

Friday night lights aren't just for football

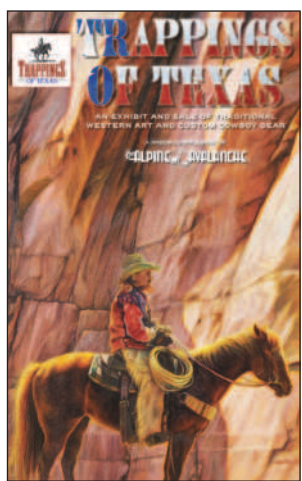
BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

When one hears the term “Friday Night Lights”, most likely they think of football. With a movie by that title focused on the Odessa Permian Panther football team, that would stand to reason. But what many fail to realize, that along with the ball players and cheerleaders, the unsung heroes of those Friday nights are the marching band.

Often taken for granted and occasionally overlooked, the band plays an essential part of those fall nights on the football field. They exuberantly boost morale, not only for the team, but also for the spectators. However, for those members of the band and for the band director, their job is

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023.8.10"
September.0.01"



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.



West Texan brings hope for habitat

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

After six years of hard work, a habitat enhancement project is finally coming to fruition. The 22,000-acre Decie Ranch, located between Alpine and Marathon, is the beneficiary of a collaboration between the owners of the ranch, the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD).

Ranch manager Wiley Dabbs, with the support of the ranch's owners has helped get this project off the ground. “It can take years to learn the lay of a large property-to understand how the watersheds and landscapes work, how drought affects the land, and to define the problem areas,” Dabbs said. Dabbs man-

ages the Decie and lives there full-time with his wife and two daughters. “I view the management of habitat as a way to give back. To ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to benefit from these lands,” Dabbs remarked.

Along with the help of the multiple organizations, and the ranch owners, Dabbs has been able to help fund and implement a plan specific to this property. Through cost share programs and grant funding, organizations such as BRI, TPWD, and others can implement large scale projects such as the Decie. Additionally, these organizations can facilitate onsite visits from habitat specialists, soil scientists, and other professionals who can provide free consultations about the landowner's vision for their land.

The Decie Ranch hosts a variety of terrains, including



Wiley Dabbs, manager of the Decie Ranch in Brewster County, is working hard to restore watersheds and native grasses on the 22,000-acre property, with the help of conservation partners like Borderlands Research Institute.

Courtesy photo

wooded mountain slopes and desert valley flats. A significant portion of the ranch, like much of Southwest Texas, is densely covered in creosote (Larea tri-

dentata), and this terrain is unable to slow down surface water flow as well as grassland com-

See DABBS • 6

Marching in memorium



Alpine Volunteer Fire Department held a memorial walk on Monday morning from Mountain View Properties up Sul Ross Ave to the American Legion Post 79 in remembrance of the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

Photo by Joh Covington

Court approves victim notification system grant

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Brewster County commissioner's court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 12. During this meeting's announcements portion, county commissioner Pct. 3, Ruben Ortega, shared with the court about the upcoming cabrito cookoff benefit for the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department which will be held at the Post starting Friday night and continuing through Saturday.

Precinct 1 commissioner, Jim Westermann updated the court about the recent 9/11 memorial observance hosted at the border patrol station in Alpine, which has a permanent memorial installation, a piece of the destroyed world trade center. “There were about 70 people there, 17 emergency responders and border patrol, and about 20

civilians,” Westermann said, continuing that perhaps in the future the county could endeavor to support the memorial event to boost the attendance numbers, “maybe we can do our part and ask the city to try to promote it from their end as well, and see where it goes.”

Sara Colando, Pct. 2 commissioner, has been working on progressing the Brewster County website project, and shared that there may be a mockup available for overview as early as a few weeks from now. This information was a pleasant update, as the endeavor has hit some delays at different points so far. Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington, informed the court that the dilapidated sewer pipes at the old library have finally been replaced. However, the project will not be complete until the new system can be at-



Jim Westermann

tached to the city sewer. Unfortunately, they will have to dig up a portion of the street in order to repair a blockage that's preventing the successful connection. Henington hopes that this issue will be resolved by the end of the week. Another upgrade mentioned was the security systems, at the fire station and jail for example. They have all undergone an improvement, updated with more efficient cameras and door security.

Next year, the county may be scheduling an increase for the vehicle registration fee by \$1.50. The extra funds would be designated for school crossings and safety programs. This will be up for debate and vote sometime next year. One thing that will be increased this year are the sheriff and constable fees for 2024. These fees have not been increased in many

years and have been operating at a loss for the county.

The court gave approval for the acceptance of the SAVNS, or State Automated Victim Notification System, grant for 2024. This grant is for \$3,106.95 and covers software that informs victims of incarcerated individuals about status changes of that individual, such as release dates.

The court has also been offered a donation of two 5,000-gallon propane tanks by Big Bend Telephone. The court approved the acceptance of the donation. Also approved was setting court dates for fiscal year 2024. Commissioner's court meetings will continue to be held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The next commissioner's court meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26 at the Brewster County courthouse.

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OBITUARY

Ellen Buren Melvin

Ellen Buren Melvin left us and joined our Lord in the early morning hours of Wednesday, September 6. Ellen was born on July 28, 1961, in Marfa to Paul and Joan Thomas Buren.

Ellen attended school in Marfa and Graduated Marfa High School in 1979.

She Married the love of her life and best friend, Jimmy "Hammer" Melvin on No-



vember 12, 1982. Together they raised three children.

Ellen was a stay-at-home mom for many years. She loved sports, and she and Hammer followed their children

and grandchildren all over the state watching them play sports and show livestock animals.

After the kids had grown, she went back to work at Marfa Elementary as an aide where she found more children to nurture. Later she had the opportunity to work for the Marfa Visitor Center and the Alpine Visitor Center where she loved meeting new people from all over the world and sharing her knowledge of the part

of Texas she loved.

Ellen loved Christmas movies all year round. She enjoyed dancing with her beloved husband every chance she had, cooking for her family, spoiling her grandchildren, and living the simple life in her hometown of Marfa.

Ellen is preceded in death by her mother Joan Buren, brothers John Buren, David Buren, and Phillip Buren, brother-in-law Roy Melvin and nephew

Jack Melvin.

Survivors include her Husband Hammer, children Barbra Haire (Lynne) of Lubbock, Chester Melvin (Morgan) of Cibolo, Michael Melvin of Marfa, Grandchildren Tyler Melvin, Kristofer Haire, Mathew Melvin, Alexa Haire, Abby Melvin, Rayne Melvin, and Paisley Melvin. She is also Survived by her Father Paul Buren (Brenda Buren) of Whitehorse Yukon,

Sisters Katie Sanchez (Fred Sanchez) of San Angelo, Susan Counts (Larry) of San Angelo, and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held on Wednesday September 13 at Hillcrest Cemetery in Ft. Davis.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Big Bend never forgets



U.S. Border Patrol Agents from Big Bend Sector remember the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks during a memorial service held at the 9/11 Monument at the Alpine Border Patrol Station, Monday morning.

Photo by U.S. Border Patrol, Rebecca Barker

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Voter Registration Day coming up

Tuesday, September 19 marks the 11-year anniversary of National Voter Registration Day (NVRD). This nonpartisan civic holiday is held to urge Americans to register to vote and is a coordinated day of events that shares registration opportunities before the state deadlines.

As many as one in four eligible Americans are not registered to vote, and this figure is higher for youth and communities of color. Millions of Americans miss elections each year due to registration problems or missing deadlines, and the Tri-County Voter Promoters can help.

Important elections are coming. Tuesday, November 7 is Election Day. Are you registered to vote? Do you need to update your registration with a new address? Your voter registration card will come to that address.

Tri-County Voter Promoters (TCVP) was founded to help you with these questions. It is a non-partisan group of volunteers that sets up in public places to help people be prepared to vote.

If you have moved since you last voted or are not sure you are registered, you may need to fill out a new registration card. If you are not sure you are registered you

can check your voter registration status through the Texas Secretary of State's "My Voter Portal." Information could be outdated if you have moved to a different address or changed your name.

Tri-County Voter Promoters is a group of non-partisan volunteers with a mission to expand voter participation and help more of our citizens participate in the democratic process. Your vote affects your life, and influences legislation on healthcare, social security, education, taxes, veterans' benefits, jobs, immigration laws and more. By choosing

representatives who hold values like yours at local, state, and national levels you have a voice in your government. Your vote is your voice and the TCVP will be registering voters throughout September up until October 10, which is the last day to register to vote for the November 7 constitutional amendments election.

If you would like to help with Tri-County Voter Promoters, please call (432) 426-0122 or email remorey@big-bend.net or you can gather more information on NVRD by visiting <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>.

Our Lady of Peace kicks off fall festival

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church will be holding their annual fall festival this Saturday and Sunday, with a special memorial 5k Run on Sunday morning honoring the late Coach Rick Keith.

Saturday's schedule of events begins with an anticipated mass to be held at 4 p.m. to kick off the weekend titled "United in Faith."

From 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. the music, food booths, and festivities begin with the Destino Band from 6-8 p.m. and from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Grupo Vital from Houston will perform.

Sunday morning at 8 a.m., the activities will

begin with the Coach Rick Keith Memorial 5k run. Food booths and the first BINGO session begins at 11 a.m. From 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. there will be entertainment and games along with music. At 1 p.m. Matachines Santa Teresa will perform, at 2 p.m. Un Charro y Una Dama, at 3 p.m. the Fort Davis Ballet Folklorico y Las Adelitas, and to close out the weekend's entertainment, Grupo Zauna from Presidio will perform from 4-6 p.m.

From 6-7 p.m. the raffle will be held for prizes including gift cards, and first prize also receives a Last Supper Painting. All festivities for the weekend are free of charge.

Marathon Public Library receives honor

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Under the direction of Dara Cavness, the Marathon Public Library has been named one of two honorable mention libraries for "Best Small Library in America" from the Library Journal. This award was made possible by Ingram and was established in 2005 to honor the U.S. public library that "most profoundly demonstrates outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less," according to Cavness.

Executive Editor at Library Journal, Lisa Peet said, "Small and rural libraries are the heart and soul of their communities in so many ways." "This award shines a spotlight on those that go above and beyond-often with a modest staff and tight budget in a physically remote service area. Marathon Public Library exemplifies the ways that a small library can make a big difference." Peet added.

Erin Albright, president of the Marathon Public Library's board of directors remarked, "Marathon Public Library is so honored to have received this recognition. We are the town's community and cultural center where people of all age's, backgrounds, and abilities come together to learn, connect, and create all of which help strengthen our community. We con-



Cole Torres, Bobbie Gallo-Trehus, and Ellis Adams work on craft projects at the Marathon Public Library.

Courtesy photo

sistently strive to meet the needs and wants of our residents comprising about 1,400 people living in and around a town of only 400 people. We also serve thousands of annual visitors to the Big Bend region of far West Texas."

The library has seen a tremendous growth in visitation and utilization over the past decade. In 2013, use of the Marathon Public Library was around 841 people. At the end of 2022, this small community library boasted 13,623 visitors and engagements thanks to the quality of its services and the breadth of its programs. The programs offered are accessible to all ages, from babies to older adults, and this past summer the library launched an intergenerational arts program that attracted three generations of participants.

Terri Harkey is part-

time Marathon resident, a librarian, and an industrial technology educator who has more than 25 years of education instruction under her belt. "Marathon Public Library is constantly seeking opportunities and grants to encourage growth, exploration, and passion in school-age children. The library offers literacy and family science programs during the summer, and new this year was Camp Curiosity, a STEM-infused camp that featured 3-D printing, CAD design, and robotics," Harkey said. "This library provides so many different services and programs to this community, including working with the local school to provide a bi-weekly book cart, as well as after-school, STEM, and performing arts programs. I firmly believe that the Marathon Public Library is chang-

ing an entire generation for the better by consistently providing amazing learning opportunities," Harkey added.

The winning library and the two library finalists will be honored at the 2023 Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in September. All three libraries will be featured in the September 2023 issue of the Library Journal and online. The Library Journal founded almost 140 years ago reviews over 8,000 books, audiobooks, videos, databases, and websites annually, and provides coverage of technology, management, policy, and other professional concerns. For the full article on the award visit <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/news/Best-Small-Library-in-America-2023-Honorable-Mentions>.



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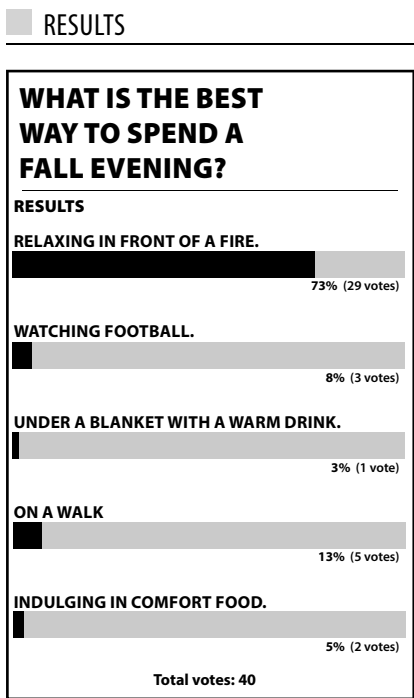
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is the best way to spend a fall evening?

- Relaxing in front of a fire
- Watching football
- Under a blanket with a warm drink
- On a walk
- Indulging in comfort food

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

LETTERS

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

STAFF

J.T. Maroney
Publisher
jt.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

Kara Gerbert
Managing Editor
kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

Job Covington
Staff Writer
job.covington@alpineavalanche.com

Shelley Maroney
Office Manager
shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

432-837-3334

www.AlpineAvalanche.com

Facebook: 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.



Alpine-Casparis serves the Big Bend area

Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport, also known by its Federal Aviation Administration location identification E38(Echo 38), is located northwest of Alpine. The airport is owned by the City of Alpine and is considered a general aviation facility being primarily for small commercial and private aircraft. Our airport is non commercial meaning it does not have a scheduled air service for passengers. The airport has two intersecting runways, 01/19 and 05/23, with the longer being 6003ft and the latter 5018ft. The runways are identified with two numbers because they can be used in either direction for take offs and landings, with pilots usually choosing the runway with the more favorable wind direction.



ABEL HINOJOS
Airport Supervisor

The airport is currently operated and maintained by a staff of two wonderful employees. The staff assist customers with different needs from fueling, tugging a plane, offering information on Alpine and surrounding areas, and every so often pushing an airplane on the

ramp to a tie down or fuel island. The pleasant staff is also in charge of maintaining the grounds on the airport property. Replacing light bulbs and fixtures on the runways and taxiways are some duties this entails. Other tasks include mowing and weed eating, which seem endless, especially during durations of ample rainfall.

The airport has 24/7 fueling capabilities, offering both Avgas(100LL) and Jet A type fuels. Avgas being used for aircrafts with piston engines and Jet A for turbine engines. There is a self serve fuel center for aircraft that is commonly used for smaller aircraft using Jet A and for all aircraft which use 100LL. Presently, we only have one fuel truck which is used specifically for Jet A. Our classic 1965 Dodge fuel truck, which is often times photographed by guests, is used to fuel aircraft that do not wish to taxi up to the self serve area or simply want us to refuel them. When needed to move aircraft around the ramp or the self-

serve pumps we have a small tug which once belonged to the Department of the Navy.

At the present time we have two Medivac companies, Aerocare and Emergent Air Care, who have hangars at the airport. Patients can be flown out at all hours of the day and at night to various destinations. Medivac helicopters can also be seen here refueling and at times loading up patients on our ramp instead of the hospital. Two other necessary public servants located at the airport are Texas Department of Public Safety and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. DPS hangars a helicopter and at times a fixed-wing aircraft. Customs and Border Patrol also has a presence here maintaining an office, two hangars and recently adding a helipad. CBP-Air and Marine Operations and DPS both provide aerial patrol for border security, surveillance, communications support and assist with search and rescue.

Usage of the airport varies in a variety of ways such as: Ranchers flying into the airport to check on their land, count cattle and even using helicopter pilots to round up their cattle. Contractors fly in to check on

their projects of office buildings and houses in and outside of town. The airport hosts the Texas Department of State Health Services while they distribute oral rabies vaccinations in the area by airplane drops. Although they were not needed much to fight fires this past year, the Texas A&M Forest Service is much needed and bases SEATs (Single Engine Air tankers) here at the airport on stand-by ready to help contain wildfires with retardant. Tourists who prefer not to drive or want more vacation time fly in throughout the year. Wedding parties use the airport as a drop off before heading to their destination of Marathon or Marfa. We have parents showing up to visit their children who are attending Sul Ross State University or guests coming in to watch their kids play in sporting events, whether it be high school or college games. Hunting is another activity that brings a good crowd into the area. Some local individuals also fly just for recreation and the enjoyment. These are just a few examples of how Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport services Alpine and the surrounding communities.

Secrets that would go when the walls came down

"If these walls could talk, I wonder what secrets they'd tell."

— Gayle Forman, writer

That question was evidently on my mind many years ago. April 3, 1975, to be exact. More to the point, it was the first sentence in the first published news story bearing my byline. The first week of my first newspaper job.

That story and my writing career began, "If buildings could talk, there is one in Naples that could render volumes of Morris County history."

That same long-gone edifice crossed my mind a couple of weeks ago as I turned off Main Street onto Cedar Avenue in "downtown" Naples. Remembering the structure and the story was a momentary respite from my reason to be where I was on August 26. A memorial service at the First United Methodist Church for long-time Monitor newspaper publisher and friend, Morris Craig.

Writing that story about the time-ravaged structure flashing through my memory coincided with my going to work for Craig. It sat on a hillside between the church and Main Street. Locals also remembered it as the place where previous generations conducted the essential business of justice. While the 1975 tenants of the one-time JP's office referred to it as the "Naples Courthouse," they would argue that current dealings were the more critical proceedings. And those tenants were

important. Important enough that the property's owner, the local bank, ensured the occupants had a place to go before the scheduled demolition of the old Naples office of justice ever started.

The sound of gavel hammering out justice had been replaced by dominoes drumming on tabletops by the time I was there. And where "guilty" or "not guilty" was once the plea, different questions were asked now. Like, "Who dealt this mess? Didn't get but one five out of the whole hand."

The floor was littered with half-burned matches, cigarette butts and spit cans. Every wall had given up its last remnant of flaking paint. Electrical wires ran up the wall and across the ceiling, ending in a single-bulb light fixture that glowed just enough to distinguish a double-five from a trey-deuce.

Occupants sat on an array of cast-off chairs of all descriptions. My entrance drew only a few raised eyebrows from those not profoundly buried in the game.

"An average afternoon," I wrote, "Might find the likes of Jack Vissering, Hub Buchman, C.V. Ward and Luther Morris around one table. And maybe Orb Gibbs, Hoyt Nash, Hugh Ashford, and Hugh Whitecotton. Onlookers included Weldon Ballard, Jimmy Endlsey and Dan Foster."



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

appeared to be one of its better-guarded secrets. Local legends pointed to the 1920s as being the last time justice was carried out there. Facts were lost to time, and no one seemed to recall a

date. Or care. Except that one time someone happened to think about when it was almost recalled to duty. "J. Bun Hall was the Naples J.P., said one of the players, adding." Gimme ten on that play. "About 10-12 years before the domino players took over."

Seems a flatland tourist from out west, somewhere near Greenville, was cited for speeding through Naples. The accused insisted on contesting the ticket for his day in court.

A little grooming was in order, and Bunn asked the fire department to hose down the building and wash out the dust and cobwebs. The business of hand-picking a jury from Main Street businesses commenced. But discretion became the better part of valor before a jury could be seated. The offender reportedly decided his best option might be to pay the fine and be on his way.

A list of names hung on a nearby wall. "The Final Roster." A list of players who have gone on to "boot hill," explained Gibbs. Said his daughter, Margaret Roberts, in Omaha, did the scribe work.

Dates on the roster went back into the 50s, begging the

obvious question of how long the games had been going on. "I was road commissioner in 1951 and they were here then," said Gibbs.

"Whenever someone dies," Gibbs continued, "We make up for flowers and send 'em to the family. We put on 'em 'From the Domino Boys.'"

"We also pay our own electric and gas bills. Ain't no arguments. We divide whatever it is and put in our share. Two bits or whatever it comes to."

"Who's usually the big winner," I asked.

"No one," said Gibbs. "We all swap up and just play for fun. We play from 'bout 1:30 to supertime. We don't play much at night anymore. But we play every day."

The spellbinding sound of shuffling dominoes on a spring afternoon rendered the mind indifferent to the outside world. A spell broken only occasionally by comments. "It's about time," someone says. "Look at all these fives. I didn't get er' one in the last hand."

"Got rid of that one," is heard from another table where a double-six is played dangerously close to dominoing.

"Remembering that another world does exist makes it necessary to leave and close the door behind me," I wrote in conclusion.

Transforming a leisurely time from the past back into the hustle and bustle of today. And wondering what secrets the old place would take with it in a few days.

When the walls came down.

Heard on the STREET

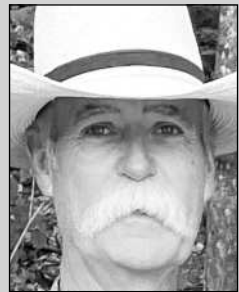
What is your favorite childhood memory?



Toni Burks Covington: When I was four years old my parents took me to visit my grandparents. We were going to go to Galveston the next day. At that time, it was an island with no bridges. I asked my mom how we would get there. My mom said, "the ferry will take us." I was quiet for a while and then very solemnly said, "Mother you always said there was no such thing as fairies."



Tammy Ramsey: One of my favorite childhood memories was when I was about five. We had gone to Lake Amistad with my family, my grandparents and aunt and uncle. We went into Mexico to eat, and all the adults were having drinks. I wanted a fancy drink so bad, so my uncle ordered me a Shirley Temple. I thought I was so big.



Art Ramsey: Going to my grandparents and getting to have a special breakfast alone with each one of them. It was our one-on-one special time.



Gary Zent: Mine is playing baseball in the street with the "Bellatrix Boys" in front of my house and riding our Sting Rays with banana seats all over the neighborhood.



Carl Covington: I loved riding my minibike all over Marfa while growing up there. Especially, because I could use the ditch that goes from one side of town to the other, it was like our own personal bike expressway.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 14 Ribbon Cutting, 5:30 p.m. Amigo Sports Bar and Restaurant Grand Opening.

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 16-17 Our Lady of Peace Fall Festival/ Coach Keith Memorial 5k, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday. See the Visit Alpine website to register.

Sept 21-23 78th Annual Sul Ross Rodeo, 7 p.m. at the



Sul Ross SALE Arena.

Sept 21 Karl Glocke Film Screening, 7 p.m. free admission at the Granada Theatre celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the films by Charles Bell and Dave Cadriel, honoring the

late Rick Keith.

Sept 23 FREE ENTRY, to Big Bend National Park

Sept 28 Ribbon Cutting, 5:30 p.m. Rio Raton Card Room 2305 FM 1703.

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 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

Presidio County dispatcher honored

On July 29, 2023, just before midnight, Christian Davis received a 911 call from a mother transporting her pregnant daughter to the hospital in Alpine. They had pulled over at the Marfa Lights Viewing Area when it became apparent that the baby's delivery was not going to wait until they were able to make it to the hospital. Davis was able to remain calm, and immedi-

ately dispatched EMS to their location. Davis accurately and effectively recorded the times of every contraction and was able to safely guide the mother and grandmother over the phone through a safe delivery of the seven-week premature baby. At 12:15 a.m., a healthy baby boy was welcomed into the world, with EMS arriving at the scene four minutes later.



Dispatcher Christian Davis was presented with a plaque and stork pin by Sheriff Danny Dominguez during a ceremony held last Thursday at the Presidio County Sheriff's Office.

Courtesy photo

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Rodan. "I'm a MIGHTY FIRE DEMON I'm just kidding. Hi, my name is Rodan and I'm a fireball of a kitty. My personality is as bright as the sun and I'm as active as a bird on a windy day. I do enjoy a lot of activity and I think sunbathing is so amazing."

"If you are into the same things, I think we are a match." Rodan is an itty bitty kitty, about two months old, and he's looking for a home. Come out for a meet and greet at the Shelter.

Don't miss Alpine Humane Society's Burger Basket Fundraiser later this month 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 for \$12 and support AHS.

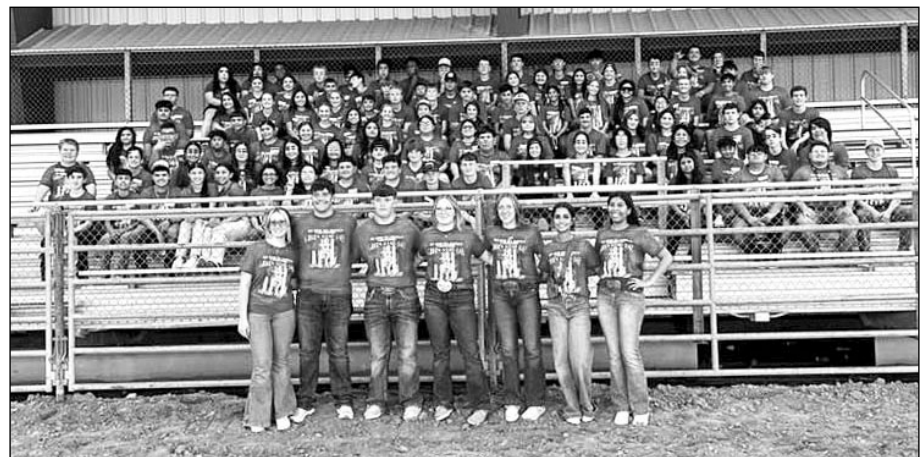
Pet promotions are courtesy of Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Ser-



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

Area FFA students descend on Sul Ross



Freshman high school students enrolled in FFA classes from around the Big Bend region participated in Green Hand Day activities at the SALE arena at Sul Ross' RAS facility this past Monday.

Courtesy photo



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Resolution of the AISD Board to Set Tax Rate

Date: September 20, 2023

On this date, we, the Board of Trustees of the Alpine Independent School District, hereby levy or set the tax rate on \$100 valuation for the District for the tax year 2023 at a total tax rate of \$1.0175, to be assessed and collected by the duly specified assessor and collector as follows:

- \$0.7575 for the purpose of maintenance and operations, and
- \$0.26 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debts.

Such taxes are to be assessed and collected by the tax officials designated by the District.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE LESS TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE.

THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE LOWERED BY 19.9345% PERCENT AND WILL LOWER TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$188.60.

Pastel Paintings

Opening Reception: Friday, September 15, 5 to 8pm

September 13 to October 30, 2023



CatchLight Art Gallery
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Alpine

Sharon Haney
Artist

catchlightartgallery.com 432.837.9422

BAND • FROM 1

many times much more difficult than that of the players on the field. It may not seem as though playing an instrument is physical like that of a football player but ask any band member and they will assure you that the physicality of playing that instrument, and nailing that choreography is not child's play.



The Alpine Fightin' Buck Band performs during the halftime show at Panther Stadium in Fort Stockton where the Alpine Fightin' Bucks took on the Fort Stockton Panthers Friday, September 1.

Photo by Shawn Yorks

Ms. Anna Holmes is the band director for the Alpine Fightin' Buck Band, that graces the gridiron during the halftime show at each game. Holmes is often found playing her own instrument alongside her students, exemplifying what it means to be a musician. Recently the Avalanche caught up with Holmes and found out just what makes the Fightin' Buck Band so successful.

"The one thing that I can say, first and foremost, is that I am blessed with a very talented group of musicians and guard members," Holmes said. She related how they face challenges as a group, especially coming back after summer vacation, when they have to get back into the habit of playing and working on new marching choreography. Members are challenged with memorizing the complicated music,

and working on body carriage, visual cues from the drum majors and other members, all while carrying and playing their instruments, and nailing their invisible marks on the field.

Holmes said that this is a job of intense communication. "Communication is key in this program, both verbally and musically. I am constantly listening and observing to make sure students know what to expect and are performing to the best of their ability." "I'm also constantly reminding and encouraging my students of their worth, not only as musicians, but also as human beings. I strive to be open and honest, and this allows them to feel they can come to me with

the good and the bad," Holmes added.

For a successful marching band to come together, the key ingredient is consistency. Holmes mantra is practice-perfect-perform. This proves challenging for many of her students, as not only do they have their school curriculum to tackle, but many are involved in other extra-curricular activities besides band. In order for her students to be successful, Holmes has sectional practices after school, along with the in-school practices. She also encourages practice at home if possible. Holmes works with her students schedules so that they all receive her expertise without much conflict.

Scheduling conflict is not the only conflict that

may occur within the band, but Holmes has a way of tackling those when they occasionally arise as well. "We are a Buck Band family, and like most families, an occasional conflict will arise, but we solve it with communication, honesty, and empathy," Holmes stated.

Fall marching band also means UIL contest. Every fall the Fightin' Buck Band prepares for the UIL West Region marching contest in mid-October. This year the contest is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa. "Everything we do, summer band, after school practices, early morning practices, and even the football games are in preparation for marching contest. Our goal is always for a Division I rating, which is the highest rating you can achieve, and can advance us to the Area competition," Holmes said. Holmes said the band dons their uniforms for this contest and performs to the very best of their ability.

Holmes' biggest challenge as band director she says happens at the end of each school year when she plans for summer band. It requires cor-

respondence with other departments in the district and working around different schedules that share the facilities. Holmes is very thankful for her team of coaches and staff that make her job that much easier.

No matter the challenges, Holmes is confident

that her Buck Band family will always persevere. Through the support of each other, the parents, staff, and the Alpine community as a whole, the Alpine Fightin' Buck Band builds and maintains their Buck Band spirit beginning each fall under the "Friday Night Lights."

DABBS • FROM 1

munities that formerly dominated the area. This allows for erosion susceptibility and makes it less productive for wildlife and livestock. When grasses lose their competitive edge, the habitat becomes one of creosote, juniper, and mesquite, and this makes it unsustainable for natural grazers. This pattern of habitat change is termed "woody brush encroachment" by habitat specialists.

Dabbs is taking a multifold approach to combat this pattern. He staves off the process of erosion by erecting brush weirs, windrows, and trincheras, repopulating the landscape with native grasses. "My main goal with brush treatment is to restore the watersheds and native grasslands," Dabbs stated.

His program includes grubbing, which is the mechanical process of uprooting brush along with the use of herbicides that target creosote and whitebrush (Aloysia gratissima) specifically.

Grubbed brush piles are strategically placed in windrows to help slow water flow in problem areas. He has also updated the water system, installing seven miles of new water line, troughs, and solar pumps.

Along with these improvements, the ranch installed 12 miles of pronghorn-friendly fence. This is fence that has the bottom wire set at least 18 inches above the ground, allowing for easy passage for pronghorn on their frequent movements. Dabbs has also targeted a 1500-acre treatment area for brush removal and has already removed an additional 300-acres of juniper. While chemical treatments for brush can take a few years to show results, in the long run brush such as creosote and whitebrush should not come back with the same veracity.


These types of management practices result in improved habitat for wildlife such as pronghorn, who prefer open

spaces and thrive on native grasses and forbs. These same practices offer the same benefits for livestock, which all leads to the improved quality of life for those who enjoy the benefits of healthy wildlife and livestock alike.

Habitat specialists and land managers know these practices work due to years of previous research on western lands. In addition, organizations like BRI practice these management techniques in their research in order to be better informed about these practices and aid landowners in producing better outcomes for the region.

"Scientists, alongside managers like Dabbs, refine habitat enhancement techniques together. We experience the best outcomes with teamwork, and the Borderlands Research Institute is available as a support tool to serve landowners of the Trans-Pecos," said Billy Tarrant, Borderlands Research Institute's Associ-

ate Director of Stewardship Services. BRI's land stewardship center offers a variety of programs to help landowners carry the financial burden of implementing new management techniques and aiding in natural resource conservation.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2023-08-01: THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO A SINKING FUND TO PAY INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL ON THE CITY'S INDEBTEDNESS; ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of 0.066091 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.066091 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.066091 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.071551 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate will be held on September 27, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the BBRHD Administrative offices located at 105 W. Holland Ave, Alpine, TX.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the DIRECTORS of BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax rate as follows:
FOR: S. Buddy Cavness, Angela Juett, Reagan Reed, Valynda Henington
AGAINST: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

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 BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT this year:

	2022	2023	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.08324	\$0.066091	<i>Decrease of \$0.017149 OR 20.60%</i>
Average homestead taxable value	\$100,000	\$100,000	<i>n/a</i>
Tax on average homestead	\$83.24	\$66.25	<i>decrease of \$17.15 OR 20.60%</i>
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,942,745,834	\$2,448,029,637	<i>increase of \$505,283,803 OR 26%</i>

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for BIG BEND REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT at the Brewster County Tax Assessor office at 432-837-2214 or taxassessorcollector@brewstercotad.org or visit www.brewstercountytx.org.

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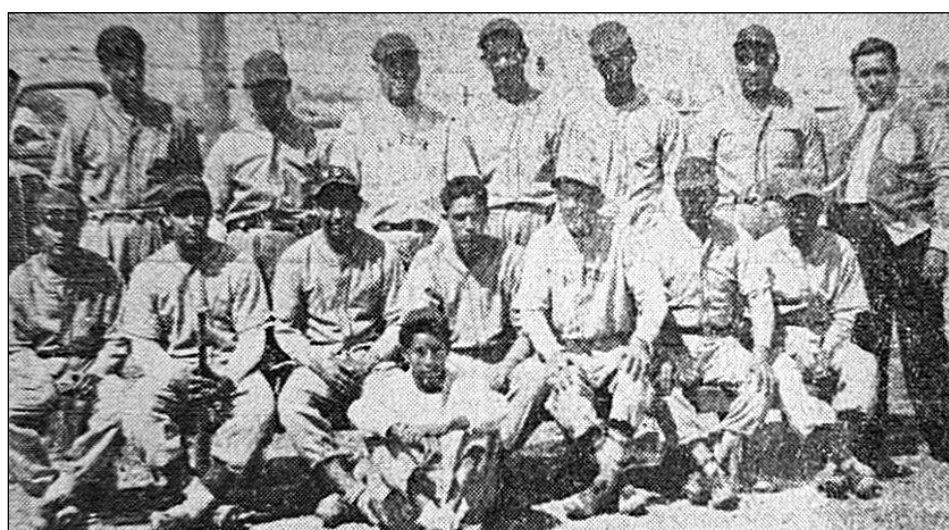
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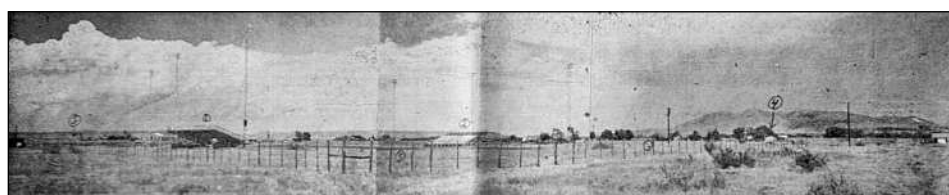
September 14, 1945

The Alpine Yanks baseball team, pictured here, has a very impressive game record this year. This season, they played a total of 26 games, and only lost one.



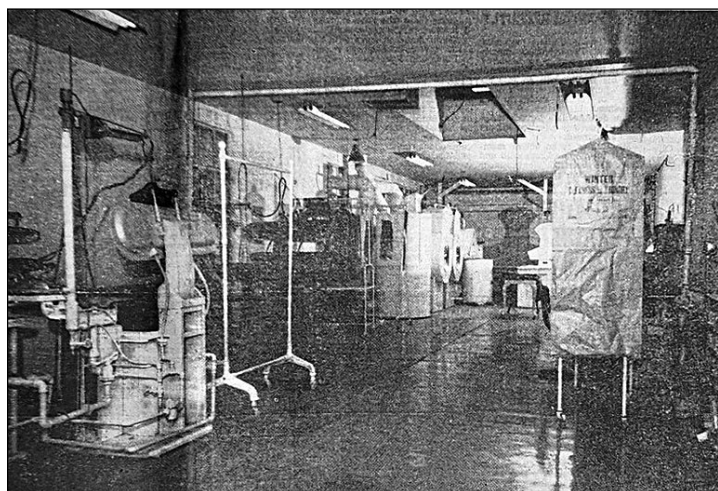
September 22, 1950

Pictured here is the Sul Ross Lobo football squad of 1950. The five rows of players come from all over Texas to attend the local college and play for the school.



September 15, 1950

The Alpine Bucks will be opening the 1950s football season in a home game this Friday, against Ozona, using this new field for the first time. The high school athletic field can seat 1600 people and should be completed by September 22.



September 18, 1953

Alpine has one of the most state-of-the-art dry-cleaning services in the area. The business, Winter Cleaners and Laundry, is kept up to date with the most modern cleaning technology available. They update regularly to keep up with the larger cities.


Texas' harsh weather has taken a toll on plants

Dear Neil: My magnolia tree took a real beating in this past summer's hot weather. I watered it every other day. Any suggestions on how I can get it green once again?

This summer stressed hundreds, if not thousands of southern magnolias across Texas. It was more associated with drought than with the temperatures. Soak your tree deeply monthly over the next several months. Apply an all-nitrogen fertilizer, no weedkiller included, beneath the tree in April and water it in deeply. Hopefully you will see a steady improvement.

Dear Neil: I saw your reply to an 80-year-old gentleman who lost his large tree in the February 2021 cold spell. You told him to avoid a fast-growing tree and to opt for quality instead. I have almost exactly the same situation and I'm also 80. I can't afford to wait 10 years for a quality tree to grow. I've found a large crape myrtle, also a large vitex. Each is available for \$1000. Any suggestions? The tree I removed was a Chinese pistachio.

Either of those would work. However, they're not going to



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

cast much shade over a very wide space. You might do a little shopping this fall to see what size of Shumard red oak, Chinquapin oak, live oak, bur oak, or cedar elm \$1000 would buy you. Any of those would be excellent exchanges for your pistachio.

Dear Neil: We have several large live oaks in our yard. We had to cut the root of one of them to make a dry creek bed for drainage purposes. Now we have thousands of little oaks sprouting from the cut root. They are coming up everywhere. We remove them and they keep coming back. What can we do?

That's a difficult problem to solve. You can't use any kind

of spray because they're part of the mother tree. If you can slice them off with a machete or a well-sharpened small hoe so that there is no stub of the twig left, you might be able to discourage them. As with crape myrtles, when twigs are removed by cutting flush, they eventually lose their vigor and quit producing sprouts.

Dear Neil: What is digging up my lawn, and what can I do to stop it?

Those are holes from emergence of cicadas and their predators known aptly as cicada killers. Cicadas are the large, noisy insects you see flying in your landscape and hanging on tree trunks. Cicada killers look like large wasps but they're harmless unless cornered. You'll also see them flying around your lawn and landscape at slow rates of speed, hovering close to the ground. When they spot a cicada, they quickly descend upon it,

sting it, paralyze it and carry it back to their subterranean nests. Their larvae feed on the decaying cicadas in the ensuing year. No control is recommended. Leave them alone.

Dear Neil: How do you feel about drought-resistant sedges for deeply shaded areas beneath live oaks as alternatives to Asian jasmine or purple wintercreeper?

I would try a small planting for two or three years before I committed to anything major. While I'm comfortable with regular monogloss and green liriopsis in that sort of setting, the ornamental sedges aren't used widely enough yet, and

they haven't been used long enough for me to have confidence in large-scale recommendations.

Dear Neil: This is the largest of 10 oaks trees on our property. It's the only one with such a high percentage of its leaves turning brown. What is your opinion?

This is a post oak (*Quercus stellata*). They are notoriously temperamental about environmental conditions, whether climatic or by things done by humans. Drought, as we experienced last year and especially this year, has done

great harm, just as the biblical drought of 2011 did. Not only does it kill post oaks in the year in which it occurs, but it also makes them more vulnerable to a fungal disease called Hypoxylon canker that will weaken them and subsequently kill them one to three years later. Post oaks have perhaps the shortest life expectancies of any oaks.

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

ACROSS

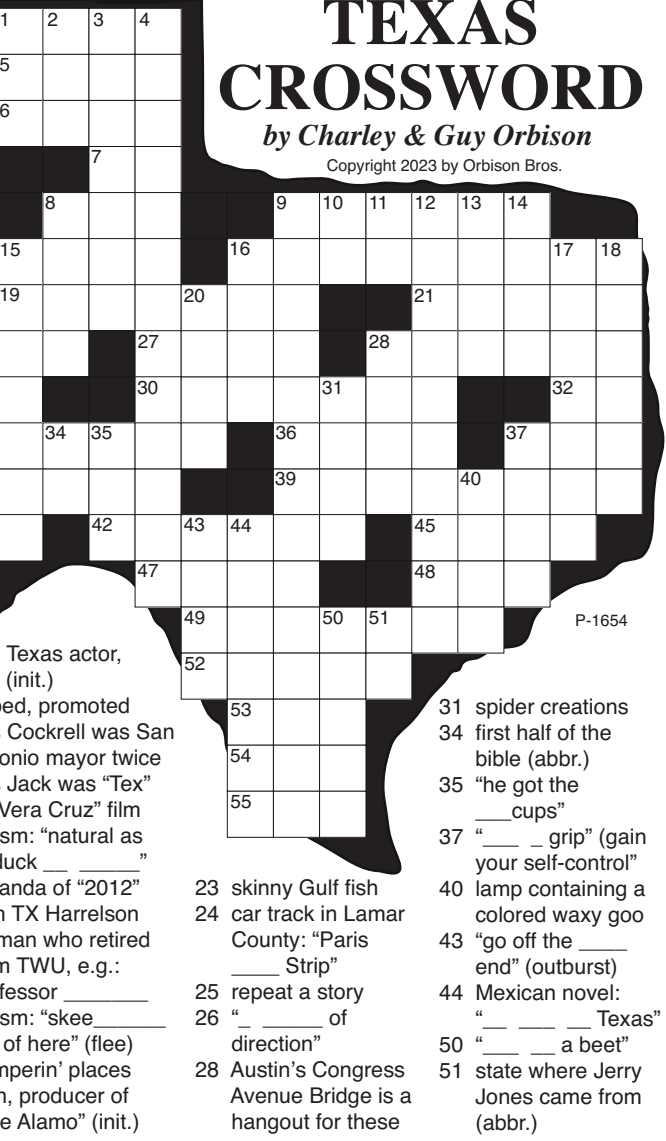
- 1 dog tail movements
- 5 TXism: "tame as ___ dog"
- 6 TXism: "he's a little shy in the hat ___" (mentally ill)
- 7 ___ Campo, Texas
- 8 enjoyed chicken fried steak
- 9 ___ Falls, Texas
- 15 UT grad Marcia Gay Harden film: "___ the Wild" (2007)
- 16 braided hair
- 19 TV ratings company
- 21 an unusual animal raised in Texas
- 22 changes political districts
- 27 TX Jordan Spieth won 2015 U.S. ___
- 28 assigned fault
- 29 Tritt hit: "___ Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)"
- 30 Laredo is known as the "___ to Mexico"
- 32 Farm-to-Market passage (abbr.)
- 33 TXism: "he'll be ___ own funeral" (unreliable)
- 36 ___ Ward, Texas
- 37 TX-born Birmingham of TV series "Yellowstone"
- 38 related to heredity
- 39 Texas redback currency, today
- 41 Gov. Ross (init.)
- 42 A&M's "Corps of ___"

DOWN

- 1 TX Miranda Lambert's "If I ___ a Cowboy"
- 2 he took the tile from TX George Foreman in 1974
- 3 newspaper in Pittsburg, TX
- 4 type of cave study in Sonora, e.g.
- 8 birds found at Bentsen Rio Grande State Park
- 9 Mitch Garver went to the Rangers from this northern AL team (2 wds.)
- 10 job from which Ken Paxton's suspended
- 11 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
- 12 hyped, promoted
- 13 this Cockrell was San Antonio mayor twice
- 14 this Jack was "Tex" in "Vera Cruz" film
- 15 TXism: "natural as a duck ___"
- 16 Amanda of "2012" with TX Harrelson
- 17 woman who retired from TWU, e.g.: professor ___
- 18 TXism: "skee ___ out of here" (flee)
- 20 pamperin' places
- 22 Ron, producer of "The Alamo" (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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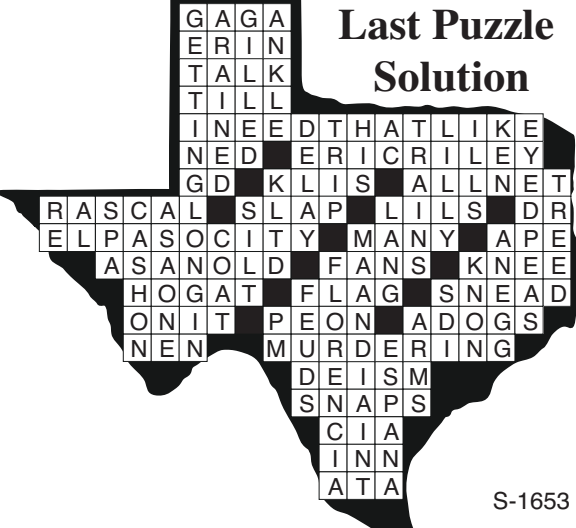
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Sports

Lady Bucks fall to Panthers, topple Indians

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Last week the Lady Bucks volleyball team played two non-district home games, one on Tuesday night against Odessa's Permian Panthers, and one on Saturday morning, against the Fort Davis Indians.

In Tuesday's game against the Panthers, the Lady Bucks lost to the 6A team with a seven-win streak and a 15-9 record. The Alpine team, which at the time had a 17-8 re-

cord and two-loss streak, did win the third set of the four-set game, but lost the game 1-3.

Adrian Smith, head volleyball coach said, "Our game versus Odessa Permian was a great milestone for our program. All three teams were able to implement skills and techniques they have been working on in practice and were able gauge their level of competitiveness needed in order to continue to reach our goals of becoming a program that competes at a high caliber level."

The Lady Bucks have gone up against familiar as well as new opponents under Smith's guidance, challenging the teams to up their game. In set one, the Panthers won 25-22, and in set two 25-15. In set three, the Lady Bucks won 25-22, pushing the game into the deciding fourth set which the Permian team won 25-14.

During this game, Novah Carrasco played in each of the four sets and led the team in kills, with 14. She



Peyton Kinkade is poised to deliver a kill after Paula Vargas gives an assist at Saturday morning's game.

Courtesy photo

also had one service ace, a solo block, 23 digs and 15 service receptions. Adayna Garcia played all four sets as well and had three solo blocks, one service ace, nine kills, three digs, and

one assist. Mia Morris had one service ace and the leading number of digs and serve receptions in this game, digs totaling 25 and receptions 30. Jaycee Portillo had 14 receptions, 13



digs, and one kill. Hope Dominguez had nine kills, 13 digs, and 20 receptions. Paula Vargas led the team with 29 assists and had 10 digs and one service ace while Payton

Kinkade had one kill. "An aspect that our program has been focusing on is the cohesiveness of competing and implementing

See VOLLEYBALL • 9

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Logan Smith carries the ball with teammate Devon Rojo behind him in the game against Wink on Friday.

Photo by Noe Lujan

Bucks sneak past Wildcats

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Alpine High School Bucks played a great game of football on Friday, winning the game against the Wink Wildcats 19-18.

In addition to the win, spectators were impressed by the Fightin' Bucks and how they conducted themselves on the field. In a previous interview with the Avalanche, head football coach and athletic director for Alpine ISD, Andy Smith, mentioned wanting to improve the culture surrounding athletics, doing so by expecting the great things of the players.

After Friday's game, Smith said, "Culture is a word that gets thrown around a lot in any organization. What is important is intentional culture. Everything matters. To how we interact with adults and peers. How we talk, how we dress, and how we conduct our business on a day-to-day basis. We are trying to build a championship culture."

The Wink team had a good first half, match-

ing Alpine's initial six points in the first quarter with an 11-yard rushing touchdown. Wink gained 18 points in the second, with another touchdown, leading 6-18 at halftime. "One of our core values is FINISH. We talked about it at halftime. We wanted to finish the game and play four quarters of football. The kids never gave up and finished the game," said Smith. The third quarter started with a Wink kick off to Alpine, neither team gaining any points during this quarter, each maintaining that standoff.

The beginning of the fourth quarter turned the page for Alpine when Logan Smith, whose passing skills were shown in the first half of the game, rushed for seven yards and scored another touchdown for the Bucks. Kicker John Valenzuela made the extra-point, bringing Alpine's score to 13.

"Logan's touchdown gave us an opportunity to get back into the game. It was a great drive for the offense, and we finished the drive with a touch-

down," Smith said. "Logan is a great receiver out of the backfield and in the slot receiver position. He is a threat with the ball in his hands and we want to continue to showcase his abilities moving forward throughout the season. I'm very proud of his toughness and how hard he plays on both sides of the ball," said Smith.

There were quite a few great turnovers in this game, with the Bucks' teamworking strength seeming to increase after halftime. After a 35-yard fumble return touchdown and a failed two-point conversion, Alpine increased the score to 19, overcoming Wink's 18, a difference that the Buck's fought to maintain for the remainder of the game.

"I've said all along that our defense was the strength of our team and by the end of the season they would be one of the top defenses in Region I in class 3A football. They take coaching very well. Coach Dominguez does an outstanding job with this group of young

See FOOTBALL • 9

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCKS FOOTBALL
Sept. 15 Sonora @ Alpine JV 6 p.m.
Sept. 15 Alpine vs Sonora Varsity 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 22 Alpine vs Odessa Compass* Varsity 7:30 p.m. JV TBA
Sept. 28 Alpine vs Pecos JV 6 p.m.
Sept. 29 Alpine vs Tornillo* Varsity 7:30 p.m.

LADY BUCKS VOLLEYBALL
Sept. 16 Alpine vs Monahans F 11 a.m. JV 12 p.m. Varsity 1 p.m.
Sept. 19 Compass Academy* @ Alpine F 5 p.m. JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6 p.m.

ALPINE CROSS COUNTRY
Sept. 16 Bo Coffman Invitational HS/MS @ Presidio MS
Sept. 20 Marfa Invitational MS @ Marfa Golf Course
Sept. 22-23 Lubbock Invitational-V @ Mae Simmons Park
**District 1-3A Game*

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK




MOLLY GARRETT

Freshman and first year xc runner, Molly Garrett, has been a great addition to the varsity girls team. She continues to improve each week through her work ethic and determination.

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Molly Garrett, Colette Fowlkes, Emy Hernandez, and Hope Dominguez, members of Alpine High School's varsity girls' cross country team compete on the beach at Port Aransas this past weekend.

Courtesy photo

Cross-Country hits the sand

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Runnin' Bucks varsity boys' and girls' teams hit the sand at Port Aransas this past weekend. The girls' team faced 22 other teams, while the boys faced 21.

The varsity girls team placed sixth out of 22, while the boys placed ninth out of 21.

Top finishers for the girls' out of 155 runners included Hope Dominguez who came in 19th, Emy Hernandez 20th, Colette Fowlkes 21st, and Molly Garrett rounded

out the team in 27th. The varsity boys had two finishers in the top 50 of 150 athletes. Hatfield Cason continues to bring in good times with an 11th place finish while Aaron Miller placed 48th in the weekend meet.

The Port Aransas Invitational allowed the varsity athletes the opportunity to train and race in a very different environment. "It was hot and humid most of the day, and the beach offers great running early in the morning and late in the evening. The kids could race on the beach shoreline or the

beach road. Not exactly equal in distance but provides an interesting race opportunity for them to choose their race experience," said Coach Cory Cason.

"The boys chose to race at the shoreline instead of the beach road. It's just a bit longer than the beach road but they enjoyed dodging early morning beach goers and a cool breeze coming off the water," Cason replied.

"It's always an adventurous, fun trip. The kids experience something new each time we go. There's always lots

of laughing, swimming, eating, sharing, memory making...and running," Cason remarked about the Port Aransas meet.

This coming weekend, September 16, has the Runnin' Bucks in Presidio at the Bo Coffman Invitational, where both the high school and middle school teams will participate. Midweek, September 20, the middle school cross country team will participate in the Marfa Invitational, and the following weekend, September 22-23 our varsity team will tackle the Lubbock Invitational.

SUL ROSS RODEO FALL 2023

Sept. 14-17 Eastern NM University-Portales, NM
Sept. 21-23 Sul Ross State University
Sept. 28-29 Vernon College-Vernon, Texas
Oct. 12-14 Frank Phillips College-Canadian, Texas
Oct. 26-28 Texas Tech University-Lubbock, Texas

VOLLEYBALL • FROM 8

game management. All three teams did a great job of bringing these two entities together and because of this they were able to consistently compete alongside a program that has a long-standing tradition of competing at a high level of play," Smith said.

In the Saturday non-district game with Fort Davis, the Alpine Lady Bucks reversed their losing streak winning all three sets 3-0. The Lady bucks now have an 18-8 overall record headed towards district play.

"Athletes will always

continue to progress with skill throughout the entirety of a season. Our program will continue to improve as will others, that is what makes competition so exciting at any level," Smith said. The Alpine teams continue to evolve with each game and tournament in which they participate. "When our opponents improve, we improve and that is ultimately what leads toward opportunities for goal attainment, student-athlete success, team success, and program success," said Smith.

Moving Sale

Ends Sept. 26th

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Loose prints start at \$15.00

For a preview, see WildRoseGallery.net

FOOTBALL • FROM 8

men. They swarm to the football, and they tackle well," Smith said.

Auden Ramirez and Sean Mendoza both made an amazing play in the backfield on the quarterback, and it allowed Mendoza to get to the ball. According to Smith it was an unusual play but that,

"Big time players make big time plays in big time games."

When asked how he planned to maintain this momentum, Smith quoted Philippians 3:13-14, "No, Dear Brothers, I'm not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one

thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which we are called."

Smith referred to this verse as a staple of the program because it is what intentional culture looks like; to forget the

past, to turn the page and move forward. "We look to what lies ahead of us and we can't wait until we get the next opportunity to compete," said Smith.

Next up for the Fightin' Bucks is a non-district away game tomorrow night facing the Sonora Broncos.

2ND ANNUAL BARRIO FEST.

September 14th-17th

2023

Fort Stockton, TX

Join us in a four-day festival to celebrate the Hispanic Culture in the barrio surrounding the Ft. Stockton Community Theater on Nelson Street!

Thursday, September 14, 2023
6:30 pm — Official Barrio Fest Family Reunion Check-In
7:00 pm — Opening Ceremony at the Fort Stockton Community Theatre
7:30 pm — Peliculas en el Teatro: Ahí está el detalle featuring Cantinflas (Spanish Film/English Subtitles)
10:00 am — Oral History Recordings — South West Collections Library (Spanish & English)

Friday, September 15, 2023
8:30 am — 11:30 am — Educational Tours — 3rd Graders
9:00 am — 5:30 pm — Oral History Recordings — SWC by appointment
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm — Veterans Legends & Memorial - Pecos County Community Action Building
4:00 pm — 5:00 pm — Texas Treasure Business Awards — Pecos County Historical Commission
6:00 pm — 8:00 pm — Texas Treasure Business Awards & Heritage Reception at FSCT-FMH
6:00 pm — 8:00 pm — Performance by Mariachi Santa Cruz at FSCT-FMH
8:30 pm — Peliculas en el Teatro: El Padrecito featuring Cantinflas (Spanish Film/English Subtitles)

Saturday, September 16, 2023
8:00 am — Barrio Fun Run Relay
9:00 am — 5:30 pm — Oral History Recordings — SWC by appointment
9:00 am — Historic Baseball Games at the Rooney Park
9:00 am — 11:00 pm — Food, Arts & Craft Booth Vendors - Division and Nelson Street
9:00 am — 4:00 pm — Historical Tour Maps — Check-In Booth
10:00 am — 2:00 pm — Educational & Social Service Fair Booths
10:00 am — 1:00 pm — Adobe Making Workshop - Comanche Tortilla and Tamale Factory
10:00 am — 3:00 pm — Stakitas' Car Club - Car Show - Pecos County Courthouse Annex
3:00 pm — 3:30 pm — Stakitas' Car Club Awards & Ballet Folklorico-SEU
10:00 am — 6:00 pm — Veterans Legends & Memorial Display - Pecos County Community Action Building
11:00 am — 11:00 pm — El Paso Tejano Mix Radio Entertainment & Ballet Folklorico-SEU
11:00 am — 3:00 pm — Loteria Games by El Buen Vecino at FSC-FMH
11:00 am — 5:00 pm — Quinceañera Art Installation Display — Chunk Arts Gallery and Studio
3:00 pm — 6:00 pm — Experience West Texas at the Centennial Bar & Lounge (Tasting Event)
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm — Baseball Legends at Joe's Place (Historical Happy Hour)
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm — Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Grey Mule
6:30 pm — 7:00 pm — Performance by Ballet Folklorico at St. Edward's University- Ft. Stockton Community Theatre
7:00 pm — 8:00 pm — Eres del Comanche — Theatre Performance by Sarah Amira de la Garza - Ft. Stockton Community Theatre
7:30 pm — 8:00 pm — 5k Awards & Quinceañera Dance w/ El Paso's Tejano Mix & Cumbia Movement
8:00 pm — 11:00 pm — Nelson Street Dance w/ El Paso's Tejano Mix, featuring Cumbia Movement

Sunday, September 17, 2023
8:00 am — 10:00 am — Spanish Mass at the Historic St. Joseph's Catholic Church

For more information, email Barrio Fest at fsbarriofest@gmail.com

SAVINGS

HURRY IN ...

SALES END OCT. 2ND

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'El Toro' resurrection
 Attention all old-school Bucks. Alpine High School Journalism Club is putting out a new school newspaper called, "El Toro." This revamp of the original, started

in 1960 at 10 cents and issue. Soon to be made available to the public, this paper promises to be entertaining, introspective, and so much fun. Donations are a plus, but what we are currently seeking is old, original

copies of the El Toro, which ran well into the 1970s. You'll have to dig deep in a closet or chest of drawers, and maybe none even exist anymore. But sometimes, you never know...If you can get your hands on any

of these precious pieces of the past, please call 432-538-7057 for an archiving opportunity. The El Toro staff and students would greatly appreciate it. See you in the funnies.
 Thank you,
 Gil Grabow

Thank you

Special thanks to Ambrosio and Jay Valles for taking the time to display the US Flags on part of Hwy. 118 and all of Gallego Ave in remembrance of 9-11. We appreciate your loyalty and dedication as a VFW member.

Gracias,
 Robert and Elidia Polanco

A hearty thank you

I would like to extend a belated, but hearty thank you to those who sent birthday wishes to my father, Donald Snook, on his 100th birthday in March. He enjoyed all the cards from friends he knew and from kind people he had never met. Following his birthday, Don flew to England where he contin-

ues to be well and is staying with my sister in a village not far from the British base where he served as a pilot in WWII. Thanks again to those who sent cards and otherwise showed kindness to my father during his birthday, and other days, here in Alpine.

Sincerely,
 Helen Snook
 Alpine


Conant Lecture to feature Gary P. Nabhan

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center & Botanical Gardens, host of the Roger Conant Distinguished Guest Lecturer Program, is honored to welcome Gary Paul Nabhan this Thursday, September 14, at 7 p.m., at the Crowley Theater

in Marfa, as its distinguished guest lecturer. Enjoy an enchanting evening with Nabhan as he inspires and enlightens his audience with his lecture, "Fragrances of the Chihuahuan Desert: The Desert Osmococsm Smells Like

Rain." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Gary's books, The Nature of Desert Nature; Agave Spirits, the Past, Present and Future of Mezcal; and Desert Terroir, Exploring the Unique Flavors and Sundry Places of the

Borderlands, will be on sale in the lobby before the start of the program. Admission is free. Beverages and appetizers will be served after the program. Please contact programs@cdri.org or call 432-364-2499 for more information.

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ROSWELL LIVESTOCK AUCTION SALES, INC.
SALE DATE: MONDAY, September 11, 2023
 1329 head of cattle sold on a steady to higher market, with excellent buyer attendance. This is the top of the market and prices range down from this according to quality, quantity, condition, and fill. Buyers are paying attention to unweaned calves.

COMPARED TO LAST WEEK
Stocker Calves: Steady to \$10.00 higher
Feeder Cattle: Steady to \$8.00 higher
Packer Cows and Bulls: Cows \$5.00 to \$8.00 higher Steady to \$2.00 higher

300# - 400# Steers	323.00 to 340.00
300# - 400# Heifers	265.00 to 285.00
400# - 500# Steers	275.00 to 323.00
400# - 500# Heifers	238.00 to 265.00
500# - 600# Steers	261.00 to 275.00
500# - 600# Heifers	221.00 to 238.00
600# - 700# Steers	253.00 to 261.00
600# - 700# Heifers	209.00 to 221.00
700# - 800# Steers	230.00 to 253.00
700# - 800# Heifers	190.00 to 209.00
Packer Cows	105.00 to 121.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	85.00 to 95.00
Packer Bulls	115.00 to 135.00
Feeder Bulls	90.00 to 95.00
Cow / Calf Pairs - Top Half	1500.00 to 2250.00
Bred Cows - Top Half	1400.00 to 1725.00

www.alpineavalanche.com

Feed the Funnel



Alpine High School and Sul Ross dual credit students, Brodie Hale, Jobre Evans, Alexa Renteria, and Carolina Mucharras participated in the "Feed the Funnel" program last week in conjunction with the Alpine Food Pantry and the Meals on Wheels program. These students along with many others packaged 50,000 meals for area residents in need.

Supporting their own



Multiple members of the Alpine Fightin' Buck football team cheer on the Lady Buck volleyball team in their game against 6A Odessa Permian.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALPINE ISD'S STATE COMPENSATORY EDUCATION FUNDS FOR 2023-2024

Alpine ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, in the Alpine ISD Administration Building, Board Room, located at 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Alpine ISD's State Compensatory Education Use of Funds for 2023-2024.

37th Annual TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Exhibit & Sale of Contemporary Western Art & Custom Cowboy Gear



Outrunning the Storm, oil on panel, 12" x 24" by 2023 Premier Artist Alice Leese

OPENING WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 14-16

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<p>THURSDAY, 09/14 PREVIEW PARTY Museum of the Big Bend 5:00-8:00PM \$50/person</p> <p>FRIDAY, 09/15 ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS Museum of the Big Bend 11:00AM-3:00PM</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTION & SALE Museum of the Big Bend 6:00-9:00PM The best party in the Big Bend Country! Great appetizers, complimentary beer and wine, live music by Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band, and a cash bar. \$75/person</p> <p><i>Thursday & Friday nights - Wine underwritten by Robie Golden & Sam Saenz, beer underwritten by Mary & Jim Bones</i></p>	<p>SATURDAY, 09/16 RANCH HAND BREAKFAST Museum of the Big Bend Starts at 8:00AM <i>Admission is free, reservations are requested</i></p> <p>ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS Museum of the Big Bend 11:00AM-3:00PM</p> <p>RANCH ROUNDUP PARTY Gage Hotel Gardens Gazebo Marathon 5:30-9:00PM Dress: Western Fancy Passed appetizers, cocktails and buffet dinner provided by the Gage Hotel. Open bar. Live auction benefiting the Museum. \$150/person</p> <p><i>Ranch Roundup Party underwritten in part by Bonnie & John Korbell and Carol & Pete Peterson</i></p>
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At the **Museum of the Big Bend** in Alpine
 For more information about events, sponsorship opportunities, reservations and tickets, go online to: museumofthebigbend.com
 Show closes November 4, 2023





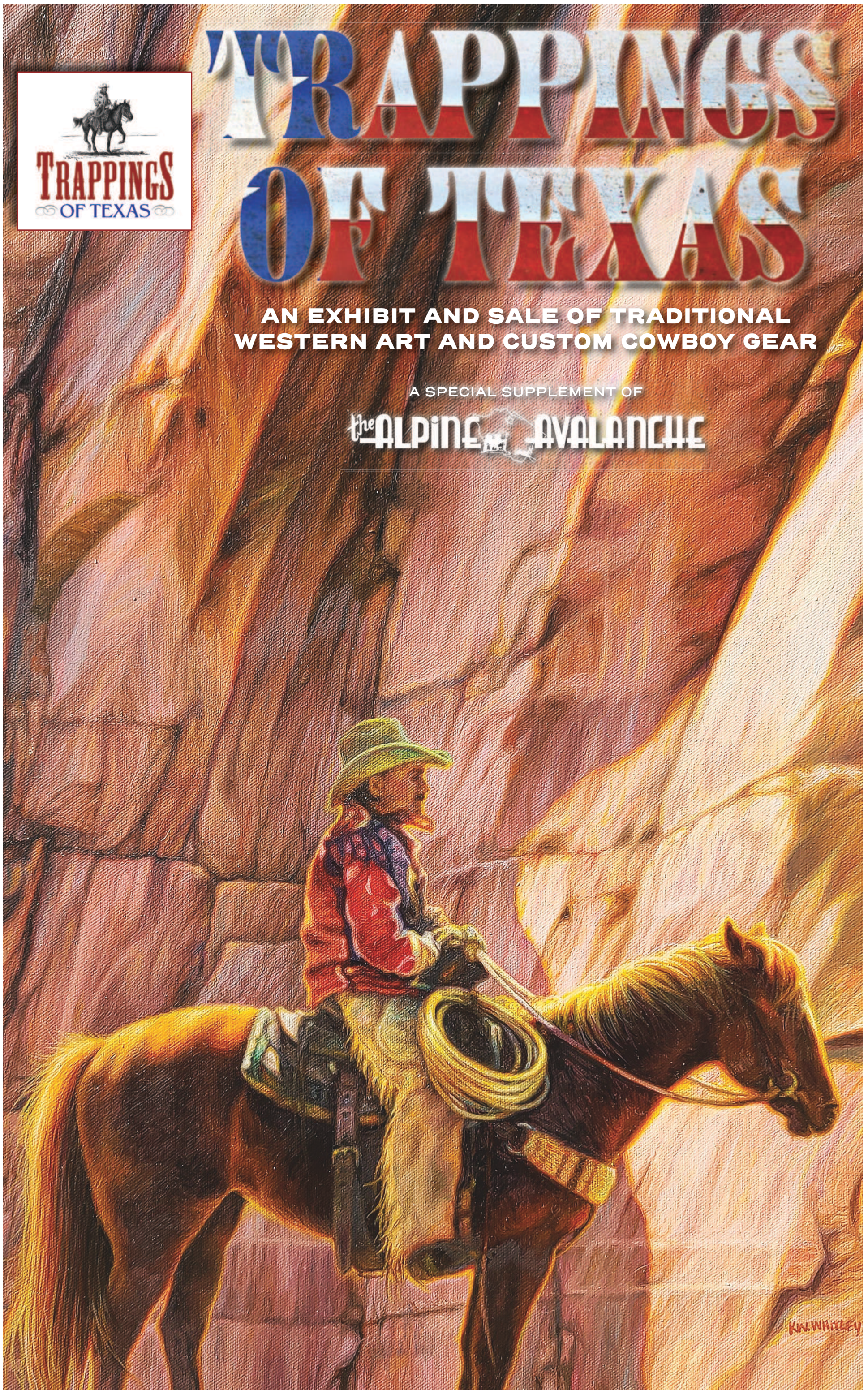


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the ALPINE AVALANCHE





“The Museum of the Big Bend is home to one of the premier contemporary Western art sales and exhibits in the country. For over 35 years Trappings of Texas has showcased the best there is to offer in art created by the folks who live the cowboy life. Trappings features both art work and cowboy gear side by side, creating an immersive Western experience for buyers and cowboy enthusiasts.”

A CELEBRATION OF COWBOY ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN

BY MARY BONES
Director, Museum of the Big Bend



For 37 years, the Museum of the Big Bend has had the honor to showcase work created by the men and women who live the cowboy lifestyle in Trappings of Texas. This year we are gathering for this wonderful celebration in the new Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building.

As you walk into the new building, take a moment to look at the glass panels that encircle the exterior patio area. You will see ranch brands from the Big Bend and across Texas, as the Mu-

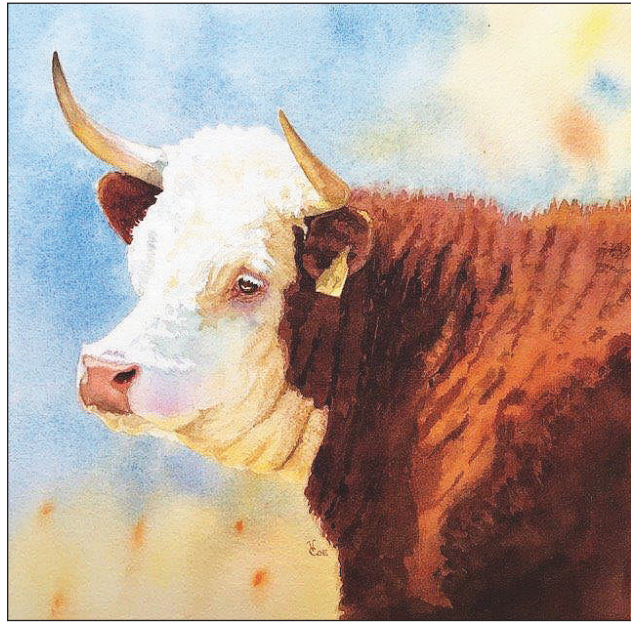
seum recognizes the importance of the ranching community and their commitment to the success of the Museum of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, and the Big Bend area.

“Trappings of Texas offers the novice and seasoned buyers the opportunity to meet the artists who have works for sale in the show and to support through these artists with their purchase. Trappings features both well established artists alongside up and coming artists in the beautiful Big Bend ranching country of Texas. A great weekend of events awaits you September 14-16, 2023 at the home of Trappings of Texas, the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine.”

COVER: “RED ROCK RIDER,”
OIL ON CANVAS BY KW WHITLEY

PAGE HEADERS CREATED
USING “BOX STYLE BUCKLE”
BY MICHAEL PARDUE

ART OF TRAPPINGS



Alpine Sunshine, watercolor,
by Valerie Coe

Double Mounted Spurs, 4130 Steel, Silver and copper inlays, Rowels made from 1095 steel by Doug Cook



Museum of the Big Bend

TRAPPINGS

Trappings of Texas is one of the oldest and best-known exhibits and sales of cowboy gear and Western art in the country. Trappings showcases the diversity and originality of classic and contemporary Western art by bringing together up and coming artists with established artists who know ranching lifestyle.

Join us for a weekend of celebrating all things cowboy in the new Emmett and Miriam McCoy Museum of the Big Bend building on the campus of Sul Ross State University. Experience a slice of the true American West cattle country.

An incredible weekend of events is scheduled for this year's Trappings. Starting on Thursday from 5-8pm is the Preview Party where you can see the exhibit first. Register to become a Luck of the Draw buyer, meet Trappings artists and enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar.

Friday September 15 from 11 am- 3pm, join Trappings artists on the Cultural Events Center patio to learn about their craft and enjoy some great story telling. That evening come back to the Museum for the 37th Annual Trappings of Texas Opening Reception and Sale from 6-9 pm. The BEST party in the Big Bend, dine on an array of tasty appetizers, register to become a buyer, meet Trappings artists and make new friends and enjoy Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band.

On Saturday morning September 16, learn if you are a lucky owner of works in Trappings, enjoy more artist demonstrations at the Museum of the Big Bend from 11 am-3 pm. That evening is the Ranch Roundup Party at the Gage Gardens in Marathon, Texas, starting at 5:30 pm- a terrific way to wind up your Trappings weekend.

ART OF TRAPPINGS



Harvest Descent, oil on panel, by Kerri Menchaca



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SCHEDULE

The Best of Western Contemporary Art and Cowboy Gear is back for its 37th year in the heart of the Big Bend Country.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Preview Party

Museum of the Big Bend on the campus of Sul Ross State University
Register to become a buyer, meet the artists, and enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Artist Demonstrations

Museum of the Big Bend, on the patio
Meet some of the Trappings artists and learn about their craft.
Participating artists: Carol Arnold, Mike Capron, Alice Leese, Tim Oliver, and Lindy Cook Severns.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Opening Reception and Sale
Museum of the Big Bend

The BEST PARTY in the Big Bend Country! Register to become a buyer, meet the artists, and catch up with your friends. Great appetizers, complimentary beer and wine, live music by Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band, and a cash bar make the evening more festive!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
8 a.m.

Ranch Hand Breakfast
Museum of the Big Bend

Admission is free, reservations requested.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Artist Demonstrations and Presentations
Museum of the Big Bend, on the patio

Revisit the exhibit and observe the artists at work.
Participating artists: Carol Arnold, Mike Capron, Alice Leese, Tim Oliver, and Lindy Cook Severns.

5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Ranch Roundup Party
Gage Hotel Gardens Gazebo, Marathon

Dress: Western Fancy
MENU: Passed appetizers and cocktails - sugar and spice quail bites and jalapeño corn fritters.
Buffet dinner - chopped southwest Caesar salad, 44 Farms prime grilled tri-tip sirloin, sautéed gulf shrimp, roasted poblano white cheddar cheese grits, season vegetables, mini corn muffins, assorted dessert bites, and coffee.
Menu items subject to change
Open bar
A live auction will be held with unique items to support the mission of the Museum of the Big Bend.

ART OF TRAPPINGS



Contemporary Necklace, Sterling silver, copper, Sleepy Beauty turquoise, vintage metal, and Kingman turquoise beads by Randy Glover

ART OF TRAPPINGS



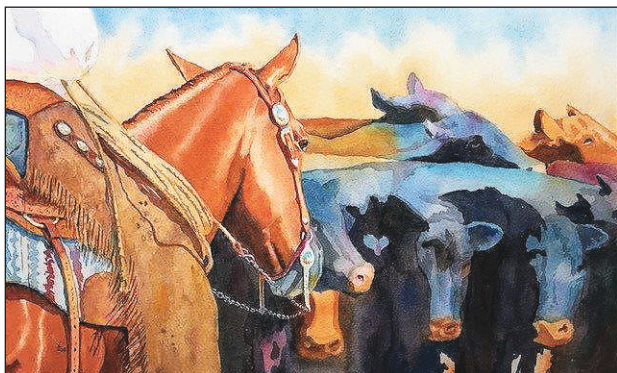
A Pen Full of Horns, oil, by Sarah Harless

LINDY COOK SEVERNS BIG BEND ARTIST

Trappings of Texas Artist
Lindy@LindyCSeverns.com
www.LindyCSeverns.com
Fort Davis, Texas

Old Spanish Trail Gallery
SW of Fort Davis, by appointment
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The Gage, '16 Collection
Marathon



Captive Audience, watercolor, by Valerie Coe

Saddle Bronc Engraved Folding Knife, stainless steel, by John Nord



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C.G. Morrison Company began as a variety store in Alpine in 1928. The store became Morrison True Value in 1976. The hardware store has been expanded to over 16,000 square feet. Morrison True Value Gardens was added to the family in 2001 and Lucy's Christmas Cottage opened in 2004. The C.G Morrison Company family of stores is the shopping headquarters for the Big Bend. Welcome!





2023 PREMIER ARTIST ALICE LEESE

Alice Leese grew up on the YT Ranch in Winkler County, Texas, where she and her husband Rob live and work. They have two daughters, Laura, and Elizabeth. She is part of the fourth generation on the ranch and works alongside the fifth and sixth. The ranch was started in the late 1800's by her great grandfather who came from Maine to Colorado then drove a herd of sheep to a railhead called Odessa in Texas to homestead. The ranch now raises Hereford and Angus cattle.

Alice graduated from Abilene Christian University with a BFA in Studio Art and worked on an MFA from Sul Ross State University. She is a signature member of the American Plains Artists and Cowgirl Artists of America, a member of Plein Air Artists Colorado, Plein Air Artists of New Mex-

“My work is about place, specific locations. The work is regional to the southwest United States, particularly the YT Ranch where I live and work. Coming from a background of ranching makes conservation and stewardship of a place a priority. Impressions on the landscape made by natural phenomenon and man are recorded in paint creating a record of the current environment as seen through the eyes of an artist. The land, occupants and uses for land change over regions and my landscape paintings are a record of the effects of weather conditions, droughts, rain, and events like grass fires.”

ico, and the Outdoor Painters Society. She has been the artist-in-residence at Fort Union National Monument, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and the Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida where she and her

husband spent a month on a 50-acre island alone. She has also been featured on Texas Country Reporter. Her work is represented by Jeff Tabor Gallery in Santa Fe, and Western Gallery in Austin and online.



Alice Leese

ART OF TRAPPINGS



Day On the Mountain, oil, by Chessney Sevier



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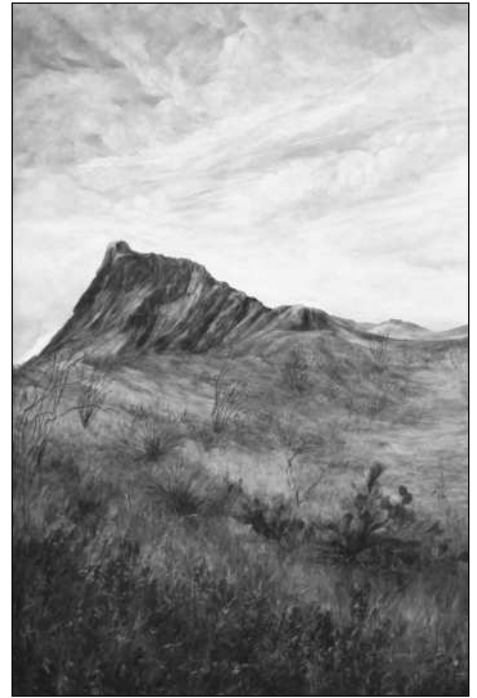
ART OF TRAPPINGS



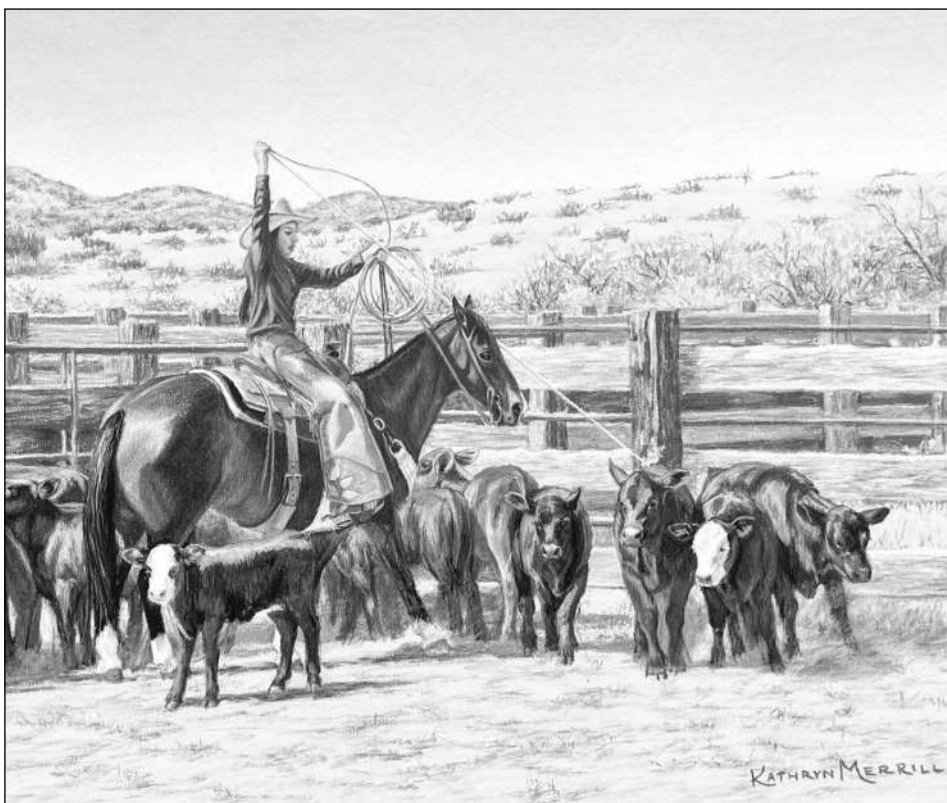
Cuttin for the Show, ... Dayworking for the Dough, colored pencil on sanded paper, by Kathryn Merrill



Texas Style Spurs, Steel, Nickle silver mountings, by Jerry Galloway



Lined in Blue, oil, archival board, by Lindy C Severns



Salt and Light, Colored pencil on sanded paper, by Kathryn Merrill



Long Trot Up To Escondido, oil, by Herman Walker



On The Move, Oil, by Wayne Baize

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Longhorn Hand Mirror, Floral carved leather, Sterling silver Longhorn, by Douglas Krause



Rough Country, oil, by William Kalwick



Mischief, bronze, by Ann Zerger



Cathedral Mountain Sunrise, oil on canvas, by Alice Leese



Knife, CPM 154 steel blade, brass bolster and pins, orange and black Maple burl handle, by Brian Asher. Bolsters engraved by Troy Menix. Sheath by Brian Asher.



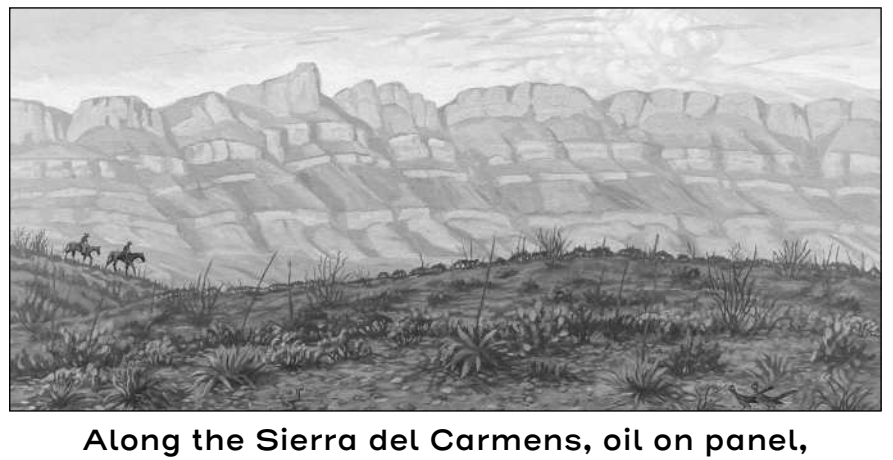
Buckle, Copper, steel, Sterling silver and 24k gold inlays, by Troy Menix



Homer's Son, bronze, by William Carrington



Black Mesa, oil, by Kim Mackey



Along the Sierra del Carmens, oil on panel, by Alice Leese



Big Red, Gouache and color pencil, by KW Whitley



Fancy Cuff Bracelet, Sterling silver and copper overlay, by Justin Diver

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Creamy comfort food any time of year

One thing I am always a sucker for is rich and decadent comfort food. There is nothing better for a foodie than to partake in a dish that instantly brings you joy in the first bite. Recently, I put skillet to stove top, and in 30 minutes time I was able to enjoy one of the tastiest dishes I've made in a while.

Creamy mushroom pork chops are every southerner's dream, even if they didn't know this was true. With very little fuss, only a few ingredients, and a single skillet, these mouthwatering morsels can be on your plate in no time. Not only is this dish quick to make, but it is super simple. You don't have to be a gourmet chef to have your friends and family believe otherwise if you serve this at your next meal.

What makes this dish so delightful is the marriage of all the flavors coming together. There's garlic, paprika, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper, and fresh thyme. Those herbs and spices blend with the pungent, earthy flavors of the mushrooms and the creamy goodness of heavy cream to make these pork chops tango on your tongue.

The beauty of using pork chops in this meal is that pork chops have a mild flavor, so they are able to take on the flavors of herbs and spices. This allows for the meat to become almost infused with the seasonings used in this comforting fare. These delicious pork chops pair well with potatoes and other vegetables of your choice. I paired mine with sliced, rosemary fried potatoes and sautéed green beans.

Consequently, the next time you dare to impress your friends and family,



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert



Creamy Mushroom Pork Chops.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

break out with this simple, one skillet, 30-minute wonder, and they'll all wonder if you've been hiding your talents in the kitchen all this time.

Creamy Mushroom Pork Chops

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs, boneless pork loin chops
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil, divided
- 8 ounces sliced mushrooms, any kind
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream or coconut milk for dairy free
- 5 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 3 tablespoons fresh thyme

Directions:

Season pork chops with Italian seasoning and salt and pepper.

In a shallow bowl, dredge the pork chops in the flour.

Heat an empty, large, high sided skillet (cast iron works best) over medium heat for two minutes before adding two tablespoons of olive oil.

Add pork chops and cook for at least five minutes on one side to sear. Flip the pork chops over and reduce the heat to low-medium and continue to cook until done. Remove the pork chops to a plate.

Add the remaining tablespoon of olive oil to the pan, and add in the sliced mushrooms, generously sprinkling with salt.

Cook for three to five

minutes before stirring, then stir and cook for another minute or so. Remove 1/3 of the mushrooms to the plate with the pork chops leaving the other 2/3 in the skillet.

Add in the heavy cream, minced garlic, and paprika to the skillet and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low-medium and cook for 5 to 7 minutes, making sure the sauce is simmering but not boiling.

Once the sauce has taken on a nice color from the mushrooms and has reduced slightly, remove from heat and stir in the fresh thyme.

Add in the pork chops and remaining mushrooms and reheat on low for several minutes before serving.

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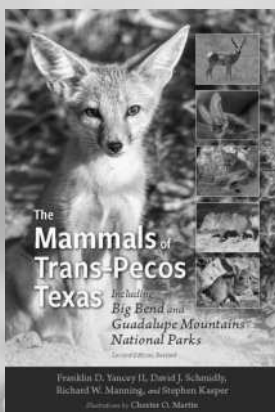
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Presentation and Book Signing Event

Granada Theater | 207 E Holland Ave, Alpine
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You are invited to attend a presentation and author signing session for the newly released second edition of **The Mammals of Trans-Pecos Texas: Including Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks**, authored by Franklin D. Yancey, II, David J. Schmidly, Richard W. Manning, and Stephen Kasper, with illustrations by Chester O. Martin. **Doors open at 5:30.**



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCE:

ORDINANCE 2023-09-01: THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR USE AND SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE APPORTIONING OF EACH LEVY FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES; AND PROVIDING WHEN TAXES SHALL BECOME DUE AND WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLIC HEARING, A WORKSHOP REGARDING THE CITY'S TAX RATE WILL TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AT 4:30 P.M.

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COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND TAX RATE NOTICE ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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CREMATIONS - PRENEED PLANS

West Texas stakeholders meet with Gonzales

A group of West Texas community stakeholders met with U. S. Congressman Tony Gonzales last Thursday to discuss issues that are unique to the Big Bend area. Many issues were discussed, but some of the most important were energy matters, area infrastructure, federal grant funding for education, and health care.



Alpine ISD Chief Financial Officer Chris Valenzuela (right) represented Alpine ISD at a meeting with community stakeholders in West Texas who met with U. S. Congressman Tony Gonzales last week to discuss issues unique to the Big Bend area.

Courtesy photo

Lady Bucks battle Fort Davis



The Fort Davis Indians competed against the Alpine Lady Bucks this past Saturday at the Jill Stice-Brian Wilson gym at Alpine High School.

Courtesy photo

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SENIOR Spotlight AMERIKA VARGAS

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in Ag, tennis, and student council.

What was your favorite moment the last four years?
Some of my favorite moments were when I got to see my brother Allen play football.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
My favorite teacher was Mr. Fox. He is a genuine person who adores his students, and he always has a big smile on his face.

What are your plans after high school?
After high school I plan on going to school to become a dentist and serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

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Devotional Page

Tomorrow Will Worry About Itself

BY REV. BILL COTMAN

First Presbyterian Church of Alpine

“Seek first God’s Kingdom and righteousness, and everything you need will be given to you. So, do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34

The Bible records many instances of people approaching Jesus for healing; some people ask, and then Jesus provides; and in many cases, he says their faith has healed them. But in the story of Jesus and the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17) no one asks for anything, and no one says thank you; at least the Gospel writers do not record it. This story is less about faith or thankfulness, than it is about God’s grace. In the midst of tragedy, her son is brought back to life; the mother has not asked for it, no one thanks Jesus, and there is nothing to tell us anything of the woman’s faith. The crowd praises God saying, “God has come to help his people!” But there is no response from the boy or his mother: what went through that mother’s head when Jesus tells her, “Don’t cry” during her son’s funeral?

Years ago, there were bracelets, keychains, bumper-stickers, and anything else someone could make money off of, marked W.W.J.D. That was meant to stand for “What would Jesus do?” I used to think that was too simplistic; but I now realize that it does not go far enough.

The more important question is “What would Jesus have me do?” The scriptures are clear; we are to serve, holding nothing back, knowing that God’s will is for us to live in joy, sharing the Good News of Christ Jesus.

We all belong to God, and we are all here by God’s grace. We are not to seek God’s minimum expectations; we are to live as if we really believe God will provide. How can we know what God wants us to do with our lives? Rather than looking far ahead; I’m convinced that Jesus wants each of us to think is: What should I be doing today?

Jesus tells us we can’t love both God and money. Most of us think more money makes life easier, and in some ways that’s true, but it’s been said that possessions are a form of power over others; Anything that’s mine is not yours. Is this the way we promise to live? Jesus says we serve God by serving others. No matter how much we are doing, we can do more; No matter how much we love, we can love more; No matter how much we are giving, we can give more. God will provide.

The calling of God is to do what Jesus would have us do. It’s to be Jesus for people who are in need; It’s to be Jesus for people who are hurt; It’s to be Jesus for people who are lonely. Remember the words of our Lord: “Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself; today’s trouble is enough for today.” Amen.

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~ Philippians 4:13

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

**Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)**

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)**

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)**

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)**

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)**

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)**

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from

the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)**

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)**

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)**

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and

reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)**

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)**

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)**

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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Sul Ross welcomes new faculty members

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Classes began Monday, August 28 at Sul Ross, and along with new students for the fall semester also came new faculty. The university welcomed 12 new faculty members to the Alpine campus, including two in the Department of Anthropology, two in the Kinesiology department, three in the Department of Education, one in the Visual and Performing Arts department, one in Business Administration, and two in the Nursing department, with one of them also a part of the Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Charles Koenig is an assistant professor in Anthropology, along with a visiting assistant professor of Anthropology, Dr. Devin Pettigrew. Dr. Koenig's research focuses on indigenous earth oven technology, experimental archaeology, and rock art/cave shelter sites, with much of his work focused on the Big Bend and Lower Pecos regions of Texas.

Dr. Pettigrew's research interest is in the tools and tactics of ancient hunting cultures worldwide. He also researches the ecology of ancient and contemporary hunting, including what leads to hunter success and how ancient practices of hunting can better inform us about conservation and wildlife management.

The Department of Kinesiology gained two new instructors, including Dr. Julianna M. Dean, an assistant professor who hails from Houston where she taught Exercise and Health Sciences at the University of Houston Clear Lake. Also in that department is Doug Renshaw, a native Texan who is currently finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan where he concentrated on neuromuscular physiology. His goal is to better understand the neurophysiology of the effect of strength training, to in-

form rehabilitation and clinical practices around unilateral injuries.

The Department of Education garnered three new members to its faculty. Meara McCains, instructor, Dr. Bradley Carpenter, chair and associate professor, and Lisa Lopez, instructor and Director of Principal Preparation and Outreach Programs. McCains has a background in counseling and education and has been clinically practicing since 2017. She is currently completing her dissertation at Texas Tech, where her area of research involves rehabilitative efforts, specifically yoga, with incarcerated populations along with being a part of an on-going research team exploring bullying and abuse experiences in higher education settings.

Dr. Carpenter is a former public-school teacher, assistant principal, and principal, and has a passion for making sure every child receives an equitable and excellent education. His research includes the critical analysis of educational policy and the preparation of mindful, healthy, and equity-oriented educators.

Lopez is a Lobo alum, having received her Master of Education in Administration in 2001, after completing her bachelor's degree at UTEP. Her career began as a teacher in El Paso area schools for five years before becoming a principal in 2001. Lopez was also selected for a leadership institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the Principal's Center.

The Business Administration department welcomes Dr. Jose Mora as an associate professor. Dr. Mora spent many years teaching at different universities and in different countries, including Venezuela, Columbia, Germany, and stateside at Vermont, as well as being an active researcher with over 30 articles published in internationally recognized

journals.

Ramon Deanda, a native of Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico and Presidio has taught at the University of South Alabama along with elementary art in Presidio and high school art in Moriarty, NM, and Odessa. Deanda has also taught at UTPB, and is currently teaching two-dimensional art, which includes printmaking, painting, and drawing. His artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Dr. Minerva Gonzales comes on board as the director and associate professor in the Department of Nursing at Sul Ross. Dr. Gonzales earned her BSN from Texas Tech, her MSN from Angelo State, and her DNP from Chamberlain College of Nursing. She brings over 25 years of nursing experience to Sul Ross and is a certified nursing educator, along with being Board Certified in Nursing Professional Development, and as a Nurse Executive. Her research interest is in Rural Nurse Leadership.

Finally, Dr. Carl Igo is an associate professor in the Department of Agriculture and Nursing. Dr. Igo is a West Texas native. With Sul Ross roots, having been born in Sterling City and raised in Eldorado, his dad earned his master's degree from Sul Ross State College. Dr. Igo earned dual bachelor's degrees from Texas Tech in Ag Communications and Ag Education, along with a master's degree while working in the Ag Ed department. His career in education began in Fort Hancock as the Ag teacher, followed by Ector County. He then moved to Stillwater, OK to pursue his Ph.D. work in Agricultural Education. After serving as an assistant extension specialist while in Oklahoma, Dr. Igo then accepted a position at Texas State University and later Montana State University, and after 19 years will now call Sul Ross home.

Kokernot Field honored with sign dedication



Representatives from Visit Alpine, Alpine ISD, Texas Mountain Trail Region, and the Alpine 06 Cowboys were on hand for a sign dedication Tuesday morning commemorating the history of the iconic Kokernot Field. The sign program is a project of the Brewster County Tourism Council. On hand were Wendy Little, Director of the Texas Mountain Trail Region, Dr. Michelle Rinehart, Superintendent of Alpine ISD, Chris Ruggia, sign creator and Director of Tourism for the City of Alpine, Kristin Cavness, GM of the Alpine 06 Cowboys and great-granddaughter of Herbert Lee Kokernot, Jr., members of the Alpine Bucks baseball team, Coach Adam Llanez, Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim, Alpine ISD board member Mary McCallister, and Alpine ISD board president Eddie Natera.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

Supporting higher education

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Many students may be college bound after graduation, while others hope to pursue other avenues, such as trade schools. Alpine ISD, in an effort to support these options has two days each week where teachers wear jeans and a college shirt as a show of support for higher education.

Thursdays, teachers at Alpine High School don shirts from their alma-mater or perhaps their child's alma-mater to show this support to their students. Likewise, on Wednesdays, the Alpine Middle School does the same.

Alpine ISD would like to promote other avenues as well. They are asking for local businesses who are engaged in the trades

to reach out to the AHS principal Mr. Vickers (jvickers@alpineisd.net) or AMS principal, Mrs. Pardo-Alferez (jpardoalferez@alpineisd.net) to see how to obtain shirts that represent the trades such as HVAC, plumbing, welding, construction, auto-mechanics, or any other trades that Alpine ISD can promote to their students.

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