

## Candidate filing deadline fast approaching

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Deadlines for the upcoming primary ballot for the March 5 election are close at hand. All candidates wishing to add their name to the list of those running for office must schedule an appointment with Lora Nussbaum, Brewster County Election Administrator to file the announcement for their campaign treasurer before they announce they are running for office, obtain signatures, or file with their party chairs.

The filing deadline for those who have completed the above requirement will be December 11 at 6 p.m. The filings must be made with either the Democrat Chair Mary Bell Lockhart or the Republican Chair Monica McBride.

County offices up for election in the 2024 primary include County Commissioners-Precincts 1 and 3, Brewster County Attorney, Brewster

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## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023 . . . . . 12.56"  
November . . . . . 3.05"



**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.**



## New bomb dog welcomed by commissioners' court

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 28. At this meeting, Sheriff Ronny Dodson stepped forward to introduce the court to Dory, his office's newly acquired bomb dog. Dory is the only bomb dog in the area and will be available for nearby counties as well as Brewster. According to the

sheriff, Dory has already been put to work and brushes up on her skills daily.

In his county judge report, Greg Henington shared that some headway has been made in the storage organizing project. There are estimated to be almost 1,000 boxes of files in county storage. They will continue to go through the contents to process what needs to be discarded and what needs to



Greg Henington

be kept and digitized.

The courthouse lawn has also undergone some updates with the replacement of one of the telephone poles and the renovation of all the electrical boxes. This is just in time for the courthouse Christmas lighting taking place on Friday night.

The court approved the motion to distribute the amount of \$65,000 and \$130,000 from the Local Assistance for Tribal and

County Fund to the Terlingua Common School District and the San Vicente School District respectively. The court approved the payment in the amount of \$49,999 for the purchase of a travel trailer that will be used as a mobile library for South Brewster County. The trailer itself has already been received and is in the county's possession.

Next, the court approved hiring Malinda Richardson to

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## County leaders prepare for holiday season



Brewster County Commissioners along with Brewster County Judge Greg Henington pose in front of the large Christmas tree the county erects in the foyer of the courthouse each year. Pictured are Pct. 1 Commissioner James Westermann, Pct. 2 Commissioner Sara Colando, Judge Henington, Pct. 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega, and Pct. 4 Commissioner William "Mo" Morrow.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Big Bend Arts Council

Supporting the arts of the Big Bend region for almost a quarter-century

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

More than just an "art club", the Big Bend Arts Council (BBAC) embarked on its fledgling beginnings in 1998, and by 2000 became an official 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Twenty-three years later, this local group of like-minded individuals serves as the area's artist's mecca, ushering in not only displays of almost 50 local artists but also offering education and funding to the local creative minds.

The group began with individuals who are artists in their own right, including art instructors at Sul Ross such as Carol Fairlie and the late Bob Hext, along with Debra Allison and Janet

Moeller among others. Along with a set of by-laws set up by local attorney Eve Trook, Fairlie said she also set up their mission statement.

It reads "The Big Bend Arts Council is established for the purpose of providing a forum for supporting and promoting the arts in the Big Bend region. To encourage community interest in the arts and to share ideas, discuss techniques, encourage creativity, provide consultation to area and city organizations, and work cooperatively with other art groups in the region. The purpose shall be achieved through regional art exhibitions, providing instructors for lessons, discounts on

supplies, offering professional critique groups, paint-outs, workshops, guest artists, cultural events, and the development of a scholarship fund."

While that seems like an insurmountable goal, the BBAC does everything its mission statement says it will. Part of their goal is to teach students and artists about professionalism. "Our goal is to show artists how to hang art shows, how to frame paintings and photographs, how to price pieces of art, and why it is important to matte watercolor pieces," said Fairlie.

The group also promotes a critique group



See ARTS • 9 "The Young Kitsune" oil on line by Carol Fairlie

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# OBITUARIES

## Alberta Sandate

September 17, 1930- November 20, 2023  
 Alberta De La Rosa Sandate, of Alpine, peacefully joined the Lord on Monday, November 20, in Del Rio. She was 93 years old.



her beloved late husband Antonio Sandate, with whom she had three children: Martin, Irma, and Rose Mary.

Alberta worked at Gallegos Restaurant where she was known for her exceptional and delicious culinary skills. Her chile rellenos, enchiladas, menudo, and her famous tamales were cherished by many. In her later years, she found joy in cooking, making tortillas, listening to mariachis, and spending time with her family and friends.

Alberta is preceded in death by her father, Juan De La Rosa, mother, Ma-

ria Perez, her husband, Antonio Sandate and her daughter, Irma Perez. She is survived by her son, Martin Sandate, and his wife Elvia, and her daughter Rose Mary Villareal, and her husband Mark.

Additionally, she leaves behind her grandchildren: Martin (Boy) Sandate and wife Laura, Marisa Perez and husband Daniel, Selena Sandate, David Sandate, Analisa Sandate, and Marky Villareal. Her

great-grandchildren Yannis, Victoria, Andie, and John David will also cherish her memory. Alberta is also survived by her brothers Victor De La Rosa and his family, Valentin De La Rosa and his wife Minga, and her sister Patricia Garza and her family. She was also deeply loved by numerous nieces, nephews, and friends who held a special place in her heart.

The pallbearers for Alberta's funeral service were Martin (Boy)

Sandate, David Sandate, Mark Villareal, Marky Villareal, Michael Reves, and Eugene Lujan.

Services were held on Friday, November 24, beginning with a viewing that morning, followed by a Rosary and Christian Mass at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. Interment followed at Holy Angels Cemetery.

In this time of deep grief, let us remember that where there is great love, there will always be a lasting legacy.

## James Clinton Bones, Jr.

On November 17, a great heart came to rest. Jim Bones was born on November 1, 1943, in Monroe, Louisiana, to Nellie Kathryn and James Clinton Bones. Jim was a nationally recognized landscape photographer. He found

solace and inspiration in nature and joy in his many friendships.

Russell Lee and J. Frank Dobie were major influences in Jim's approach to photography and his writing. One of his favorite Dobie quotes was "Waters on a starry night are beautiful and free. No hymn lifts my

heart higher than the morning call of the bobwhite or the long fluting cry of sandhill cranes out of the sky at dusk."

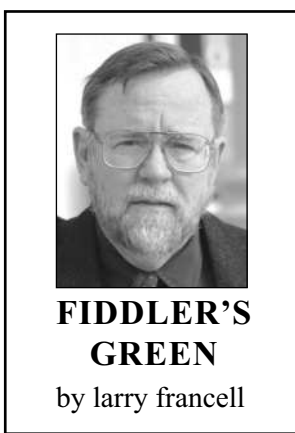
He is survived by his wife, Mary Bones, brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Stephanie Bones, and their daughter Hannah. Also, by his son and daughter-in-law, Paul

and Bradlin Bones, and former wives Ann Matlock and Ellen Caloney.

A private memorial service will be held in the future. Cremation services were entrusted to Mobile Mortician of Texas. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.mmoftexas.com](http://www.mmoftexas.com)

# The Army Chaplain's Service in the Old Army

From my days of working at Fort Davis when I was in college, I have been curious about the army chaplains who served the soldiers of the four African American regiments, the Buffalo Soldiers. As one of those topics I thought about but never pursued, it came to the fore when I started having weekly coffee with Ken Hurst, retired Lieutenant-Colonel and Chaplain of the Second Infantry Division. I am only sorry for the fact that Ken is no longer with us and available to critique my work. It turns out that religion in the Regular Army of the 19th Century was never a priority and was usually secondary to other policies and issues. To the young men who served in the ranks, religion was often of little concern. Private Eddie Matthews, a devout Protestant, wrote, "A Christian in the Regular Army, accepting a few chaplains, and they are even doubtful, would be as great a curiosity as one of Barnum's Cannibals." The chaplains, few as existed in the army, were universally known as "Holy Joes."



**FIDDLER'S GREEN**  
 by Larry Francell

reduction of force in the army, the Chaplain's Service essentially disappeared. It was not until 1791 that a new Army Chaplain was appointed. Reverend John Hurt who served as Chaplain of the 6th Virginia during the Revolution was the new, and only appointee. Army Chaplains served a significant role during the Civil War, as both sides were convinced that God was on their side. Union chaplains were paid \$100 a month and were ranked as captains but held no command. Chaplains served at the regimental level and were appointed by the colonel in command, but often not appointed at all. As one person reported, "The best of them soon learned that a good preacher had less place in the field than a good Samaritan." Their greatest need was a post-battle collaboration with the medical staff.

Confederate chaplains were initially paid \$80 a month, but soon reduced

to \$50. There were fewer Confederate chaplains because most Southern preachers preferred to serve in the ranks. In the South, churches assisted in recruitment and support by supplementing pay. In 1864 the Baptist Religious Herald reported that the Presbyterian Church was supporting eighty ministers at a subscription cost of \$9000 a month. Of the six hundred or so ministers who joined the Confederate armies, twenty-five died in service and fourteen were killed. Over two thousand served in the Union armies, of which between sixty and seventy died in service and three won the Medal of Honor. After much debate in Congress, in September 1862, Lincoln appointed the first Jewish chaplain. In addition, Elvira "Ella" Gibson was the first woman to serve as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. From New Hampshire, she began service with the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment. After her ordination as a minister, she ended the War as Chaplain of the 1st Wisconsin Regiment of Heavy Artillery. She was not recognized for her service by the Secretary of War Edwin Stanton because she was a woman, and she was refused pay until 1876. In 2002 Gibson was posthumously given the rank of captain by an Act of

Congress. After the Civil War, the Army was completely reorganized. One of the results was the creation of four new regiments staffed by African American troops, the 24th and 25th Infantry, and the 9th and 10 Cavalry, all known to history as the Buffalo Soldiers. Much of my discussions with Ken Hurst centered on the chaplains of these four African American regiments that served at Fort Davis. That will have to wait until next time.

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# Alpine photo contest winners announced

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Winners for the 2023 Shooting Alpine photo contest were announced last week. This 13th annual photo contest received a total of 344 photographic entries by 120 photographers.

Each year, this free and open-to-the-public contest asks photographers in the region and beyond to capture the City of Alpine in a personal, reflective way that will reveal the personality of the area.

This year's contest judge was designer and art director DJ Stout. Stout served as the art director for Texas Monthly from 1987 to 2000 and he then moved on as a partner of the international design consultancy Pentagram Design. Stout, as some may know, was the author of the 2010 history of the Alpine Cow-



Vicki LeBlanc's "Refresh"-winner of the H. L. Kokernot, Jr. Memorial Award

boys book, "The Amazing Tale of Mr. Herbert and His Fabulous Alpine Cowboys Baseball Club." Stout was given the photograph entries only by title and a random ID number, as all entries are submitted to the judge anonymously.

This year's top prize, the H. L. Kokernot, Jr. Memorial Award, which includes a \$500 cash prize was awarded to Vicki LeBlanc's "Refresh." LeBlanc

is well known for her depictions of life on the Kokernot 06 Ranch. Stout commented on LeBlanc's entry by saying, "I love the action and how the thirsty dog and cattle make it clear how damn hot it is!"

The Charles Henry Trost Memorial Award, which included a \$100 cash prize was taken by Martin Theophilus and was titled "AHS Homecoming Game." Stout commented,

"This photographer captured the unique atmosphere of Friday Night Lights in Alpine."

The remaining three winners each received a \$50 cash prize and included a photo by Lindsey Arnold titled "Favorite Place to be is with My Horse," "Oasis in the Desert" by Elizabeth Bigouette, and "Tug of War" by Shannon King.

All winners and entrants along with the judge's notes on all the finalists are available to view on the City of Alpine's visitor information website.

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## Benefit concert for Alberto Calderon

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

A benefit concert will be held on Monday, December 1 from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Granada Theatre for Alberto Calderon who suffered major injuries due to a vehicle accident. Proceeds from the

concert will go towards medical expenses and recovery. Bands performing include The Swifts at 6 p.m., Damian Luna at 7 p.m., 7 Year Drought at 8:30, Smoke Show at 9 p.m., and DJ Funk Boi will close out the evening beginning at 10:30

p.m. There will be a \$10 cover charge at the door and for those unable to attend they may donate via Venmo-@Alberto-Calderon-34 or CashApp-\$ominusprime87. A QR code is also available on flyers for donations via GoFundMe.

## Lions donate to Blue Santa program



Members of the Alpine Lion's Club presented a check to the Alpine Police Department's Blue Santa program that distributes toys to members of the community each year at Christmas time.

Courtesy photo

## Marathon heralds in the Christmas season with Fiesta de Noche Buena

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

It's that time of year again when downtown Marathon celebrates the Christmas season with carolers, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and more. The sidewalks lining U.S. Hwy 90 will be full of visitors and locals alike taking in the grandly decorated business fronts, food and beverage options, live music, and other community offerings.

Hosted by the Marathon Chamber of Commerce, this annual event has been going strong for over a decade, and it gives the Marathon community a bit of a boost in revenue. It allows local artists to display and sell their creations, and the local shops stay open late for holiday shopping.

The Fiesta kicks off at 5 p.m. this Saturday, December 2 as Santa Claus parades into town along with the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department where he will then set up shop in the lobby of Trans-Pecos Banks to visit with children. The event is open to all and area residents are encouraged to attend.

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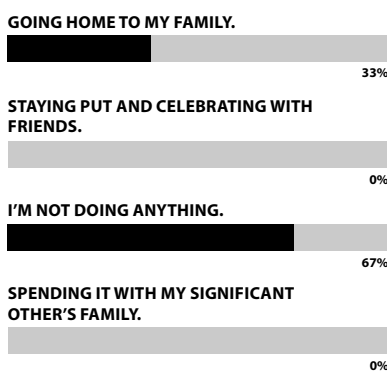
# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

#### WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR?

##### RESULTS



### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

#### Which of these would be the hardest to live without?

- Music
- Your phone
- TV/Streaming
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- Restaurants

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## LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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

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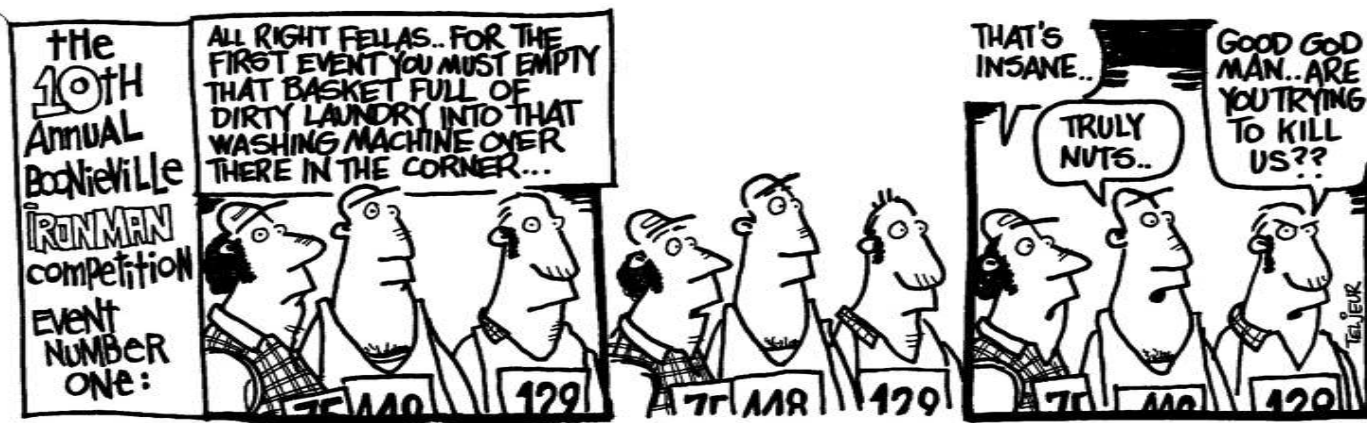
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.



## 'Tis the season

As we roll through these holiday seasons, from Thanksgiving to Christmas we want to remind our citizens to stay vigilant. We have a tendency to let our guard down, especially during the holidays. The Alpine Police Department (APD) receives multiple reports of all types of SCAMS, thefts, and burglaries. Most of the time these reports are crimes of opportunity. Either we forget to lock the door behind us, leave something of value in public, or provide too much information on the internet. We all could use some reminders during the year. The Alpine Police Department has programs that can assist you at any time of the year.



**CHIEF DARRELL LOSOYA**  
Alpine Police Department

One of the easiest is the "Nine O'Clock" routine. This routine encourages citizens to take five minutes every night to save hours, days, weeks, months, or even years of heartache. There are four main things you can

do to ease your worries. First, remove your valuables, especially firearms from your vehicles each night. Second, lock your vehicle. Third, lock your home. This includes doors that open to the outside as well as windows. Finally, turn off your exterior lights so that you remain dark sky compliant.

Another program that is perfect this time of year especially is APD's "Operation Front Porch." This is a year-round program designed to deter thieves from stealing delivered packages from your front porch. This program has been used by APD for over a year now, and thanks to this program we now have had fewer reports of what we call "porch pirates" than ever before, and some citizens even use this program all year long. We want you to make the Alpine Police Department your front porch. We in Alpine use many

forms of online shopping year-round and understand that we may not be home on delivery day or at the time a package is scheduled for delivery. This program will allow you to pick up your packages 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days out of the year.

To have your packages shipped to APD, all you need to do is place your name as the recipient followed by Alpine Police Department with the address of 309 W. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, TX 79830. To pick up your packages, you will need to show a government-issued form of identification that includes a picture such as a driver's license or passport, an order receipt or proof of shipment, and parents who are picking up packages addressed to their child(ren) must provide proof of guardianship and or the child's identification.

Another program we offer is the Holiday House Watch. Before you leave on vacation you can place your house under this watch and APD officers will routinely check your house to

verify that doors are locked, and your home is secure.

With the uptick in internet use, the reports of online as well as telephone SCAMS continue to increase. We advise you to not share any personal information via telephone. Also, use caution as to what you share on social media, and do not share pictures of yourself while on vacation. You can always share these at a later date once you are home.

Finally, we ask that you do not respond to any unknown emails if you do not know the sender. If the email sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you require assistance with determining if the email you received is a SCAM or not, please do not hesitate to call the Alpine Police Department to help you make this determination at 432-837-3486.

The Alpine Police Department wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we are ready to serve and take pride in our service to the citizens of Alpine.

## If I had taken that other fork in the road

*When you come to a fork in the road, take it.*

— Yogi Berra

There are no coincidences in life. Only the mystery of what might have been if I had taken a right instead of a left at that last fork in the road.

"Hello," she offered from her car. We had a class together at Kilgore College. I don't remember what subject now. Likely an English, history, or math class. We were both first-semester freshman students at KJC in 1966.

I don't remember her name. Time does that to me a lot these days. I do remember the yellow '65 Mustang she parked next to us at the Dairy Queen. She was attractive, and her long blonde hair and cool car fit the image of absolute perfection in my 18-year-old college male mind.

I was with my friend and roommate, Ronnie Lilly. We were cruising the DQ in his '57 Chevy. "Hello," I responded. "What are you up to this evening?"

"You won't believe it," the car-to-car conversation continued. "I just got back from seeing a fortune teller in Longview. Unbelievable, the things she knew about me."

"Really," I asked. Wondering how well I was hiding the skepticism in my voice. Never put any stock in so-called fortune tellers and mystics. Still don't. Little more than carnival sideshows.

But while I successfully figured out how sideshow magi-

cians sawed damsels in half, I had never been to a mystic. Out of curiosity, a couple of days later, on my way home for the weekend, I paid the Longview lady a visit.

She got no more than "name, rank, and serial number" from me. No facial expressions. No responses to leading "visions." Paid and done, little of what she "foretold" ever came to pass. She did, however, score two memorable moments. One, that I lost a gift from a girlfriend, and rather than tell her I lost it, I replaced it. True. Two, that my stay-at-home mother had gone to work.

Mom was glad to see me when I arrived later that evening. "Your timing is perfect," she said. "I just got home from work. I haven't told you. I started working at the Tribune this week."

"You did what," I gasped? Thus, a 60-year series of fortunate incidents was set in motion that set me to thinking in recent weeks. The "wonder what my life might have been like had just one of those forks in the road been different" game. Or just one of those people, I had never met?

Things such as meeting Morris Craig while Mom was working at the Tribune. Craig was the owner and publisher of the Monitor in Naples. A weekly printing customer at The Tribune.



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

It was Craig who asked what I planned to do after one of my fork-in-the-road choices turned out to be less than fulfilling. "Dunno yet," I responded.

"I know you're a good photographer. Come work with me while you decide," he offered. That unplanned intro into the world of communication led to a second newspaper job in Louisiana at a weekly owned by Lloyd Grissom. This is notable because Lloyd also owned the Tenaha East Texas Light with an office in Center. A community that, at that time, was still on my "never been there" list.

I was in the Tenaha office only one morning a week. Early. But it only took one morning for a Shelby County resident to come in for an ad. One who, by sheer chance, I had met at the Monitor in Naples. I moved to Shelby County a couple of years later through that connection. Right after Jim Chionsini purchased the East Texas Light from Lloyd.

Was meeting Jim at a Center Lions Club meeting a coincidence? That our life-long friendship and partnership connected me with an incredible number of newspaper professionals from Texas to Alabama. I think not.

And here's where the "what if" game gets complex. Meeting Fred Wulf and Rick Campbell. Who, after I taught journalism

at Stephen F. Austin State University and published the newspaper in Boerne for Jim, offered me the opportunity to assist in shaping a marketing department for their growing new company, Portacool. Connecting me to marketing professionals and incredible people across the U.S. and abroad.

Bringing these so-called coincidences home, Jim bought the Center newspaper a second time in 2013, recruiting me to help in that effort and initiate talks with the Palmer family that resulted in the acquisition of The Mount Pleasant Tribune. Where my mother had worked for 17 years.

Fast forward six more years, the current owners of the Light and Champion, individuals with whom I had worked or known professionally during tenures with Jim, called on me to publish the Center newspaper. Again. Marking my third time at the helm of the Center publication in 41 years.

So, I again wondered last week where I would be today had I not met Morris Craig via Mom's new job at the Tribune.

Through it all, I still believe there is no such thing as coincidence. And I still believe fortune tellers will be around as long as people are entertained by carnival sideshows.

More than ever, I am convinced everything happens for a reason. And that's why I took the fork in the road ... whichever one Yogi was alluding to.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Recalling fond memories

The picture in the Avalanche last week of the troops assembled in Florence, Italy, really triggered my history. I had to wonder if my father was standing there somewhere. He joined the army in 1945, when of age, but after Germany had surrendered. He was told he would be part of the invasion of Japan, but that did not happen. Thus, he was sent to Flor-

ence, Italy, as an MP (Military Police), in 1945. There he met my mother. Later, when he was offered his choice of where to be discharged, he asked his commanding officer to please send him to Fort Bliss, Texas. When asked why, he said he had served his time side by side with Texans (my father was from Tacoma, Washington), and he admired the spirit, the spunk, and how Texans never back down from a fight, so he

wanted to live in Texas. He was discharged at Fort Bliss in El Paso, and with his Italian bride, migrated to Marfa, Texas, in 1950. Then, utilizing his GI bill, he came to Alpine and graduated from Sul Ross, as a classmate and friend of Dan Blocker. Who, by the way, offered my father a job as his manager when Dan moved to Hollywood. But my father declined and started Mountain Zone TV. With the help of my

mother, Janet Neu, it prospered. Today, MZTV remains the domain of my two brothers, Steven and Lawrence, and is of record, I believe, the oldest family-owned business in Alpine. A city filled with stories just like this one. Of people who came here from all corners of the world and made something of nothing. God bless em, and God Bless Texas.

Mike Neu  
Fort Davis, Texas



# Heard on the STREET

What is the first thing you notice about people?



**Alicia Trotman:** Their smile.



**Daron King:** How they talk to people. Like, how they treat people when they first meet them.



**Amanda Harington:** Their eyes. Besides the color and everything, where they look and their expression. The eyes are the window to the soul.



**Kelsie Jennings:** I notice a person's body language right off the bat. Are they comfortable or not? Are they confident or not?



**Calvin Brent:** I notice what people look like. I will remember what color a person's sweater is when I first meet them for a long time.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 1-2 Alpine Historic Commission Holiday Event**, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday the Wassail Crawl followed immediately by the tree lighting at the Brewster County courthouse. The tour of historic homes begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday and continues until 4:30 p.m. There is a \$25 charge for the home tour with proceeds benefiting this event for next year. At 5:30 p.m. the annual Christmas Stroll up Sul Ross Ave. will begin with music from student bands and will conclude at the Vaquero House at 208 N. Cockrell with a closing concert featuring The Swifts. Visit the Historic Alpine website for more information.

**Dec. 2 Fiesta de Noche Buena**, 5 p.m. Marathon main street will have vendors, businesses open late, and Santa Claus will be greeting kids in the lobby of TransPecos Banks.

**Dec. 3 Jose's Clarinet Recital**,



5 p.m. at the Sul Ross Studio Theatre.

**Dec. 6 Sul Ross State University Holiday Concert**, 7:30 p.m. in the Marshall Auditorium.

**Dec. 8 Big Bend Community Chorale Concert**, 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Alpine.

**Dec. 9 Frontier Christmas**, 5-7 p.m. Old West Christmas parade, Christmas cookie contest at all open downtown shops, craft booths at the Jeff Davis County Courthouse, horse-drawn wagon and buggy tours to see Christmas lights, followed by the

courthouse tree lighting and a Christmas movie on the lawn. Visit the Fort Davis website for more information.

**Dec. 9-11 Marfa Holiday Bazaar**, with hot cocoa, snacks, a holiday lights parade, singing from the Marfa Children's Choir, and tree lighting on Friday. Vendors, music, and more on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., and on Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. more shopping, music, and a pet parade at 3 p.m.

**Dec. 10 Big Bend Community Chorale Concert**, 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Marfa.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or [aa-intergroup.org](http://aa-intergroup.org).

**Alpine Lions Club meeting**, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.

**American Legion Post 79 meeting**, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.

## FFA competed in Area 2 leadership contest



The Senior Skills team and Greenhand Skills team competed at the Area 2 Leadership Development Event contest recently. The senior team, consisting of Mia Lewis, Kendyl Hardaway, Reese Coleman, and Tannin Ritchie placed sixth in the area competition, while the Greenhand team consisting of Kylie Maroney, Evelyn Smith, Sophie Janis, and Rode Babb placed ninth.

Courtesy photo

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Champ. Fun and fancy-free is the motto Champ lives by. This guy is quite the hoot. A husky mix, he came in with his two brothers at just three months old, and we swear they have not stopped playing since they got here.

Champ is learning about being in a crate at night and is getting better about going straight to it off-leash at night. He is still a work in progress but is also getting better on a leash. If you are looking for a pup that will listen to you on a hike or that you can enjoy taking a nice walk with, Champ is your man.

Don't forget to order your See's Candies from our seasonal online storefront. Knocking out your holiday shopping list with favorites everyone will enjoy is easy. Find the link on our Facebook page or email us at [admin@alpinehumane.com](mailto:admin@alpinehumane.com), and we'll send you the link. Sales close today, November 30.

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



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

AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit [PetFinder.com](http://PetFinder.com) or [www.alpinehumane.com](http://www.alpinehumane.com), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

**American Legion Auxiliary meeting**, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

**Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place**, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.

**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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).

[bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).

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

**Citizenship Classes**, at 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

**Late Night Game Night**, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101 W. Ave E.

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## Restaurant Guide

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**REATA RESTAURANT**

**COCINERO:** Beef • Chicken • Shrimp  
**STARTERS:** Tortilla Soup Bowl • Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup • Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup • Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

**SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:**  
(Your choice of any two items)  
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Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich  
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SAN VICENTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT					EXHIBIT C-3
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES					
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023					
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	ESEA V, Pt. B Rural & Low Income	TCLAS ESSER III Grant	Total Governmental Funds	
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 187,110	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 187,110
5800	State Program Revenues	796,286	-	-	796,286
5900	Federal Program Revenues	189,746	24,533	124,025	338,304
5020	Total Revenues	1,173,142	24,533	124,025	1,321,700
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
Current:					
0011	Instruction	480,211	24,533	-	504,744
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	2,728	-	124,025	126,753
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	23,308	-	-	23,308
0023	School Leadership	150,567	-	-	150,567
0033	Health Services	4,581	-	-	4,581
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	195,392	-	-	195,392
0036	Extracurricular Activities	3,794	-	-	3,794
0041	General Administration	393,625	-	-	393,625
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	130,609	-	-	130,609
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	32,176	-	-	32,176
0053	Data Processing Services	60,570	-	-	60,570
0061	Community Services	73,680	-	-	73,680
Debt Service:					
0071	Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	4,769	-	-	4,769
0072	Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	556	-	-	556
Capital Outlay:					
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	41,783	-	-	41,783
Intergovernmental:					
0091	Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	40,000	-	-	40,000
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	3,300	-	-	3,300
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	840	-	-	840
6030	Total Expenditures	1,642,489	24,533	124,025	1,791,047
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(469,347)	-	-	(469,347)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):</b>					
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	15,500	-	-	15,500
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(453,847)	-	-	(453,847)
0100	Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	1,822,789	-	-	1,822,789
3000	Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 1,368,942	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,368,942

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# Sports

## Fightin' Bucks win first three games



Senior Jace Canaba

Photo by Shawn Yorks

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks basketball team has started off strong so far this season, having played and won a game against Marfa on November 14, as well as the game against Monahans on November 20.

"Both the Marfa and Monahans games were good for us. We had seven players suit up for Marfa and eight players for Monahans," said head basketball coach for the Bucks, Aaron Hardwick. In Marfa, the result of the non-district away game was Alpine succeeding 69-33.

Alpine would lead in all four quarters of this game, leading with 13-4 in the first, 26-12 in the second, 22-11 in the third, and 8-6 in the final quarter. During this game, senior Jace Canaba led the Bucks in double digits putting up

21 points, which would include six goals and six free throws.

"We've put a lot of work in during the off-season and we have a good group returning so the expectations are high. We have "bought-in" and are hungry because we

have some unfinished business. You should expect a lot of intensity and competitiveness from our team this year. We hope to represent Alpine well and make our community proud," Canaba said.

See BUCKS • 7

### Sports Schedule

**FIGHTIN' BUCKS BASKETBALL**  
Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine JV @ Pecos JV  
Tournament TBD  
Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine @ Denver City  
Tournament TBD  
Dec. 5 Alpine vs Fort Hancock Varsity  
7 p.m.

**LADY BUCKS BASKETBALL**  
Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine @ Denver City  
Tournament. TBD  
Dec. 5 Alpine vs Fort Hancock JV 5  
p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.

## Lady Bucks Basketball fall to Marathon in overtime

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Lady Bucks played a close game last Tuesday against the Marathon Mustangs in a non-district home game. Each team gained considerable ground in each quarter, with the Mustangs leading the first two, the teams tying for the third, and Alpine leading the fourth. The game had to go into overtime, with the Marathon team ultimately taking the win 46-50.

"The team chemistry in practice has been great, they push each other to compete on a daily basis," said Christopher Virdell, head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks.

In the first quarter, Alpine was behind by one point, 7-8. During this game sophomore Karolina Castillo led the team in point shots, tallying up a total of 11 over the course of the game. Fellow sophomore Nadia Morris followed closely with 10 of her own and junior Neveah Carrasco with eight.

Players like juniors Hope Dominguez and Masiela Miranda, along with freshman Collete Fowlkes and senior Novah Carrasco, backed these points up, leading to the team's total of 46 points by the end of the game.

"The girls are learning each other more and more every day. This is a completely new team on the floor for the Lady Bucks and it will take time for them to gel, as far as gameplay. They challenge each other in a positive manner, leading to their team and individual growth," Virdell said.

In the second quarter, Alpine increased their previous score by three points and Marathon added eight to their total. This resulted in the



The Alpine Lady Bucks faced off against the Marathon Mustangs last Tuesday but would ultimately fall during double overtime.

Courtesy photo

Mustangs leading by four points on the scoreboard, ending the second period 10-14.

Castillo and Morris along with Neveah and Novah Carasco hammered the offense, making between 13 and 14 field goal attempts. Collectively, the team had 18 total successful goals. During this game, Novah Carrasco made a successful three-point shot for the Lady Bucks.

In the third quarter, the two teams were matched equally on offense and defense, resulting in the first tied score of 11-all. Alpine had a total of 28 free throw attempts during this game, with nine being successful. Castillo made three of those free throws and Dominguez, Morris, and Fowlkes each made two individually.

See LADY BUCKS • 7

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Christmas in Alpine Schedule of Events

DEC, 1	4-6:30 PM	Historic Alpine Wassail Crawl *Alpine Downtown Shopping District
DEC, 1	7:15 PM	Brewster County Tree Lighting *Brewster County Court house
DEC, 2	1-4:30 PM	Historic Alpine Home Tour *historicalpinehometour.eventbrite.com
DEC, 2	5:30 PM	Historic Alpine Christmas Stroll *East Sul Ross Ave to Sul Ross Library Circle

HISTORICALALPINE.ORG/CHRISTMAS-IN-ALPINE

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID WINSLOW



# Lobo men off to a good start

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross Lobo men's basketball team is off to a great start on the season, with two exhibition games completed and four wins in their pocket. After an exhibition game against New Mexico State University in Las Cruces to begin the season, the Lobos hit the road to Hobbs to take on the Mustangs of the University of the Southwest where they eeked out a win with a score of 70-67.

They would follow this up with a second exhibition game against the University of Texas Permian Basin and then win their next three games on their home court.

Last Monday saw the Lobos defeat Oklahoma Panhandle State University (60-55) followed by Texas Lutheran (81-73) on Friday and a repeat of the win against the University of the Southwest by an even bigger margin, although the Mustangs would have a shorthanded team.

Three of the Lobos players would hit double-digit goals in the contest against the Mustangs. Trey Nelson would top the chart with 22 points on the day for the Lobos, followed by Tyler Jackson with 19 and Gabe



**Bryce Harris attempts to get around a Schreiner University player in last night's contest at the Gallego Center.**

Photo by Brylee Sweeten

Sanchez with 10.

Sul Ross would complete 12 three-pointers in the contest, five of them by Nelson plus 46 rebounds for the game overall.

The Lobos would begin the game against the Mustangs with one of the five three-pointers by Nelson after an assist by Deveraux Minix. The Mustangs would pull ahead by five, but another three-pointer from Nelson would cut the deficit to one. Jackson would follow that up with a layup to put the Lobos on top 16-

15 with just under 11 minutes left on the clock.

Another three-pointer by Sanchez would see the Lobos leading by 13 with just under six minutes left in the first half, for a total of seven of the 12 three-pointers landed in the contest.

Hayden Peterson would begin the second half for Sul Ross with three followed by Nelson with a layup to increase the lead to 17.

The Lobos would take this momentum and hit a 7-0 run to push the lead to 22 with just over 16 and a half minutes left on the clock.

A steal by Cailean Ables would lead to a Jackson slam dunk with the help of Zyrin Brantley to bring the Lobos up by 24.

A 16-0 run, featuring four more three-pointers would give Sul Ross a 36-point lead which they would follow up with a 7-0 run with another slam dunk, this one by Jordan Rhyne followed by a layup from Bryson Laird. The Lobos would defeat the Mustangs 95-59.

The Lobos faced off against Schreiner University on Monday night at the Gallego Center where they fell to the Mountaineers 56-76. The Lobos will face the University of the Ozarks Eagles tonight at 7:30 p.m. following the women's game.

## LADY BUCKS • FROM 6

The Lady Bucks made 30 offensive rebounds and 21 defensive rebounds, with Novah Carasco leading the herd with nine offensive and five defensive rebounds, four steals, and one block. Fowlkes made 11 total rebounds with one steal and four blocks.

Neveah Carrasco, Dominguez, Castillo, and Morris each had their own collection of rebounds with a minimum of four to eight, everyone playing well on the offensive side of the ball. In total, the Lady Bucks had 13 assists, 11 steals, and 51 rebounds.

The Lady Bucks would lead the Mustangs in the fourth quarter 12-9, sending the game into double overtime. In the first overtime, the two teams tied for the second time during the game

with three points each on the board. In the final overtime period, the final score was decided with Marathon adding five points to Alpine's three, bringing the final score to 46-50 in favor of the Mustangs.

"We have a lot of games to be played between now and district, we continue to focus on the things that will prepare for us district play," Virdell said.

The Lady Bucks played a non-district home game against the Van Horn Eagles on November 28, winning 57-29, and will face the Midland Classical Academy Knights in tournament play this evening. Next up on the schedule for Alpine will be a non-district away game against the Fort Hancock Mustangs on December 5.

# Lady Lobos score back-to-back wins in Houston

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross Lady Lobos basketball team hit the road on Saturday with back-to-back games scheduled in Houston against Schreiner University at noon on Saturday and an afternoon game on Sunday against the University of St. Thomas. Both games were played at the Jera-beck Activity and Athletic Center.

In their first win of the season, the Lady Lobos basketball team toppled Schreiner 77-55. Morgan Peralez would lead Sul Ross in double-digit points on the day with 18, followed closely by Marley Rokas with 14, and Caitlyn Corley with 10. Victoria Aguayo would round out the top-scoring players with a total of eight goals on the day.

The first quarter had the Lobos tied with Schreiner three different times, finally breaking an 18-all tie with two free throws from Aguayo with 17 seconds remaining in the first, putting the Lobos up by two.

In the second quarter, Sul Ross dominated the court, allowing only four points on the board from their opponents, outscoring them in an 18-0 run, Schreiner only putting up their four with minutes left until halftime. Rokas would add 12 of the points scored by Sul Ross in the first half

along with six rebounds. Peralez would add 10 to her overall total in the first half along with four rebounds. Aguayo would hit her point total in the first half along with three steals and three rebounds.

The third quarter was much the same for Schreiner, being outscored 18-9, with a 6-0 run at the start of the second half by the Lobos, with scores from Peralez and Corley. Kayley Diaz would add to the Sul Ross score, making a jumper and grabbing a steal to score on a layup giving the Lobos a 33-point lead with just over three minutes left on the clock.

Sul Ross would lead by as much as 35 points with just over eight minutes left on the clock in the game, with more points added by Rokas, Cheyenne Bonilla, and Corley. Peralez and Corley would both score eight points in the second half, while Aguayo contributed with five rebounds.

On Sunday, the Lobos took on the University of St. Thomas, where they clinched their second win of the season, 62-54 over the Celts. Once again, several of the ladies would score in double digits including Rokas with 15, Peralez with 14, Bonilla with 13, and Aguayo with 10. The number three seemed to be the theme for the first quarter in the Lo-

bos contests, with three ties in their matchup the previous day and three lead changes in the first quarter against the Celts of St. Thomas.

The Lobos would break out with a 10-0 run, to put them ahead by seven with just over two minutes left on the clock. This run was spotlighted by Bonilla and Emily Bunger who both hit three-pointers. With just 1:15 to go on the clock in the first, a layup from Aguayo would have the Lobos up by nine. St. Thomas would draw a foul and make two free throws but would still trail by six at the close of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Lobos with a 5-0 run with a layup by Rokas, followed by a free throw from Ariana Escalante which would put Sul Ross up by 11 with just half a minute left on the clock until the half. The Celts would hit a 4-0 run at the end of the first half, cutting the deficit down to seven and one point behind the second-half scores of the Lobos.

The third quarter would see the Celts outscore the Lobos by seven points in total, but it wasn't enough to keep the Lobos down.

The fourth quarter had the score tied 43-all when the Lobos would set out on a 7-0 run to take the lead by six. With just under five minutes left on the clock, St. Thomas

would cut the deficit to four, when Bonilla would hit a three-pointer for Sul Ross to begin a 5-0 run that would extend the Lobos lead by nine.

The Celts would battle back and cut the lead to just four, but Rokas would end up scoring the final four points for the Lobo victory.

Next up for the Sul Ross Lady Lobos is a match-up against the University of the Ozarks Eagles, tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the Gallego Center followed by the University of Dallas on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JACE CANABA

"Starting off his Senior Campaign in strong fashion" Jace is averaging 22.5 points 6.5 rebounds and 4 assists.

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## BUCKS • FROM 6

His fellow players hit hard as well, with senior Evren Martinez gaining 18 points from seven shots on goal and three free throws. Ferris Daley, Miguel Busey, Alejandro Hernandez, Zane Wash, and Guillermo Busey each added to those numbers driving the points up for the team for the ultimate 69 points.

In the game with Monahans, the Alpine team won 79-34 for the non-district home game.

"The boys handled it very well, and we were able to defend at a high level without fouling. This allowed us to get out and transition and execute offensively in the half-court," Hardwick said.

On their home turf and with 24-9 in the first, 27-6 in the second, 14-8 in the third, and 14-11 in the fourth, the Alpine team dominated in each quarter of this game as well.

Canaba and Daley led the team in points, with 24 total from Canaba and 13 from Daley and both made two successful three-point shots. Each player made goals in this game, and the Bucks really shone in their defensive rebounds.

"The team is doing well thus far. We understand that basketball is a long season, so for the most part, we are just trying to continue getting better day by day and game by game," said Hardwick.

The Alpine team

played a non-district home game against Van Horn on Tuesday, beating the Eagles 72-34. Their next game will be against the Levelland Lobos in a tournament game in Denver City on November 30.

"I'm excited for this team and how well we will do. We have put in a lot of work during the off-season and we're ready to showcase what we can do. I have played with these guys my whole life and I know what we are capable of as a team. Our main goal this year is to do something special that hasn't been done in a while for Alpine Basketball," Evren Martinez said.

# Christmas Remembrance

*Date:* Thursday, December 7, 2023

*Time:* 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

*Location:* Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Chapel  
209 West Sul Ross Ave.  
Alpine, TX 79830

Remember your loved one by placing a holiday card on our Holiday Memory Tree. Bring your card, and we'll provide a hook for you to hang it on the tree. Extra cards are available if necessary.

The Memory Tree will accept cards from December 1st to the first week of January, preserving them for future years.

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## LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

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November 15, 1940

The All-American Rodeo and Horse Show in Fort Worth Texas was held on November 15-24 this year. Usually, these events are light-hearted fun, but every now and then a mean one leaves the chute like the one pictured here.



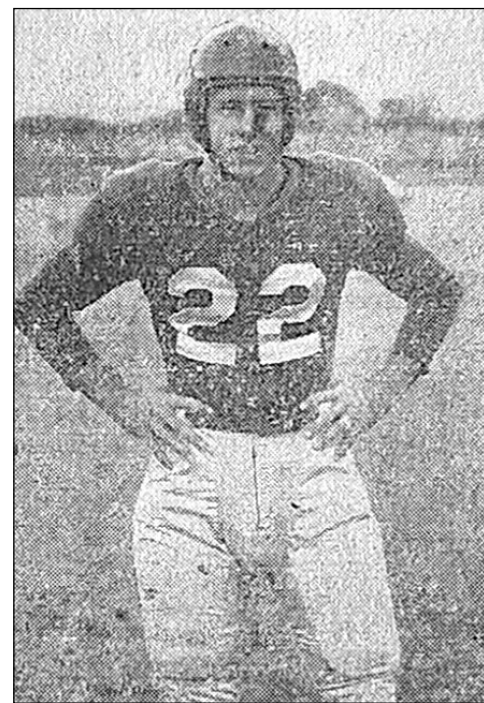
November 28, 1947

During the last football game of the season for the Alpine Bucks, sophomore Miss Sylvia Smith was crowned queen of the Alpine High School football team. The game against Marfa was played on November 14.



November 19, 1948

Mrs. Walter Garnett breaks ground for the foundation for the new First Presbyterian Church of Alpine. Mrs. Garnett is the only living member of the old church and was a guest of honor at the ceremony.



November 19, 1948

Ted Scown, elusive and speedy back of the Sul Ross Lobos, has piled up a total score of 108 points this season to become one of the leading scorers in the nation.

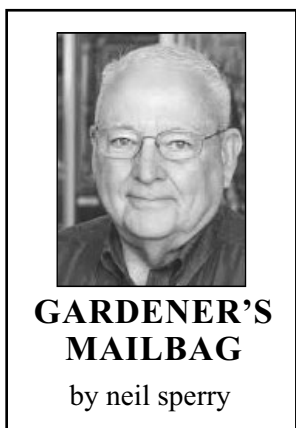
# Trumpet vine woes stem from the "mother" plant

**Dear Neil: I have a bed of red spider lilies that are currently full of leaves. Would it be ok to divide them now? If not, when is the best time?**

They are growing actively now through early spring. To dig them at this time would set them back a good bit. Unless you have no other choice, wait until their tops die to the ground in late spring to dig and move them. Better yet, do so in the summer, perhaps even late July or early August. That's the time that the bulbs start growing for their fall blooms and then their next crop of leaves. As you've probably discovered, they do best in a spot with morning sun and shade in the afternoon where they can receive good drainage but a ready supply of moisture while they're growing. Most importantly, leave them undisturbed for many years if possible. They are one perennial that doesn't need to be dug and divided frequently.

**Dear Neil: Our neighbor's trumpet vine has made its way into our yard. It has invaded shrubs and beds. We have found it impossible to dig up. We try to keep it cut off at the ground line, but it continues to spread. What can we do?**

Perhaps your neighbor is having the same chaos, and



**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**

by neil sperry

maybe the two of you could team up to eliminate the "mother" plant that is giving rise to all the root sprouts. Cut the main plant off at the ground line, drill holes 1/4-inch wide and 1 inch deep into the stump, and use an eyedropper to fill each of the holes with a broad-leaved weedkiller (containing 2,4-D) at full strength. It will soak into the stump, and it will be carried out to all the roots. It should stop them from growing. Any that do continue to grow can easily enough be controlled by mowing and occasionally by hand-digging the worst of them. If your neighbors are not interested in doing this, your only recourse would be to dig a trench 15 or 18 inches deep and install a heavy vinyl pond liner barrier to stop the roots at the property line.

You would still have to cope with all the sprouts, but they would gradually fade away.

**Dear Neil: How can I get rid of ants? I've tried vinegar, hot water, and corn-meal, but they keep coming back. What can I do?**

I'm not the advocate for those remedies. I've had way too many reports that sound just like yours. Please let a Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional help you choose the best legally labeled insecticide. There are many fine products that will control ant populations effectively and efficiently. To some degree, it will depend on the type of ants involved, particularly if they're fire ants.

**Dear Neil: I planted a 10-foot-tall Mexican sycamore in early July. I watered it well in July, but I may have let it get too dry at some point in August. It lost lots of leaves, so I**

**resumed my watering three times per week. Do you think it will recover, or do you think that I've lost it?**

Only time can tell. Newly planted trees are especially vulnerable. As hard as it's going to be, you're just going to have to wait for spring to see how vigorous it is in producing new growth. Sit tight and watch for now, and for sure keep it moist during winter dry spells.

**Dear Neil: A friend has 15 or 20 large patio pots with some kind of good potting soil left over from last summer. Can I use that in my vegetable garden? She is planning on starting with new soil the next time she plants in them.**

That would be wonderful soil for your garden. In fact, offer to buy her a nice plant in return for it, as it represents a valuable asset for you. Maybe she'll do this every year or two, as that's about how long potting soil will be at peak performance in a container. However, its usefulness in your garden will be years longer.

**Dear Neil: I have a sprinkler system, but I still get areas of monogross and even hollies that seem like they are dying out from drought. I try to keep it all working properly, but there still seem to be dry spots. What more can I be doing?**

What you're describing is very typical of sprinkler

systems, especially during periods of extreme drought. Nothing waters as well as a deep, soaking rain. Watch your sprinklers as they run to be sure they are making uniform coverage of all parts of the beds, especially when pressures are low. Check heads for alignment and to be sure they're all clean and spraying properly. Check the moisture levels after the system runs next spring and summer and increase the irrigation time as needed. Replant in the voids at any time.

*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

- San Antonio AM
- TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since \_\_\_ You Baby"
- TXism: "suit \_\_\_ company" (family)
- Dallas public FM
- TX Willie's "Turn \_\_\_ the Party's Over"
- "ugly" in Mexico
- UT QB in 1973
- Cotton Bowl victory
- Emmitt's home state (abbr.)
- This TX David was Colorado Rockies pitcher (1993-96)
- pizza toppings
- this moves "Big Tex's" jaw (2 wds.)
- archaic plural of cow
- historic "\_\_\_ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
- TXism: "grabbing \_\_\_ straws"
- "Tapestry" artist (2 wds.)
- NM ski destination for some Texans
- init. of Gov. Runnels (1857-59)
- 1st newspaper in Texas territory: "\_\_\_ Texas"
- TXism: "scared \_\_\_ out of my wits"
- EI \_\_\_\_, Texas
- what UT's Darrell Royal called the goal line (2 wds.)
- preowned vehicle: \_\_\_ car

- this Linares was first director of Texas Lottery
- TXism: "\_\_\_ tailed tooter" (party animal)
- Indian warrior (2 wds.)
- ex-Cowboy Dorsett
- TXism: "\_\_\_ as dirt"
- mother of ex-Cowboy coach Jimmy Johnson
- ch. 8 in Dallas refused to air this cop series when it first started (2 wds.)

### DOWN

- 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
- very old Lockhart church: \_\_\_ Episcopal
- south Dallas suburb
- TXism: "hard as putting up \_\_\_ in a windstorm"
- actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
- Gen. Robert \_\_\_
- young fellow
- TXism: big frog \_\_\_ the pond" (VIP)
- TXism: "never sign anything in the \_\_\_ a neon light"

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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## Local non-profits receive grant funding

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Several area non-profit organizations have received a portion of the \$2.8M in grants awarded by the Permian Basin Area Foundation (PBAF). This foundation allows the hundreds of non-profit organizations throughout the Permian Basin to fulfill their missions. Raymond Williams, grant administrator for PBAF stated, "Every one of these grantees

has a story, a dedicated staff, a committed roster of volunteers, and a mission that impacts us all in some way. We trust each organization to make our community thrive with the funding that so many donors have entrusted to us." The PBAF works on behalf of charitable donors to see that their money goes to organizations fulfilling a mission they feel strongly about. They are the liaison between the donations and the grantees. For this grant

cycle, area non-profit organizations awarded grant funding include the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Friends of the Jeff Davis County Library, Marfa Education Foundation, Museum of the Big Bend, and the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation-District 6. The PBAF manages two community grant cycles each year, and the spring grant application cycle will begin on February 1 and will close on April 1.

## 33rd Annual Pea Off to be held on New Year's Day

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

This upcoming January 1 will be the 33rd Black-Eyed Pea Off to be held in the Terlingua Ghostown. This annual cook-off allows participants to bring their best black-eyed peas for judging and to share with the community. Peas may be cooked on or off-site but turn-in time is 2 p.m. sharp and the entry fee is \$10. Spectators are welcome to participate by eating a "bowl of good

luck" peas for a donation of \$10 or more. This will include the bowl, spoon, and cornbread until it runs out. This coming year's event will have local music on hand as well as a "Hot Date"

raffle. All proceeds of the cook-off will benefit continuing education scholarships for the Terlingua School graduates. For more information contact LaNetta Barnes at 573-286-5285.

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### COUNTY • FROM 1

assist with the audit for the fiscal years of 2020, 2021, and 2022. Patty Roach was previously approved for hire as an outside contractor for the audit, and with the addition of Richardson, the two will continue to process the work with the goal of completing it before the end of 2024. The audits must be completed in order for the county to qualify for the block grants in 2025. In other financial news, Brewster County Treasurer, Julie Morton notified the court that longevity payroll will be distributed on November 30.

In other news, the Far West Texas Public Defender's Office was granted an extension of occupancy in their cur-

rent office space until February 15, 2024, without penalty. The office is currently looking for a new location to better fit their needs.

The court also approved the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet crew cab pickup truck for use in facilities management, and payment in the amount of \$43,201.75 with the addition of \$2,210 for upgrades made to the vehicle. The truck will be a replacement for a current vehicle in the facility's fleet.

Emergency management coordinator, Stephanie Elmore reported that she attended the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee in Austin for the response board on which Elmore sits. Elmore also shared

that in the next commissioner's meeting, they will renew the current burn ban that is in effect. Her office has been receiving frequent calls for prescribed burn approval lately, they will inform the office of the location and conditions for burn approval.

Luke Hendryx, the Texas A&M AgriLife extension agent, was present at this meeting to give the quarterly report to the county. According to Hendryx, 4-H enrollment is up 230% in Brewster County from last year. This is the second year in a row that enrollment has jumped for the county. Hendryx also informed the court that AgriLife is forming a partnership with the

Borderlands Research Institute and there will be an opening for a range life specialist in a split position for the two groups.

The last item on the agenda for this meeting was the Brewster County Tourism report, given by the Executive Director, Robert Alvarez. According to Alvarez, so far in fiscal year 2023, the income from the hotel occupancy tax in Brewster County has amounted to over two million dollars. After hearing the report, the court approved the allocation of \$4,476 for advertising on TourTexas.com.

The next regular commissioner's court meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12.

### ARTS • FROM 1

that meets once a month on the second Wednesday at the Alpine Public Library. Fairlie calls it a "show and tell" about both finished and unfinished artwork. Along with the critique group, the BBAC hosts a paint-out on the third Saturday of each month, called the Big Bend Plein Air Painters. This is a gathering of artists who work outside including urban sketch artists, drawing, and even photographers. The group meets at different locations throughout the area such as Point of Rocks in Fort Davis and The Post in Marathon.

Not only does BBAC encourage creativity, but members of the council, 28 in all, may set up their work at West Texas National Bank for a month-long show.

The non-profit also is a big part of aiding art students at Sul Ross. "Part of the money we raise goes towards a scholarship for art students at Sul Ross. Buying art supplies is expensive,

and these supplies aren't covered by financial aid, so we set up a scholarship to help the students out," Fairlie replied.

According to Fairlie, the two managers of the Gallery on the Square, Amanda Calhoun and Shelly Rogers, where the BBAC makes its home, are instrumental, along with their help in making everything work as it should. "These two and those that work with them are really instrumental in making the goals of the BBAC a reality," Fairlie added.

The Gallery on the Square located on West Holland Avenue hosts the largest number of artists showcasing their pieces with 27 total. Among those is a wall dedicated to Sul Ross art students, so that not only do they get exposure, but they get the opportunity to learn the professionalism of staging an art show with hands-on experience. The Catchlight Gallery boasts 16 artist's work on display and the

Whitlock Gallery showcases five. Art is always a great gift according to Fairlie. "February through April is when we see the biggest sales on art in the area, and we support those artists in Terlingua and Fort Davis also, especially during this time, when tourist season sees a lot of art sales in the area," Fairlie added. Although spring break and tourist season are the biggest in sales, locals really make an impact during the holidays. The "shop local" slogan is a big part of the art sales for the BBAC between Thanksgiving and Christmas,

as art always makes a unique gift for friends and loved ones to enjoy for years to come.

**Dona Ward Blevins**  
2100 W Hwy 90, Ste B  
Alpine, Tx 79830  
dblevins@farmersagent.com  
farmersagent.com/dblevins

## SENIOR Spotlight

### KAYLEE FIERRO

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I have participated in powerlifting, volleyball, softball, and track and field.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite teacher is Ms. Owen. She is our nurse and one of the most trustworthy people

I have ever confided in.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment was making it to regionals for powerlifting during my sophomore year.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
I plan on getting my master's in criminology and a minor degree in criminal justice.

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### FILING • FROM 1

County Tax Assessor-Collector, County Constables for Precincts 1, 2, and 3, District Judge, District Attorney, Brewster County Sheriff and both the Democrat Party Chair and the Republican Party Chair.

State and federal offices up for election in the 2024 primary include the President of the United States, the U.S. state senator office

currently held by Ted Cruz, the state representative for District 23, currently held by Tony Gonzales, the State Railroad Commissioner, three members of the Supreme Court, place two, four, and six, three members of the Court of Criminal Appeals, place one, seven, and eight, and the state senator for District 29, currently held by Cesar Blanco.



ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023						EXHIBIT C-2
Data Control Codes	10	50	60	98	Total Governmental Funds	
	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Other Funds		
<b>REVENUES</b>						
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 7,473,292	\$ 1,390,054	\$ 7,656	\$ 874,123	\$ 9,745,125	
5800 State Program Revenues	3,677,372	32,455	-	309,838	4,019,665	
5900 Federal Program Revenues	421,962	-	-	2,844,731	3,266,693	
5020 Total Revenues	11,572,626	1,422,509	7,656	4,028,692	17,031,483	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
0011 Instruction	5,714,262	-	-	1,984,091	7,698,353	
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	266,042	-	-	-	266,042	
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Devel.	64,247	-	-	19,216	83,463	
0021 Instructional Leadership	34,329	-	-	263,156	297,485	
0023 School Leadership	759,966	-	-	126,726	886,692	
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	251,945	-	-	678,945	930,890	
0033 Health Services	61,016	-	-	-	61,016	
0034 Student Transportation	538,795	-	-	48,386	587,181	
0035 Food Services	40,129	-	-	567,071	607,200	
0036 Extracurricular Activities	936,686	-	-	-	936,686	
0041 General Administration	747,220	-	-	83,462	830,682	
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,529,140	-	-	205,399	1,734,539	
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	176,222	-	-	65,464	241,686	
0053 Data Processing Services	361,117	-	-	-	361,117	
0061 Community Services	33,617	-	-	-	33,617	
0071 Debt Service - Principal	75,972	470,000	-	3,452	549,424	
0072 Debt Service - Interest	8,830	739,950	-	691	749,471	
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs	-	3,795	-	-	3,795	
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	3,228,186	-	1,398,550	-	4,626,736	
0093 Payments to Member Dist. of SSA	214,500	-	-	-	214,500	
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	195,017	-	-	-	195,017	
6030 Total Expenditures	15,237,238	1,213,745	1,398,550	4,046,059	21,895,592	
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(3,664,612)	208,764	(1,390,894)	(17,367)	(4,864,109)	
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>						
7913 Proceeds from Right to Use Leased Assets	191,156	-	-	25,120	216,276	
7915 Transfers In	-	-	299,068	-	299,068	
8911 Transfers Out	(299,068)	-	-	-	(299,068)	
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(107,912)	-	299,068	25,120	216,276	
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	(3,772,524)	208,764	(1,091,826)	7,753	(4,647,833)	
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	9,481,576	928,567	1,091,826	581,672	12,083,641	
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 5,709,052	\$ 1,137,331	\$ -	\$ 589,425	\$ 7,435,808	

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



# Avalanche Classifieds

**ERRORS** - Please check your ad the first day of publication. We are only responsible for the first incorrect insertion of any ad. Publisher's liability for damages resulting from errors in any advertising that it has agreed to publish shall be limited to the amount actually received by the publisher in consideration for its agreement to publish the advertisement in ques-

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**DEADLINES** - All ads are due in the office by 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday.

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**CANCELLATIONS** - All ads

may be cancelled for the next publication until 12:00 (noon) on the Monday before publication.  
**ACCEPTANCE** - The publisher wants to do everything that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion

that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.  
**PAYMENT** - All Classified Ads must be paid in advance.  
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1 bath rental. \$600/month plus deposit. Call 432-249-0569  
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**FOR RENT/LEASE**

ties or \$1,350.00 or \$1,350.00 utilities furnished. **CARPENTER PROPERTIES**, 432-386-6773 OR 432-837-3325  
2 bedroom 1 & 3/4 baths, manufactured home living room, appliances, central heat, and air. Large, covered patio, views, on 50 acres. Pasture for 2 horses may be possible. \$800.00

**FOR RENT/LEASE**

per month plus utilities. **CARPENTER PROPERTIES**, 432-386-6773 OR 432-837-3325  
2-bedroom 1 bath, manufactured home, stove, range, washer & dryer. NW part of town. Central heat. Good neighborhood. Rent \$650.00 plus utilities or \$850.00 utilities furnished. **CARPEN-**

**FOR RENT/LEASE**

**TER PROPERTIES**, 432-386-6773 OR 432-837-3325  
Small 2-bedroom 1 bath home central part of town. Good neighborhood. Range, refrigerator, washer, and dryer. \$850.00per month, utilities furnished. **CARPENTER PROPERTIES**, 432-386-6773 OR 432-837-3325

**FOR RENT/LEASE**

If interested, pick up Lease Application at 708 E. Ave. E, Alpine, Texas. Previous rental and credit references required. **CARPENTER PROPERTIES**, 432-386-6773 OR 432-837-3325  
201 W. Del Rio, 3 bedroom, 1 bath for rent. 432-837-3503  
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**HELP WANTED**

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NO. PR03129

IN RE ESTATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT  
§ SITTING IN PROBATE  
WILLIAM DALE MARTIN, § OF  
Deceased § BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**

The Estate of William Dale Martin, Cause PR03029, County Court of Brewster County requests bids for the purchase of real property located in Marathon, Texas.

The property has a street address of 101 S. 4th St W., Marathon, Texas, being more particularly described as Lot 11, Block 34, Old Town Marathon, Brewster County, Texas.

The property will be sold "AS-IS". There will be NO sellers disclosure of property condition. Title will be conveyed by a special warranty deed.

The Estate will accept sealed bids actually received by midnight December 15, 2023.  
Minimum bid is \$30,000.00.

Bids shall be in written. Bidder shall include the following information: name, address, phone number, email address, and the amount of the bid.

Bid shall be sealed in an envelope.

The bid envelope shall have Bid for Estate of Martin written clearly on the envelope.

The bid envelope shall be placed inside a second envelope which shall be addressed to

Robert E. Steele  
Dependent Administrator of the Estate of William Dale Martin  
PO Box 1765  
Alpine, TX 79831  
Phone: 432-294-5757

Envelopes shall be opened on December 19, 2023 in open court at the County Court of Brewster County. If the December 19, 2023, hearing is reset, the bids shall be opened at the next scheduled probate docket. The winning bidder shall be notified. If the successful bidder fails to complete the transaction, the Estate may award the bid to the next highest bidder. If no bid greater than \$30,000.00 is received, the Estate may hold another auction.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eleanor Margaret Hay Foster, Deceased, were issued on October 24, 2023, in Cause No. PR03136, pending in Brewster County, Texas, to Mark Foster. All claims can be submitted to Mr. Foster at 614 Mountainside Drive, Alpine, Texas, 798830.

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# Devotional Page Take Stock

BY REV. KATIE HUDAK  
St. James Episcopal Church, Alpine, TX

We find ourselves in the middle of one of the most hectic seasons of the year. Thanksgiving has just passed, and Christmas, Kwanza, and the New Year are right around the corner. We are literally running around like chickens without our heads. It might seem willy-nilly.

One of the best things that we can do for ourselves during this crazy time is take a deep breath and slow down for a minute. Take a day and forget all the hoopla around the holidays. Better yet, take a day and don't look at the news. The news is enough to make us want to pull our hair out and go live in a cave. That is not a scenario that most of us are likely able to do.

In fact, this might be a good time to take a few minutes and take stock of where we have been over this past year and look forward to next year.

What have we done with our lives these past twelve months? Are we happy with what we have done? Are we not satisfied with what we have done? Are we happy with our attitudes toward ourselves and toward our family, friends, neighbors, and others? Or are we not so happy with those same attitudes?

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I am not a fan of New Year's Resolutions. Those seem to go by the wayside for most of us by the end of January. What I am a proponent of is to take stock of our lives to see where the Creator of the Universe, our Higher Power, God has acted in our lives and what maybe one small thing we can turn over to the Divine. We can do this in order to ask for help to make the world a better place because heaven knows that there is enough hurt, tension, and damage that we humans have done to the world and our fellow humans.

Perhaps we can ask to help make this world a better place, each in our own way, however small that might seem to us. We might ask for us to spread kindness and consideration with all whom we meet, even those people who might not be our friends, family, or neighbors. We might ask to make it clear how we can help someone who is more in need than we are. A lot of times this is easier said than done, but a few minutes each day to connect with the Divine can keep us on track.

May you have a peaceful Christmas season, a Happy New Year, and a moment each day to reflect on our attitudes and actions in order to make for a more humane world.

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# Million Dollar Pound Cake

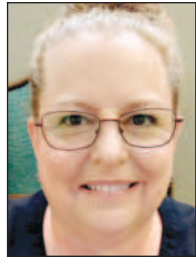


Million Dollar Pound Cake

Baking is not something I do regularly, and while I enjoy something sweet and satisfying just like the next person, I rarely break out the flour and measuring cups to create sweet treats to grace my table. Although I enjoy a decadent dessert, my tastes run quite simple. A simple chocolate cake, a light and

spongy angel food cake, or a dense and buttery pound cake are simply my favorites. And then comes this recipe to turn everything upside down and make anyone's taste buds feel as if they have won the flavor lottery. When you are searching for a way to make your friends and family feel like a million

*Courtesy photo*



## HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

bucks, look no further than this Million Dollar Pound Cake recipe. This elevated take on an old favorite will leave your friends and loved ones with a million-dollar smile for the remainder of the day. Traditional pound cakes are buttery and dense, and overall, quite simple but refreshingly delicious. This

pound cake recipe however is true to its name.

This recipe adds in crunchy toffee bits and velvety pecans as well as a drizzle of creamy car-

amel sauce to send your taste buds into heaven.

For simplistic decadence, this pound cake just can't be beat. So the next time you want

to wow your friends and family with your baking skills, look to this recipe, and serve them up a million dollars' worth of sweetness.

### Easy Caramel Sauce

**Ingredients:**  
 1 cup packed brown sugar  
 ½ cup half and half  
 4 tablespoons of butter  
 Pinch of salt  
 1 tablespoon vanilla

**Directions:**  
 Mix the brown sugar, half-and-half, butter, and salt in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook while whisking gently for five to seven minutes until it gets thicker. Add the vanilla, and cook another minute to thicken further. Turn off the heat, cool slightly, and pour the sauce into a jar. Refrigerate until cold.

### Million Dollar Pound Cake

**Ingredients:**  
 1-1/2 cups unsalted butter, softened  
 2 cups light brown sugar, packed  
 1 cup granulated sugar  
 5 large eggs, at room temperature  
 3 cups all-purpose flour  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 cup whole milk, at room temperature  
 1 (8-ounce) bag toffee bits  
 1 cup pecans, chopped  
 2-1/2 cups caramel sauce

**Directions:**  
 Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.  
 Generously spray all surfaces of a nonstick, 12-cup bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray, and flour or grease and flour the inside. Set aside.  
 In a large bowl, beat the butter until creamy. Add the brown sugar and the granulated sugar to the butter, beating until fluffy, no less than three minutes.  
 Add the eggs, one at a time, to the sugar mixture, beating until just the yellow disappears after each egg.  
 In a medium bowl, combine the flour, the baking powder, and the salt. Gradually add the flour mixture to the but-

ter mixture in thirds, alternating with the milk in between each third. Beat the batter until just combined.  
 Stir the toffee bits and the pecans into the batter.  
 Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a fork inserted near the center of the cake comes out clean, about 75-90 minutes. You may need to cover the top of the cake with foil near the end of cooking time to prevent excess browning.  
 Let the cake cool in the pan for 15 minutes. Transfer the cake from the pan and let cool completely on a wire rack. Spoon the caramel sauce over cake. Serve.

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### Annual Holiday Fruitcake Sale

I have been making this fruitcake annually for the public for about the last 10 years, usually selling it at local fairs and at Mountain Country Christmas.

This recipe was my mother's although I did not like fruitcake back then, later in life I made it and tried it and fell in love with it. Not everyone likes fruitcake, but this is a different take on fruitcake. This fruitcake is made with maraschino cherries, dates, pecans, and apples. It can be made without pecans whatever the preference.

This fruitcake is shelf-stable for about 3 weeks, longer in the refrigerator, and up to a year in the freezer.

**Sizes Available:** Bundt pan-24 servings, Large Loaf/11x5-16 servings, Medium Loaf/9x4-12 servings, Small Loaf/8x4-9 servings.

For prices and to place an order call me, Susie Gonzales, at 432-244-9805.



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Featured Painting  
 Tule Mountain by Noe Perez

