

Lajitas Golf Resort donates funds for emergency services

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Brewster County commissioner's court met on Tuesday, January 23 for their regularly scheduled meeting.

County Judge Greg Henington recognized the Lajitas Golf Resort's generous donation to Terlingua Fire and Emergency Management Services of \$53,000 to purchase a replacement medical oxygen machine. The services' previous machine had been purchased with a grant and had been in use for several years but recently broke down.

In internal county news, County Clerk, Sarah Vasquez, presented the eligible candidates for the Salary Grievance Committee in an envelope. Pct 2 Commissioner, Sara Colando selected the following names at random from the envelope: Lorraine Larose Reynolds, Lanyana Hernandez, and David Valenzuela. Pct. 1 Commissioner, Jim Westermann then selected the following names at random as alternates: Gilly Beggs, Nicholas Short, and Berkley Mae Clair Baker.

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FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024. 0.25"
January. 0.25"



Burn Ban ON

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ARMED FORCES,
OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER EVERY DAY.



Alpine ISD receives an A financial rating, superintendent contract renewed

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at 5 p.m. in the band hall at Alpine High School. All members of the board were present to hold the annual public hearing for the Financial Integrity Rating.

This 2022-2023 rating is based on the date from the previous 2021-2022 school year and is based on 20 different indicators, four of which the district must pass or they will automatically fail. The district must at least reach a score of 70 in order to pass the rating system. Alpine ISD received a

perfect score of 100 and an A rating which equaled superior achievement.

The four indicators required to pass or automatically end up with a failed rating are as follows.

The complete annual financial report and data submitted to the Texas Education Agency must be submitted within 30 days of either the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending upon the school district's fiscal year end date of either June 30 or August 31.

The second indicator that must be met is whether or not there was an unmodified opinion in the annual financial report on the financial statements as a whole. This means a certified public

accountant defines an unmodified opinion and the district's external auditor makes this determination.

Third, the school district must be in compliance with payment terms of all debt agreements at the end of the fiscal year, and finally, the school district must have made payments in a timely manner to the Teachers Retirement System, the Texas Workforce Commission, the IRS, and other government agencies as required.

After the public hearing



Alpine ISD CFO Chris Valenzuela

of the Financial Integrity Rating, the board adjourned the public hearing and reconvened the open meeting where they then recessed at 5:24 p.m. for the board appreciation dinner held for the trustees every January to recognize board appreciation month.

After the dinner, board President Eddie Natera reconvened the open meeting at 7:04 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Chief Financial Officer Chris Valenzuela who presented the financial report for the month of December.

Currently, Valenzuela reported that the district had received just over 38% of the expected tax revenue from the last quarter of 2023 for the current year.

He also reported that the investment funds were doing well, especially Texas Class and Texas Fit because both of these funds were offering the highest interest rates and that there were periodic transfers from the fund balance to these investment accounts to keep the fund balance within ideal limits and to grow the districts investment balances.

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart also mentioned that the district should know the outcome of the CAD and state comptroller discrepancies appeal, but that she did not figure the final results would benefit the district.

See AISD • 6

Fightin' Bucks unite in victory



Recently the Alpine Fightin' Bucks have dominated in Division 3A District 4 basketball, currently carrying a record of 7-0 and leading their district.

Photo by Annika Canaba

Acquisition of three historic hotels completed

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

On January 17, Collin Bibb and Brian Carrico of Byways Hospitality announced the acquisition of three historic hotels, the Holland Hotel and the Maverick Inn in Alpine, and the Hotel Limpia in Fort Davis. Acquired by Four Yucca LP, which is a new group of Texas investors, they plan to implement restorations in Alpine and Fort Davis.

Bibb and Carrico founded Byways Hospitality to, "have a part in preserving the places that shaped the American West while also influencing the future of hospitality."

In a press release, the hospitality company shared that Charles Malloy, the previous owner, will remain as a partner in the next phase.

The group has begun the arduous and complicated process of detailed design and preconstruction activities and plans to begin selective demolition of the non-public portions of the hotels in the future weeks.

"We appreciate the support of the local community and are working as diligently as possible to navigate the process of historic reviews and approvals," Carrico said in the press release.

In an interview with the Avalanche, Bibb said, "For the Holland, we intend to restore it to its original Trost design." According to the founder, the layout of the ballroom and lobby will eventually reflect the "living room of Alpine" status that the location has boasted at other times in its history.

The hotel was built in 1928 by JR Holland, a



The historic Holland Hotel lobby.

Courtesy photo

local rancher, and was designed by acclaimed architect Henry Trost.

As part of that restoration process, the Century Bar & Grill closed starting January 16. However, Bibb shared that it

may be open for community events from time to time. The Century hosted an event to celebrate the Alpine community and the new chapter on January 20, which featured the beloved local band,

the Swifts. On the Fort Davis side of things, the Blue Mountain Bar & Grill will continue to remain open.

See HOLLAND • 6

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OBITUARIES

Tana Williams Stringfellow

Tana Williams Stringfellow of Alpine went to be with our Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 13.

Tana was born in Marfa on April 24, 1955, to Dewey and Ginny Williams. She attended school in Marfa until fourth grade, when the family moved to Van Horn where Tana graduated High School in 1973.

After High School, Tana moved to Fort Worth where she married Bob Penquite and they had one daughter, Ashelea Morgan Penquite. Tana was also stepmother to Bob's daughter



Shelley.

Tana and Ashelea eventually moved to Florida where Tana began her distinguished paralegal career.

In 1992 Tana was a founding member of the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations and served on this Association for 15 years. In 1993, she served as President of the Northeast Florida Paralegal Association and she also served

on the Paralegal Program Advisory Council for the University of North Florida from 1993 -1999, as well as receiving the Outstanding Alumni Award in 1996.

Tana was bestowed the distinguished award, of 2002 Paralegal of the Year Runner-Up, by a leading law magazine. Legal Assistant Today.

In 2009, Tana became a member of the Executive Committee of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. where she served until 2011.

During her career, Tana served on the Florida Bar on various committees. She was on the Standing Committee on UPL from 1992-2000, Co-chair of the Special

Committee on Paralegal Regulation from 2005-2006, and the Florida Registered Paralegal Standing Committee from 2008 until her retirement in 2018.

In 2018, Tana Stringfellow retired and moved back to Texas. She bought a home in Alpine where she volunteered for Meals on Wheels and served on the Family Crisis Center board and eventually started back to work. She enjoyed putting her skills to good use at Big Bend Title Company.

In her spare time, Tana was an avid gardener and loved her herbs and flowers, especially using them in her own cooking. She enjoyed hunting and

shooting with family, was avid about natural health, and was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa.

Tana is preceded in death by her parents Dewey and Virginia (Ginny) Williams of Fort Davis and nephew Logan Williams of Alpine.

Tana is survived by her daughter; Ashelea Penquite of Tennessee, her brother and his wife; Mike and Leslie Earline Williams of Alpine, niece, and her husband; Michelle and Kacee Murff of Junction, nephew and his wife; Lance and Judy Williams of

Perrin, and three great nieces and five great-nephews.

A visitation was held on Monday, January 22 at 8 a.m. followed by a funeral service at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue in Alpine.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Family Crisis Center of Big Bend, The National Diabetes Association, or a charity of your choice.

Services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Chester Wilson

Chester "Chet" Wilson passed away on January 10. He was born on December 26, 1930, to Lee Arthur and Claire Wilson in Rocksprings. He grew up in Del Rio where he met and married Pherba Lee Fisher on January 27, 1950.

Chet enlisted in the military and was a veteran of the Korean War. He later joined the US Border Patrol and graduated from the El Paso Border Patrol Academy in 1955, serving in Arizona, California, and Texas.

He and his family moved to Alpine to open



the US Border Patrol station here in 1964. He was a member of the US Border Patrol National Pistol Shooting Team and won many honors. Chet retired from the Border Patrol in December of 1980.

He then served as Brewster County Justice of the Peace. "Judge" Wilson was known as

the "marrying judge" and performed numerous weddings in the area until he retired in 1996. After his retirement, he and Pherba traveled in their RV visiting friends and family. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and storyteller.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 64 years, Pherba, brothers Lee Arthur "Bud" Wilson, Cliff "Baby" Wilson, and his grandson Jason Sanders.

Chester Wilson is survived by his four children, Cheryl (Billy) Nelson of Duncan, OK, Raydell (Tim) Boerjan of Falfurrias, Brenda Wilson

of Alpine, Greg (Claudia) Wilson of Crowley, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his loving caretakers, Gracie Davila, Crystal Stovell, Isabel Garcia, Jamie Sanders, Claudia Wilson, Carol Hastings, and his cat "Gato".

A memorial is scheduled on January 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Legion Big Bend Post 79, 306 West Sul Ross, Alpine. Memorials can be made in his name to the National Border Patrol Museum, 4315 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Dr, El Paso, TX 79924.



A pair of Montezuma quail, commonly known as "crazy quail", visit one of the interpretive exhibits located at the Davis Mountains State Park. A large covey of the birds has been feeding almost every afternoon since mid-December.

Photo courtesy of DMSP



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Fort Davis welcomes new chamber board

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Fort Davis has welcomed a new executive leadership board for their chamber of commerce and visitor center.

Manny Dutchover was elected as the board president along with Pam Knapen who will serve the board and chamber as Executive Director. Also newly elected are Jeremy Bentley, vice president, Tenzi Pugh, treasurer, and Deana Herbert, secretary.

"Each member brings a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted passion for our community, and we are grateful for their dedication and look forward to working with them," said Knapen.

In addition to the executive board, a collective of community and business leaders have also graciously accepted the responsibility of serving Fort Davis. Local residents Myra Meads, Matt Blackman, Tim Roberts, Amanda Dyer, Jennifer Whitesell, Audrey Hurley, Suzan Moreland, James Smith, Matthew Walker, Velvet Hartnett, and Lock Ann McIvor will bring their expertise and

commitment to advance the growth and prosperity of Fort Davis.

"We are hosting an Open House scheduled for next Monday, January 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for anyone who would like to become acquainted with our new board members and or who would like to become a member of the chamber. We also want to show members of the community how we are revitalizing our office, updating our branding, and creating a welcoming space and that also reflects the spirit that is Fort Davis," Knapen added.

Along with the rebranding and updating of the visitor center offices, Knapen, and the board are updating their website so that it will better promote local businesses, area tourism, and events, and showcase the beauty and uniqueness of Fort Davis itself.

"We invite all local and area businesses to become members of the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce so that we can continue to contribute to the growth and vitality of the town and help create a thriving community for everyone," Knapen concluded.

Marfa substitute teacher indicted for child pornography

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

According to a the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, former Marfa ISD substitute teacher Sonya Conchita Murillo, 32, pleaded guilty last week in federal court to one count of production of child pornography.

Court documents based on an investigation into Murillo's former boyfriend, Patricio Javier Serrano, 36, for possessing child sexual abuse materials, videos were found showing Murillo sexually abusing a minor.

A sentencing date has not been set, but Murillo faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in

prison and a \$250,000 fine. A federal district court judge will determine her sentence after considering U.S. sentencing guidelines and other factors.

Murillo has been in federal custody since her arrest on June 7, 2023. Murillo's former boyfriend was arrested and indicted separately and has also remained in federal custody since his arrest on May 11, 2023.

Serrano was a former softball coach who pleaded guilty on October 27, 2023, to one count of transportation of child pornography, aiding and abetting, and one count of possession of child pornography. He faces no less than five and up to 20 years in prison for the trans-

portation charge, and up to 20 years in prison for the possession charge. Serrano's sentencing date has been set for February 27.

This case is being investigated by the El Paso Field Office of the FBI, Special Agent in Charge John S. Morales, HIS Special Agent in Charge Francisco Burrola, El Paso Division, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Marfa Police Department.

The announcement was made by U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza of the Western District of Texas along with Burrola and Morales. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amy Greenbaum and Kevin Cayton.

Attention all area veterans and VFW Post 7202 members

A very important meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post building located at 650 E. Avenue I.

This meeting is to discuss whether or not to continue operating or to permanently close the doors. If it is decided that shutting down is the best option, all VFW property will be acquired by the VFW State Department.

We urgently ask that all interested members, as well as non-members, attend this very important meeting.

Should it be decided to remain open, we would like to encourage non-members to join our efforts to keep the Post in operation. Non-

members interested in joining must have served in a foreign campaign, have been honorably discharged, and need to provide a copy of their DD-214. Membership applications will be available at the meeting. Those interested in joining but who are unable to attend the meeting should send documents to the following address:

VFW Post 7207
PO Box 151
Alpine, Texas 79831
Please help us continue to serve our veterans, community, state, and nation. Thank you.

For more information contact Robert Polanco at 432-386-5495.

Local hardware store receives Business of the Year award

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Big Bend Chamber of Commerce recently held its second annual Gala on January 20. During the Gala, local business Wright Hardware Store received the Business of the Year award. According to Montie Mudd of the Big Bend Chamber, the owners were surprised and very grateful to the Terlingua, Lajitas, and Study Butte communities for their continued support.



Wright Hardware Store owners Scott, Adalyn, Alye, and Austyn are pictured with their Business of the Year award for 2023.

National park seeking applications for artists

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Calling all artists. Big Bend National Park (BBNP) is currently accepting applications for an official BBNP Artist in Residence. The

residency will run for 2-4-week sessions during the months of July, August, and September. This opportunity is open to artists 18 years and older both amateur and professional. It is open to all mediums including

but not limited to painting, sculpting, photography, music, fiber, writing, and performance. For more information and to apply visit <https://www.nps.gov/.../artist-in-residence-program.htm>



Mule Ears in Big Bend National Park

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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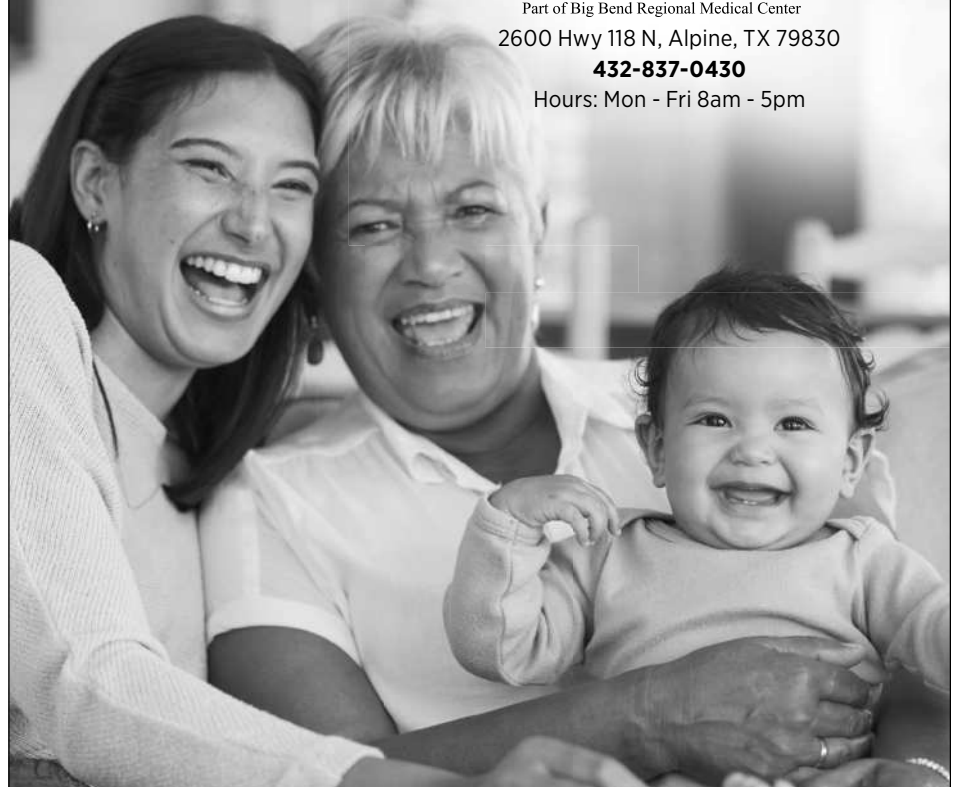
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David Nitschmann, MD, and Luis Ruiz, MD, are now offering comprehensive women's care here in Alpine. They provide care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, as well as gynecological issues like painful periods, menopause, and endometriosis. They will work closely with you to provide information that will help you make the health decisions that are right for you. To see available appointment times and to schedule, go to BigBendAnytime.com.


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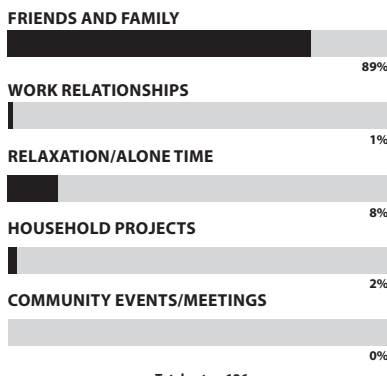
Opinions

ONLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WILL YOU DEDICATE MORE TIME TOWARDS IN 2024?

RESULTS



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Which of the following will you dedicate more time towards in 2024?

- Friends and Family
- Work Relationships
- Relaxation/Alone Time
- Household Projects
- Community Events/Meetings

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

LETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

Send your letters to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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Looking to the future

For the past two years, Ryan Stieg has served as the president of the Big Bend Livestock Association's (BBLSA) board of directors. While summer months are a bit slow for the board, Stieg says that come about September, things begin to speed up and get busy.

"The fall is obviously our busy time as a board, with the show being put on every January. My job as president has me running the monthly meetings in the fall for the organization, signing off on insurance and things of that nature when needed, and if anyone runs into an issue on anything they will consult me. Basically, I just ensure that everything goes as planned," Stieg said.

He considers this annual event a lot of fun, but it is also a lot of work and a big responsibility.

When Stieg was asked

about the future of the BBLSA and where he sees it going, his immediate response was, "I see it growing." "There is a lot of interest and families involved. Our county agent is young, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable and he is doing a good job of growing the local 4-H club. It's cool to be a part of agriculture again." "Likewise, Doug Fox keeps everything running like a well-greased wheel, and the ag barn in tip-top shape with the help of the kids," Stieg added.

As president of the BBLSA, he wants to encourage anyone in the area with young kids to become a part of the organization. There are plenty of areas where parents can volunteer their

time as part of the BBLSA and he encourages them to help lead by example.

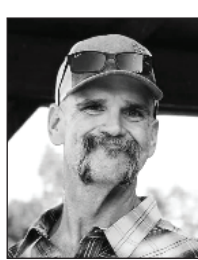
"Parents can volunteer to become board members, or on committees and we're always looking for those who have kids showing to help out during the preparation months as well as at the show itself. There are a lot of young kids that are showing, and we need their parent's help to keep making this organization and the livestock show the success it has always been," Stieg added.

If his prediction of growth is correct, the organization is set to get not only bigger but better, and it is currently doing really well.

He hopes that parents who have kids that show animals

will step up so the show is a continued success. "These kids take on a big responsibility when they embark on caring for a show animal. There's a lot of work and responsibility that goes into it, and the kids become a more well-rounded person by putting in the work and making sure their animal is the best," Stieg concluded.

All in all, Stieg wants the organization to grow in every aspect. He would like to see more kids involved, more parents involved, and more businesses becoming a part of the sale. There are a lot of moving parts to make this annual event take place and be the success it has become, and Stieg hopes that more kids and families will take part in the BBLSA to ensure a strong future for the organization as well as the participants.



RYAN STIEG
BBLSA president

Thankful for people like Cuz' Matt

"Life is simple ... either you're qualified, or you're not. — Navy submariner saying.

Matt is an ITSC with the United States Strategic Command. I know a little bit about the United States Strategic Command. Their mission is peacekeeping. But I can only imagine what the job description for an ITC looks like.

It is obviously a top security-level position. Google doesn't even know what an ITSC does. Even Matt doesn't talk much about his work. From listening to family reunion chatter, however, I'm pretty sure that Matt is a nuclear submarine commander.

I also get confused about family relationships vernacular to describe the son of a first cousin. I think it's first cousin, once removed. But other than 'Cuz,' I just call him by his name.

While I don't know exactly what Matt does, knowing he does it on a submarine means he spends a lot of time underwater. In close quarters. Often months at a time, according to his grandfather. My mother's baby brother.

I've never spent months or even days underwater in close quarters. And as my mother used to say, there's a second verse to that song. I'm not going to if I can help it.

But I did spend an hour in a submarine. Once. Well, almost an hour. A tiny sightseeing submarine in the Bahamas. In the 1980s. And that was long enough.

A "Flashback to the 50s" cruise aboard the S.S. Norway got me to the Bahamas. To enjoy entertainers like Fa-

bian, Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Coasters, the Duprees, and other singers. Music appreciated mainly by those who listened to AM radio car radios and bought 45 r.p.m. records at White's Auto store in downtown Mount Pleasant in the early 1960s.

It was a lapse of good judgment, however, that got me on the submarine. And my friendship with one of the entertainers. Gordon Stoker was a member of the Jordanaires who sang backup for Elvis Presley for 14 years, plus a host of other pop and country singers for decades.

Stoker's role on the cruise was to promote Elvis Presley Enterprises and Graceland. He and I had become friends on a previous sailing of the same cruise.

"A sightseeing submarine," Stoker said, looking at the shore excursion list for the afternoon. "You ever been on a submarine?"

Following lunch, we looked around town and headed to the designated pier address. "Submarine Sight Seeing," the sign proclaimed. But the only thing tied to the dock was one tired old Evinrude-powered ski boat.

"Submarine," a village local asked with a smile, waving toward us. Stoker and I looked at each other. "What do you think," I asked. We watched others boarding the boat, shrugged our shoulders, and boarded with them.

A quarter of a mile or so out in crystal blue Bahama waters, the overloaded ski rig

met a vessel floating just below the water line. It closely resembled a submarine. Only smaller. After tying up to the tiny sub, the same smiling islander-turned-worn-out ski boat driver pointed to the hatch. "Enter. Please. Watch step."

I looked longingly back at the city's shoreline. "Come on," said Stoker. "It will be fun."

Squeezed inside, we met our newest close friends. Literally, sitting in two rows, back-to-back and shoulder-to-shoulder on one center bench. Noses glued to a row of windows offering a panoramic view into the underwater world of marine life.

"We're packed in here like sardines," I said, seeking some humor for comfort. No one laughed.

Strains of soft music and floral fragrance begin to fill the air. "We're going down," I told Stoker as the miniature sub started moving.

"Poor choice of words," he retorted. "Can we agree on something like 'we're submerging?'"

The "captain's" welcome and assurance that in an "unlikely" loss of power, the sardine can was designed to automatically float to the surface did little to make me feel at ease.

Then something strange and suspicious began to happen. Was it the elevator music? Maybe the magnificent sights of the ocean's depths? Could it have been that funny fragrance infused into the oxygen supply?

Whatever it was, tensions disappeared. Fears subsided. I didn't care that a baker's dozen of us were descending into the deep packed in a so-called submarine the size of a Volkswagen microbus.

"Oohs and aahs," abounded. "Man," I said, surveying the underwater world. "Would you look at that?"

Then, it was over. Short of an hour later, we surfaced. Right next to the waiting used car lot boat with the local islander. Still smiling and waving.

The platoon of new submariners, now best friends, was hugging. Exchanging business cards and mailing addresses. Vowing to write.

Strolling back to the ship, the euphoric feeling from the underwater utopia began to wear off. "Well, that was different," offered Stoker. "You think that perfumy stuff they pumped into the air was legal?"

"I'm wondering if they sell it," I chuckled.

"Would you do it again?" "Not in a million years," I said. "If I want another look at fishes from the deep, I'll buy an aquarium."

It was decisively decided that day long ago, that I was not qualified for the life of a submariner. Remembering the experience, however, I thank God for people like Cuz' Matt. Doing whatever it is that an ITSC does every day. So that Americans can do what I do best every night.

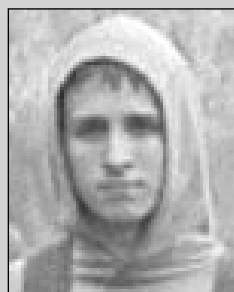
Sleep soundly and safely. —Contact Leon Aldridge at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns are archived at leonaldridge.com

Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "Are you a night owl or an early bird?"



Daniel Croft: Early bird. Staying in bed is tempting, but I know that the earlier I get up and get my day started, the better my day usually is.



David Baker: Really neither. I like sleeping more than staying up late or getting up early. So, is there a third option? Not a night owl, early bird, but a sloth instead maybe?



Delaney Fox: I am absolutely a night owl. The second that the sun goes down it's like I get a second wind and suddenly can be so productive. I wash my dishes, organize, and do paperwork, all after dark.



Janette Wright: I think I am a night owl. Maybe later in life, I will be an early bird, but right now the day always catches up with me at the end.



Krista Roar: I don't wake up as early as I could, but I am still a morning person. I kind of wake up in a good mood, which drives my grumpy-in-the-morning loved ones crazy.

PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Cookie. Cookie is the sweetest. She came into the shelter in November after her owner could no longer care for her, no fault of her own.

Cookie makes friends with other dogs and has lived with a cat, although she only likes her cats. She will chase a stray cat outside. This little lady will make a great cuddling partner or walking partner and enjoys both. She does require a secure fence. If you have that, you are golden. She will stick around and enjoy her time with you. Does Cookie sound like your new best friend?

Did last week's bitter cold catch you off-

guard? Or do you know someone who needs warm clothing? Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store always has a wide range of clothing for all seasons. Buying clothing at a thrift store is an environmentally friendly way to change out your wardrobe often.

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, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 25-Feb. 21 Big Bend Area Softball Association Registration, Registration for the BBASA softball opened on Jan. 21 and will close on Feb. 21. Birth certificates, face masks, and batting helmets are required for all players. To register for T-ball or softball visit the BBASA Facebook page.

Jan. 26 Travel Talk, 7 p.m. in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room at Alpine Public Library featuring Matt Walter's "Driving the Icefields Parkway in the Canadian Rockies." Call 432-837-2621 for more information.

Jan. 28 Free Movie Showing, 3 p.m. at the Alpine First Assembly of God. The movie "No Vacancy" will be shown, and popcorn and bottled water will be served. The movie is based on a true story about a church in Florida.

Jan. 29 Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Open House including an open membership enrollment and to meet board members. Refreshments provided. Call 432-426-3015 for more information.

Feb. 3 SRSU Guided and Informative Hike, 9 a.m. A guided hike open to the public up Hancock Hill themed "Big Game" will be led by Justin French, Big Game Specialist for the Borderlands Research Institute.

Feb. 10 Valentine's Day PJ Story Time, 6 p.m. for ages 4-12 at the Alpine Public Library.

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 bbc-chorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Celebrate Recovery, at Big Bend Cowboy Church on Thursday evenings from 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.

Exercise Classes, at Sunshine House, 402 E. Holland Ave. Tuesdays-yoga and balance, Thursdays-strength and conditioning. 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free to all. Contact Cindy at 512-423-2409 for more details.

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

Hike with Homeless Dogs, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Thursday at Davis Mountains State Park in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x 301.

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.

Animal helpers for BBNP



Henry and Cash are two of the mules owned by Big Bend National Park. Mules are used by rangers to haul heavy loads in difficult terrain. These boys haul everything from coolers to check logs, to even self-emptying dirt bags to help rangers keep the park and its trails visitor-ready.

Photo by Jason Gablaski-NPS

New railroad construction underway



Construction crews work on building a new tower on Murphy Street for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Photo by Joh Covington

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

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AIISD • FROM 1

Next on the agenda the board approved the consent agenda items, followed by the approval of accepting donations from the Buck Band Boosters to go to the March 360 program run by Alpine High School band director Anna Holmes. Holmes uses this money for choreography and props during marching season for the band.

Following the approval of these two items, the board approved the order calling for a general election, and then a discussion and approval for quotes for field maintenance of Kokernot Field were approved. The board approved a quote from Big Bend Concrete in the amount of \$45,000 to repair the warning track around the edges of the field that have suffered from erosion and have left a significant difference in elevation causing injuries to players. The cost

of this repair will be split once again between Sul Ross who will pay a third of the cost, Alpine ISD will cover two-thirds of the cost using HOT funds, and they will also use the last \$2,000 from the annual lease fee from the Alpine Cowboys baseball club. Athletic Director Andy Smith said, "Beginning this week, we hope to get started working on tilling up the area and then spraying for weeds so that everything can be ready when the contractors come in to do their work. They will measure and cut out the edges of the field and then bring in caliche which they will pack down and follow up with decomposed granite so that when the heavy winds and the rain come it won't blow away or wash away like just typical dirt. I expect that with this repair we will easily see 10 years of use before it needs to be

addressed again."

Next on the agenda was the approval of renewing the retainer for Walsh Gallegos, the law firm used by the district, the approval of the renewal of the MSB (Medicaid Billing) contract, the food services contract from West Texas Food Services, and three grant resolutions from the Criminal Justice Grant Programs for fiscal 2025, which includes a grant that helps fund one of the three district SRO's, a juvenile justice and truancy prevention grant that pays a portion of the salary of an assistant principal so that they can track and manage truancy, and a general victim assistance program grant that helps fund a licensed professional counselor for the district. All of the above were approved unanimously.

After the approval of the contracts and grants, Rinehart gave a brief report and

update on the individual campuses and programs and things that were ongoing and being implemented such as a campus-wide behavior system at Alpine Elementary, a comprehensive character education program at Alpine Middle School, which she noted, "Character is a set of skills, not a personality as many people may believe." She also remarked on the low number of STAAR re-tests at Alpine High School, where AHS principal Jarrett Vickers told the board that everyone who had to re-test in U.S. History passed and there was only a single individual who had to re-test in biology and they passed as well, with everyone meeting or many even exceeding the meets level of achievement. Vickers did comment, "English I and English II is where we are struggling in terms of this test, especially the writing portion."



Rinehart ended her report by telling the board that district enrollment was currently at 905 and attendance across the district was at 95%, still just shy of the 97% the district is striving for.

After the superintendent's report, the board entered executive session at 7:53 p.m. and immediately went into the annual superintendent evaluation, as there were no personnel items to be discussed for the regular execu-

tive session.

The board reconvened into open session at 9:55 p.m. where they made the motion, voted, and approved to extend Rinehart's contract to a three-year contract, a 5% pay increase, up to \$200 per month of childcare, and up to \$500 paid annual membership fees.

The next regular meeting of the Alpine ISD will be held on February 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the administration building.

COURT • FROM 1

The Sheriff's office shared its annual report of racial profiling statistics as is required by law. For 2023, the office conducted 1,831 traffic stops. Within that number, 0.66%, or 12 stops, were Alaskan, Native American, and Indian. 4.42%, or 81 stops, were Asian or Pacific Islander. 46.86%, or 158, stops were Black persons, and Hispanic persons accounted for 44.68%, 818 stops. Of these numbers, 26% were female and 73% were male.

The court approved the budget line-item increase for the county's contribution to Hal Flander's Recycling Center from \$42,000 to \$44,100. This increase reflects the 5% increase outlined in the contract between the two entities.

Pct. 3 Commissioner, Ruben Ortega, inquired about the center's wood shredder, as it has been out of use for approximately a year. Ortega believes that since they have an agreement with the center for the facilities to be used by the members of the county, fixing the machinery is a reasonable expecta-

tion for the future.

The court approved the declaration of certain county items as salvage items. Some were approved for auction, such as a roll-top desk, and others were approved for disposal.

Then, the court unanimously approved the 2024 interlocal agreement between Pecos and Brewster County to fund the 83rd District Attorney. The two counties share the operating cost and Brewster County's share is equal to \$94,890. This amount was pre-established within the 2024 county budget.

Emergency Management Coordinator, Stephanie Elmore, gave her report during this meeting and shared that there was a Homeland Security grants meeting in Marfa with the Council of Governments. Elmore is working with Jeff Davis and Presidio County with the intent to possibly combine grants, which has a deadline that falls around February 8.

Elmore also shared that there was a hazmat incident at the federal courthouse last week. According to Elmore,

the incident was reportedly caused by a leaking HVAC system which caused the employees to evacuate due to the smell and headaches it caused.

Patty Roach, who has been contracted to lead the county audit task force, gave the court its first report. Roach and the task force have been tasked with preparing the county for audits for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 fiscal years. The goal is to have all three audits completed by the end of this calendar year.

The task force has been assigning deadlines to many offices for the necessary documents. According to Roach, there are 122 items currently available for them to work on, with more that have to be done with the auditor. As of last December, they completed 68 of those items.

Henington mentioned the importance of catching the county up in this way and preventing occurrences like this in the future.

The next regular commissioner's court meeting is scheduled for next month, Tuesday, February 13.

HOLLAND • FROM 1

"The Big Bend communities of Alpine and Fort Davis are so special, and we hope to revive these hotels into gathering places that residents can be proud of," Bibb said. "We've assembled an amazing team to execute the vision, from architecture all the way down to food and beverage."

The team that Bibb mentioned includes Alexa Management, a hospitality management company focused on boutique hotel projects in Texas, and Baldrige Architects, a nationally renowned firm with deep experience in historic preservation. Byways Hospitality has also contracted Post Oak Preservation to oversee the hotels' designation as historic landmarks and to ensure the original architecture is preserved and renovated accurately.

These efforts to remain true to the original heart of these community staples will ease the transition into a respectful and prosperous future for the properties.

The plans include a restored lobby bar, ballroom, and restaurant in the Holland Hotel, which is closer to the original design. On the other side of town, the Maverick will have an outdoor-focused offering with 20 additional rooms behind the existing hotel. Both hotels have been serving the area for generations and are temporary homes that represent the area for those who come to visit.

Fourth graders escort philanthropic organizations



Last week, these fourth graders from Alpine Elementary School met and escorted executives from the Permian Basin Area Foundation, Still Water Foundation, Texas Rural Funders, and the Meadows Foundation to meetings that were held to teach them more about the needs of Alpine ISD and to discuss future partnership interests.

Courtesy photo





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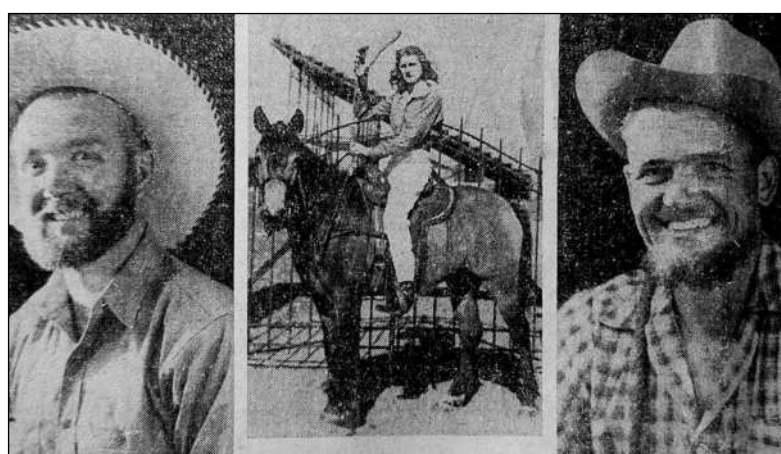
LOOKING BACK

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Alpine Avalanche

May 2, 1947

"Moe" is the canine mascot for the Airborne Unit Task Force, FRIG-ID. These two members, pictured here, leash Moe after her jump from a plane after maneuvers.

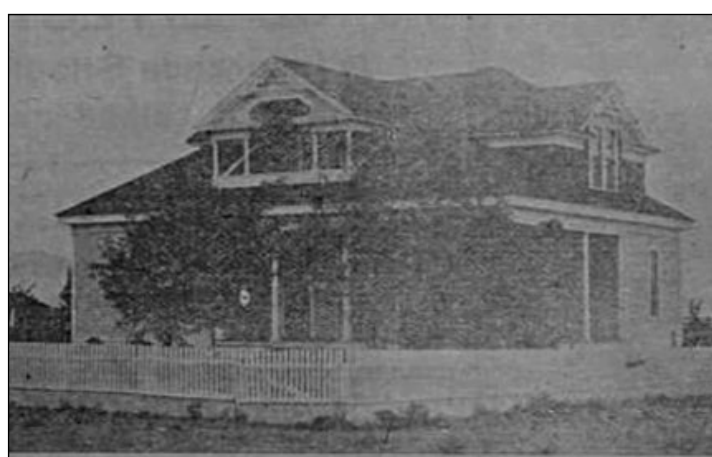


May 2, 1947

William Turner, Rosemary Beck, and Otis Parks are three Sul Ross students who are ready for the three-day Booster Club Rodeo that is set to start on Thursday.

February 16, 1911

Few people are aware that Brewster County boasts an impressive marble deposit of the finest degree. Marble Mountain is a heap of solid marble, rising 300 feet above the surrounding valleys, situated 15 miles south of Alpine. The Jordan marble quarry, pictured here, is owned by the new company out of San Antonio.



March 9, 1911

As one of the original homes built in Alpine, Mrs. A. T. Winder's house has begun to be surrounded by new developments. New homes are being established every year, but the original fine homes in the growing town will always be an inspiration.

Photos from Alpine Avalance archives at Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Sul Ross State University.

Spring is the best time to propagagate ferns

Dear Neil: I have a large Boston fern that we've been growing in a hanging basket for 10 years or longer. I have a small greenhouse, but the plant almost fills it now and its basket is nearly rusted through. Can it be divided into new plants? When would be the best time to do so?

They are often propagated in exactly that way. It may involve some wrestling, but it won't be impossible. Wait a little closer to spring, then take it out on a warm day. Soak it thoroughly. Come back an hour later and soak it again. You want the root ball very wet so it will be quite soft. Use wire cutters to remove all the old basket. Take care not to poke or scratch yourself with the rusty metal.

Use a nursery spade to slice through the root ball in several places so that you end up with your new "clumps" of roots and tops. Without seeing it, I would guess that each clump ought to be softball-sized or slightly larger. If they were mine, I'd pot them individually into 2- or 3-gallon containers filled with a very organic planting mix. Trim the fronds back by 50-70% just to make

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

the plants look more reasonable, and fertilize them with a water-soluble, all-N plant food. Put the new transplants into a shaded outdoor setting once all danger of frost has passed. That's going to mean April for most areas in Texas.

Dear Neil: I want to plant bermudagrass from seed this year. I have clay soil and I get overrun with weeds. Should I strip out the weeds with a sod cutter, then bring in topsoil or just put the topsoil on top of the clay? What is the best way to get the new grass started and when should I try?

Bermuda can grow in most clay soils as long as they're not shallow and filled with

rock or caliche. Your prime planting time for bermuda seed is May into early June. By then the ground is warm enough for the seed to sprout well, yet it's still cool and humid enough that the young seedlings should still have an easy time getting started. I would spray all existing weeds with a glyphosate-only herbicide toward the end of April. Give it two or three weeks to complete its work, then mow to remove all the browned stubble. Rototill 3-4 inches deep with a rear-tine tiller so you can pulverize the soil to the finest particle size possible. Use your garden rake turned upside-down to establish a smooth surface that drains away from your house, patio, walks, and drive.

Sow the bermuda seed at the rate of 2-4 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. Mix it with equal amounts of corn meal to

help it cover more uniformly. Spread half of it going east-west, then the other half walking north-south.

Water every day for a short period of time until the grass is up and growing, then gradually water less often but for longer intervals. Mow as soon as the bermuda reaches 1-1/2 in. in height. You want to keep the grass low and dense for the quickest cover.

Fertilize the new turf after you mow it the second time. Turf experts suggest applying a high-quality, all-nitrogen fertilizer with half of its N in a slow-release form. Apply

this first feeding at half the recommended rate, then come back one month later with a follow-up feeding at the full recommended rate.

Somewhere in there, I hope you found several things that you can try doing differently. Perhaps they will help you succeed this time around.

Dear Neil: We have a wedding shower planned for our backyard on May 5. We recently added a cabana to the area, and the construction crew killed what little bit of St. Augustine we had there. I want to have zoysia in its place, but my husband

doesn't think the seed will have time to be ready. What would you suggest?

If you want zoysia, buy sod. Talk to your local vendors now about what types they will be bringing in. It should be fully greened up, and it could be planted by mid-April to be well rooted by your May 5 date. You don't want to be starting zoysia from seed (too slow and unpredictable).

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.



Boston Fern.

ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "if he's _ he'll bark"
- 5 TX Keyes' " _ With the Wind"
- 6 former Cowboy fullback, Tommie
- 7 TXism: "feel like _ chewed up and spit out"
- 8 not needed
- 17 TXism: " _ buster" (farmer)
- 18 TX Gail Borden invented process for _ milk
- 21 ex-Cowboy Tony (init.)
- 22 TXism: "playing with a _ deck" (unlucky)
- 23 TXism: "chief cook and bottle washer"
- 24 LBJ was 1st in U.S. House to _ after Pearl Harbor
- 29 Lady _ Johnson
- 30 dinosaur tracks town: _ Rose
- 31 Stephen F. Austin's home state (abbr.)
- 32 TXism: "smart as _ rat"
- 34 pigeon- _
- 35 TXism: " _ wit"
- 36 TXism: " _ _ wolves clothes"
- 37 wedding cake layer
- 38 Gulf steering wheel
- 39 coyote cry
- 40 in Gray County, near Pampa
- 42 cracker craver
- 43 "Texas _" (oil)
- 44 NAFTA is a free _ agreement

- 45 many Texas roads were early stagecoach _
- 46 ex-Cowboy White (init.)
- 47 TX Robby Benson film: " _ to Billie Joe"
- 48 holiest city in Islam
- 49 city on north side of Galveston Bay
- 51 TX Harper of "Silkwood"
- 52 TX Bush: "The liberation of Kuwait _ begun"
- 53 TXism: "call _ _ day"

DOWN

- 1 driving without a seat belt is _ in Texas
- 2 in Palestine: " _ Trails Celebration"
- 3 pledge part: "Texas, _ indivisible"
- 4 guests of Gambill Goose Refuge
- 9 in Super Bowl XXX it was 27-17
- 10 TXism: " _ me a bill of goods"
- 11 TXism: "blister _" (handle)
- 12 "Fighting Irish" school (abbr.)
- 13 honor. TX Ranger: Dr. Edward _ (father of H-bomb)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1673

- 14 TXism: " _ _ that like a duck needs an umbrella"
- 15 TXism: "mean _ _ old range cow"
- 16 slang for a Stetson
- 19 actor Brand who was TX Ranger Reese Bennett on "Laredo"
- 20 TX Roger Miller awards
- 22 TX Henry in the Bill Clinton administration
- 24 this Ames was "Mingo" (init.)
- 25 Spurs & Mavs org.
- 26 TXism: "quick to pull a cork"
- 27 TXism: " _ _ water" (trouble)
- 28 shish kebob prong
- 29 TXism: "get your nest _" (be still)
- 30 TX actress Vinson film: "The Thin Man _ Home" (1945)
- 33 noted film director, Otto (init.)
- 34 pickup rubber
- 35 between Lamar & Hopkins Counties
- 37 TXism: "he'd walk himself _ _ a revolving door"
- 38 ex-Cowboy Hudson coach Hudson
- 41 TX Buddy Holly hit: "Not _ _ _"
- 42 "little" in Mexico
- 45 antique autos
- 48 historic " _ _ Houston House" in Independence, TX
- 50 TXism: "couldn't _ _ drum" (loser)

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Sports

Bucks tip Presidio by one point, topple Compass Academy

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks fought tooth and nail for victory last Tuesday in a district home game against the Presidio Blue Devils.

"It is always an exciting game when we face off against Presidio," said Aaron Hardwick, the head basketball coach for the Bucks.

The Blue Devils jumped ahead in the first half of the game, leading 20-14 in the first quarter, and ending in the lead 28-24. However, the Bucks have developed the habit of playing hard until the end of any game.

The Blue Devils maintained their lead by six points in the third quarter, 39-33, but the Bucks leveled up their offensive moves drastically in the prodigal fourth quarter.

"The Bucks always hit hard after halftime when needed and that final quar-

ter was no exception. I was glad we were able to turn it on when we needed it the most," said Hardwick.

When Alpine was still behind 33-41, Jace Canaba made a three-point field goal followed by two free throws and Daedrick Hardwick followed up with a two-point field goal. These scores boosted Alpine's points on the board to 40, and close on the heels of Presidio's 42 points.

The Blue Devils made two more free throws before Hardwick and Canaba each made two-point field goals which pulled the Alpine team ahead momentarily, 44-46. The two teams were neck and neck for a short time until Canaba scored another three-point field goal.

After some timeouts and fouls for both teams, a final two-point field goal pushed the Bucks past the Blue Devils, with a final score of 51-50.

When asked what he

thought this game showcased for the Alpine team, Hardwick said that they were able to show that they could win in different ways.

"We pride ourselves on the defense and that was no different in this ball game. The discussion at halftime was to attack their defense. I felt like we were settling and waiting for them to set their defense before we attacked. Once the team was able to settle in and begin attacking, we did some good things offensively," said Hardwick.

The next game that the Bucks played was in Odessa, against the Compass Academy team in a district away game on Friday, January 19.

Canaba, Hardwick, and Ferris Daley were the score leaders for this game, but nearly every Fightin' Buck player put points on the board. The Bucks toppled Compass Academy 81-34.

On Tuesday, the Bucks went up against the Crane Golden Cranes in another

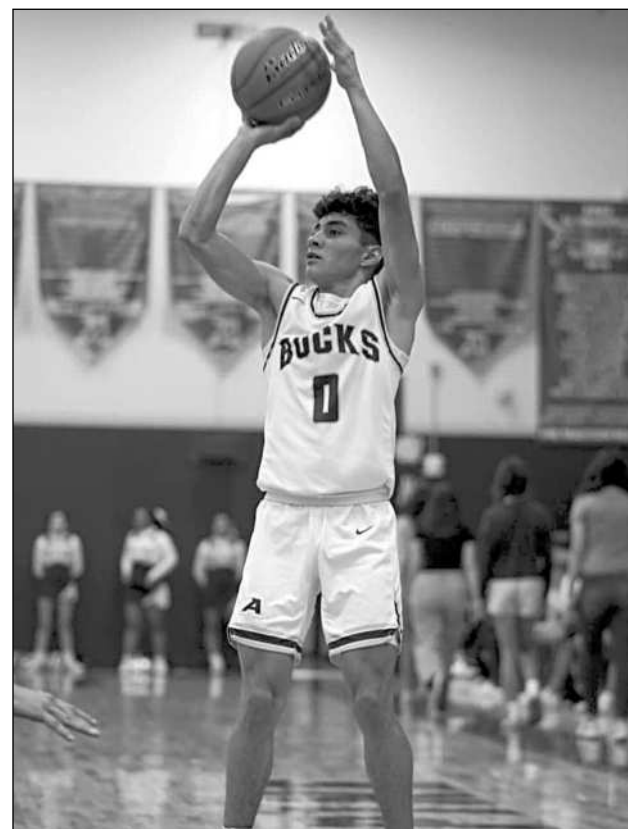
district home game.

Before the game with Crane Hardwick said, "Right now, we are in first place in the district. Our goal is to be district champs. So, we must take care of one game at a time and that starts this week with Crane."

"Coach Garza is a smart veteran coach, and I am certain he will make adjustments. For us, the message all year long has been to control what we can control. If we do that, everything will take care of itself," said Hardwick.

The Bucks won the district opener against Crane 62-38 back in December. This second meeting against the Golden Cranes was a repeat of the district opener. The Bucks beat Crane 72-43 in this second matchup.

Next, the Bucks are scheduled to play the Stanton Buffalos in a district away game on Friday, January 26.



Evren Martinez shoots the ball at a recent home game.

Photo by Annika Canaba.

Lady Bucks advance in district

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Alpine Lady Bucks battled it out for the win in a district home game last week with the Presidio Blue Devils. After the Blue Devils led on the scoreboard for the entire first half, the Lady Bucks impressively rebounded in the second, topping the guest team 40-38.

"I believe this game showcased the simple fact that our girls just don't know how to quit. They have a 'We are not scared of anybody, and we don't know how to quit mentality,'" said Christopher Virdell, head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks.

The game had a rough start for the home team, with Presidio jumping ahead 17 points to Alpine's eight, and they kept the lead in the second quarter by adding nine points and the Bucks gaining only six more. The first half ended with Alpine behind 14-26.

"Both teams were on point with defense and their defensive schemes. Which made running an offensive set very difficult, but I was very happy with our patience and shot selection when we did have to set up in a set," Virdell said.

During halftime, Virdell said that the discussion revolved around their team, not their opponents. The coach was confident in his team's abilities and even told them that they were going to win the game.

"All the fundamentals, x's and o's are great, but in a game like that, it comes

down to who wants it more. I did not have to say much during timeouts, they knew. The only thing I really had to harp on was make a mistake at 100% and when you do, forget about it, fix it, and on to the next play," said Virdell.

According to the coach, seniors Novah Carrasco and Ali Maroney were leading those conversations in the huddle, and they just kept hammering the fact that they had to want it more.

The tide of the game changed dramatically in the second half, especially in the third quarter when the Lady Bucks gained 18 points. However, even after that impressive turnaround, the end of the third quarter had the crowd in suspense, with Presidio leading 32-33.

"Do whatever your teams need to make sure your team wins. Details are in the small things. Box out, make easy shots, limit turnovers, and take pride in your defense," said Virdell.

Among the course-changing scores during the third quarter, Novah Carrasco and Evelyn Smith each made two successful free throws, and Karolina Castillo had one as well.

"We talked the day before at practice about the same thing I have told them since we started district, each game will be a dogfight. It does not matter what happens in the first round of district, teams will be better prepared, and games get tougher. So, at halftime, I told them the same thing and added 'Let's be

tougher than they are,'" Virdell said.

The fourth quarter was where the outcome of the game was decided, and the Lady Bucks were the first to score with a free throw. Presidio then made a field goal, but Nadia Morris responded with a free throw of her own.

Ali Maroney made a two-point field goal before Presidio followed with one. Novah Carrasco tipped the Alpine team ahead with three free throws, driving their score from 35 to 38 points.

Karolina Castillo scored the final point for the Lady Bucks with a free throw and the Blue Devils had another themselves. Presidio and Alpine both had some timeouts during this quarter and the result was the Lady Bucks leading 40-38 at the buzzer for the win.

"I'm very pleased with the reserve players, each one has stepped up and done their job every game, regardless of the size of the role they play. I have seen a big difference defensively in them, and that is exactly what we want. Great defense and to run the ball as fast as we can," Virdell said.

After this success, the Lady Bucks traveled to Odessa to face Compass Academy for another district game. Novah Carrasco and Hope Dominguez were the score leaders for this game, gaining 21 and 14 points respectively.

Alpine took the lead in the first quarter 13-8 and the first half ended 23-14. Compass Academy fared well in the third quarter, gaining 15

points, to Alpine's 12. The game's outcome was decided in the fourth quarter when the Lady Bucks' point total reached 56 points and Compass Academy remained at 33.

On Tuesday, the Lady Bucks were back home for a district game to take on the Crane Golden Cranes.

Before that game, Virdell said that the upcoming Crane game was going to be the biggest game of the season for them so far.

"Winning that game will place us in a great position for a chance at the district title and help carry us through the rest of district play. I believe we are better prepared to play them now than we were in the first round. We were just getting our feet under us at that time, and we are more experienced as a team at this point," said Virdell.

The coach knew it was going to be a knockdown, drag-out game with the team making the least turnovers winning.

"Defensively we are going to have to adjust a little, but we will prepare on Monday and have a solid defensive scheme ready to go. Crane is always a rivalry game, and we expect it to be loud and exciting, we just need to take care of the little things that we focus on every day," said Virdell.

Alpine lost 53-81 against Crane.

The Lady Bucks are scheduled to play the Stanton Buffalos next, on Friday, January 26 in a district away game.



Novah Carrasco attempts a layup during a home game this month.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

Sports Schedule

Buck Basketball Jan. 26 Alpine vs Stanton* JV 5 p.m. 9th Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.	Feb. 15 WinkGLQ Feb. 22 PecosBLQ
Jan. 30 Tornillo vs Alpine* JV 5 p.m. 9th Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m.	Fightin' BuckTrack & Field Feb. 9 TBA El Paso Feb. 16 Queen City RelaysDel Rio
LadyBuckBasketball Jan. 26 Alpine vs Stanton* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.	Buck Baseball Feb. 13 Alpine vs Fort Stockton (scrimmage) JV 4:30 p.m. Varsity 7 p.m.
Jan. 30 Tornillo vs Alpine* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.	Feb. 16 Alpine vs Monahans (scrimmage) JV 4:30 p.m. Varsity 7 p.m. *Denotes District Game
Fightin' Buck Powerlifting Feb. 10 Kermit	

Girl's powerlifting takes third in Fort Stockton

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine High School girl's powerlifting team competed this past Saturday at a tournament in Fort Stockton. Out of more than 20 teams, including Midland schools and San Angelo Central, Alpine placed third overall in the competition.

"All of my girls competed well," said coach Jerry Dominguez.

Alpine had competitors in seven weight classes, consisting of the 97-pound weight class, the 105-pound weight class, the 123-pound weight class, the 132-pound weight class, the 148-pound weight class, the 165-pound weight

class, and the 181-pound weight class.

In the 97-pound weight class, Mia Morris earned second place. In the 105-pound weight class, Naida Morris earned third place.

For the 123-pound weight class, Alpine had three competitors. Hope Dominguez took 11th, Kaylee Fierro took 14th, and Ayleen Adame earned 19th place.

In the 132-pound weight class, Sierra Ruckman placed sixth, followed by Hannah Vidal in seventh, and Trinity Vega in 17th.

Once again, in the 148-pound weight class, Enyssa Fierro brought home another gold medal, placing first along with Vianney Santos



Kody Hawkins gets her game face on as she competes in this past Saturday's powerlifting meet held in Fort Stockton.

Courtesy photo

who placed 11th in this weight class. Enyssa also placed first in the Monahans tournament last week.

In the 165-pound weight class, Madalyn Warren also brought home a first-place

gold medal along with Roxell Adams who placed seventh, and Shannah Tamale who placed 16th.

Finally, in the 181-pound weight class, Kody Hawkins placed third.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ENYSSA FIERRO

Enyssa placed 1st place in her weight class at last weeks Monahans meet.

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Lobos fall and win by one

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross Lobos met the Yellow Jackets at the Gallego Center last Saturday afternoon in a nail-biter of a game. The Lobos would fight neck and neck throughout the game, but come up just shy of the win, in a crushing fall to Howard Payne 83-84.

The opening half of the game saw six lead changes between the Lobos and Yellow Jackets, where Sul Ross would start off on a 5-0 run with a jumper by Omar Ibarra followed by a three-pointer from Cailean Ables to put the Lobos ahead by three.

The Yellow Jackets would follow up with their own 5-0 run before the Lobos would tie it up with another basket from Ables. Another 5-0 run by the Lobos would start off thanks to Gabe Sanchez and Manny Flores knocking in a three, putting Sul Ross up by five.

The Lobos' lead was short-lived when the Yellow Jackets would turn the

tide on a 9-0 run putting them on top again by four.

With less than five minutes left in the first half, Howard Payne would grow their lead to 10, but the Lobos weren't done. A dunk by Tyler Jackson would play a part in a 10-0 run put up by the Lobos to tie the score at 37-all. The Yellow Jackets weren't done just yet when they put up three 3-pointers in the last two minutes of the first half. Trey Nelson would nail a 3-pointer for the Lobos followed by a shot from Ables from the paint to put the Lobos up by one, but the final 3-pointer from Howard Payne in the first half hit the net just as the buzzer sounded, leaving Sul Ross down by two at the break.

Jackson would tie up the game at 46-all to begin the second half after Howard Payne had dominated with their three-pointers in the first half, having hit 12 against the Lobos.

The tie would not last long at the top of the second half as the Yellow

Jackets used a 9-0 run to lead by nine, but Sul Ross would answer back with a 7-0 run with a three-pointer from Sanchez to bring the Lobos within two points of the Yellow Jackets.

With an 8-2 run by Howard Payne, they would pull ahead and although the Lobos rallied for seven straight points with a clutch three by Nelson and four points on the board from Myles Amason, the lead would change three more times with less than four minutes left in the game.

Amason would get fouled after a slam dunk and could capitalize on the three-point play to once again tie the game.

Tied at 75-all with minutes left on the clock, the Lobos would take the lead by one on a 4-0 run with just over a minute and a half left before the Yellow Jackets would move ahead by three, followed by Jackson cutting the lead to one, but the Lobos were unable to tie up the game

before the buzzer sounded.

Next, the Lobos hit the road to Dallas to take on the Comets of UT Dallas. Once again, the game was decided by a single point, this time in the Lobos' favor thanks to a game-winning shot by Gabe Sanchez.

This was a good win for the Lobos, as they'd not beaten the Comets since 2021 but it wasn't an easy one. The game would see 11 lead changes and 12 ties before the final points by Sul Ross brought them the victory.

Early in the first half, the Lobos and Comets would tie up the score three different times, with a three-pointer from Deveraux Minix as part of a 5-0 run. The Comets would answer back in a big way with an 18-0 run bringing the score to 24-11 with just

under six and a half minutes left on the clock, and four three-pointers as part of the points burst.

The Lobos would decrease the points deficit on a 9-0 run to trail by five with just over three minutes left in the first half. A three-pointer by Flores, four points by Amason, and a layup by Ables would put the Lobos behind by four at the half.

UT Dallas would lead by eight at the start of the second half when the Lobos would spark a 10-0 run to take a two-point lead thanks to a couple of clutch threes by Nelson and Ibarra.

The Comets would tie the game at 39-all before a dunk by Amason pushed the momentum back to the Lobos.

Nine lead changes would take place until Sul

Ross broke a 54-all tie on a layup by Nelson with just four and a half minutes left to play.

UT Dallas would use a 4-0 run with a minute and a half left to tie the score at 61 before Sanchez would hit a three to give Sul Ross the lead again.

With 26 seconds left on the clock, the Comets took another 4-0 run to lead 65-64, which prompted a timeout by Coach Webb. Nelson would then drive through the paint with a pass to Sanchez who hit the game-winning basket with seconds to go. Sul Ross currently sits 9-8 on the season, before their next contest against the University of the Ozarks they played on Saturday in Arkansas. Next up is tonight's game at the Gallego Center against Hardin-Simmons at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Lobos conquer at home, fall on the road

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

After their win over LeTourneau on the road on January 6, the Sul Ross Lady Lobos would return home to face Howard Payne University at the Gallego Center in a weekend game on January 13.

The Lobos would begin the contest trailing by two, when Victoria Aguayo would lead a 7-0 run, including a three-pointer to put Sul Ross ahead by five. After a follow-up layup by Marley Rokas, the Lobos would be up by eight, with a score of 11-3.

Howard Payne would answer back with a 5-0 run in the first quarter with just over two minutes to go, but the Lobos would close out the first with a 6-3 run to lead by six at the buzzer.

In the second quarter, Sul Ross would lead by as much as 10 points, with Rokas scoring four of the six during their 6-0 run.

Behind an 8-0 run, the Yellow Jackets were behind by two at around the six-minute mark and would then use a 5-0 run to take the lead 30-29.

A pair of free throws by Rokas would see the Lobos out in front once again until a layup on behalf of Howard Payne would put the Yellow Jackets back up by one.

With a clutch three by Koda Beltran, the Lobos were again ahead by two, but the Yellow Jackets would respond with one of its own with seconds left on the clock to take a one-point lead at the half.

With six lead changes in the third, thanks to a pair of layups by Aguayo along with a free throw and a layup by Caitlyn Corley, the Lobos would tie up the score at 47 to end the third.

The fourth quarter had the Lobos begin with a 6-0 run, followed by another to match, Sul Ross

would extend their lead to nine with just over a minute and a half left in the game thanks to Emily Bunger, Rokas, and Ariana Escalante who all tallied points in the paint.

The Lobos sealed the win over Howard Payne after a 5-0 run that would put them up by 12 with just 37 seconds left on the clock. Sul Ross would take the win at home 67 to 57.

Next up for the Lobos was a series of road trips, first to Richardson on January 18 to take on the Comets of UT Dallas followed by a visit to Clarksville, Arkansas on January 20 to battle the University of the Ozarks.

Despite an outstanding performance by Emily Bunger, the Thursday night match-up between the Lobos and the Comets led to a defeat for Sul Ross.

Sul Ross would begin the contest behind, trailing 8-0 in the first quarter before Bunger would put her team on the board with a pair of free throws. A 4-0 run with scores from Aguayo and Rokas would cut the deficit to three, but the Comets would come back with a 7-0 run to extend their lead to 10. Despite another layup from Bunger and one from Ti'Miah Jackson-Allen, the Lobos were trailing by seven at the end of the opening quarter.

Halfway through the second quarter, UT Dallas led by 11, but Sul Ross would rally on a 10-0 run with a three-pointer from Kayley Diaz and two points by Bunger and Jema Padilla. The Lobos would trail by one with two minutes left in the second before the Comets used a 4-0 run to take the lead by five. Bunger would get Sul Ross to within three with seconds left before the end of the first half, but a layup by the Comets at the buzzer

would put them ahead by five.

The Comets would dominate the third quarter, maintaining a 14-point lead over the Lobos until a jumper by Beltran would cut that lead to 11.

The final quarter would see the Comets barely outscore Sul Ross, 18-16 in the fourth, but would still hold their largest margin against the Lobos, being up by 18 with less than a minute on the clock. The Comets would win the contest 55-69.

Sul Ross would begin their contest against the Eagles in Arkansas last Saturday afternoon, holding a 6-5 with a layup by Aguayo until the Eagles jumped ahead by one.

There were four lead changes in the first quarter early on. Diaz would hit a jumper to put Sul Ross back on top by one, but this would be followed by a 6-0 run by the Eagles to put them up by five.

On a 4-0 run by Sul Ross, they would cut this lead to one with two points by Diaz and Bunger respectively. The Eagles would answer back with a 5-0 run to put them ahead by six when Rokas cut the deficit to four with a jumper with less than 30 seconds left in the quarter.

The Ozarks would outscore Sul Ross 21-12 in the second quarter, leading by as much as 17 with less than a minute and a half left in the first half of the contest.

Although the Lobos would manage to outscore the Eagles in the fourth, 17-11, it wasn't enough to take the win. Sul Ross fell to the University of the Ozarks 55-70.

Next up for the Lobos is a matchup against Hardin-Simmons tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the Gallego Center followed by a Saturday afternoon contest against McMurry University at 1 p.m.

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own their residence may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads, the appraisal district has requested an updated application, or the owner has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. A copy of a current driver's license must accompany the application. Persons who purchase their home during 2024 and the home purchased does not have an existing homestead exemption from the prior owner, the new owner may receive a prorated homestead. The proration is from the date the homeowner qualifies. Details may be obtained from your local appraisal district. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons receive all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below).

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE- EXEMPTIONS AND DEFERRAL

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead if they became 65 during 2023 or will be 65 during 2024. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their county. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead if they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral plus interest, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes. In certain situations where the disabled vet is 100% disabled, unemployable and receiving 100% disability compensation, their homestead may be completely exempt. An annual reapplication for the 100% exemption may be required by the Chief Appraiser.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121 or from their website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/02-forms.html>

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law **requires** the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. Deadline-April 15. A 30-day filing extension is available by written request.

PROTESTING PROPERTY VALUE

Taxpayers whose property value increases by at least \$1000 will be mailed a reappraisal notice stating the proposed value. The taxpayer may file a protest of the value change by completing the protest form that will be included in the notice. An informal hearing will be available to taxpayers, and if not satisfied, the taxpayer may have a formal hearing before the Bee County Appraisal Review Board.

If you have questions about any of these topics, please contact the Brewster County Appraisal District at (432) 837-2332 or come by our office at 107 W Ave E. Alpine, Texas. Other information may also be available on the Comptroller's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage permit and Late Hours Certificate by Holland BevCo, LLC d/b/a Ole Crystal Bar, to be located at 410 E. Holland Avenue, Alpine, Brewster County, Texas 79830. The Manager of said company is Deandra Allen.



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written communication skills, working
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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 seller's
disclosure of property condition. Title will be conveyed by
a special warranty deed. This is a sale by an estate and the
provisions of the Texas Estate Code shall be followed. Court
Approval is required for the sale to be fully completed.

The Estate will accept sealed bids actually received by midnight
February 9, 2023.

Minimum bid is \$20,000.00.

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 February 13, 2023 in open court
at the County Court of Brewster County. If the February 13,
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 \$20,000.00 is received, the Estate may hold another
auction.

The successful bidder must close within 2 weeks of notification
that he/she tendered the successful bid.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BREWSTER

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CAUSE NO. CVB23243

To: DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERONIMO Q. MON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF JANUARIA J. MON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF VICTOR C. MON, DECEASED, AND
ANY AND ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF ANY INTEREST, RIGHT,
OR TITLE IN: BLK 214, SEC 25 NE/4 TSTL (PROPERTY ID 13832) AND BLK 214, SEC 25 SE/4 TSTL
(PROPERTY ID 13834).

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF
YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO
ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRA-
TION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION STATED THIS
16 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023, AND FIRST AMENDED PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT
MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.**

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the petition of plaintiff at or before 10
o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days, after the date of service of this cita-
tion stated this 16 day of November, 2023, before the Honorable Roy B. Ferguson, 394th Judicial District
Court of Brewster County, Texas, at the courthouse in the city of Alpine, Texas.

Said petition was filed in said court, on the 27th day of September, 2023, in cause number CVB23243 on
the docket of said court and styled:

JAMES R. JACKSON

vs.

GERONIMO Q. MON; JANUARIA J. MON; AND VICTOR C. MON

**The nature of this cause is to wit: CLAIMS FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION AND QUITE TITLE OF
THE REAL PROPERTY MORE FULLY AND PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS THE FOLLOW-
ING: BLK 214, SEC 25 NE/4 TSTL (PROPERTY ID 13832) containing 160 acres, AND BLK 214,
AND SEC 25 SE/4 TSTL (PROPERTY ID 13834) containing 160 acres, AND FOR A DECLARATION
OF A FEE SIMPLE TITLE IN PLAINTIFF AS IS MORE FULLY SHOWN BY PLAINTIFF'S FIRST
AMENDED PETITION ON FILE IN THIS SUIT.**

The officer executing this citation shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and
mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Alpine, Brewster County, Texas this the 16 day
of November, 2023.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
CASSIE GRESHAM
14101 HWY 290 W, BLDG 1300
AUSTIN, TX 78737

Sarah Fellows Martinez, District Clerk
203 N. 7th Street
Alpine, Texas 79830

By: *Joanna Felice*



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Alpine Avalanche

Kindergarteners learn local Native American history



Alpine Elementary kindergarteners were treated to a field trip to the Museum of the Big Bend to learn more about the Big Bend area's history of Native Americans. Students were given the tour by docent and retired Sul Ross professor of history, Matt Walter.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Mia Morris

In what activities did you participate in high school?

I participated in volleyball, powerlifting, track/field, and just recently added cross country to the list.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?

Besides my mom being my rock for all four years, Coach Smith has had the biggest influence on me, and she has only been here for a short amount of time. As well as Coach Cason, all AISD staff has had such



Mia Morris

a strong impact on me, and I am truly blessed for that.

What was your favorite moment in the last

four years?

My favorite moment in the last four years was beating Crane for the district champs title in 2022, and of course spending Fridays under the stadium lights.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan on running collegiate track and studying kinesiology where I will become a personal trainer or future coach and own a business based on what I love doing most.

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Devotional Page Revelations

BY NANCY MAE ANTRIM
St. Christopher's - Hobbs, NM

Christmas is over. We began preparing for it before Thanksgiving when the stores began displaying decorations and Christmas-themed gifts. Cards were sent; gifts given; and parties held. Christmas is probably the most celebrated holiday of the year in terms of time and money spent. But it wasn't Christmas that the early church focused on, it was The Feast of the Epiphany celebrated on January 6. Epiphany, from the Greek, means "to reveal." It is a celebration of the revelations of Christ to man which began with His birth. Epiphany originally celebrated four different events or revelations. With His birth, the angels bore witness while the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bowed down before Him.

The second epiphany, the one most associated with the feast day, is the visitation of the Wise Men when Christ is revealed to the Gentiles. Two other revelations were included in the early church's Feast of Epiphany. At His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove and the voice of God declared "This is my beloved Son," revealing the Trinity. The fourth revelation occurred when Christ performed His first miracle changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana, revealing His divinity.

Eventually, these four revelations were separated into separate feast days beginning with Christmas and ending Christmastide with

Epiphany. His baptism and the wedding feast are celebrated after Epiphany. Christ is first revealed to Israel and then to the Gentiles. These are the revelations recognized by the church and celebrated. The Epiphany season lasts until Lent begins.

The early church was a church full of excitement and expectation. They awaited Christ's return which they expected to come at any time. They celebrated Epiphany not as a historical remembrance, but as a reminder that God appears to us in places and times that we do not expect.

Has the church today lost that sense of excitement and expectation?

We celebrate the feast days, but do we expect epiphanies to continue to occur? Did the people attending the wedding in Cana realize that a miracle had occurred? Certainly, Mary did because she knew who her son was. Few besides the shepherds realized what was happening at the nativity and then it took a choir of angels. The wise men followed a bright star that hadn't appeared before. Do we look for and expect epiphanies in our lives today? Do we expect a life-changing encounter with God, a revelation, an epiphany, in our lives today? Are we prepared for that? Have we even invited that encounter?

God is revealed to each of us in different ways, at different times, and in different places during our lives. The message of Epiphany is that God is here and now. The message of Epiphany is "Keep watch!" for you don't know the day or the hour when God will appear.

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~ Philippians 4:13

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NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS § BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE
 §
 BREWSTER COUNTY § DATED 12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Brewster County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on December 12, 2023, seized, levied upon, and will, on the first Tuesday in **February, 2024**, the same being the 6th day of said month, at the Brewster County Courthouse, 201 W. Ave. E, in the City of Alpine, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day beginning at 10:00 AM, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Brewster and the State of Texas, to-wit:

TXB21258, Account No(s). 108000110005020200(26406), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. LOUISE BRUEGGMANN, 20.00 acres, more or less, being the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the West 1/2 of Survey 5, Abstract 651, Certificate 678, Block G-11, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated July 17, 1937, from Texas Big Bend Land Co. to Louise Brueggmann, in Volume 87, Page 295, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$14,000.00

TXB21262, Account No(s). 109000120013024830(26646), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. EMETERIO M DAGDAGAN, 40.00 acres, more or less, being the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 13, Block G-12, GC & SF RR Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated November 24, 1975, from Terramar Corporation to Emeterio M. Dagagan etal, in Volume 211, Page 328, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$24,000.00

TXB21263, Account No(s). 103000040209275000(25448), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. JAN-KEVIN VESEY, 40.00 acres, more or less, being the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 209, Block G-4, as described in deed dated November 23, 2011, from Robert L. Smith II Estate, Zana L. Smith, Administrator to Jan-Kevin Vesey, in Volume 275, Page 760, Official Public Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$13,200.00

TXB21271, Account No(s). 018000150021200010(24563), BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL VS. W H DAVIS, The Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 out of Survey 21, Block 15, G. H. & S. A. Ry. Cop. Land, Brewster County, Texas, as described in deed dated January 2, 1915, from F. C. Bennett to W. H. Davis, in Volume 33, Page 310, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$12,000.00

TXB21273, Account No(s). 973500030008000000(11730), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. TERENCE CHAMBERLIN, Lot 8, Block 3, North Heights Addition, an addition to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Envelope 63, Plat Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$77,261.00

TXB22301, Account No(s). 032002150010794000(14122), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. CLYDE E. THROWER, AKA CLYDE EDWARD THROWER, ET AL, 5.00 acres, more or less, being Tract F-794, Section 10, Block 215, T & ST L RR Co. Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 3, Page 13, Map Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$2,500.00

TXB22301, Account No(s). 103000040232290000(25771), BREWSTER COUNTY VS. CLYDE E. THROWER, AKA CLYDE EDWARD THROWER, ET AL, 40.00 acres, more or less, being Tract 290 in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 232, Block G-4, H.E. & W.T RR. Co. Original Grantee, Brewster County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 210, Page 424, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas., with an adjudged value of \$13,200.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Brewster County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Dated at Alpine, Texas, _____

 Sheriff Ronny Dodson
 Brewster County, Texas

By: _____
 Deputy

Notes:
 The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP., attorney for plaintiffs, at (432) 332-9047

THIS SALE IS BEING CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO STATUTORY OR JUDICIAL REQUIREMENTS. BIDDERS WILL BID ON THE RIGHTS, TITLE, AND INTERESTS, IF ANY, OWNED BY THE DEFENDANT(S) IN SUCH SUIT(S) IN AND TO THE REAL PROPERTY OFFERED.

THE PROPERTY IS SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS, AND WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. NEITHER THE COUNTY NOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WARRANTS OR MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE PROPERTY'S TITLE, CONDITION, HABITABILITY, MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. BUYERS ASSUME ALL RISKS.

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ABSTRACT AND TITLE



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A hearty meal even Elvis would be proud of

Always on the lookout for something simple and filling, recently I came across a recipe that sounded intriguing. This recipe, courtesy of Command Cooking is an all-in-one meal you could really sink your teeth into and is just as satisfying as those songs that most folks love from the king of rock and roll.

A version of the traditional Cajun-style dirty rice, jailhouse rice takes everything just one step further. Kinda like Elvis.

While dirty rice is filling and delicious, jailhouse rice is packed full of not only ground beef but also sausage, and the rice is cooked in chicken broth and creamy soups. The addition of the creamy soups gives this meal a velvety texture that pairs well with its savory flavors of garlic and onion. It is in a word, satisfying.

Although this simple dish, is just that, it takes a bit of time to cook. It also serves 14 people, so if you're expecting a crowd or just cooking for a bunch of friends and



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

you don't want anything super difficult, this might be the dish for you.

Frequently I get together with friends and we take turns cooking a meal. One of my friends has developed food allergies, one of them being dairy. Because of this, dishes I might normally make have really had me going back to the drawing board to see how the recipes can be tweaked so that my friend doesn't have to miss out.

For this dish, instead of grabbing Campbell's canned soups, it required a bit of research on my part on how to go about modifying the recipe to accommodate the dairy allergy. One of the best substitutes is unsweetened



Jailhouse Rice

Courtesy photo

Jailhouse Rice

Ingredients

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 lb. ground sausage
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder or fresh minced garlic
- 1 large, finely diced onion
- 2 cups finely diced celery
- 2 cans of chicken broth
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can cream of onion soup
- 2 cups long-grain white rice, raw
- Parsley, optional, to taste and or for garnish

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
- Add the ground beef, sausage, salt, pepper, and garlic to a skillet and cook and crumble until browned.
- Halfway through cooking the meat, add the diced onion and celery, cook them with the meat, and cook until tender.
- Whisk together the broth, celery, and onion soup until smooth.
- Pour the soup mixture into the skillet and stir to combine.
- Cook until the mixture starts to bubble.
- Gently stir in the rice.
- Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish and cover tightly with foil.
- Bake the mixture until the rice is cooked through, about one hour to one hour and 20 minutes.
- Remove from the oven and let stand, covered for 15 minutes.
- Remove the cover and fluff the rice with a fork.
- Serve and garnish with parsley if desired.

coconut milk. It has a high concentration of fat, so it behaves just as milk would in many ways and can thicken a dish that would normally require milk or heavy cream.

Now, as I've mentioned in the past, I'm a bit of a mad scientist in the kitchen, and this is certainly no exception due to the substitutions. So, how might you go about replacing the cream of celery and cream of onion soups that go into jailhouse rice? Well, let me tell you how I went about it.

A can of store-bought soup is roughly 10.5 ounces. There's really no way you can easily make just that amount of each of the two soups needed, but here's where the magic comes in. Because you have to use both diced onion and celery on top of the cream of onion and celery soups, you can buy extra and use enough of each to make a combination of the two soups to kill two birds with one stone as the saying goes.

Making non-dairy cream of celery and or onion soup just cuts out the dairy, and while celery is not used to make cream of onion, onion, and leeks

are used to make cream of celery. Both use a decent amount of garlic, so dicing up an onion, several stalks of celery, a small to medium-sized leek, and sautéing them in olive oil, and then cooking them down in chicken or vegetable broth until soft will impart the same flavors being called for.

Once your onion, leek, and celery are cooked down and the flavors incorporated, add in your full-fat coconut milk, and place it in a blender, or use an immersion blender to blend to a pureed thick and smooth consistency.

It's a few extra steps from just dumping in a can of soup, but it is so worth it when your friends can share in what you make and not have to worry about an allergic reaction.

Therefore, whether you go about this satisfying jailhouse rice the open-and-dump way or take a few extra steps and cut out the dairy, it is sure to make your tastebuds rock out.

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