

## Emergency Services Board holds last meeting of the year

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Emergency Services Board held its last meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 5. Two members of the board were absent, including Treasurer Stacy Wood, and Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) Chief Andrew Pierce.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Loeffler, followed by the invocation and pledge of allegiance. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the last meeting that was held on October 26. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Loeffler then asked for reports from the board officers. Secretary Rusty Moore reported that he had filed the tax exemption paperwork for the board with the state. "They may get back in touch with me and need more information about

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## INSIDE



FEATURED  
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## Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2023 . . . . . 12.56"  
December . . . . . 0.00"



## 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.



## Engineers hired to investigate Alpine's water system

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Many pieces of the water system in Alpine have been a puzzle. Some of the wells seem to refuse to fill up, entire networks operate without the required pressure, as well as mysterious water losses. Recently, the city has employed engineers to not only decipher the puzzle but to find ways to make it a better one.

Before the last Alpine City Council meeting, on December

5, the council welcomed the engineering company of Jacob Martin for a workshop to update them on the status of their evaluation thus far.

Currently, the main priority is lead and copper. According to City Manager Megan Antrim, it is a federal and state mandate to have this priority addressed to determine the water inventory, and to be accomplished by October 2024. "This means boots on the ground and in the field



Megan Antrim

trying to figure it out," said Antrim.

This priority has pushed back some of the other projects regarding water. The city wants to complete this mandated task in order to fully tackle some of the more imposing projects. Over time many questions have arisen regarding what the city's water system can handle and what it requires to continue functioning as demand continues to increase.

Approximately a year ago,

the city council had a discussion about water and a new infrastructure coming in. According to Antrim, part of this discussion was surrounding the development of Skyway Gardens II and the concerns about the water pressure that could possibly be affected in the immediate area.

Another issue that had arisen was that during the last two summers, there has been a water demand production issue on

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## Bucks topple Greenwood at home



Jace Canaba blocks a Greenwood player during Tuesday's home victory. The Fightin' Bucks defeated Greenwood 84-63.

## Candidates have filed for March primary election

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The deadline for candidacy filings for the March primary ballot has come and gone, having expired on Monday, December 11 at 6 p.m. Currently, four candidates are running for office as Democrats, and five are running as Republicans in open county positions. Candidates elected to these positions will begin service in January 2025 and will serve a four-year term.

On the Democrat ticket, only one position faces an opponent while the other positions are incumbents running unopposed. The Republican ticket has a newcomer, but she faces no opposition according to filings registered with the



Ronny Dodson

Brewster County Election Administrator Lora Nussbaum.

Long-time Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson will be seeking re-election once again, running unopposed as a Democrat. Dodson first won his current seat in 2000 and has served Brewster County as the longest local-born and raised sheriff in Alpine, currently with 23 years of service to Brewster County as sheriff.

Also running as a Democrat is Tax Assessor-Collector Sylvia



Sylvia Vega

Vega. This will be Vega's second term after she was elected to replace long-time former Tax Assessor-Collector Betty Jo Rooney who retired.

The third-elected seat that is up for re-election is for Commissioner Pct. 3, currently held by incumbent Ruben Ortega.

Ortega has long held the Pct. 3 County Commissioner position but will be challenged for his seat by Joe Portillo.

Republicans Flavio Rene Ybarra, Constable Pct. 1, and Jim Westermann, County Commissioner Pct. 1 are both seeking re-election for the March primary and



Flavio Rene Ybarra



Jim Westermann



Bill Parham



Monty Kimball

face no opposition. Mari-sol Skelton, running as a Republican is seeking the position of County Attorney that is currently held by J. Steve Houston. Houston, like Dodson and Ortega, has held his position for many years but did not file for re-election according to information obtained from the election's administrator.

Finally, the current 394th District Court Assistant District Attorney Bill Parham is seeking the 394th District Judge position currently held by

Judge Roy B. Ferguson. Parham recently announced his candidacy for the position in the Avalanche. Parham, running as a Republican faces opposition from long-time local attorney Monty Kimball, who is also running as a Republican for the position of the 394th Judicial District Judge.

Early voting for the March 2024 primary will begin on Tuesday, February 20, and conclude on Friday, March 1 with the primary election being held on Tuesday, March 5.

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# OBITUARIES

## Keith Ray Johnson

Keith Ray Johnson, 72, passed on December 1, in Abilene. He was preceded in death by his parents, Willard and Anna Johnson, and brother, Jimmy Johnson all of Alpine. Survivors include sons; Kade Johnson and wife Kara Johnson, Shank Davis and Kaitlyn Gaston, brother George Johnson and wife Sally, and sister, Joan Johnson of Alpine. He is also survived by his grandchildren Koy Johnson, Koeker Johnson, Kallah-an Johnson, Kreed Davis, and Graeson Davis plus numerous nephews and nieces including Jami and Cody Carpenter of Driftwood, James and Reagan Johnson of Brady, Marti and Anthony Luparello of Waco, Jessi Johnson and Michael Calderon of Sault Ste. Marie, Michi-



gan plus numerous great nieces and nephews.

Keith grew up in Alpine, graduating from Alpine High School in 1969. While growing up in Brewster County, he was involved in ranch work, stock shows, livestock judging, and all FFA and 4-H activities. He went to Sul Ross State University and graduated with a Bachelor's in Range Animal Science in 1974. He moved to Nolan County in 1975 to work for Dr. T. D. Young's Ranch as manager. These responsibilities soon extended to Dr. Young's farming

operations and all of the day-to-day functions of a large ranch in Nolan County. His passions were good horses and all things agriculture and outdoors.

He always enjoyed a cold beer and dancing to classic western swing music. Keith was an active member of the Sul Ross State University ANRS and Rodeo Exes Association, participating in various fundraisers, including team roping, golf tournaments, and the social hour at the Crystal and always enjoying the comradery and friendship by all the Exes.

Keith was an active supporter of all the Highland ISD student activities with both his boys and later his grandchildren, involved in Highland sports booster clubs, local stock show associations, and rodeo clubs.

His enjoyment came from all family activities and get-togethers especially while cooking for all his family and friends. He loved to cook for crowds of students at Highland ISD whether it was fideo, bar-b-que, or hamburgers at Highland football games. He acquired a large collection of antique cast iron pots and pans for this purpose. Memorial graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 9 at Champion Cemetery with longtime friend Mike Pattillo officiating. A family and friend's visitation was held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home in Sweetwater.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Highland ISD Ag Boosters, PO Box 156, Roscoe, TX 79545, or Venmo account @HighlandAg-BoosterClub.

## Joyce Miller

On November 27 our beloved mother, Joyce Marie Davis Miller, jumped into the arms of Christ and went home. Soon afterward, she turned and kissed her husband, of almost 62 years, Bob, once again. Mom was given the name Joyce by God's sovereignty and providence because she was full of joy. The Bible says to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances. As we will miss her earthly presence, we rejoice with her homegoing and reunion with Daddy, her parents, and her brother. Mother was always filled with joy, even while raising three boys. We never saw her upset or say any unkind words. Mom was a devout Christian, Godly woman, loving mother, devoted wife to her family, her husband, and more importantly, her Lord and Savior.

Mom was always helping others as best as she could and worked as an accounting secretary, legal secretary, and administrative secretary. Mother was born September 4, 1934, to Rags and Elvine Davis and was a big sister to her brother, Dean Davis, all preceding her to heaven. Mom was involved in her church, community, and more importantly, her family.

Mother leaves behind three boys, Johnny Miller of Borger and his daughter Caroline; Brad Miller and his wife Terry of Amarillo and their two boys, Loren and Collin and his wife Deborah and their two daughters, Mila Ruth and Elizabeth Loren; Monty Miller of Dallas.

As our matriarch joined our patriarch with Christ in their heavenly home, there is a huge hole in our lives due to her absence, but we know there will come a blessed, joyful reunion of rejoicing one day with them all as we worship and adore our Lord and Savior face to face. What a day that will be. Soli Deo Gloria.



Mom loved playing golf and while living in Alpine, where she retired from Sul Ross, as administrative secretary to the registrar, she was active in the pilot club and chamber events. Mom grew up and graduated from Ralls High School and went to business school in Lubbock. While there, she began to work for an independent oil firm, and being the daughter of a deacon in First Baptist Church of Ralls, she met and fell in love with a young man named Bob who was serving as minister of music and the same church. They married on April 3, 1958, at the age of 23 at First Baptist Church Ralls and in April 1959, Mom gave birth to their first boy, Johnny. Soon they moved to FBC Kermit where the two younger boys Brad and Monty were born. After Kermit, the Miller's moved to El Paso for three years, then Pecos for 13 years, Monahans for 13 years, and finally Alpine for 25 years. Mom made her final move on June 18, 2020, to live with Johnny in Borger as her primary caregiver after Daddy's home going March 31, 2020, just three days shy of their 62nd wedding anniversary.

So many wonderful memories of a family blessed by the life, love, and Christian example given to us through Mom and Dad and their devotion to family, friends, faith, and above all, worship of our Lord and Savior.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you make donations in Mom's name to the charity of your choice or to Enhabit Hospice of Amarillo. May Christ be with you and radiate through you as He did our precious momma. Revelation 21 Soli Deo Gloria.

## Olivia Ramos

Olivia Ramos, 107, of Alpine passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on December 8. She was preceded in death by her husband, Salomon Ramos, Jr., daughter Rosemary, and the following sisters: Augustina Gonzales, Susana Galindo, Angelita Valenzuela; and the following brothers: Eusebio, Manuel, Daniel, Gorgonio, and Guadalupe Ramirez.

Olivia was born in Alpine on September 18, 1916, to Hilaria Herrera Ramirez. She was a decedent of the original people of what is currently known as West Texas, Big Bend, and Northern Mexico. She was a decedent of the human remains found in Pinto Canyon (Spirit Eye Cave) dating back approximately 1,000 years ago. Olivia was a lifetime member of Our



Lady of Peace Catholic Church and a member of Our Lady of Peace Acción Católica (Guadalupanas). She was honored by the church as the oldest living member on November 4, 2017. The City of Alpine commemorated her on her 100th birthday and named September 20, 2016, as Olivia Ramos Day in Alpine. On May 20, 2022, she was honored as Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo parade in Alpine. She worked as a housekeeper and nanny for the Kokernot family for the several years prior to her marriage to Salomon Ramos, Jr. on May 15, 1941.

Her following children are left to honor and share her memory, spirit, and legacy: Julie (Cruz Villalba), Bertha Marquez, Olivia (Eduardo Fierro), Lucia (David Stein), Yolanda Ramos (Siegmar Horsch), Esther Ramos (Martin Owen), and Anthony Ramos (Cynthia), grandchildren: Cynthia Gonzales, Dolores Garcia, Sylvia Connor, Denise Carrillo, William Marquez, David Marquez, Rosemary Ortega, Juan Erbey Ortega, Mark Stein, Siegmar Horsch, Phillip Horsch, Ian Owen, Julia Owen, Salomon Ramos, Felina Molinar, Michelle Ramos, and Sara Ramos, great-grandchildren: David Garcia, Julieta Colomo, Alexis and Victoria Lozano, Joseph and Jaeden Garcia, Maximo Carrillo, Chester Lockard, Riley Bray, Zenith, Aurora, Stella, Angelica, Syd, Rayden, and Astra Horsch, Lyra Owen,

Audriena, Gabriella, and Salomon Ramos Jr, and great-great-grandchildren: Adrian Garcia, Alexia Garcia, Camila Molinar, and baby Espinoza.

Visitation and viewing will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 5 p.m. and Rosary at 7 p.m. at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home. The funeral mass will be held on Monday, December 18 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with burial at Holy Angels Cemetery to follow.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Sunshine House.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

## Vivian Frances Williams Santry

Vivian Frances Williams Santry aged 91, of Alpine, passed away peacefully at home on December 5. Born in Hondale, New Mexico on November 14, 1932, she was the only child of George Williams and Ophelia Gardner Salyer. Vivian grew up in Deming, New Mexico. After graduating in 1952 from Deming High School she moved to El Paso to study nursing at Hotel Dieu where she received her RN and began her nursing career. While working at Hotel Dieu she met Thomas Santry. They were married in St. Patrick's Cathedral on February 7, 1959. They were married for a wonderful 55 years.

Vivian was a strong, compassionate woman who dedicated her life to



helping others. She spent several years as a NICU nurse at Hotel Dieu. She went on to hold nursing positions in Alaska, Ohio, Deming, N.M., and Eagle Pass. Tom and Vivian moved to Del Rio in 1974. She worked as the school nurse for the Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District for 10 years. In 1983 the family moved to Alpine where she continued working as a school nurse for the Alpine Independent School District. Vivian went on to nurse for several years at the West Texas State School in Pyote. After leaving Pyote she was a

home health nurse traveling around the west Texas area. Vivian especially enjoyed working with the elderly and was a geriatric nurse at both the Del Rio Nursing Home and the Alpine Nursing Home. After leaving nursing she became the director of the Sunshine House in Alpine in 1996 retiring from there in 2006. After retiring Vivian enjoyed spending her time reading, listening to music, and working on puzzles.

Vivian is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Tom, and her son Paul Brian Santry. She is survived by her daughters Terry Mendez of San Antonio, Karen Gallego (J.J.), and Lori Santry (Wayne) both of Alpine. She had four precious grandchildren: Megan Uptmore (Josh), Erin Gallego (Johny), K.C. Gallego and Justin

Hubbell. And the lights of her life, her great-grandchildren Rio Mendoza, Aziel Mendoza, Sloan Uptmore, and was excitedly awaiting the birth of another baby Uptmore in January. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law Kaye and Monty Music, her brother-in-law Patrick Santry as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services of rosary and mass were held on December 12, at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home with burial at Holy Angels Cemetery in Alpine.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the Sunshine House in Alpine.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

## Florencio Saenz Uranga

Florencio Saenz Uranga, 87, of Marathon and Alpine, passed away on December 4 in Ft. Stockton. Florencio was born in La Boquilla de San Isidro, Chihuahua, Mexico. He settled in Marathon and later moved to Alpine. During this time, he worked for the Brewster County Road & Bridge department from which he retired. He was married to Rosa Uranga, and was father to Elda Fuentes (Salvador), Rosie Aguilar (Sixto, Jr.), Maribel



Ruiz, and Jesus Uranga (Amy.) He was preceded in death by his parents Norberto and Petra Uranga as well as his siblings Pedro, Tomas, Isabel, Leonor, Catarino Uranga, and sister Macaria Lujan. He is survived by one brother, Andres Uranga. Flor-

encio leaves behind 16 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Florencio was an all-around outdoorsman. He was a beekeeper, an avid gardener, and a carpenter/masonry handyman.

A visitation was held on December 8 at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home at 5 p.m. followed by a Rosary at 7 p.m. Funeral mass was held on Saturday, December 9, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marathon with interment following at Marathon Cemetery.


Pallbearers were Sergio Fuentes, Salvador

Fuentez III, Cris Uranga, Alejandro Ruiz, Nino (AB) Alvarado, and Raiden Alvarado. Honorary pallbearers included Aunika Sanchez, Melodi Aguilar, Lyric Aguilar, Aliyah Aguilar, Adrik Aguilar, and Cameron Sanchez.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer Organization.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.



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the ALPINE AVALANCHE

# Live Nativity set for next week

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The annual Live Nativity sponsored by Michael's Mountain Ministry of Alpine is set for December 19-21 in the stable area at Kokernot Lodge. Performances of the annual event will begin each evening at 7 p.m.

As part of this annual event, they will serve hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies each night to members of the audience

as well as participants after each performance.

Many locals are repeat performers in the Live Nativity, including members of the Wasserman Wranch supplied by owners Heidi and Scott Wasserman. This year will see the return of Carl the camel and Pumpkin the donkey. Another local performer who lends his abilities to the Nativity each year is Burt Compton from Marfa. All participants are volunteers

and those wishing to be a part of the program should show up between 6 and 6:30 p.m. to be assigned parts and pick up costumes for the evening performance. Karen McGuire, production head for the Live Nativity said, "The Live Nativity has always been our gift to the tri-county area. It's our living Christmas card to the unique and amazing people of West Texas, and a way to remind all of us that in our hectic and

hurried lives, there is still one who loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save humankind from their sins."

Volunteers are always welcome to help set up and tear down after each performance and anyone wanting more information can contact Karen McGuire at 432-386-3071. Audience members are reminded to dress warm and bring lawn chairs and blankets for the performances.

## Stockshow season is here

Goat exhibitors showed off their animal projects at the third annual Tres McElroy and James Garlic Memorial Stockshow Christmas Blowout held in Fort Davis this past weekend. Pictured is Kylie Maroney, Wyatt Renfroe, and Rynn Matthews.



**The Live Nativity**  
Will have Carl the Camel!

**December 19th, 20th & 21st**  
**7:00 p.m. at**  
**the Kokernot Lodge**  
(off the Loop Road behind the SRSU Outdoor Theater)  
*Refreshments served each night*

Come be a shepherd, angel, scribe, or other part - costumes provided & no lines to learn! Any age welcome! (call Karen@ 386-3071)  
Be at the Kokernot Lodge between 6:00 & 6:15 p.m. each night to robe up and receive instructions.  
Sponsored by Michael's Mountain Ministry.  
The Texas State University System nor Sul Ross State University sponsor or endorse the Live Nativity.



# SRSU student serves as 2023 Sun Bowl Princess

Sul Ross State University student, Caitlyn Peña, was selected to serve on the Sun Bowl Court for the 2023 Sun Bowl. She has been serving in the role of Sun Princess since July 28, when she was crowned at the Sun Bowl Coronation. Since then, she has been serving as an active ambassador for the city of El Paso by volunteering at various community events. Caitlyn most recently represented the Sun Bowl Association in the Glasheen, Valles & Inderman Injury Lawyers Sun Bowl Parade on Thanksgiving morning, where SRSU Alumni Tuff Hedeman served as the Grand Marshal. She will be participating in the upcoming festivities for the 90th Annual Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl where Oregon State and Notre Dame will play on December 29 in the Sun Bowl Stadium in El Paso.



Caitlyn Peña

Courtesy photo

very active in the student body on campus where she serves as the Vice-President of the Pre-Law As-

sociation, Vice-President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Public Relations Officer for the Student Government Association, and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Academic Integrity Council, and Alpha Chi Honor Society. In addition, Caitlyn enjoys serving the community of Alpine by volunteering at the Alpine Animal Shelter and coaching the Alpine Mini Bucks grades 1-3 volleyball team.

*Chapters, Cheers, and Cookies!*

**Friday, December 15**  
**Ugly Sweater Day**  
If you come in with an ugly holiday sweater on, you'll get **10% off** your items!

**Friday, December 22**  
**Wrap It Up**  
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December 20th

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Alpine advises the public that city offices will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2023 to January 1, 2024 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 8:00 A.M.

If you are experiencing an emergency during the closure, please dial 911. For urgent issues, residents may use the following contact information:

**Urgent Water Utility Issues**  
Alpine Police Department Non-Emergency  
432-837-3486

**Urgent Gas Utility Issues**  
24-Hour Emergency Line  
432-294-1529 -OR- 432-837-3301, option 4.

**All other Urgent Issues**  
Alpine Police Department Non-Emergency  
432-837-3486

During the holiday closure, utility customers may make payments at the Payment Drop Box at City Hall on Holland Avenue. Registered customers may make payments online at [ww.cityofalpine.com](http://ww.cityofalpine.com).

The City extends sincere thanks and appreciation to our customer and neighbors all around town for your continued friendship and support. We wish you all the best and happy holidays this season!

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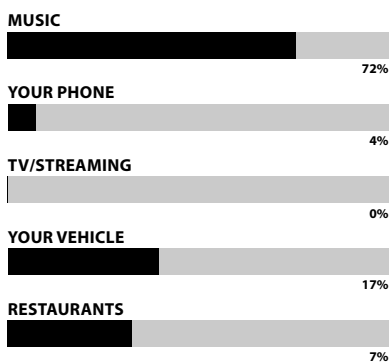
# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### RESULTS

**WHICH OF THESE WOULD BE THE HARDEST TO LIVE WITHOUT?**

#### RESULTS



### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

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

- Music
- Your phone
- TV/Streaming
- Your vehicle
- Restaurants

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

## LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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

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

# BOONIEVILLE



## Grazing Land Animal Nutrition Lab

When managing rangeland for grazing purposes, it is essential that owners and managers understand the resources that are available to them to assist in this sometimes difficult and complex process. There is a wide array of innovative tools and resources at the disposal of individuals who find themselves making these critical management decisions. One of the many, highly effective services that producers can utilize through AgriLife is the



**LUKE HENDRYX**  
ANR Extension Agent

Grazing Land Animal Nutrition Lab, commonly referred to as the GAN Lab.

The GAN Lab dates back to the 1980s with its roots in the Conservation Biology and Range, Wildlife, & Fisheries Management

Departments at Texas A&M University. The original goals of the lab were to study grazing and nutrition trends in livestock. An innovative approach was utilized that allowed actual measurement of nutrient intake and diet composition of

animals through fecal samples, instead of the more commonly used widespread forage testing in pastures and rangelands. The results often portrayed a vastly different picture when compared with the actual grazing diets of the animals using these pastures.

Today the GAN Lab offers producers the ability to gain insight into supplemental feeding suggestions, rotational grazing recommendations, stocking rate guidance, reproductive management, and more. They accomplish this through diagnostic analysis of fecal samples that are

then used in conjunction with state-of-the-art computer software to formulate suggestions based off of individual grazing scenarios.

Utilization of resources like GAN Lab analysis provides rangeland managers with the opportunity to gain another asset in their management toolboxes. To find out more about GAN Lab testing or any of the many other services AgriLife provides to ranchers, such as forage and soil testing, contact the Brewster-Jeff Davis County Extension Office at 432-837-6207, or by responding to [luke.hendryx@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:luke.hendryx@ag.tamu.edu).

## Meet Sean, hug his neck, share a story

*"Your big-time writer is a person with incredibly poignant things to say about life and the profundity of the human condition ... a columnist's highest aspiration is for someone to cut his or her column out of the paper and hang it on the refrigerator."*

— Sean Dietrich, columnist, novelist, instrumentalist, singer, and stand-up storyteller.

"Sean of the South," the program flyer proclaimed. "After the show, stick around to meet Sean, hug his neck, and maybe share a story of your own."

As someone who has written a weekly column off and on for some 40 years, I also read a lot of columns. Especially the storytelling kind. Hence, the tagline on my weekly blog offering: "A Story Worth Telling."

Sean Dietrich also tells stories in columns. He's famous. I'm not. Yet. And he writes one every day. I struggle to get one together once a week.

I remember Paul Crume's "Big D" column he wrote for the front page of the Dallas Morning News every Sunday through Friday for 24 years. I read Crume's column in high school and college in the 60s and 70s.

Reading storytelling columns was something I relished long before the thought ever crossed my mind that I might one day grow up and pretend to be a column writer.

In addition to writing a daily column and having authored

15 books, Dietrich's work has appeared in Newsweek, Southern Living, Reader's Digest, Garden and Gun, The Tallahassee Democrat, the Birmingham News, and The Mobile Press-Register. And his column appears in newspapers throughout the U.S.

Not just an overachiever in writing; he plays multiple instruments, sings, and appears on the Grand Ole Opry, too.

Sunday afternoon a week ago, Dietrich was in Mineola of all places. A stretch for someone famous who lives in Birmingham, Alabama. He was there not just as an entertainer, but also as a fundraiser for the Flint and Steel Foundation. According to the same program flyer in each seat at the civic center, "the Wood County non-profit foundation's aim is to advance educational, recreational, and artistic opportunities for people of all ages in the area, especially older youth and young adults."

Dietrich entertained for some 90 minutes, intertwining singing, playing several instruments, and relating humorous anecdotes about Southern lifestyles. Said and done, all the proceeds went to the Flint and Steel Foundation. He is just that kind of guy. Something you quickly learn about him if you're a regular reader of his columns.

Having been one of those



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
Guest Columnist

regular readers for a few years, I waited after the show to see him. Not for a hug so much as for the unique opportunity to see him in person and simply to shake his hand. Maybe get him to autograph his book I bought before

the performance. And I even had a story to tell him. If he had time to listen.

Waiting in line, I thought about the meager feeling of accomplishment I had enjoyed seeing my column audience grow, now published in a handful of Texas newspapers plus a blog for the last eight years. And how that was underscored recently when an automotive magazine contacted me. They wanted to include my column in their publication.

That was the beginning of the story I wanted to share with Sean of the South. If he had time to hear it.

Turns out he had time to hear my story and lots of others. He spent as much time visiting and hugging after the show as he did performing. Taking all the time needed, listening to what anyone who had waited in line had to say.

My time came. I stepped forward; arm extended for a handshake. Instead, he grabbed me in a bear hug with a slap on the back. "Thank you for coming," he said. "Where are you from?"

"Center," I said. Reading the "I don't know where that is" look on his face, I explained. "Just 17 miles from the Louisiana border; closer to Shreveport than any sizable town in Texas." After expressing my delight with his show and appreciation for his generosity, I added, "I have a quick story to share with you."

"And I want to hear it," he said. I told him I was just an old newspaper guy who enjoyed telling stories in columns. One who, after some years, had built an audience in a few newspapers and a weekly blog.

"But the pinnacle of my pursuit," I continued, "was when Motorsports Magazine wanted to start publishing my work recently. I was super excited when I received my first issue and saw my column in it. Then I turned the page and there was yours. Imagine that," I said. "My column; was published in the same magazine with Sean Dietrich!"

"I've shown it to everyone," I added.

The gracious Southern gentleman, writer, storyteller, and musician listened intently without interruption. When I finished, he said with a smile, "Well, if I'm going to be in the same magazine as you, I'm going to have to up my standards."

"Wow," I thought while driving home that night. "Maybe someone will cut my column out of a newspaper and hang it on their refrigerator. Someday."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Loving my brothers and sisters

Radicalized Islam calls Christians and Jews "the people of the book," the Bible. This Christian supports and loves my brothers and sisters in Abraham, the Jew. According to the Holy Scripture, Christians have been 'grafted'

into the vine. Christians and Jews are family. Bible prophecy warns us of unbelievably severe persecution on our horizon. No strangers to programs and slaughter, Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel is only the beginning of the most recent satanic attack on the Jews. But this attack is not confined to the Middle East.

It is here within our borders. What is going on? What is this world coming to, I hear people ask. No one seems to have answers. But I believe the Bible has the answer. All of the answers. What is going on is not natural. Rather it is supernatural. It is Satan's supernatural hatred for God and God's people: Jews and Chris-

tians. An answer to the dilemma: draw near to Jesus Christ and He will draw near to you. I like to tell people, "The safest place to be in hard times is to reside in the perfect will of God." Look up. The Lord is near, Alpine.

Steve Stainkamp  
Alpine

### The Best

I've thanked God, I've shouted to God, I've thanked Coach Webb and Coach Conner. But it isn't good enough. I would like for this to go on a newsletter and be sent to new recruits. My son had an emergency on December 7 and had to be taken to the ER in Abilene.

Coach Webb, Coach Conner, and Coach Jimmy not only detected that he needed emergency care, but they also called 911, stayed with him through the admittance process, and stayed all night with Trey. I cannot express my gratitude for the staff, the love they have shown our family, and the professionalism that they had at the hos-

pital, even after staying up all night they were alert when we arrived. I loved Coach Webb the first year, but after the true leadership that was given by all of them, I am a Lobo parent/support for life! I've even added them to my permanent Christmas list. Thank you for hitting this team. You have the right angels on board. To any

mother that loves her baby, send them to Sul Ross. It was the best decision that our son and family have made. Coach Webb, Coach Conner, and Coach Jimmy thank you again, and again, and again. May God continue to bless you and use you for His work.

Terra Clark  
and William Nelson



# Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "What is truly the BEST season of the year?"



**Damian Wilson:** I like snowboarding, so wintertime. I am beyond comfortable in the cold and it's so much better than sweating all summer.



**Sarah Crider:** Definitely summertime. All I want is to go outside and for it to be warm so that I can do everything I want to do. Bike-riding, swimming, can't do anything like that in the snow.



**Lucas Ramirez:** Fall, I think. I like the fact that it gives you a break. The summer gets so hot, and it's so long and then boom, fall. It's like a glass of lemonade on a hot day.



**Krista Roar:** Summer or spring. I get sad in the winter and the time change is the worst, it gets so dark so early in the evening.



**Frank Salazar:** Has anyone said spring yet? It gets a bad rep because of allergies and bugs but speaking as someone who has allergies and hates bugs, it's still worth it. I get so much energy back when the weather changes from cold to cool.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 14 Sounds of the Season,** 7 p.m. at the Alpine High School Gym, musical performances by the AHS music ensemble, concert band, and color guard.

**Dec. 16 Hometown Christmas Parade,** 5 p.m. lineup at City Hall, followed by the tree lighting at 5:30 p.m., and the parade begins at 6 p.m. where it ends at the Alpine Visitor's Center for music from the Alpine Community Band, refreshments, and pictures with Santa.

**Dec. 19-21 Live Nativity,** 7 p.m. each evening at Kokernot Lodge. Refreshments will be served each evening and anyone wishing to participate is welcome to come between 6-6:15 p.m. to get their costume and instructions. Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended.



**Jan. 1 Black-eyed Pea Off,** 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Terlingua Ghostown porch. Entry fees are \$10 with peas due promptly at 2 p.m. Anyone may partake of a bowl of peas to usher in "good luck" for the new year for \$10, and it comes with a bowl and spoon along with combread until it is gone. All proceeds benefit the Terlingua school graduation scholarships.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous,** 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available

on the 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.

**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 Sul Ross Fine Arts Building,

Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbccchorale.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.

See more at [alpineavalanche.com](http://alpineavalanche.com).

## OLE CRYSTAL BAR

18YR AND UP WELCOMED



**COME IN DEN AND CHECK OUT OUR DAILY DRINK SPECIALS AND GIVEAWAYS!**

**LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEKEND!**

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Mozart. This guy is happy to be in the background and not under your feet. He loves to be loved but will not be overly needy about it.

Mozart enjoys the company of other cats, especially his sister Chai. If you already have a cat, he would likely be more than happy to make them his new best friend. He loves to cuddle with other cats. About one year old, he's a low-main-

tenance friend who won't get in the way.

Alpine Humane Society would like to thank Lowe's Markets for their recent corporate visit and donation check. AHS enjoys working with local businesses as we all support our community's pets.

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 or [www.alpinehumanesociety.org](http://www.alpinehumanesociety.org), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



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**2023 FORD F-150 4x4 SUPERCREW XLT**  
STOCK #23131T  
**MSRP \$55,940**  
**CUSTOMER CASH \$2,750\***  
LOW APR 1.9% 36 mos., 2.9% 48 mos., 3.9% 60mos., 5.9% 72 mos.  
*\*Must finance with Ford Motor Credit*

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**2023 FORD EXPLORER XLT**  
STOCK #23120T  
**MSRP \$46,375**  
**BONUS CASH \$1,000**  
**CUSTOMER RETAIL CASH \$500\***  
SPECIAL LOW APR 0% 36 mos., .9% 48 mos., 1.9% 60 mos., 3.9% 72 mos.  
*\*Must finance with Ford Motor Credit*

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**2024 FORD EDGE SEL AWD**  
STOCK #24100T  
**MSRP \$43,705**  
**BONUS CASH \$1,500**  
**CUSTOMER RETAIL CASH \$1,000\***  
SPECIAL LOW APR 0% 36 mos., .9% 48 mos., 1.9% 60 mos., 3.9% 72 mos.  
*\*Must finance with Ford Motor Credit*

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**2023 FORD BRONCO SPORT BADLANDS**  
STOCK #23151T  
**MSRP \$40,780**  
**BONUS CASH \$1,000**  
**BONUS CUSTOMER CASH \$1,000**  
**RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH \$1,000\***  
SPECIAL LOW APR 0% 36 mos., .9% 48 mos., 1.9% 60 mos., 3.9% 72 mos.  
*\*Must finance with Ford Motor Credit*

\*With approved Credit. Customer cash only available with Ford Motor Credit Financing.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Vehicle Surplus Auction

Big Bend Community Action Committee is currently conducting a public auction to sell surplus vehicles. The public can view and bid on vehicles at [www.renebates.com](http://www.renebates.com). The auction will close **January 9, 2024** Beginning at 10:00 AM CST. **A 10% BUYERS PREMIUM WILL BE ADDED TO THE FINAL SELLING PRICE.** Vehicles are located in Alpine, Marfa, and Presidio. For more information please contact 432-729-4908 ex 103.

**Selling 27 Lots Including: 10 Buses, 17 Vans.**

Location	Auction ID	YEAR	MODEL	VIN #
Alpine	A-2	2002	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN	1GAHG39R321105820
Alpine	J-3	2002	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN	1GAHG39R921108060
Alpine	C-2	2004	CHEVY ASTRO VAN	1GNDM19X64B116882
Alpine	C-35	2015	DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	2C7WDGGBG4FR686482
PRESIDIO	S-4	2002	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN	1GAHG39R021108027
PRESIDIO	C-4	1996	FORD E350 - 9 PAX BUS	1FDJE3045THA16225
PRESIDIO	C-5	2004	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN - 11 PAX	IGAGG25U541204741
PRESIDIO	C-6	1997	FORD CLUB WAGON XLT	1FMEE11L7VHA50677
PRESIDIO	C-8	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN	1GAHG35U731177437
PRESIDIO	C-9	1999	CHEVY ASTRO VAN	1GNDM19W9XB128228
PRESIDIO	C-17	2009	FORD E350 - 11 PAX BUS	1FDDE35L89DA03418
PRESIDIO	C-22	2008	CHEVY UPLANDER VAN	1GNV23168D210732
PRESIDIO	C-27	2008	CHEVY UPLANDER VAN	1GNV23198D210689
PRESIDIO	C-29	2010	FORD E350 - 10 PAX BUS	1FDDE35S39DA92306
PRESIDIO	C-36	2016	FORD E350 - 12 PAX BUS	1FDDE3FS2GDC16254
PRESIDIO	C-39	2017	FORD TRANSIT VAN	1FBZX2CM7HKA52971
PRESIDIO	C-47	2018	FORD TRANSIT VAN	1FBZX2CM2JKB31602
PRESIDIO	C-49	2018	FORD TRANSIT VAN	1FBZX2CM5JKB31609
PRESIDIO	C-50	2019	FORD TRANSIT VAN	1FBZX2CM4KKB57541
PRESIDIO	C-51	2019	FORD TRANSIT VAN	1FBZX2CM2KKB57537
MARFA	C-3	2005	CHEVY ASTRO VAN	1GNDM19X85B117730
MARFA	C-18	2009	FORD SUPREME - 12 PAX BUS	1FDDE35L99DA01306
MARFA	C-28	2009	FORD EL DORADO-BUS	1FDDE35SX9DA90620
MARFA	C-32	2013	FORD EL DORADO - 12 PAX BUS	1FDDE3FS8DDB00102
MARFA	C-33	2013	FORD ELDORADO - 12 PAX BUS	1FDDE3FSXDDDB00103
MARFA	C-34	2001	FORD E350 - 9 PAX BUS	1FDWE35S21HB19500
MARFA	196	2009	FORD E350 - 12 PAX BUS	1FDDE35S89DA67255

**WATER • FROM 1**

the west side of town, which is the Sunny Glen well field. “We were not afraid of water not being in the ground, but we know we have equipment issues. Pumps break, lightning strikes, and repairs need to be made,” Antrim said.

When two wells go out of commission at the same time, there is a dramatic effect on the city’s water system in that part of town. There has also been an ongoing issue for years with one of the storage tanks, it will fill up but not maintain its water level.

The possibilities of adding new wells into the system have also been discussed. In years past, the city has actually removed wells from its roster, some of which may be brought back into the fold, as the city has begun the inquiry process with TCEQ.

All of these issues, questions, and possibilities boil down to a need for the expertise of an engineering evaluation, to understand the intricacies of the factors of elevation, storage, flow, and production.

This is where the Jacob and Martin company comes in. Hired in 2020, according to Antrim, they have been assigned multiple tasks. At this particular workshop, engineer Kirt Harle P.E. was present via Zoom to share the company’s studies thus far.

The city tasked JM with performing a feasibility study to determine if the water system has the capacity to serve the proposed Sky Way Gardens development located off Lechuguilla

Lane. The study found that due to the elevation of the site, it is not feasible to serve the development from the Lower Hill Tank alone.

The feasibility study revealed a much larger area of concern in the Lower Hill Pressure Plane and Harle presented potential solutions that have been discussed with the city, including possible modifications to Lower or Sul Ross Pressure Planes to increase pressures in this area of the water system.

Another item on their task list has been the investigation of the water system generator installation. Due to the concerns following the “great freeze” that affected so many in Texas in the winter of 2021, the legislature passed Senate Bill 3 (SB3) requiring all water systems to prepare an Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Jacob and Martin performed a feasibility study for the city to help develop a plan to provide emergency power to all water and wastewater facilities during an emergency power outage event.

The city utilized the information in the feasibility study to prepare the Emergency Preparedness Plan that was submitted to the state. The city is also utilizing one of the options presented in the feasibility study to apply for funding through FEMA to install generators for backup power for the water system. The engineering firm is also actively assisting with the FEMA grant application.

The FEMA grant is

a 90/10, a grant to a local match, funding program. The application currently being considered by FEMA includes a fixed generator at the Musquiz Pump Station, a fixed generator at the Sunny Glen pump station, a fixed generator at the East pump station, a fixed generator at the City Yard, and the installation of manual transfer switches at each well site in the Sunny Glen and Musquiz well fields. According to Harle, with the installation of these generators, the city should be able to maintain a reliable water supply during a prolonged power outage.

Three additional concerns in the water system have also been identified by the city that warrant further investigation and study. Issues with the Pearce tank, the possible lack of sufficient well capacity in the Sunny Glen well field, and a lack of redundancy in the water system for reliable water supply in an emergency event have been brought forward.

Regarding the Pearce tank, for a considerable amount of time, the city has been unable to utilize the full capacity of the tank and has not been able to fill the tank due to a hydraulic issue in this part of the water system. The cause is currently unknown according to JM but is under investigation.

The company still has quite a bit of work to do, but in their progress, they are helping the city find the problems, and possible solutions to the problems, as well as seeking grant money to help solve the issues.

**BOARD • FROM 1**

our financials, but at this point, we just have to wait and see if they want anything else or if what I sent them is enough for approval,” Moore told the board.

The treasurer’s report was given by Loeffler due to the absence of Wood. Loeffler told the board that thanks to their vote of approval on the quote for insurance that covers directors and board members, the quote from GSM Insurors and the respective premium invoice had been paid. Loeffler also reported that the invoice for the State Fire Marshall’s Association had been paid and that the cards should be headed to them soon. In a brief discussion with AVFD member Charles Worden, Loeffler said, “I don’t know if the membership cards will be sent to each individual or if they will be sent to our post office box, but if they send them to the post office, I will get them to you all as soon as possible.”

In other reports, Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore told the board that she had received the notice that the check for the Foundation for Rural Services Grant was in the process of being sent and should be headed this way soon. She also mentioned that there were no requested purchase orders at this time.

Charles Worden reported for Chief Andrew Pierce in his absence, telling the board that since the last meeting they had received one fire call to the BBQ place located behind the Triangle Market, and that upon arrival the own-

ers had put out the grease fire that occurred in their smoker with a chemical retardant. “We told them that before they were to serve any more food, the smoker would have to be completely and thoroughly cleaned so that no chemical residue is left behind that might contaminate any food cooked in the smoker,” Worden said. Worden also reported that they had multiple calls for assistance with Emergent Air, as well as a call for fuel spills at Stripes and Uncle’s convenience stores. He also reported that members of the AVFD had recently had public radio training on how to use the radios as well as the frequencies properly. Worden told the board that he had made several phone calls to the City of Alpine to obtain maintenance records on some of the vehicles but had no response thus far, and he told the board that one of the vehicles in their fleet has a radiator leak and that they were actively looking for someone to repair it.

Brewster County Judge Greg Henington was pres-

ent at the meeting, and he stressed to the board and members of the AVFD present how important it was to get these certifications taken care of. AESB member Aaron Rodriguez along with Elmore collaborated with the direction of Henington to utilize a couple of the older laptops in Elmore’s office and set them up in the meeting room for AVFD members who did not have access to computers or internet at their homes. This would allow for these members to complete their training.

Finally, the board discussed the two members up for re-appointment for the 2024 calendar year. Board members Albert Lujan and Stephanie Elmore were originally appointed to one-year terms on the board, and both members agreed to serve again. Their next term of office would increase to a two-year term.

Before entering into executive session, Loeffler, after some discussion set the next regular meeting of the AESB for January 11 at 5:30 p.m.

**Restaurant Guide**

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

**ESPRESSO... Y POCO MAS**

Located in Terlingua Ghosttown next to La Posada Milagro Guesthouse  
432-371-3044  
www.laposadamilagro.net  
Open 8am - 2pm Mon. thru S.

Menu items (some items change daily):  
Breakfast burritos, breakfast english muffins, eggs benedict, quiche, breakfast pastries, organic fair trade coffee, espresso, cappuccino /latte /mocha, fresh squeezed juices, smoothies, homemade soups, ham /turkey / chicken breast sandwiches, Reuben sandwiches, meatloaf sandwiches, curry chicken sandwiches, rotisserie chicken & picnic lunches, fruit pies, cobblers, brownies, tres leches cake.

**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 Asado with Reata’s Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

**SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:**  
(Your choice of any two items)  
Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup  
Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich  
1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

Need help with your balance This Christmas?

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Is now offering **Holiday Loans** for the holiday season. Amounts of up to **\$1,200** for qualifying members.

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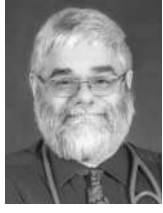
Come by and see if we can fulfill you holiday needs.\*  
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For healthcare that’s convenient and accessible to your whole family, turn to Big Bend Regional Health Clinic and our new location on O’Reilly Street. You’ll find services ranging from preventive care to treatment of chronic conditions. All with the convenience of evening hours and online scheduling. **Scheduling is easy at BigBendAnytime.com.** Conversational Spanish spoken.



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**Bob Rice, FNP-C**  
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Presidio, TX

**Clinic office hours:**  
**Thursday, Friday, Saturday**  
**7:00am-7:00pm**

**CALL TO SCHEDULE**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
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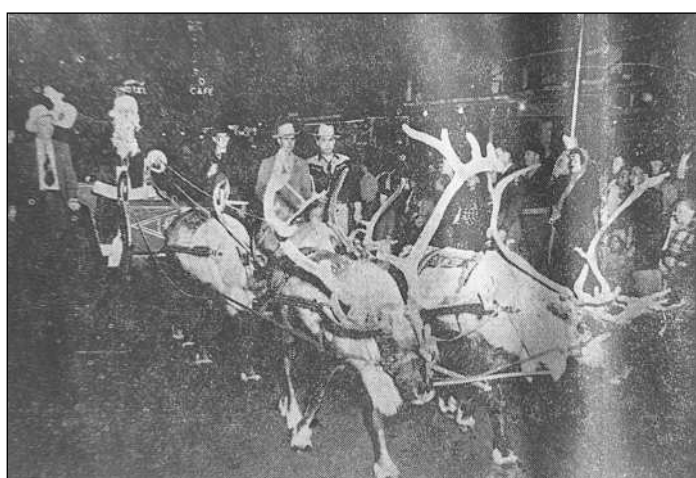
## LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

### December 1, 1950

On December 6, Santa's brightly colored sleigh drawn by four big-antlered reindeer will be in Alpine. In this photo, Santa can be seen with his trusty companions Doner, Blitzen Prancer, and Dancer. Having traveled all the way from the North Pole for Alpine's Christmas parade, all the kids will be very happy to see him.

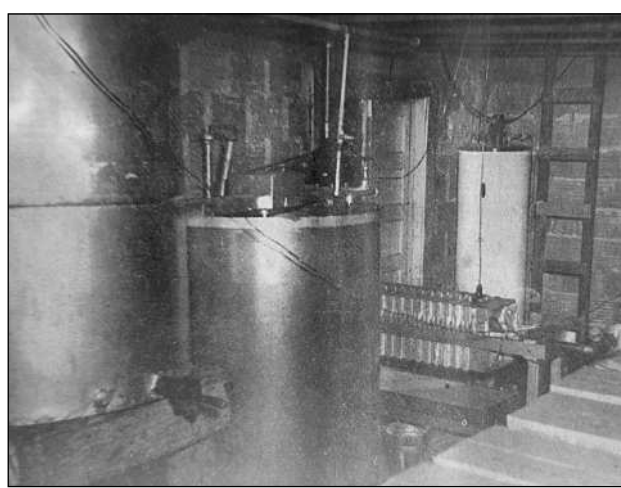


### December 1, 1950

The owners of Big Bend Honey Co., Howard and Harvey Hatch, stand next to their specially outfitted truck and trailer. Built to move bees from location to location as seasons and vegetation change, the truck is screened so that no bees are lost in transit.

### December 1, 1950

The Sul Ross Lobos have won the Lone Star Conference, their first year in that loop. Previously, they have won the New Mexico Conference title for the last three years. Many players pictured here have the distinction of never having played a losing conference game.



### December 1, 1950

Pictured here is filtering and storing equipment for the Big Bend Honey Co., based in Marathon. In the middle is a mixing and heating tank and on the right is the filtering machine which removes particles from the honey.

# Earworms in corn can be combated with mineral oil

**Dear Neil: I'd like to raise corn in my garden next year – both for eating at the table and Indian corn for decorating. Do you have any tips?**

A few. You'll find good general information in garden references and online, but my specific warnings would be that you do not plant the two types near one another. The pollen of the ornamental corn can influence the sweetness of your sweet corn. Also, plant around the average date of the last killing freeze for your area on to a couple of weeks after that date. Plant only in large squares, hopefully, 20 ft. on a side. Corn is pollinated by wind, so if you don't plant a large block that can tassel out at the same time, you'll have ears that don't fill very well. Finally, to prevent damage by corn earworms, apply a drop of mineral oil into each cluster of silks just as they're fully developed. Texas A&M has detailed information applicable to Texas gardens online.

**Dear Neil: How would Sea Green juniper do as a privacy screen across the side of our property? I tried Nellie R. Stevens hollies, and they must have gotten**

**too dry.**

Both plants are excellent, although they vary a great deal in expected mature height. Nellie R. Stevens hollies will grow to be 15 or 18 feet tall with age. Sea Green junipers may achieve seven or eight feet with 20 years of growth. You must hand-water the hollies for their first two or three years (probably the junipers as well) to be sure they don't dry out. Most of their roots initially will have been in the original soil balls from the pots, so they will dry out more rapidly than adjacent soils. Once they're established, all these plants will exist with the regular watering you give your landscape. A third candidate would be Willowleaf Hollies. Their mature

height reaches eight to 10 feet.

**Dear Neil: TxDot is going to purchase the front of our property for upcoming road expansion. At that point, we will lose three pear trees that were part of an old homestead. They are more than 100 years old, and they produce wonderful eating pears. I'd like to know what variety they are in case they can be replaced. I'm also interested in grafting if that is possible. Any advice you can give me will be appreciated.**

Hopefully, you have several very sharp photographs of your mature pears. Womack Nursery Company in DeLeon has been growing the best varieties of fruit trees based on recommendations of Texas A&M horticultur-

ists and commercial growers for the past 80 years. Their online catalog shows several of the older varieties. Pay particular attention to Keiffer. It was introduced to American gardeners in 1876, and it has been the most common in Texas home orchards because of its resistance to fire blight.

As for grafting, unless you have done a good bit of it, you may not have the precision and speed to succeed. Your county Extension office may have names of people you can hire to do grafting for you. You can also find good instructions and supplies online if you do decide to give it a try.

**Dear Neil: I fertilized my St. Augustine a couple of months ago with 7-2-2. Is**

**there anything I should be putting down in January or February to prepare the lawn for another hot summer?**

Nothing that early. The first feeding would come 2-4 weeks after the last killing freeze in the spring. St. Augustine is a sub-tropical grass, so it goes pretty much dormant while it's cold. You could ramp up the nitrogen content of your lawn food if you wish, even to the point of having no phosphorus (the middle number of the analysis). Soil test results from Texas A&M regularly show that we have accumulations

of phosphorus in our soils. They tell us that adding more phosphorus could be harmful to our plants as it causes the insolubility of several minor elements. Ideal timing for feedings: early to mid-April, early to mid-June, and early September. Don't apply nitrogen (first number of the analysis) in the heat of the summer or you will risk initiating gray leaf spot fungus.

*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.*

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry



### ACROSS

- TX Ann Sheridan 1949 film: "I \_\_\_ Male War Bride"
- \_\_\_ gallon hat
- pleased
- TXism: "he \_\_\_ grip like a snappin' turtle"
- "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"
- doctors' assoc.
- a kid who's not the seeker
- TXism: "she has to \_\_\_ the same place twice to cast a shadow" (thin)
- TXism: "she could talk the legs off \_\_\_ stove"
- "Post \_\_\_" of East Texas
- Jim De \_\_\_ was an Astro starting pitcher, 1985-91
- TX Bobby Fuller's "I Fought \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ up a little"
- Texas-based "La Quinta \_\_\_ & Suites"
- golf achievement: \_\_\_-one
- gets dirt on jeans
- Comanche Peak, a nuclear power
- assist or encourage a criminal (3 wds.)
- relating to the south polar region
- Texas town or Nebraska city
- whiners

- TXism: "more than one way \_\_\_ a cat"
- "good \_\_\_ boy"
- road around a Texas city
- high school student, e.g. (2 wds.)
- intelligence agcy. of the Dept. of Defense
- TXism: "\_\_\_ barbed wire for dental floss" (tough)
- "\_\_\_, crackle, pop"
- prong on a fork

### DOWN

- TXism: "if he was a dog he wouldn't \_\_\_"
- in Cass County on highway 43
- serpent that doesn't go on land (2 wds.)
- TXism: "a day late \_\_\_ dollar short"
- lemon/lime endings
- TX Gary Morris tune "\_\_\_ Bedroom" (1991)
- stinging Texas pest: fire \_\_\_
- moon to Houston: "Eagle \_\_\_ landed"

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

- TXism: "quaking \_\_\_" (scared)
- Texas jewelry designer, Malouf
- a pen name of Texas romance novelist Sandra Brown: \_\_\_ St. Clair
- small Eurasian deer
- org. for the Spurs, Rockets & Mavs
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- former Ranger
- "closer," Henke (init.)
- jump
- TX \_\_\_ Mae sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- tilts, like a Pisa tower

- TXism: "\_\_\_ warm your gullet" (satisfy)
- "it's not a hill I'm willing to \_\_\_"
- TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ after" (resembles)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dig" (a party or dance)
- motor home (abbr.)
- TXism: "bat \_\_\_ eyelash" (blink)
- cocker \_\_\_ (dog)
- gray with a tinge of brown
- "Amos 'n' \_\_\_"

### BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

- \$75 DeWalt 108 pc. Mechanics Tool and Socket Set # 1107 264
- 14.99 As Seen On TV Battery Daddy # W 270 215
- 5.99 Duke Cannon Supply Co. 10 oz. Lump of Coal Soap # W 270 213
- 5.99 YOUR CHOICE Energizer 100 ct. Slim Wire Micro Dot LED Lights # T 105 076, 078, 079
- 14.99 YOUR CHOICE Green Thumb 22 in. Lawn & Leaf Rake or 32 in. Poly Leaf Rake # T 148 402, 403 904
- 14.99 YOUR CHOICE Energizer Max 16-pk. AA or AAA Alkaline Batteries # E 137 801, 806
- 19.99 YOUR CHOICE Holiday Wonderland 2000 ct. Mini LED Light Set # T 195 538, 540, 541

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S-1666



# Sports

## Fightin' Bucks return home from tournament

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks played several teams during the Denver City tournament. The Bucks narrowly lost a few of the games, with a 49-43 fall to Levelland, followed by a 68-60 win against Liberty, before another close loss to Slaton.

After the Slaton game, the Buck's head Basketball coach, Aaron Hardwick said, "You never want to attribute a loss to anything other than the things you are in control of; however, back-to-back games like that are extremely tough to play in."

The Bucks played in a couple of those back-to-back games during the three-day tournament.

"We take nothing away from Slaton, they played a fantastic game and at the end of the day, they got the job done," Hardwick said.

After the Denver City tournament ended, the Bucks played the Fort Hancock Mustangs in a non-district away game and won 77-42 on December 5.

Alpine led in three of the quarters of this game and tied for the other, with 27-14 in the first, 13-13 in the second, 20-5 in the third, and 17-10 in the final fourth.

"Fort Hancock was a good

### Sports Schedule

**FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL**  
Dec. 14-16 Sanderson Tournament TBD  
Dec. 19 Alpine vs Crane JV Purple 5 p.m. JV Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.

**LADYBUCKS BASKETBALL**  
Dec. 15 Compass @ Alpine JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.  
Dec. 19 Alpine vs Crane JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.

one for us. We had a little bit of a slow start but once we were able to settle in, we really did some good things. One thing we wanted to emphasize coming into this year was our defense," said Hardwick.

Hardwick and his team have been implementing that defensive work ethic in and out of the tournament and non-district games, and soon, will be utilizing it for their entry into district play.

"Throughout the young season, and in this game in particular, we have played solid team defense which has been awesome to see," Hardwick said.

On December 8, the Bucks played the San Elizario Eagles, with the Fightin' Bucks winning 55-45.

San Elizario would outshoot the Bucks in the first two quarters, 13-4 in the first and 14-13 in the second. But the Bucks had a strong rebound, winning the third quarter 15-9 and the

fourth 23-9. This turnover was due to the hard-hitting plays made in the last half. If one thing is true about the Fightin' Bucks, its that they play the whole game until it's game over, which can lead to impressive outcomes.

After this game, played at the Sul Ross Pete P. Gallego Center, Hardwick said, "The team is playing well right now. We are more committed to the defensive end this year which allows us to get out in transition. We were outrebounded by three. However, steals and deflections helped us to overcome the rebounding disadvantage."

The Bucks had a high success rate with free throws this game, with 90% success. They had five offensive rebounds and 19 defensive rebounds.

Alpine player, Daedrick Hardwick would lead the Bucks gaining 22 out of the 55-point total. Daedrick made eight field goals and one three-pointer and five out of his attempted six free throws. Evren Martinez ensured a comfortable win against San Elizario with 13 total points. Martinez succeeded with three field goals, two impressive three-point shots, and five free throws.

Senior Jace Canaba made three field goals and five free throws. Alejandro Hernandez made two field goals during



Daedrick Hardwick goes for a jump shot during warm-ups at a recent home game.

Photo by Joh Covington

this game and a successful free throw while Zane Wash made an effective field goal and Davian Fierro two free throws.

While the Bucks only had four blocks during this game,

their defense was shining. They also had 22 deflections and 13 steals and a whopping

See BUCKS • 9



Last week, the Alpine Lady Bucks held their annual parent basketball practice, where family members were invited to participate in all of the drills and skills that the Lady Bucks basketball program teaches their athletes.

Courtesy photo

## Lady Bucks enter district play

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

On December 7, the Lady Bucks entered the Denver City tournament, playing the Denver City Mustangs first, losing 65-25.

In this game against the Mustangs, the Lady Bucks fought hard but didn't withstand the attacks of the opposing team. Denver City prevailed with stronger scores in each quarter, 26-8 in the first, 14-6 in the second, 11-5 in the third, and 14-6 in the fourth.

Lady Buck Karolina Castillo still hit hard during this game, gaining her team 15 total points, with five field goals out of her 20 attempted, five successful free throws, and one defensive rebound. Castillo also had four steals and six turnovers. Her teammate Neveah Carrasco made two field goals, three offensive rebounds, and eight defensive rebounds. Carrasco also had one steal and eight turnovers.

Hope Dominguez made a field goal, four offensive rebounds, and three defensive rebounds. Dominguez would total

two assists, one steal, and four turnovers as well.

Evelyn Smith made a field goal and four turnovers while Collette Fowlkes also made a field goal, as well as two offensive rebounds, three defensive rebounds, four steals, and one block.

Later that day, the Bucks faced the Bowie Bears for their second

challenge of the tournament and won 52-46.

Bowie would outscore the Lady Bucks in the first quarter, 11-6, but Alpine turned the game around quickly. The Lady Bucks defeated the Bears, outscoring them 20-17 in the second quarter, 10-7

See LADY BUCKS • 9

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

EVREN MARTINEZ

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## CITY OF ALPINE

# Hometown Christmas Parade

Saturday December 16th

- 5-5:30 Lineup at City Hall no need to pre-register for the parade just join the lineup.
- 5:30 City tree Lighting
- 6:00 Parade steps off

Grand finale  
Alpine Visitor Center

- Big Bend Community Band
- Refreshments
- Pictures with Santa



# OBITUARIES

FROM 2

## Alfredo A. Soza



Alfredo A. Soza, an Alpine High School graduate, died in San Antonio on November 30, at the age of 57. Alfredo accomplished much in his lifetime, earning a degree in Accounting from Sul Ross University in 1989, and a law degree from Texas Tech Law School in 1992. For many years he practiced law in West Texas.

Alfredo began his law practice by opening a solo practice immediately after law school in Odessa where he handled

criminal defense, family law, personal injury, commercial litigation, and bankruptcy matters. In addition to his service

to his clients, Alfredo was dedicated to representing those without the means to hire an attorney. He was awarded the Lifetime Dedication Award by the Ector County Bar Association and Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, "In recognition of providing outstanding Pro Bono Service to the Indigent" on October 28, 2010. In addition to his pro bono service, Alfredo mentored a number of attorneys who currently practice bankruptcy law in the Permian Basin.

In 2015, he moved to

Alpine to assist with the management of Soza Realty and its investment properties. Alfredo was a self-taught carpenter, mechanic, plumber, and electrician. His wicked humor, and encyclopedic knowledge of popular culture, sports, movies, and television always made him the go-to authority on just about all topics. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren as well as hunting, fishing, target shooting, and restoring old cars and trucks.

Alfredo is survived by his parents, Robert L. and Evalina Soza, his brother, Robert L. Soza, Jr., and his wife, Roxanna Gonzales-Soza, his children Felicia Soza-Lowery and her husband, Christian Lowery, Elias Soza and his wife, Isabel Mendez, and Nina Soza as well as his grandchildren Langston and Zora Soza-Lowery.

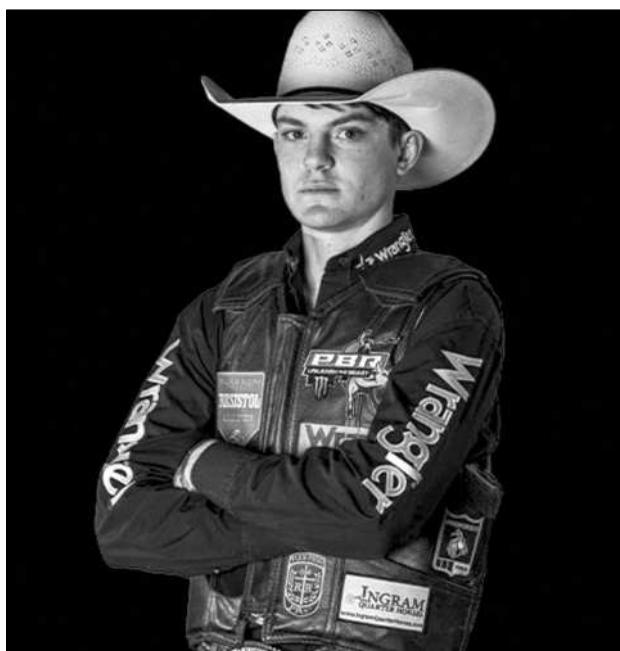
The Rosary Service will be held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 15. The Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. at

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, on Saturday, December 16, with burial to follow at Holy Angeles Cemetery and reception at Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations "In Memory of Alfredo Soza" to The Alpine Public Library at 805 West Ave. E., Alpine 79830 or at [alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org) or the Sunshine House Senior Center, 402 E. Holland Ave., Alpine 79830 or at [sunshinehousealpine.com](http://sunshinehousealpine.com).

# SRSU rodeo family rallies behind Hamilton

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor



Ky Hamilton

Courtesy photo

The 2023 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo was off to a shaky start, with opening night being postponed due to a shooting on the campus of the University of Las Vegas Nevada last Thursday. The first round instead began on Friday night at the Thomas and Mack Center, and bull rider and former Sul Ross rodeo competitor Ky Hamilton kicked things off by winning round one of the 10-round finals aboard Vitalix Theodore with a top score of 86.5.

Although this is Hamilton's fourth year to compete at the finals, last year's stand-out for Sul Ross was Tristen Hutchings, who in his rookie season would win four rounds. Hutchings was aboard Gladiator's Hammer Friday, which he covered earlier in the year for a total of 89 points at the

Cody Stampede but ended round one of this year's NFR with a no score.

In round two on Saturday night, Hamilton would take third place with a score of 78 on top of Record Rack's Viper. Hutchings would tie for fourth aboard Do Dat Ed-

die with another no-score, with Hamilton being only one of two bull riders to cover their bulls in round two.

The third go-round would see Hamilton on the leaderboard again, placing second just behind Creek Walker Young

with a score of 87.5, and Hutchings thus far has not been able to cover a bull and would be tied for fifth for the round with another no-score.

Both bull riders went into round four on Monday night with Hamilton currently sitting in second place in the world standings behind a now-injured Stetson Wright who is out for the rest of the finals and Hutchings was sitting in sixth place in the world standings. Hamilton was one of only two riders in round four to stay atop his bull. He drew Bridwell Pro Rodeos LLC's Fred, and had the top score of the evening with an 89-point ride, earning almost \$53,000 for this go-round. Hamilton is also leading the average for this year's contest with a total of 341 points on four head. Hutchings was once again unable to stay atop his round four draw, which dropped him to seventh place in the world

standings. Hamilton sustained a concussion in Tuesday night's ride in a bone chilling scare which made him inactive for yesterday's double header and as of press time on Wednesday his eligibil-

ity was unknown. With Wright out of the finals, Hamilton's coverage of his first four bulls catapulted him to the top of the world standings, pushing past Wright's previous first place standing.

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## BUCKS • FROM 8

17 turnovers. Most of the players hit hard, attempting many three-point shots and field goals.

On Tuesday, the Bucks faced the Greenwood Rangers for a non-district home game. According to Hardwick, Greenwood would be their toughest opponent this year by far.

"They are big at every position and love to use that size to disrupt you of-

fensively. They shoot a lot of three's so it is important for us to guard at a high level and finish off defensive possessions with "1st" rebounds," said Hardwick. The Bucks won, scoring 84-63

The Rangers have won two home games and four away games, they have lost two away and three neutral, with an overall record of nine wins to five losses so

far this season. Their scoring averages per quarter have been well-matched with Alpine's.

Next up, the Fightin' Bucks are scheduled to play Fort Stockton in a neutral tournament today before going on to face Kermit, Estacado, and Presidio tomorrow. The Buck's first district away game will be next week, on December 19, against Crane.

## LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

in the third, and 16-11 in the fourth.

Castillo made six field goals, seven free throws, and one offensive rebound. She also had one steal and a block. Dominguez followed up with nine offensive rebounds, and 10 defensive rebounds, in addition to five assists, steals, and field goals.

Ailea Fierro made three field goals and free throws, four offensive rebounds, five defensive rebounds, two assists, three steals, and one block. Evelyn Smith had two field goals to her name as well as seven defensive rebounds and two assists.

In this game, Fowlkes had nine defensive rebounds and four offensive rebounds. She also had one assist, steal, and a block. Masiela Miranda had five total rebounds and a steal on top of her two field goals.

On the second day of the tournament, the Lady Bucks played the Leveland Lobos, losing 88-20, and the Caprock Longhorns, falling to the other team 53-18.

The Lady Buck's first district game was scheduled for Wednesday against Presidio, after their

Tuesday game was cancelled.

Tomorrow, for their second district home game,

the Lady Bucks will go up against Compass Academy, scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

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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.

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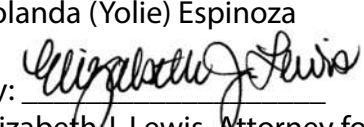
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of Administration for the **Estate of Modesto Losoya Espinoza, Deceased,** were issued on November 14, 2023, under Docket No. PR03144, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Yolanda (Yolie) Espinoza.**

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Modesto Losoya Espinoza,  
Deceased  
c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law  
SIBLEY ANDERSON LEWIS  
121 N. 6th Street  
Alpine, Texas 79830

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

DATED December 6, 2023

Yolanda (Yolie) Espinoza  
By:   
Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Representative

# OBITUARIES

FROM 2

**David Mitchell Seals**  
David Mitchell Seals, 87, of Meadowlakes, formerly of Alpine and Brownwood went to his heavenly home Wednesday, December 6 at Granite Mesa Health Center in Marble Falls. He is survived by his wife of twenty-two years, Reba Cross Seals, and three sons, Greg (Kathy,) of Spring, Geoff (Jill,) and Gary (Cyndi,) of San Antonio, as well as step-children, Justin (Lori,) Stuart (Linda,) and Kimberley (Max Johnson.) His grandchildren are Kelsey, Kaitie, and Travis. Step-grandchildren are Jarrod, Andrew, Sierra, Josh, Lacey, Logan, and Mikayla. David was also proud to claim five great-grandchildren.



David was born in Cisco to Ella (Martin) and Lowell Seals. He was a proud graduate of Reagan County High School in Big Lake and attended Uvalde Junior College and the University of North Texas. He married Peggy Jane Cheney in Uvalde in 1958 who preceded him in death in 1996. David and his family lived in Brownwood for many years where he owned a Texaco Service Station, then Exxon, and later worked for Auto Zone. He was a Mason and a Christian who was proud of going on a three-day Emmaus Walk to strengthen his faith. He was a family man, and they made many happy memories

on Lake Brownwood. In 2001 David married Reba Theus Cross in Alpine where they lived for 20 years until health concerns took them to Meadowlakes, near Marble Falls in 2021. David and Reba had been classmates in high school and met again 40 years later at a reunion. In Alpine, he was active in the First Baptist Church where he proudly served as a deacon. They delighted in hosting Grandparents Summer Camp when their grandkids were young and enjoyed making trips in a much-loved camper where he fished on all lakes and rivers where they stopped. David was an active twenty-plus-year member of the Texas Mountain Trail Writers. He was an avid reader of Texas history and published an article about Indian fight-

er and U.S. Army scout, Henry Skillman, the first stagecoach driver on the Santa Fe Trail. He presented this article at the 2004 Conference for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Another passion was researching Seals family genealogy back to ancestral families in England with whom he corresponded. They especially enjoyed the Easter and Thanksgiving holidays with the extended Seals family at the Seals campground in Oakville on the Nueces River. The family is grateful to Granite Mesa Health Center for their excellent therapy, competent care, and love for each individual in their facility. A memorial service for David is being planned in Brownwood for a later date.

## SENIOR Spotlight

# MATEO SOLIS



**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I participated in band and golf during my four years of high school, baseball as a player during my sophomore year, and as a manager during my junior and senior years. I also participated in academic UIL.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite coach would definitely have to be Coach Dominguez. He's always in a great mood no matter the circumstances and motivates you to the best of your ability.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment from the last four years has to be the time I was elected class president in my sophomore year. The experience caused me to become more confident and outspoken and I am very grateful for that.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
After high school, I plan to attend either Texas Tech or UT Austin where I will study to become a medical physician. I know God has big plans for me and through the support of my friends and family, I can do anything I set my mind to through God.

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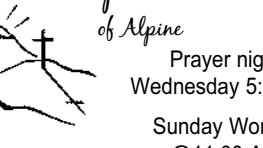
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## Devotional Page

# Helping One Another

Most of us are familiar with the Ten Commandments which God gave to Moses. However, the Ten Commandments are not the only moral laws that God gave to Moses. One example is found in Leviticus 19:9 – 10. "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God." What does this tell us about God? It tells us that God cares about all people, rich or poor, resident or alien, red or yellow, black, or white, all are precious in His sight. Because God loves them all, He expects those who believe in Him to love them too. We show that we love them by helping them. I John 3:17 – 18 asks "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

There are many fine organizations that we can donate to at Christmas. One of them, the Red Kettle Campaign, was started by a concerned member of the Salvation Army, an organization founded in 1865 by William and Catherine Booth. In 1891, Joseph McFee who was distraught about the many poor people who were going hungry in San Francisco. He wanted to provide a free Christmas Dinner to the poverty-stricken but needed a way to finance it. He remembered from his life as a sailor in England that there was an iron kettle set up at Stage Landing, and passers-by would put in a coin or two to help the poor. He set up such a kettle at another landing and received enough to fund his dinner.

Today, there are red kettles in almost every town in the United States during the Christmas season, and we are fortunate enough in Alpine to have a Salvation Army Unit and the Red Kettle Campaign. The Unit is completely run by volunteers and helps families and individuals throughout Brewster County with utility bills, food, clothing, prescriptions, and rent. All contributions stay and are used in Brewster County. From October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, the Unit distributed \$9,561.63 in assistance to 33 families or individuals. You will see volunteers at Lowe's on Friday, December 15 (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.), Saturday, December 16 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.), Friday, December 22 (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.), and Saturday, December 23 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.). Please take time to stop by, let the children see, hear, maybe ring the bells, and see you putting money into the kettle. It is a good way to demonstrate generosity to them. How much should you give? C.S. Lewis is quoted as saying, "Give more than you can spare."

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# Loving lemons



Lemon Orzo

Courtesy photo

Always a fan of lemons, they make a great addition to many dishes and desserts. Whether sweet or savory, lemons can brighten up a dish in a way that no other ingredient can. They add just the right amount of flavor and acid to balance a dish that may be too rich or add a bit of tartness to a dessert that may be too sweet.

Lemons also serve as a way to change the flavor of food without the addition of extra salt and may be used to help



## HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

tenderize proteins and “cook” them such as when used in ceviche.

One great way to utilize fresh lemons is on

pasta. When added to pasta with a few other ingredients it brings this blank-slate food item to life.

A great pasta to use with lemons is orzo. One of the best ways to use this small, versatile pasta is as a side dish using fresh lemons, parmesan cheese, garlic, salt and pepper, and olive oil, and cooking it in chicken broth. You can always substitute butter in place of the olive oil, and you can use fresh parsley, basil, or

both as a garnish along with fresh lemon slices. Vegetable broth can always be used in place of chicken broth if you want to make this dish vegetarian, and the parmesan can be substituted with Romano cheese.

Regardless of how you choose to make it, this quick pasta side dish will be a hit for the cook as well as the diners, because it will go from pot to plate in as little as 20 minutes.



LIST YOUR RENTAL HERE.

## Lemon Orzo

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided.
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic, about 2 cloves.
- 2 2/3 cup chicken broth, then more as needed.
- Salt to taste.
- 1 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest, divided.
- 8 ounces (1 1/3 cups) dry orzo pasta
- 1/3 cup finely shredded parmesan cheese.
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley, fresh basil, or both (optional for garnish.)
- 2 lemon slices for garnish (optional)

### Directions:

- Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add in garlic and sauté for 20 seconds or until fragrant and just barely deepening in color (not browning).
- Pour in chicken broth and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Stir in orzo, 3/4 teaspoon of lemon zest, and salt to taste, then reduce heat to medium-low.

- Let simmer until orzo is tender, stirring once halfway through, about 8 to 10 minutes. If pasta becomes too dry, add in more chicken broth.

- Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice, remaining tablespoon of olive oil, remaining lemon zest, parmesan, and pepper. Garnish with parsley, lemon slices, and or fresh basil if desired.

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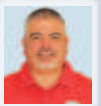
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