrim for, "answering my 1,000 questions."

Airport supervisor Abel Hinojos and Ward 5 council member Rick Stephens stood on behalf of the airport employees to receive recognition. August 19 was National

Aviation Day, and Stephens invited the community to come to the airport that Saturday for coffee and donuts. "I encourage all citizens of the City of Alpine to learn more about aviation in our city and to recognize the contributions of the hard-working professionals who support all sectors of this vital industry," Eaves said.

Some of the Building and Code staff were present at the meeting as well, Andrew Devaney, Director of Building Services and Jessica Boorse, Code Enforcement Officer/Permit Technician came forward so that the mayor could publicly thank them for their service, in light of September 1 being Building and Code Staff Appreciation Day. The mayor remarked on the importance of these members of staff, noting that these critical roles ensure productivity, cost effectiveness, and most importantly, safety.

After the council and others present thanked all of those staff members present with a round of applause, Eaves continued the meeting by giving the mayor's report. "There are a lot of exciting things happening in Alpine right now and in our community as a whole," said Eaves. The mayor noted that Sul Ross is working towards a remote educational doctoral program, which will be a first for the university. Eaves also mentioned that AISD has started an access program. "This is a pipeline from high school into a career path," Eaves said, using the nursing program as an example.

There is also an increase of people investing in Alpine's future. Eaves listed business like the Granada and Alcove, and the Holland Hotel and the Maverick Motel, all of which are looking into historic land-



Catherine Eaves

mark designation and some which will be undergoing future remodeling.

Collin Bibb, the co-founder and CEO of Byways Hospitality, the new owners of the Holland and Maverick, was present at the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the properties remodeling plans, emphasizing that historic preservation and restoration is at the forefront. "Our intention is to return it to what it used to be and to honor the history here," said Bibb. Bibb's company is hoping to work with the city and hopes to negotiate taxes during the expensive construction months.

Regarding the influx of people wanting to invest in Alpine, Eaves said, "We are on the cusp of a rebirth here," people mention the good ole days of Alpine, "We are working hard as a community

to bring that back to Alpine," said Eaves.

To her fellow city council members, Eaves said, "We need to make sure that the city can help facilitate this rebirth. The city needs to be in a position to help with the economic growth and economic development of Alpine. The future of Alpine depends on it."

In the meeting's consent agenda, the council approved all the items, including the approval of the special use permits for three properties. Regarding one of these properties, on North Cockrell Street, the court heard from Carl Flemming of Ward 5. Flemming's concern with the property was based on a long history of noise complaints and increased traffic due to the short-term residents. This concern was addressed by the council before their vote. Council members Stephens of Ward 5, Judy Stokes, Ward 1, and Chris Rodriguez, Ward

2 have met with the new owners of the property and are assured that the issues of the past will not be recurring.

The council set dates for the previously discussed workshops that the council will attend and invites citizens to better understand city management. The workshops include street management, which will be on August 23, employee retainment on September 19, water systems on December 5, and wastewater management on January 16.

Finally, the council approved the first reading of an ordinance for adopting an annual budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, for which there will be a public hearing before adoption. They also approved the resolution on the live music permitting fees under the city's ordinances and authorized the Alpine Police Department to participate in a Homeland Security Grant.

The next regularly scheduled city council meeting will

## Auto accident sends two to hospital

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

According to reports from the Alpine Fire Department, a major vehicle accident occurred just west of Alpine in the vicinity of the former Chinese food restaurant. Two vehicles collided on West Hwy 90, forcing one to overturn.

Emergency responders on the scene were able to remove patients from the vehicle and transfer them to an ambulance for medical care. The two patients sustained moderate to seri-



A major two-vehicle collision occurred just west of Alpine on Saturday afternoon around 1 p.m., stalling highway traffic to and from Marfa.

ous injuries. According to Chief of Police Darrell Losoya, Alpine Police Department initially responded to the accident to assist the injured, even though it occurred outside the city

limits. "Since the accident occurred outside the city limits, we took control of directing traffic to avoid any more accidents due to the incident already in progress," Losoya said.

The Brewster County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety officers, and TxDOT all responded to the accident, to work the scene and keep all law enforcement and first responders safe while they performed their duties. No further information is available at this time.

## New STOP signs in town



The City of Alpine, thanks to the efforts of Ward 1 city council member Judy Stokes, installed new four-way stop signs at four different intersections in town. The new signs are located at the corners of 8th Street and Sul Ross, 8th Street and Avenue A, 8th Street and Del Rio, and 7th Street and Hendryx Avenue. Alpine Police Department asks that motorists use caution at these intersections as everyone becomes familiar with the new traffic signage.

Photo courtesy of Judy Stokes



The Gage Hotel in Marathon hosted a two-day BBQ Pachanga this past weekend where Texas pitmasters came together over BBQ and upscale sides to tease the palates of guests with their own spin on smoked beef tri-tip, confit smoked fried duck, and Burnt Bean big red tres leches cake for dessert. From left is Leonard Botello IV of Truth BBQ, Phillip Moellering of Brick Vault Brewery and BBQ, and Ernest Servantes of the Burnt Bean Co.

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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT TO WATCH OR ATTEND IN PERSON?

RESULTS	
FOOTBALL	
VOLLEYBALL	25% (1 vote)
TRACK AND FIELD	0% (0 votes)
SOCCER	0% (0 votes)
BASEBALL	25% (1 vote)
RODEO	0% (0 votes)
BASKETBALL	50% (2 votes)
	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](http://www.AlpineAvalanche.com)

## LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed.

Send your letters to [kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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ALPINE AVALANCHE (014 800) is published every Thursday morning at 704 E. Holland Ave., Alpine, TX 79830. Periodical postage paid at Alpine, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Alpine Avalanche, P.O. Box 719, Alpine, TX 79831.

Subscription rates in Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties are \$42 per year, \$48 in-state and \$52 elsewhere.

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## Welcome, and welcome back!

Anticipation is building at Sul Ross State University for the upcoming fall semester. With a renewed sense of purpose and an unwavering commitment to excellence, we eagerly prepare to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to our campus community.



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ  
Sul Ross president

Our collective eagerness to return to the classroom is matched only by the innovative programs awaiting our students. These programs reflect our commitment to providing an education that equips graduates with the skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen fields.

Beyond academia, the campus is set to pulsate with the energy of student life once again. Clubs, or-

ganizations, and events will provide numerous outlets for students to connect, engage, and explore their passions. These activities foster the sense of belonging and community that is a hallmark of the Sul Ross State experience.

Last spring, we had nearly 40 clubs for students, and we expect the same in the fall. From Art Club to Cattleman's Club to cheerleading, Dungeons and Dragons to Pre-Law Association and Billiards Club, there's a wide variety of ways for our Lobos to find their pack.

The Student Government Association, led by Dean of Students Suzanne Harris, is very active and a great way for Lobos to learn how to engage in their communities

for a lifetime.

To our returning students, your resilience and dedication have been nothing short of inspiring. As you step back onto our campus, remember that your journey here is not just a continuation, but a chance for new growth and discovery.

To our incoming students, welcome! You are embarking on an exciting chapter of your life, and Sul Ross State University is here to support you every step of the way. Our "Lobo Days" and "Welcome Weeks" programs are designed to introduce new students to our traditions and acclimate them to being away from home in unfamiliar but exciting new environments. They'll begin moving into their dorms this weekend. Please make them feel welcome when you see them in town.

Faculty members are the

backbone of our institution. Your unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research, and mentorship is the foundation upon which our students' futures are built. Your passion for teaching and dedication to their success truly sets our university apart.

SRSU is welcoming 12 new faculty members this fall who will teach anthropology, education, kinesiology, business, art, agriculture, and nursing. We're excited to have them on board and look forward to their work to build upon our programs.

As we embrace the promise of this new school year, let us carry forward the lessons of the past and the aspirations of the present. Let us seize every opportunity to connect, learn, and make a positive impact on the world around us.

## We don't meet people by coincidence

*Co-in-ci-dence* – noun: a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection.

— Oxford Language Dictionary

"So, what are you gonna do now," asked Craig as we sat at the tall work table stools just inside The Monitor newspaper office.

"I don't know," I told the editor and publisher of the Naples newspaper who was always known only by his last name. Said the only two people who called him Morris were his mother and his first-grade teacher.

That was late 1974 or early 1975. A long time ago in newspaper years, but not that long after Morris Craig had purchased the northeast Texas publication.

"I went to school to learn how to teach," I told him. "Discovered I wasn't cut out to be a schoolteacher and went to work for Dan down the street at Hampton's Building Supply because I could draw house plans. Then Dan is going out of business. "At this moment, I don't really know," I said. "My mother always says the third time is the charm, so we'll see."

My mother was how I came to know Craig. He, like many other weekly publications in the area, printed his paper at the Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune office on Second Street where my mother worked in the circulation department. And Craig, being the outgoing and friendly

guy he always was, made the rounds at the Tribune office every week to say, "Hello."

I used to think it was just a coincidence I went to The Monitor the day I found out my job at Hampton's was ending. Seeking a job was the last thing on my mind. I just needed a friendly voice that day, and there was no one friendlier or more uplifting to visit with than Morris Craig.

The next words out of his mouth, however, answered the question of the hour and opened the door to a life-long career path for a twenty-something-year-old with no idea where he was going.

"I know you can take pictures," Craig said. "Come work for me a while until you find something else."

"A while" turned into two years. Long enough to discover that community newspapering answered the callings of how I would ultimately spend my life. During that time, Morris Craig instilled in me what I still call "the basics of newspapering." How to produce a respected community newspaper that everyone looked forward to reading.

What followed The Monitor was no coincidence. Time spent in a couple of other newspapers, classes at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches to earn a master's degree in communication journalism, and then what I call



LEON ALDRIDGE  
Guest Columnist

"almost a PhD" in journalism from The University of North Texas in Denton taught me something else.

I was knee deep and dollars into having learned about "textbook

journalism," but none of it taught me as much about good community newspapers as Craig did at The Monitor.

So, when I took my cumulative knowledge and experience into the classroom at SFA to teach aspiring young journalists, I added Morris Craig Monitor education to the curriculum. Knowledge gleaned from a community journalist who never took the first college course in journalism or anything else. Skills Craig acquired from previous Monitor owner, Lee Narramore, an old Army veteran journalist that he applied with his unique understanding of people and appreciation for enjoying life.

Craig often recounted how Narramore approached him one night during his senior year. "I was working nights running the projector at the Inez Theater in Naples," he said. "I was sitting on the curb, drinking a Coke and waiting for time to change movie reels when Lee walked out of the newspaper office across the street."

Just as Craig asked me almost 20 years later, he said Narramore asked him that night what he was going to do after

graduation. Craig said, "I told him I didn't know, and he offered me a job."

Craig accepted the offer, embarking on a career journey lasting almost seven decades at one newspaper.

Press association awards for editorial excellence filled the walls of The Monitor office in the beginning. However, Craig said in recent years, he had nothing else to prove except delivering the best community newspaper produced to readers in North Morris County every week. And that's all he ever did.

That journey ended Saturday, August 19. Morris Craig passed away after 67 years of producing outstanding community newspapers.

Maybe it was just a coincidence that I wrote about another Naples friend in this space last week, Dorothy Beggs. Monday, I sent the column to the newspapers that are kind enough to print it each week, including The Monitor.

Craig responded Tuesday with memories of Dorothy, her favorite song, and recalling "the good times." When I uploaded the weekly piece to my blog Saturday morning, as I do every week, I added Craig's comments.

Little did I know that while I was doing so, Craig was typing -30- on the end of his last submission. The traditional symbol once used by journalists to indicate "end of the story."

Coincidence, any of it? Not in my book.

# Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "What is your favorite comfort TV show or movie?"



**Adrianna Atkins:** I'd have to say my favorite movie would have to be The Proposal. I love the cast and the plot and all of it. Gets me every time.



**Makenzie Bledsoe:** My comfort show is New Girl.



**Marii Covington-Jones:** Things that make me feel good about the world. Ted Lasso, Somebody Feed Phil, Queer Eye. And then guilty pleasures like Love Actually, Pride and Prejudice and Persuasion. I'm a nerd too and love to watch Marvel and Star Wars stuff. And rewatch if it happens to be on TV... like Avengers Endgame right now.



**Elizabeth Watson:** My comfort movie is The Mummy (1999). It was my mother's favorite, so it brings me comfort. My other go-to comfort movies are Prince of Egypt, Mary Poppins, and Hunchback of Notre Dame. The TV Show is probably Inuyasha.



**Josephine Langford:** One Tree Hill or Psych.

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Buzz. What a cutie Buzz is! This little Min-Pin is about two years old and came in as a stray. He's not the kind of guy who comes along every day looking for a home, but here he is!

He looks a little serious in his photo but will be an excellent pet for a family. Come by and meet and greet this little guy at the Shelter.

Don't miss Alpine Humane Society's Burger Basket Fundraiser on September 15 at Skelton's Runway. Contributing sponsors include Far West Texas Cattle Company, Porter's, and Skelton's Runway. Get a fully-dressed burger, chips, and a beverage and support AHS.

Proceeds from the event will support the services AHS provides to the pets and owners of our communities.

Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Humane Society.



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

The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cat-

tery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry recently moved to 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit Pet-Finder.com or www.alpin-humane-society.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

## Celebrating aviation



Ward 5 city councilman Rick Stephens show local aviation enthusiasts around the Alpine Casparis Airport to admire aircraft, enjoy coffee and donuts, and talk shop during National Aviation Day.

Photo by Joh Covington

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug 25-27 FREE WEEKEND,** Davis Mountains Preserve  
**Sept 15-16 West Fest Cabrito Cookoff,** 6 p.m. registration for cooks 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. 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 Choral rehearsals** on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbchorale.wixsite.



com/bbcc.

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

2979.

**Citizenship Classes,** at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621  
**ESL Tutoring,** at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.  
**GED tutoring,** at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.  
**Kiwanis Club of Alpine,** noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210  
*See more at alpineavalanche.com.*

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 Presidio County Golf Committee, P O Box 1143, Marfa, TX 79843

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**2023 BIG BEND GUN & KNIFE SHOW**  
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**CONTACT: Alpine Lions Club: 432-295-2088 BigBendGunAndKnifeShow@gmail.com**  
**ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS WILL BE OBEYED**  
**Thank you for supporting the Alpine Lions Club and our charity fund-raising activities. Bring used eye glasses and take \$1.00 off admission price**

**BOMB • FROM 1**

According to Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson, the caller relayed that he was a former graduate of AHS, and that he wasn't feeling very good about himself. He then told authorities he'd planted a bomb in the high school.

Dodson told the Avalanche, "Our response time to the high school was just a little over two minutes by the time the caller mentioned he'd planted a bomb. The call came through the Alpine Police Department, who then immediately relayed the information to us, since we have the School Resource Officers (SRO's) on our local campuses. By the time we arrived at the high school, the call had already gone to AHS principal Jarret Vickers and superintendent Rinehart, and the high school was almost completely evacuated to Kokernot Park."

According to Dodson, all of the students, staff, and faculty had evacuated the school according to protocol within four to five minutes.

While local law enforcement converged onto the AHS campus, and began searching the school, it was determined that a bomb sniffing canine unit would be required. The call was made to the closest bomb and canine unit, which was located in Ector County. While officers and school officials patiently awaited the arrival



**Alpine Police officers respond to a bomb threat at Alpine High School that was called in Monday morning.**

of the bomb specialists, all AHS students were dismissed for the day as of 1 p.m.

All students were required to be checked out by a parent or guardian if they did not have a vehicle on campus, and those with a vehicle and who were in possession of their keys required their parent's permission to have the school bus them to their vehicles in front of the high school, so that they could go home. Any students still at Kokernot by 1:15 were bussed to Alpine Middle School.

Although AHS was released for the day, all other AISD campuses were ordered to follow the shelter in place protocols at the onset of the

threat. Both the Alpine Middle School and the Alpine Elementary campuses had additional law enforcement dispatched to their campuses. Both the AES and AMS campuses had the shelter in place lifted by approximately 2 p.m. and normal activities resumed, including end of day release and bus routes.

In addition to the bomb unit, Dodson also enlisted the help of the FBI, who were tasked with tracing the IP address of the caller.

With the arrival of the bomb unit and canine at around 3 p.m., it took them a bit over an hour and a half to clear the building, and give all clear, declaring there was

no bomb on the premises.

According to both Dodson and Rinehart, there is suspicion that this threat is possibly linked to one made two days prior in Louisiana. There were also two other hoax calls made in Odessa on Monday, and according to Rinehart, those two were found to be connected, but it is not clear if the one here and those two or the call in Louisiana is connected. Rinehart said, "The FBI told me not to get in a rush about finding out who the guilty parties are. They told me that these things take time."

The ongoing investigation into the bomb threat is being conducted by the Brewster County Sheriff's Office and the FBI.

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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**.

**BORDO • FROM 1**

While eating in the outdoor seating area, as the old building is much too small for anything else, you can people watch and enjoy your food. When the weather is lovely, the patio is a good place to get away from downtown while enjoying a sweet luxardo cherry or pistachio cream Italian soda, with a scoop of watermelon sorbetto if

you're feeling indulgent.

Those who like a little kick of spice would love the pasta Arriabiata, which has chili and salami with just enough garlic. These meals are so satisfying because of the quality of ingredients. With the first bite of the pasta, one thinks, "this might be the freshest pasta I have ever had." Everyone who goes to

Bordo should definitely go while very hungry.

The walls are lined with an impressive selection of wines from near and far, even as close as the town's own Alta Marfa winery and vineyard.

Those who visit a new place should respect it like their grandmother's house. And stepping into the Bordo shop does feel like stepping back

in time, mostly because of the original interior and baskets of loaves of bread.

Bordo treats its guests very well. Their food is delicious, and they serve plenty of it. Enjoying a satisfying meal in that atmosphere that's unique to Marfa definitely makes a person feel like they have traveled farther than 30 minutes.

**SEASON • FROM 1**

When asked how the kids were adjusting to the new offense, Coach Smith said that the process is slow but it's like that everywhere for anybody who comes in and puts in a completely new system. They have instituted a new philosophy; the plays are different, and it's unfamiliar so that adjustment is taking time.

"I wouldn't say it's been a negative at all, it's just that most of the time at this time of year, the defense is already ahead anyway and so now we have a new system, and I am very pleased with how our quarterbacks have played," said Smith.

The two quarterbacks, Devin Rojo and Iden Lujan both bring different dynamics to the ta-

ble. Smith explains that Rojo is showing more as a drop back traditional passer, while Lujan is more of an elusive runner. The community can expect to see both quarterbacks play. "I think by the end of the season, those kids will be really the leaders of the team," said Smith.

Before the first game, against Clint Mountain View High school from El Paso, tomorrow, the team will be working on offensive line play, particularly in pass protection. The new scheme that Smith and his team have been working with has factors to improve drawback passing schemes, learning new pass sets and new communication and how to

talk to one another, along with learning new run game plays. "It's different so that dynamic has been a process," Smith said.

In Smith's eyes, communication gets a lot of the credit for the strides that the players have been making. They run plays with a huddle and some without, so developing the ability to expertly communicate with the sidelines and on the field has been integral.

Mountain View was a playoff team last year and is a tough opponent and the Coach and team respects that, "We're going to put our kids in this situation to be successful and to play well."

As for playoffs and

championship, "Our goal is always to play in December. A coach told me a long time ago that the fans remember the games from November and December," said Smith.



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Feeder Cattle: Steady  
Packer Cows and Bulls: Steady

300# - 400# Steers	315.00 to 325.00
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400# - 500# Steers	297.00 to 315.00
400# - 500# Heifers	261.00 to 287.00
500# - 600# Steers	267.00 to 297.00
500# - 600# Heifers	235.00 to 261.00
600# - 700# Steers	231.00 to 267.00
600# - 700# Heifers	212.00 to 235.00
700# - 800# Steers	231.00 to 234.00
700# - 800# Heifers	205.00 to 212.00
Packer Cows	105.00 to 116.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	80.00 to 90.00
Packer Bulls	110.00 to 134.00
Feeder Bulls	85.00 to 95.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	1500.00 to 2100.00
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## LOOKING BACK

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**August 3, 1945**

The Sul Ross and Alpine public schools have gained a new band director in John Carrico. Carrico was given an honorable discharge from the army due to tropical fever and has returned to Alpine and its schools. He attended Sul Ross back in the day and will begin his duties at the beginning of September.

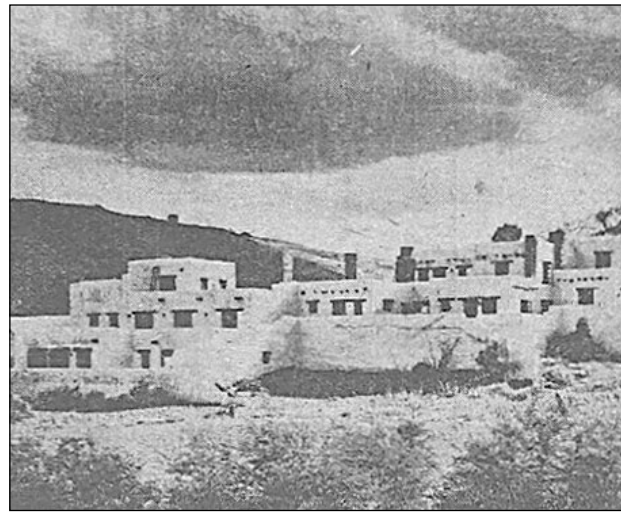
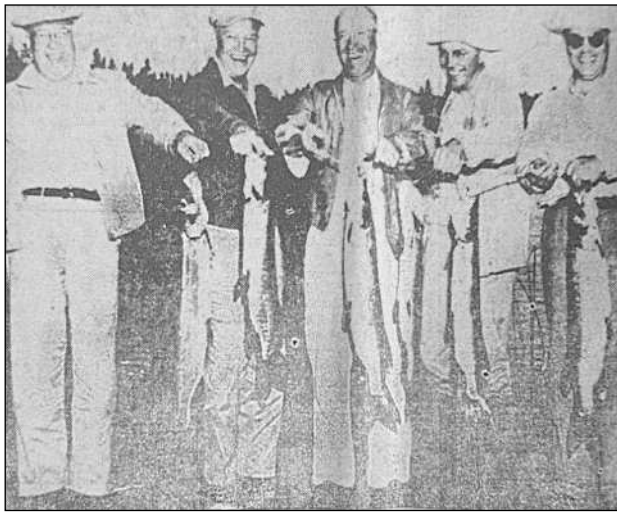


**August 29, 1947**

Fort Davis natives meet up in Kwajalein Atoll. Robert Wear of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram took this photo of Major and Mrs. C.H. Bird. Major Bird is an ATC executive officer from Fort Davis and he and his wife are stationed in Kwajalein atoll in the Pacific.

**August 23, 1946**

General Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower and his brothers fish together on a long overdue vacation. The Eisenhower brothers haven't had a vacation together in about 20 years. Here, the brothers hold up their catch of the day from the famous Lac Du Flambeau waters in Wisconsin.



**August 6, 1948**

State Highway 118 will be extending from a scenic loop road to connect with highway 80 at Kent. After it's completed, Alpine and Fort Davis will be connected via a paved road. Indian lodge is one point along this future highway that is an attraction. The state is asking for bids to complete this undertaking.

# Loss of leaves could be due to short life expectancies for Redbuds

**Dear Neil: Our redbud is about 10 years old, and it appears to be in distress. It has been losing leaves, but now the pace has really picked up. It has so many yellowed leaves, and many are falling. Can you see what the problem might be?**

Redbuds have relatively short life expectancies compared to other shade and flowering trees. It appears that this tree has already died back to the ground at some point years ago owing to the number of trunks coming up from what was its original base. I've seen this happen hundreds of times, and then the second-generation trunks develop for 10 to 20 years, but gradually fade as they become congested. I couldn't tell from the photo if there is any decay in the cluster of trunks, but it looks like there could be. My suggestion would be to keep the tree properly watered the balance of this season and winter. See how it comes out next spring, then decide if it's time to replace it. For the record, the spotting that is showing up on the foliage is very minor. You'll see it on

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

every redbud in Texas by the time fall arrives. It is fungal, but I'm not even sure which fungus. You would have to have it cultured through a pathology lab, but I don't think it's worth spending money on at this point.

**Dear Neil: I knew we were pushing the window by planting two new shade trees in April, but I'm usually good at keeping plants alive. The bur oak in the backyard is doing well. It has some shade from large pecans next door. However, the poor red oak in the front yard gets no shade from the western sun and it is strugg-**

**gling. The twigs are still flexible, but the leaves appear bleached. Is this sunburn? What should I do?**

This is not sunscald. This looks like a tree that simply got too dry one or more times and turned brown because its leaves were lost in the process. Sadly, we saw a lot of this with new trees and shrubs last year and this year. People may have forgotten to water them by hand so that they could soak the original soil balls deeply. The original root systems are still pretty much together, so it's imperative that we keep them thoroughly soaked with a garden hose and a water breaker or water bubbler. If the tree came out of a 30-gallon pot, it should be getting 30 gallons of water every other day spring through fall.

By comparison, "sunscald" shows up in the second and especially the third year when a red oak, or red maple, Chinese pistachio or other thin-barked tree is planted without having its trunk protected with paper tree wrap. I use the term "non-negotiable" to emphasize that without such protection the bark on the west and southwest sides of the trunk will gradually dry and split like old, weathered leather. Internal tissues will be exposed, and borers and

decay will move in. This happens because new trees that have had their trunks shaded by one another in the nursery are suddenly forced into the sun when planted out into our landscapes. You can try wrapping your tree now, but it may be too late.

**Dear Neil: I wrote to you earlier this spring about growing Texas mountain laurels from seed. I followed your advice, and now I have three little 6-inch mountain laurels. No questions. Just**

**wanted to tell you I was grateful for the help.**

I'm glad it worked. I've done the same things I shared with you, filing just through the seed coats, soaking the seeds overnight, and planting in pots. They'll grow slowly, and you'll need to protect them from cold winter weather, but you're on your way.

*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

- 1 TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"
- 5 squeezin' snakes
- 6 TXism: "it's near '\_\_\_'" (approximate)
- 7 Texas veggie: fried \_\_\_
- 8 golf or football prop
- 9 TXism: "bone (cemetery)"
- 16 TXism: "got a mind like a steel \_\_\_"
- 18 Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)
- 21 TX Don Henley's "All She Wants \_\_\_ Do Is Dance"
- 22 TXism: "working between \_\_\_" (night work)
- 23 once a brand of GMC cars
- 24 Crowell High School football (2 wds.)
- 30 TXism: "behind the \_\_\_"
- 34 TX Chandra Wilson was \_\_\_ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"
- 35 small, narrow river
- 36 Gulf canvas
- 37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-\_\_\_ steak
- 39 TX George H.W.'s NASA director (2 wds.)
- 43 cowboys \_\_\_ buckle on their belt

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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### DOWN

- 1 Texas birth town of Willie Nelson
- 2 northernmost Texas town
- 3 Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet \_\_\_
- 4 TXism: "como \_\_\_" (how are ya?)
- 9 TX Holly's "\_\_\_, Boy" stealing cattle
- 11 party inflatable
- 15 sodium symbol
- 46 TXism: "just a \_\_\_ in the bucket"
- 47 UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage \_\_\_"
- 49 former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy"
- 52 Ranger Eovaldi stat.
- 53 UT's Benton directed "Kramer \_\_\_ Kramer"
- 54 7th signs of the zodiac
- 55 "if \_\_\_ me you'll be sorry"
- 58 what most Texas college students have (2 wds.)
- 59 "heavy" Cameron AM station
- 60 integrated circuit clock (abbr.)
- 61 TX Mary Kay
- 11 honky tonk, e.g.
- 12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's \_\_\_ Maui Resort
- 13 TXism: "\_\_\_ as a sluggish turtle"
- 14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
- 15 TXism: "shin \_\_\_" (big dance)
- 17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)
- 19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)
- 20 you're apt \_\_\_ what you sow
- 24 35th governor, Coke (init.)
- 25 former Ford model
- 26 Semitic person
- 27 TX Ted Cruz group
- 28 Gulf traveler
- 29 pilot Earhart
- 31 TXism for "female"
- 32 TXism: "he \_\_\_ out" (concealed)
- 33 in Jones County on highway 6
- 38 TXism: "\_\_\_ soul" (no one)
- 40 \_\_\_ Chaney is a San Antonio street
- 41 Lee Greenwood hit: "\_\_\_ Bless the USA"
- 42 spread near Albany (2 wds.)
- 48 "\_\_\_ in the tub"
- 50 West Texas animal: mountain \_\_\_
- 51 Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)
- 56 extreme adjective
- 57 TXism for old, senile men

### Last Puzzle Solution

S-1650

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# Sports

## Lady Bucks have mixed results in tournaments

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Last week was off to a rough start for our Lady Buck volleyball team, but they still pulled more game wins than losses. On August 15, The Alpine varsity volleyball team lost the away game non-conference match against the Pecos Eagles by a score of 0-3 but went on to win the next three games on August 18, during the Nita-Vannoy Tournament.

In that first game against Pecos, the Eagles won each of the three sets against Alpine. The girls were in high-defense mode with a total of 85 digs and 62 receptions. Despite their efforts, the Lady Bucks were only able to get in 24 kills. Seniors Adayna Garcia, Novah Carrasco, and junior Hope Dominguez going for the most kills.

In San Angelo the Alpine team bounced back for the Nita-Vannoy Tournament. The Lady Bucks faced the Rankin Red Devils first that Friday, winning 2-0. The teams played two sets, with Alpine coming out on top with 25-13 and 25-10.

Adrian Smith, head volleyball coach said, "We had a great tournament appearance this past weekend at the Nita Vannoy Tournament."

During this match, senior Mia Morris defended with a total of 12 digs out of the teams 28 total. And senior Paula Vargas reeled in 17 assist serves.

In the second game of the tournament, against the Grape Creek Eagles, the Lady Bucks continued their tournament pattern and won 2-0 in two sets, 25-14 in the first and 25-13 in the second. Next up, Alpine played El Paso's Horizon team and won 2-0.



The Alpine Lady Buck volleyball team is all smiles as they prepare to head to San Angelo for the Nita Vannoy Tournament last Thursday.

After going 3-0 on Friday in the tournament, the Lady Bucks entered the gold bracket on Saturday.

The final game of the tournament was against the Andrews Mustangs, with Alpine losing 2-1. Ultimately losing the tournament, however, Coach Smith was very proud of the team, "We played awesome! And we made Andrews play at their ceiling in order to beat us."

During the game the Lady Bucks pulled out all the stops, winning the first set 28-26, and going for 39 kills over its course. Senior, Nova Carrasco alone executed 14 of them and Adayna Garcia came in with 13.

The team's defense was on fire, with a total of 106 digs and 73 receptions. "This game was an awesome battle!" said Smith.

"We are gaining more and more experience and beginning to compete consistently in defense which will ultimately enhance our offensive production," Smith said.

The Lady Bucks went on to beat Miles handily in the next game, winning 25-20 and 25-16, setting up a final game in the Consolation Championship for the Gold Bracket. "Our final tournament is the Fillie Festival in Denver City where our goal is to begin implementing a dynamic offensive system," said

### Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCKS FOOTBALL		Tournament-Denver City, TBA
Aug. 24	Alpine vs Clint Mountainview, JV 5:30 p.m.	Sept. 1 Alpine vs Odessa High, Varsity 5 p.m., F/JV 6 p.m.
Aug. 25	Clint Mountainview @ Alpine, Varsity 7 p.m.	Sept. 5 Odessa Permian @ Alpine, Varsity 6 p.m., F/JV 5 p.m.
Sept. 1	Fort Stockton @ Alpine, JV 5:30 p.m.	Sept. 8-9 Greenwood Midland Tournament, F/JV TBA
Sept. 1	Alpine vs Fort Stockton, Varsity 7 p.m.	Sept. 9 Fort Davis @ Alpine, Varsity 10 a.m.
Sept. 8	Alpine vs Wink, JV 6:30 p.m.	
Sept. 8	Wink @ Alpine, Varsity 7:30 p.m.	
LADY BUCKS VOLLEYBALL		ALPINE CROSS COUNTRY
Sept. 24-26	Fillie Festival	Aug. 26 Tall City Invitational @ Midland-Hogan Park NE
		Aug. 31 Red Rock Run @ Van Horn, TBD
		Sept. 2 Crane Invitational-HS/MS, @ Crane Golf Course

Smith.

The Lady Bucks played the Americas, a massive 6A team, losing 8-25 in the first set, but regaining their confidence in the second set,

only losing 19-25.

The Lady Bucks finished seventh out of 32 teams and were the only 3A team to win a game in the Gold Bracket.

## Setting it up



Alpine Lady Buck Novah Carrasco breaks the serve in a close match recently as Mia Morris looks on.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Sul Ross to host six-man shootout

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Six-man gridiron action begins tomorrow afternoon, when Sul Ross hosts the 3rd annual six-man shootout beginning at 12 p.m. Eight 1A teams will play starting with the Fort Hancock Mustangs taking on the Grand Falls Cowboys. The next game is scheduled to begin at 2

p.m. with the Irion County Hornets taking on the Fort Davis Indians. The 5 p.m. game will have the Garden City Bearcats take on the Sierra Blanca Vaqueros, and the final game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. pitting the Marfa Shorthorns against the Sanderson Eagles. Tickets are \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NEVAEH CARRASCO

Nevaeh has an enduring presence on and off the court and exemplified her talent on Tuesday against the Fort Davis Indians as she dominated the front row!

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# Fightin' Bucks football



Jesse Portillo heads towards the endzone in last Thursday's scrimmage against the Pecos Eagles.

Photo by Felipe Fierro



**In what activities did you participate in high school?**

I'm involved in band, Student Council, NHS, One Act Play, and Academic UIL.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**

My most influential teacher through high school would have to be Mr. Chris Valenzuela. He's a jack of all trades, and he helped and supported me through so many

challenges I've faced over the years.

**What was your favorite moment the last four years?**

My favorite moments have always been the ones when I'm with the band—when we're all making music, smiling, laughing, and having fun as a big family.

**What are your plans after high school?**

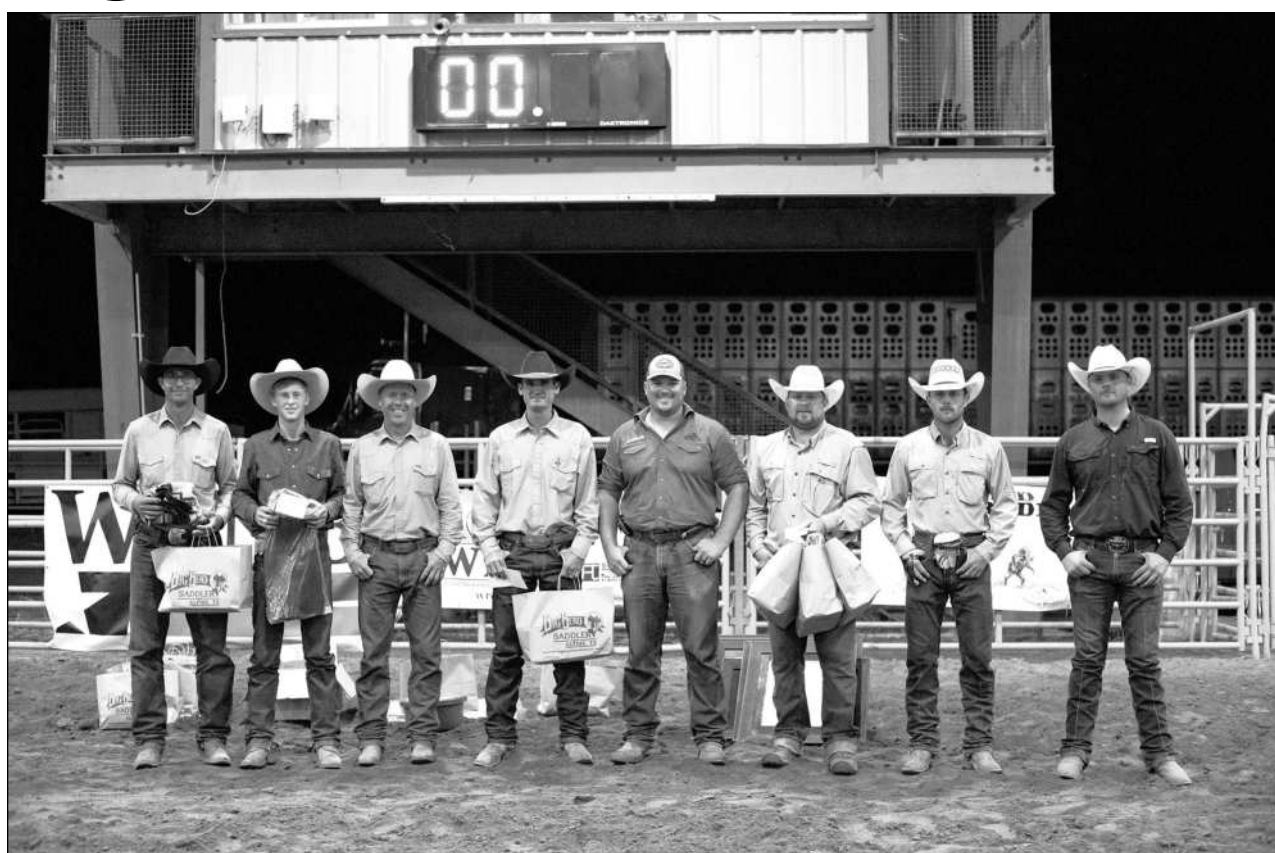
After high school, I plan to attend UTEP to study nursing!

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# Big Bend Ranch rodeo winners



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# Marfa Shorthorns volleyball



The Lady Horns volleyball players stand in readiness to break serve in a recent game.

Courtesy photo

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Oct. 26-28 Texas Tech University-Lubbock, Texas

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## Devotional Page Living on Empty

BY CLARK NUSSBAUM, PASTOR  
First Assembly of God-Alpine, Texas

Have you felt like you are trying to press on in this life with your "gas tank" showing empty? Life seems to have a way of draining a person faster than one can refuel. Some may feel like they are functioning on fumes. First Peter 1:18 reminds us that this emptiness has been handed down from one generation to another. "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value." How does one go from living on empty to being full? You must plug into the source that is able to fill you.

Jesus Christ tells us that he is the source in John 15:5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." By being connected to Jesus, he will provide the nutrients that are needed to grow in Him and have fulfillment. Many have tried to find fulfillment in so many other ways, in this life, while all along Jesus is offering himself. This is told to us in Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my

yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." While the world is turning around and around in all of its insanity, Jesus Christ offers contentment and purpose.

Our heavenly father is the one that gives to overflowing. Ephesians 1:7 "Through the blood of his Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of his overflowing kindness." As we allow our heavenly Father to grow us in Him, we will overflow in our service toward Him and others. Philipians 2:3-8 "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." When you live this kind of life in Him, you will experience overflowing joy that will be a blessing to others as well yourself.

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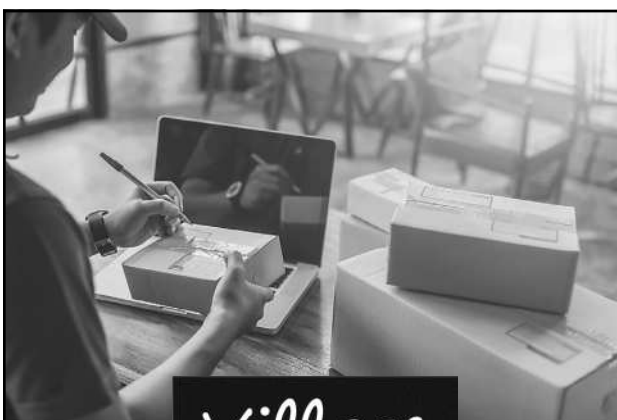
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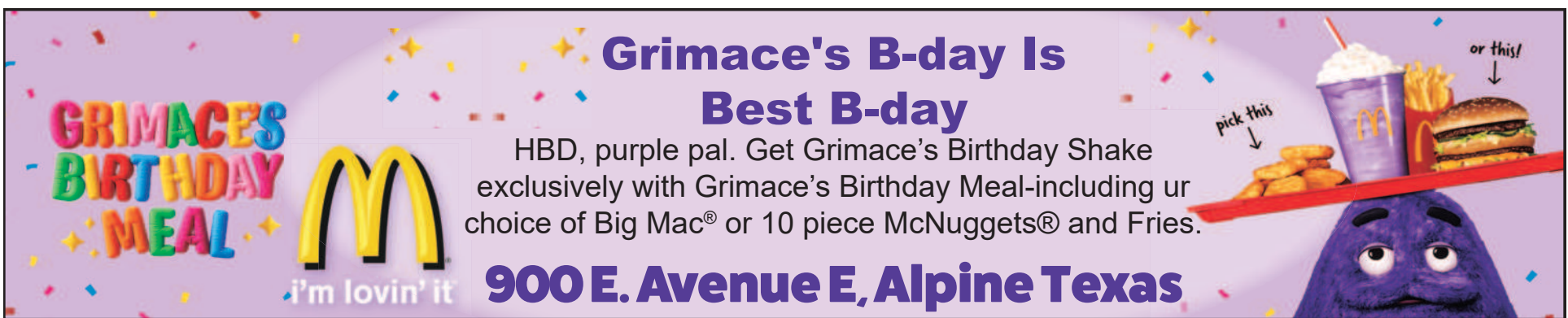
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# Make your belly happy Bolognese

Do you ever get a craving for a big bowl of meaty, tomatoey covered pasta? And we're not talking jar o' sauce from the grocer's shelves. We're talking homemade, from scratch, low, and slow comfort food sauce. Well look no further, because here comes the wow.

Unless you happen to be vegetarian or vegan, I'd be willing to bet that most of you like some substance to your pasta sauces. And even if you are one of the forementioned eaters, this recipe could easily substitute portobello mushrooms in place of the ground meat.

Now, Bolognese sauce



**HEAD OVER MEALS**  
by kara gerbert

is not a quick one and done. There is prep time involved, and as I mentioned before, some low and slow cooking. But that is exactly why this sauce tastes so good. This slow simmering allows all the flavors of the ingredi-



**Bolognese Sauce**

*Courtesy photo*

ents to meld together into that rich, tomatoey flavor profile that Bolognese is famous for.

Not only is there some preparation involved, and some slow cooking, but there are quite a few ingredients as well. Some of them in fact may surprise you, if this is your first time attempting to prepare a homemade tomato-based pasta sauce. Ingredients such as carrots and celery, and even milk. Bet you didn't see that one coming. If it were a vodka sauce, heavy cream would not be surprising. Likewise for an alfredo, but for a Bolognese milk may be a head scratcher. The other standard ingredients such as tomatoes, onion, butter, basil, even white wine

is not so surprising. And all of those ingredients together you just feel in your heart will make your tastebuds do a little dance.

In order to make a great sauce, you must use great ingredients. Good can tomatoes are a must, as is good parmesan cheese. Whatever you do, do not scrimp on these two ingredients. You actually will need the rind of the parmesan, so a Kraft shaker bottle will not do. A good, dry white wine such as a Sauvignon Blanc is also in order. No reason to break the bank on a bottle of wine, but you don't want to use a screw top bottle either.

Great food stems from great ingredients. And we all deserve great food.

## Bolognese Sauce

**Ingredients:**

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1 tablespoon pieces, divided.
- 1 ½ cups finely chopped yellow onion
- 1 ¼ cups peeled and finely chopped carrot
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 4 garlic cloves, minced. About 1 ½ tablespoons
- 2 lbs. 85% lean ground beef
- 2 (28 oz.) cans San Marzano tomatoes in puree, well crushed by hand
- 1 ½ cups whole milk
- 1 cup dry white wine, such as Sauvignon Blanc
- 1/3 cup fresh basil stems with leaves
- 1 parmesan rind, plus 1 cup of parmesan for serving
- Unsalted chicken stock or broth, as needed to thin sauce
- Salt and pepper

**Directions:**

- Melt 1 ½ tablespoons of butter in a large pot over medium-high heat
- Saute vegetables: add onion, carrot, and celery and saute 4 minutes. Add garlic and saute 1 minute longer. Transfer mixture to a large plate.
- Melt 1 ½ tablespoons of butter in the now empty pot over medium-high heat.
- Dab ground beef dry with paper towels and then place into pot in 4 large chunks. Season lightly with salt and pepper and let sear about 3 minutes and then turn and sear the opposite side for about 3 minutes. Break up beef and cook through until completely browned.
- Return the vegetables to the pot with the beef, pour in the milk and stir. Bring to a simmer, then

- reduce heat to medium-low and let simmer until the majority of the milk has evaporated and just fat remains, about 10-20 minutes.
- Stir in the tomatoes, wine, basil, and parmesan rind and then bring to a simmer.
- Reduce heat to very low, so only a few bubbles appear on the surface. Let simmer 4 hours, stirring occasionally and thinning with broth as needed.
- Season lightly with salt and pepper to taste as it cooks, keeping in mind that the sauce will reduce and increase in saltiness, so don't overdo the salt.
- Remove basil stems and parmesan rind & stir in the remaining 3 tablespoons of butter until melted. Serve over your favorite pasta.

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