

## New thrift store benefits child victims

BY SHANNA SULLIVAN  
Guest Columnist

Amidst the vast landscapes of West Texas, a beacon of hope is shining bright as the Children's Advocacy Center of the Big Bend (CACBB) proudly unveils Charity Thrift, a thrift store with a purpose. To support child victims in the Big Bend by closing the financial gap between grant contributions that allow this non-profit to service the children of the Big Bend area.

The grand opening festivities are set to captivate the community today from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the much-anticipated location, 402 South Walker, South HWY 118 in the old Big Bend Yoga building.

The CACBB is one of 70 child advocacy centers in the state of Texas. This child advocacy center is a private 501(c) 3 established in 1998. Shanna Sullivan is the current and founding director, with offices in Alpine and Presidio.

For over 25 years, the CACBB has been a pillar

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## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024. . . . .0.25"  
January. . . . .0.25"



**Burn Ban ON**

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



# Cowboy Poetry slated for mid-month

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering will take place on the campus of Sul Ross State University February 15-17. This is a three-day celebration of cowboy poets, musicians, and enthusiasts from across Texas and beyond.

The event is produced by Bob Saul, a cowboy with ranching roots going back to 1821, and himself having grown up on one of Charles Goodnight's ranches in the Texas panhandle.

"Many of our attendees are regulars, year after year. They get to know

one another, become friends, and the gathering is much like a family reunion each year," said Saul.

Saul took over as the event producer in March 2019, after the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering ended its 33-year reign. According to Saul, the previous organization was at a point where they were ready for a shift, and he was able to step in and take the reins. "We formed a new non-profit and moved forward with the same energy and spirit as before," Saul remarked.

Alpine local Kay Nowell is the event co-chair and has been involved

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Robert Leese watches over several Dutch ovens full of biscuits he's cooking at last year's Chuck Wagon Breakfast held annually in conjunction with the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

# Catch us if you can



The Alpine Fightin' Buck boys' track team held their first practice recently in preparation for this season's competitions. Their first track meet is scheduled for next Friday.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Museum of the Big Bend to host guitarist, film producer, Sul Ross instructor

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Nicolas Hurt is a talented guitarist, film producer, and music instructor at Sul Ross State University, and the Museum of the Big Bend will host the artist for a free showing on Friday, February 2.

The museum, located on Alpine's Sul Ross State University campus, is thrilled to present an unforgettable evening. The event will feature a guitar recital by Hurt, followed by a screening of his film, "Serenade, I Miss You."

"I will be playing some live music before the screening, and I have decided to feature the music of Texas guitarists and composers. I'll be playing the music of

Hayden Pedigo of Amarillo and Julian Mock of Alpine," said Hurt.

As an artist, Hurt will be using the museum venue as an opportunity to share music from local musicians and the lives behind them in his film.

"We are delighted to host Nick and share this unique fusion of live music and cinematic art with our community. It's an opportunity to experience multiple layers of the creative process," said Museum Director Mary Bones.

In a press release from the university, they shared that there is no charge for the community to join this special event at the Cultural Events Center in the new Emmett and Miriam Mc-

Coy Building. The doors will open at 5 p.m. while the show runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

"I'm really happy to be playing at the Museum for several reasons. One, it's such a beautiful space and a great asset to the university and community. Two, I'm so happy that it will be easily available to my students, all the other music students, and the greater student body of Sul Ross State University as a whole," Hurt said.

In early 2021, Hurt had commissioned new guitar works from several Austin-based guitarists and composers. Among the composers were the likes of Zeke



See HURT • 6 Nicolas Hurt

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## OBITUARIES

### Antonio Nunez, Jr.

Antonio Nunez, Jr., 80, "Tony or Chito" as he was known to family, beloved father, and spouse was called to his eternal resting place on January 27. He entered this world on December 26, 1943, in Ruidosa, Texas, born to Antonio and Carmen Nunez.

Tony graduated from St. Mary's Elementary School and Marfa High School. He married his high school sweetheart, Betty Aguirre. After retirement, his hobby became his passion. Tony's passion was working on cars and repairing them. His specialty was doing brakes and alignments until he had



fixed them perfectly, even laboring until midnight and making his customers happy.

He was preceded in death by his father, Antonio Nunez, Sr., and his mother, Carmen Nunez, and his eldest sister, Herminia Salcido. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Nunez, son Daniel Nunez, daughter Diana Nunez, son Rene Nunez, and daughter-in-law Lety

Nunez. He is also survived by his sister Estelita (Pete) Quintela. He is also survived by his close friends Tim Turner, and Fernando Sanchez whom he loved as sons, and numerous friends and family in the community. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren Jami (Kris) Celaya, Joshua Turner, Sydney Turner, Ashton Nunez, McKenzie Nunez, and Briana Nunez. He is survived by his beloved great-grandchildren Daniel Colby Alvarado, Chrystian James Alvarado, Bastian Lucas Celaya, Gabriella Turner-Pearce, and Justus Turner.

In October of 1962, he married Beatrice Aguirre

and they raised two boys and a girl that he dearly loved. In August of 2008, Antonio married Cindy Sotelo formerly of Marfa, and resided happily in Alpine.

He was the project manager for Three T Fleet Tire Testers and Big Bend Fleet for the first part of his life. He finished the last part of his working career as a mechanic with the Texas Department of Transportation from 1977 to 2003.

Antonio was a religious man and raised his family in the same manner. He was a part-time musician and would play his guitar on his off time with friends after working extra hours at home

as a mechanic in his garage behind his home. These gatherings created many great stories for our family. He was the type of man who could not turn anyone down and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. The community was very blessed to have someone like Antonio Nunez, Jr.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 2, at 5 p.m. at Alpine Memori-

al Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with Rosary to follow at 7 p.m. Mass will be held on Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with Father Victorino Loresca officiating.

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

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

### Rebecca Smith

Rebecca Smith "Becky" passed away on January 20 at the age of 92, after a long illness. She was a registered nurse and a Captain in the Air Force, stationed

at Loring Air Force Base, Strategic Air Command in Limestone, Maine. For the last 40 years, she ranched in Alpine. She is survived by a longtime friend and partner, Cathy Fortenberry, nephews

Nathan Smith and Jeff Porter, first cousin Joy Robinson, numerous extended family, and a multitude of close friends. She is preceded in death by her mother and father, Marie Smith, and Clar-

ence Smith. Her three brothers and a sister, Tommy, Robert, Mickey, and Pat, close friend, and mentor Perry Cartwright. A private memorial will be held at a later date. She will be missed by all.

## MoBB nominated for travel award

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Museum of the Big Bend (MoBB), located on the campus of Sul Ross State University has been nominated by USA Today as 2024's

10 Best Reader's Choice travel awards in the Best Smalltown Museum category.

An expert panel from USA Today has selected the Museum of the Big Bend in this new category. The contest allows for

four weeks of voting and nominees can be voted on once each day for the entire run of the contest by visiting the MoBB website.

Voting for the MoBB ends Monday, February 12 and the winners will

be announced on the 10Best website on Friday, February 23.

Previously, the MoBB has received awards from True West magazine for "Top Western Museum."



Trappings of Texas is one of just a few outstanding exhibits hosted by The Museum of the Big Bend.

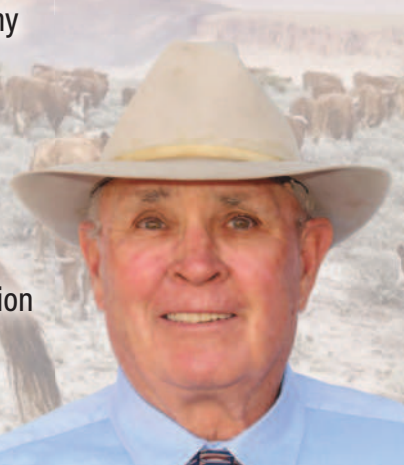
Photo courtesy of The Museum of the Big Bend

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# Tri-County voter promoters hold registration events

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Tri-County Voter Promoters have released the dates and locations for their voter registration promotion in the Big Bend area. Today, February 1 from

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Voter Promoters will be at the Morgan University Center at Sul Ross.

Friday, February 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. they will once again be at the Marfa Post Office and on Saturday, Febru-

ary 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Voter Promoters will be set up at the American Legion Hall in Presidio one last time for their final day of promoting voter registration.

The group reminds everyone that February 5 is

the last day to register to vote for the March primaries, that other promotion events will be added, and the list of locations updated as needed. February 23 is the last day to register to vote by mail. Early voting for the

March primary begins on February 20 and ends on March 1, with election day slated for March 5.

Tri-County Voter Pro-

moters is a non-partisan organization, whose purpose is to promote voter registration and expand the voter base.

# Family Crisis Center takes over TRAX

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend (FCCBB) in conjunction with the Big Bend Community Action Committee (BBCAC) and West Texas Opportunities (WTO) has been working towards taking over the operation of the TRAX transportation program formerly run by BBCAC.

The TRAX program provides transportation to the public in the Big Bend area.

Recently, members of the board of BBCAC resigned and the current FCCBB board members were added to the BBCAC board. This realignment occurred on January 17 and with the changing of the guard,

the BBCAC voted to hire Leticia "Letty" Carrillo as the Executive Director of the BBCAC. Carrillo is also the Executive Director of FCCBB.

J. D. Newsom was serving as the interim Executive Director after the previous executive director departed and will remain on the board in an advisory capacity to aid in the transition.

Also assisting in the transition of the service is a consultant from Hendrickson Transportation Group whose duties will include observation and evaluation of the current operations as well as providing recommendations to improve program efficiency.

"Once the transition is complete, all transporta-

tion program operations will fall under FCCBB and BBCAC will be dissolved," said Carrillo.

One of their main transportation services is taking citizens in the area to doctors' appointments. While the service is still currently providing this service, they hope to expand their services to provide transportation to places such as the Sunshine House, the grocery store, and possibly a route to and from Terlingua from Alpine.

The program covers the counties of Brewster, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Culberson, and Hudspeth counties, and currently, people may be transported to medical appointments within the coverage area as well as

Fort Stockton, Odessa, and El Paso.

Currently, the Crisis Center's goal for the transportation program is to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible while not disrupting the current operations and services it provides local and area citizens.

"Our long-term goal is to improve the efficiency of the program by hiring drivers in different parts of our service area as well as possibly adding local routes to better serve the public." "We would really like to be able to offer services to area citizens for transportation to grocery stores and other businesses locally as well as in the area," Carrillo concluded.

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# Alpine firefighters receive certifications

Two Alpine firefighters recently completed their certifications at the Texas Public Safety Training Academy for both Firefighter1 and Firefighter2 as well as a HazMat program. Both Shelby Green (FF/Chaplain) and Jacob Goodman (FF) were students at Sul Ross and answered emergency calls in the area. Pictured are Assistant Chief Charles Worden, Green, Goodman, and AVFD Chief Andrew Pierce.



Courtesy photo

# PBAF funds scholarship at Sul Ross

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Late last year, Sul Ross State University announced the creation of a new scholarship called the Presidential Plus Scholarship. This full-ride scholarship is aimed at area high school students from the high schools in the school districts of Alpine and the Big Bend and Permian Basin area.

Sul Ross applied for a grant from the Permian Basin Area Foundation last October to help fund this new scholarship. They have received approval for a grant of \$200,000 from the PBAF, that will provide the seed money for the new scholarship.

"The Presidential Plus Scholarship program will

be the first of its kind at Sul Ross, offering our local students a way to attain their bachelor's degree with the security of their home and families just a few miles down the road," said President Dr. Carlos Hernandez. "This grant will provide a full scholarship for 10 to 15 students a year. That's a life-changing impact for a lot of families and futures."

Scholarship recipients will be nominated by the district's superintendent or high school principal and must meet the following qualifications. Students must be regularly admitted students, enrolled in a bachelor's degree program, and a Texas resident at the time of admission. Students must have completed the FAFSA

paperwork and be awarded 100% Pell. They must maintain enrollment hours of 15 hours per semester and have graduated in the top 25% of their high school class.

The scholarship will be renewed annually based on students maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA, meeting all financial aid and related satisfactory academic progress requirements, and remaining enrolled and in good standing.

"We hope the Presidential Plus Scholarship will help attract and retain students to Sul Ross and that matching dollars will inspire new donors to support the university," said Guy McCrary, PBAF President and CEO.

# Sul Ross scholarship rodeo to be held


BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross State University Rodeo Team in conjunction with the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering is extending an invitation to all high school juniors and seniors and all junior college transfers to compete in a scholarship rodeo to be held February 14 at 6

p.m. This rodeo will take place at the Sul Ross SALE Arena and it will consist of all the 10 standard National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association events.

All first and second-place finishers in each event will receive a scholarship to Sul Ross State University. This rodeo is limited to eight contestants in each event

and there is no entry fee to compete. Stalls will be made available for those who would like to arrive early for a campus visit. For more information about Sul Ross, its rodeo program, or to sign up for the scholarship rodeo contact the Sul Ross State University Rodeo Coach C.J. Aragon at clint.aragon@sulross.edu.



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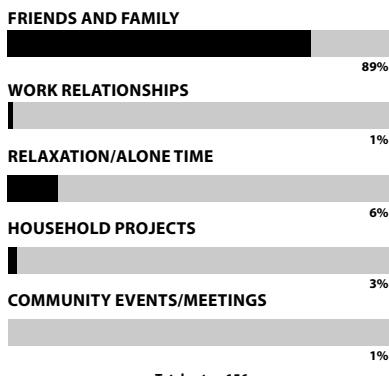
# Opinions

## 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 political office being voted on in the March primary is the most important to you?**

- President
- Senators
- Members of the House of Representatives
- District Judge
- District Attorney
- Sheriff

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

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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

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## FFA is not just about livestock

Many people assume that students in FFA only raise and show livestock. While showing livestock is one-way students can get involved, FFA offers leadership, career, and scholarship opportunities, as well as life skills. My job as an agricultural science teacher is to help students find the facet of FFA that will introduce them to a skill or trade they can use after high school and in the real world of jobs and careers.



**DOUG FOX**  
Ag Science-Alpine FFA

Beyond livestock, FFA contests include Leadership Development Events (LDEs), Career Development Events (CDEs), and Speaking Development Events (SDEs). LDEs teach students public speaking skills. Students can choose to compete in contests like skills demonstration, public relations, broad-

casting, ag advocacy, job interview, and chapter conducting, which teaches students how to run a meeting using Robert's Rules of Order, and more. CDEs relate to jobs in the ag industry with judging contests for meat, milk quality, horse, land, wildlife, and more. SDEs focus on extemporaneous public speaking and prepared public speaking. Regardless of the contest, students walk away with more knowledge about the ag industry, public speaking skills, and insights into possible career fields.

In addition to contests, students have opportunities to serve in chapter, district, area, and state officer positions. There are 12 FFA areas in Texas. Alpine is in Area 2 which includes 2800 students and

seven districts. Serving on an officer team teaches students to work together to plan events, hold meetings, and host conferences. Becoming a state officer requires a student to be elected by their peers at the Area Convention before they can run for state FFA president. During my tenure as an advisor, Alpine FFA has had two students excel to the level of state officer.

FFA also has an exceptional scholarship program, awarding up to \$20,000 to students who qualify. Scholarships are awarded based on the student's grade point average, class ranking, ACT/SAT scores, and most notably the students' FFA involvement. Qualifications require students to be involved in all aspects of FFA, including livestock projects, LDEs, CDEs, SDEs, advanced officer service, and attending camps and conventions.

In closing, one of the best

parts of my job is seeing students mature and become more skilled throughout each semester and year. Throughout their years in the FFA, students build a network of people. This could be FFA members from other chapters, Ag. teachers, school administrators, and business and industry personnel, and this network will last them well beyond their high school and post-high school years. Many students take the skills they acquire from FFA into their career or trade. Some of my former students now work in communications, policy, veterinary medicine, legal fields, teaching, animal science, natural resource management, and wildlife management. Seeing students succeed and having a small part in helping shape their early skills is what makes FFA invaluable to me and to anyone who has the opportunity to be part of it.

## Thoughts on the STAAR test

At a recent school board meeting, a portion of the conversation revolved around the STAAR test, or State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, and how students were struggling with the writing portion of this state-mandated "standardized" test. Naturally, since I write for a living, I had a few questions.



**KARA GERBERT**  
Managing editor

Reaching out to the Alpine High School Principal, Mr. Jarrett Vickers, and Alpine ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart, I wanted to develop a better understanding of what students in the state were up against where this test was concerned, specifically our local students.

Last year, public schools across the state were informed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that the STAAR test was being re-designed. What this meant for students was that all testing was to be done online, including the writing portion.

Along with making the test online only, every grade level, beginning with third grade, has writing components.

The writing portion for every grade level is worth 20% of the entire test score.

According to Vickers and Rinehart, high school students who are testing for the English I and English II portions of the test and even those in lower grades are graded on not only content, grammar, and punctuation, but also on whether or not their essay focuses on the prompt question.

What is a prompt question?

For test purposes, there is a question with a specific focus on the topic of what students are supposed to write about. Are you confused yet? If so, think about our young students who are required to pass this test.

For example, fourth graders are given a story about a salamander that lives in Barton Springs in the Austin area. The story informs the students about how special this salamander is. It tells the students it is an amphibian, that it is blind, and that it performs an important job for the City of Austin and the surrounding area.

The story goes on to share that this salamander is a keystone species, meaning that it is a predator that hunts other animals. Animals that can change the quality of the water in the Edwards Aquifer, and the salamander, by reducing the number of animals that can upset the balance in the aquifer environment, keeps the aquifer healthy for the many people who rely on that water for drinking, bathing, and everyday living.

Before continuing my point of this example, I sat and pondered about whether or not a fourth grader can comprehend what an amphibian is, even though it is somewhat described in the story, and if they understand what an aquifer actually is.

Despite my own wondering, the example goes on to say, "Read the article 'Austin's Secret Salamander' and based on the information in the article write a response to the following:

Explain why the Edwards Aquifer is important in the article.

Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer."

This is followed by a list of instructions telling students to clearly state their central idea, organize their writing, and develop ideas in detail among other things. You get the picture.

Now imagine you are a fourth grader and are presented with this test question that is 20% of your overall test grade. That means you would essentially have to get everything else on the test correct or you would not pass the STAAR test.

The prompt question, if you have not figured it out just yet, is "Explain why the Edwards Aquifer is important in the article."

There are two sets of people who grade this portion of the STAAR test. One set grade on whether or not the student wrote on the correct topic and the other on correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Meaning, that the student could give a perfect synopsis of the story, with perfect grammar and punctuation BUT if they did not address the prompt question and tell that the Edwards Aquifer supplies drinking water for Austin and the surrounding area of over 2 million people, the student automatically will fail this portion of the test.

They don't receive 50% of the entire points available for this portion, they receive ZERO even if they dot all their i's and cross all their t's.

By this rubric, the state is setting its public school students up

to fail rather than achieve.

And if you are in the elementary grades, a part of this writing portion also counts towards reading scores, as it is tied into the Language and Reading portion of the test.

Now that your minds are sufficiently blown with this information here is some other information for you.

Because the tests are now strictly online, third graders, who are decidedly more technologically advanced than most adults my age, have to navigate not only through each page of this online test but have to learn to "drag and drop" answers into their respective places to get credit for the test question. As third-graders, most of their fine motor skills are not at their peak, yet your children are expected to efficiently answer these test questions as if they were sitting in a college course or high school computer class.

As a taxpayer and a concerned citizen who understands that these students will one day be making decisions at our city, county, state, and possibly even federal levels, the fact that TEA and the state of Texas have bombarded students with the stress level of worrying about passing a test (that to my way of thinking is not designed to highlight achievement but instead seeks to undermine their confidence) this is a problem.

Your money is funneled towards the creation, the mandatory administration, and what seems evident as biased trickery in grading for this squandering of taxpayer funds. And the students are paying the highest price.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A deadly sin

I've noticed Texas state flag posters displayed with "Proud Democrat" printed on them. I couldn't help but wonder what made these Democrats so proud. Might it be an elimination of U.S. Energy Independence? What about the selling of U.S. Strategic Oil Supply to the CCP? Could it be the uninhibited printing of money

that caused record inflation? I've searched elsewhere in case these harmful policies weren't reasons for their "deadly sin of pride." More than 1,000 babies are killed daily by the Democrat-ran Planned Parenthood while child castrations and mastectomies are performed under the pretense of "sex changes." Joseph Mengele would have been proud. Democrat men pretend to be women while acting

out in degrading female stereotypes as Democrats show them more respect than real women, and Democrat guys pretend to be gals in sports often defeating and sometimes injuring females. Are they proud of those actions? There's Democrat "diversity, equity, and inclusion" that's "divisive, exclusive, and inequitable," and don't forget the Democrat-created "Open U.S. Borders." Are they proud

of those harmful agendas? There's plenty more but I've only so much space here. These posters displaying Democrats strike me as folks who would use the phrase "Proud as A Rooster," not caring that roosters run their fathers off, have relations with their mothers and daughters, and scratch around in their own crap all day long.

James R. Le Blanc  
Fort Davis

# Heard on the STREET

What is some advice that you can give your younger self?



**Harrison Vance:** To not rush your life. I was so focused on the next thing, the next item on the "life checklist" that I felt like years slipped by in a blink. So, don't rush toward the finish line because it comes to you.



**Jane Thomas:** That it's okay to be selective with the people that you let into your life. Welcoming everyone makes you feel like a good person, but after a while, you realize that they can really affect your direction, mental health, and happiness.



**Francis Geller:** That you are capable. That even if you don't feel ready to try something new, like a hobby, skill, job, or career, just jump in. You become ready by doing the thing you want to try, not by waiting to be ready.



**Sarah Bennet:** I would tell my younger self to not run away from her feelings. To feel and process the anger and sadness, the joy and excitement, without worrying about your feelings being a burden to others.



**Greg Calhoun:** To invest in Amazon.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 1-3 Voter Registration,** Tri-County Voter Promoters will be set up around the area to register voters. Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Morgan University Center at Sul Ross. Feb. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Marfa Post Office. Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. American Legion Hall in Presidio.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbchorale.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 x301.

**Kiwanis Club of Alpine,** noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210

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

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[www.alpineavalanche.com](http://www.alpineavalanche.com)

## Request for Proposals

The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine, Texas, will receive Requests for Proposals for the 2020 CFP Funds, For **UNIT C-4 Bathroom Modification Project** at Unit Site "C" until 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the **Alpine Housing Authority Office at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Alpine, Texas, 79830**, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for the modernization work.

Proposed forms of Contract Documents, and Specifications, are on file at the Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Alpine, Texas; at the Administrative Office at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Alpine, Texas.

Attention is called to the provisions for equal employment opportunity, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. As amend. 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3), and Davis Bacon payment of not less than the prevailing salaries and wages, as set forth in the Contract Documents, that must be adhered to on this project.

The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals or to waive any informality in the Bidding.

No Bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of Bids without the consent of The Housing Authority of the City of Alpine.

Proposals are to be submitted to the attention of: Ms. Elva Torres, Executive Director at P.O. Box 1274, Alpine, Texas, 79830 or physical address at 1024 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Alpine, Texas 79830

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**Fax: (432) 837-7256**

## PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Goofus. Goofus is a goofus but in the best way. He is a cute, cuddly guy who just wants to play.

He loves the company of dogs and people, does well on a leash, and is ready to learn new skills. He is still a puppy and willing to learn. Although he hasn't been here very long, he has made a big impression on the staff and volunteers.

Kitten season is almost here. It's important that you don't "kidnap" feral kittens. Many well-meaning people will pick up kittens if they find them in their yards. Often, the mother cat is nearby hunting or resting. Kittens always do best if raised by their mothers, so the safest thing to do is to keep the area secure from dogs and predators and watch, even for a few hours, to see if the mother returns. Then, call

Alpine Humane Society for advice before picking up the kittens.

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

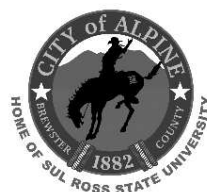
The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit [PetFinder.com](http://PetFinder.com) or [www.alpinehumane-society.org](http://www.alpinehumane-society.org), and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**  
MARCH 5, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT 2024-01-02:** A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION ALLOWING THE APPLICANT, TEHRA VAUGHN, TO ESTABLISH A ONE-CHAIR BEAUTY SALON IN AN R-2 TWO-FAMILY DISTRICT ZONE. THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT 401 W. SUL ROSS AND IS LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS THE EAST 18.89 FEET OF LOTS 8, 9, 10, ALL OF LOTS 1, 2, AND 3, AND THAT PORTION OF THE PLATTED ALLEY LYING BETWEEN SAID LOTS, ALL OUT OF BLOCK 28, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF ALPINE, ENVELOPE 184, PLAT RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PROPERTY ID OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 35650. THE RECORD PROPERTY OWNERS ARE THOMAS ROBINSON AND KAREN CHAPMAN. THE CURRENT ZONING OF THE PROPERTY IS R-2 TWO-FAMILY DISTRICT. THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION IF THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT IS APPROVED WILL REMAIN R-2 TWO-FAMILY DISTRICT.

ALL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. COPIES OF THE APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N 13TH STREET, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. AND 5:00 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT [CITY\\_SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY_SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM) OR AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

# STEM exploration of health professions

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Talent Search students at Alpine High School who are interested in a career in the healthcare professions have an opportunity to explore op-

tions later this month on February 23 through Sul Ross. Interested students may pick up an application package in the front office and applications are due by February 8 and should be turned back into the front office. For

students not a part of the Talent Search program but who are interested, they may apply online.

Students who are accepted will tour the facilities at Big Bend Regional Medical Center and learn from Sul Ross' campus

nurse Danielle Bell, RN by touring the Sul Ross facilities and resources along with lunch at the University Center. For more information contact Kaylee Plowman by email at [kaylee.plowman@sulross.edu](mailto:kaylee.plowman@sulross.edu).

# Subia gets Officer of the Year



Alpine PD officer John "J.R." Subia received the 2023 Golden Badge Award and was recognized as Officer of the Year from the City of Alpine.

Courtesy photo

# BRI and Visit Alpine team up for Wildlife Day

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

A new collaboration between the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University and Visit Alpine has come to fruition. The first-ever Wildlife Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 3.

Wildlife Day is an opportunity to learn about and celebrate all of the creatures that we share our desert mountains of the Big Bend area with. The day is full of free events and will begin at

9 a.m. Activities will include a guided hike on Hancock Hill as well as a guided birding excursion near Alpine Creek at Kokernot Lodge and Park. These two activities are reservation only, and space is limited.

At noon, participants can partake in a "Lunch and Learn" event in the lobby of the historic Holland Hotel. Members of the BRI team will talk about the current wildlife research projects that are ongoing at the institute.

That afternoon, several downtown shops in

Alpine will offer wildlife-themed events and specials including Front Street Books, Gallery on the Square, Javelinas on Holland, and Wasserman's.

Front Street Books will be offering in-person wildlife cartooning and comic book signing, Gallery on the Square will showcase wildlife conservation art, Javelinas on Holland will offer music, wildlife t-shirts, plushies, and more and Carl the Camel will be at Wasserman's.

Later that evening, the

Granada Theatre will host a special screening of "Deep in the Heart," a documentary by Ben Masters and narrated by Matthew McConaughey celebrating Texas' wildlife diversity and natural landscapes.

Following the film will be a wildlife panel discussion with BRI experts on several subjects, including the status of black bear populations in the Trans-Pecos and beyond. For more information visit the [visitalpinetx.com/wildlifeday](http://visitalpinetx.com/wildlifeday) website.

## POETRY • FROM 1

with cowboy poetry since the first national gathering in Elko, Nevada in 1985. "It has been a great privilege to get to know and work with many of the wonderful poets and musicians that are a part of cowboy poetry. These artists pass on not only the values but the traditions and history of the Western way of life through their poetry and music, so that future generations get a taste of what this life entails," Nowell said.

This year's gathering will be no less spectacular than those which preceded it. The festivities kick off this year on Wednesday night with an exhibition rodeo by the Sul Ross Rodeo Team. The following three days will see a series of events that attendees can purchase tickets for along with 35 free shows that will be hosted in seven different classrooms across the Sul Ross campus.

Andy Hedges will host the Saturday night show and he will be joined by legends such as Rambolin' Jack Elliot and Dom Flemmons along with

cowboy artists Pipp Gillette, Brenn Hill, Corb Lund, Waddie Mitchell, Brigid Reedy, Randy Rieman, Rod Taylor and Andy Wilkinson.

All will participate in a series of recent album duets from Hedges's recent album "Roll On Cowboys."

For folks who appreciate the cowboy way or for those whose lives are deeply tied to cowboy heritage, the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering is a must. Over 30 artists will participate in this three-day event, entertaining attendees with tales of their cowboy way of life.

Saul notes, "This will be a historic Alpine event, with the Saturday evening performance boasting a lineup of folks legends, Grammy winners, cowboy poets, and singer/songwriters and musicians."

"This poetry is the history of the cowboy. These events celebrate that heritage. Our team is committed to making each year's gathering incredible," added Saul.

## HURT • FROM 1

Jarmon, local musician rights advocate, and member of the band Batty Jr., Justice Phillips, composer and administrator for Austin Classical Guitar, and Claire Puckett, songwriter and member of the bands Mother Falcon and Hikes.

Directed and recorded in Austin in 2022, Hurt's film originally premiered in April of 2023, at the Austin Classical Guitar's venue the Rosette. "Serenade, I Miss

You," features performances of these new works for guitar as well as the insights, humor, and philosophy from the composers themselves, according to Hurt.

Director of Austin Classical Guitar, Matthew Hinsley, said, "Serenade, I Miss You, is an honest and intimate portrayal of four young musicians' creative inspirations."

The film gives a perspective on

the lives and processes of creative individuals that are usually reserved for behind-the-scenes and that normally take a back seat to the final result of all their efforts.

Whether or not the audience on Friday is made up of musicians, filmmakers, and creatives, the film as well as the live music will certainly be an insightful window into that intricate and fascinating world.

## STORE • FROM 1

of support for sexually abused children in Brewster, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Terrell counties. Sexually abused children who undergo forensic interviews must have an active investigation open. Services provided for the children include forensic interviews, crisis counseling, SANE exams, physical abuse exams, therapy for victims and non-offending caregivers, family advocacy, as well as Judicial follow-up. The CACBB works closely with area law enforcement, DFPS, prosecution, mental health, and medical professionals which makes up a multidisciplinary team that advocates for abused children.

Now, as they embark on this new venture, the timing seems serendipitous, coinciding with the closure of several retail stores in Alpine. The driving force behind Charity Thrift is the dynamic duo of Gerri Davis and Leslie Williams, who, as dedicated volunteers, have curated the store's eclectic collection from an array of



Leslie Williams and Gerri Davis prepare for the opening of the new thrift store benefitting the Children's Advocacy Center of the Big Bend.

Courtesy photo

donated items. Sullivan, with a hint of admiration, shares, "Gerri and Leslie have given more than just their time; they've poured in sweat, shed tears, and brought an abundance of love. Leslie, being from Valentine, certainly brings that extra touch of love to our project."

When questioned about the store's vision, Gerri Davis reflects on their initial discussions, stating, "I asked what

was important, and I was told above all, they wanted it clean with friendly, helpful staff. We wanted to create a space where people feel welcomed and appreciated."

The Alpine thrift community has rallied behind Charity Thrift, offering invaluable advice and support. Sullivan expresses gratitude, saying, "The cooperation from other thrift stores has been phenomenal. It truly speaks to the spirit of community

that defines Alpine."

As the doors swing open for the grand opening, patrons can expect not only an array of thrifty treasures but also a tangible sense of community unity. The CACBB invites everyone to be part of this celebratory occasion, marking not just the opening of a thrift store but a new chapter of resilience and commitment for the Children's Advocacy Center of the Big Bend.

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**SRSU is sponsoring a**  
**NATIONAL READ ALOUD CELEBRATION**  
on February 7, 2024,

that is **FREE** to families in the community who have children in Pre-K - 4th grade. The event will be held in the **Espino Center on campus from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

The celebration will begin with pizza for all and a welcome by Guadalupe Garcia McCall, a nationally known author. Then, Mayor Catherine Eaves, Lupita Hernandez, Joey Velasco, Bret Scott, Jennifer Miller, Melissa Wesley, Diana Rodriguez, Bradley Carpenter, Mary Beth Garrett, and members of the SRSU Football Team will be among the Honored Readers.

Each family will receive a free copy of the book, *I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage*, and there will be a drawing of each of the 12 books read during the evening. **The event is free.**

*To register, contact your child's school or Jeanne Qvarnstrom, [jqvarnstrom@sulross.edu](mailto:jquarnstrom@sulross.edu).*

# Volunteers Needed

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## NOTICE TO OFFERORS

### Marathon ISD

Marathon Independent School District is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the Fencing Renovations RE-BID project. For proposal information please contact Richard Schwope, [432-362-6565/richards@jsarch.com](mailto:432-362-6565/richards@jsarch.com) or documents may be downloaded from JSA Architects, Inc. website at [www.jsarch.com](http://www.jsarch.com). Proposals are to be submitted to JSA Architects, Inc., 415 N. Jackson Ave., Odessa, Texas, or via email to Richard Schwope at [richards@jsarch.com](mailto:richards@jsarch.com), before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. MISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability in employment or the provision of services.

The successful proposer(s) will be required to enter into a general contract with Marathon Independent School District.

Faxed proposals from proposers will not be accepted.

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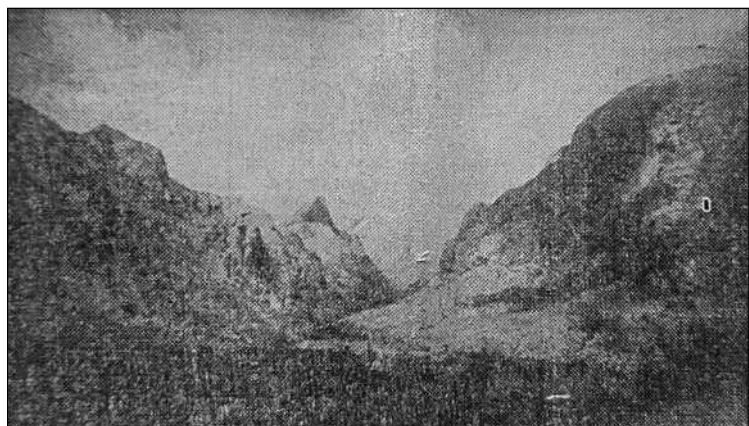
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## LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND  
AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche



June 6, 1947

A photo of Casa Grande Peak, shown here, is a view that more and more tourists will be able to see with the updated roads. Twenty-four miles of the new road, which is connected to U.S. 90, is complete, and approximately 16 miles are remaining.



June 6, 1947

Billy Jo Anderson and Charles Hugo Kappelman, two students from Sul Ross College, tied the knot on Friday afternoon. The town of Alpine and the college both wish the couple the best and a happy and prosperous future.



June 6, 1947

Rep. R. E. Thomason of El Paso was confirmed by the Senate to be Federal Judge for the Western District of Texas on Tuesday. He will preside over the El Paso court. Thomason has been serving in Congress for the 16th district for many years.



June 6, 1947

Miss Anne Kate Ferguson, who has been a devoted head of the speech department at Sul Ross College, passed on Sunday. Her loss will be grieved by all who knew her and by the entire faculty of the college.

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

# Bark separation a sign of trunk decay

**Dear Neil: After reading your helpful advice for a long while I now fear I need some personally. I had a relatively minor limb cut from my pecan tree less than one year ago. Now there seems to be a very large amount of bark falling from the trunk following recent winds. I don't know if it's related to the trimming, but I'm very concerned. What might be happening?**

I'm going to begin with the black, water-soaked streak that's coming down the side of the trunk. That tells us that there is active decay within the trunk. Most commonly that starts with a small branch that hasn't been pruned properly several years in the past. If a stub is left in place, perhaps even after a branch has broken off, the wound can't heal properly across the freshly exposed surface, and decay sets in. It moves up and down almost in a straight line as you are seeing. You can usually trace that line to find the source of your trouble.

And then to your question about the bark. When the wood inside the trunk is decaying, the bark separates from it. Since there is so much bark falling away, there may be a large portion of this

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

trunk that is being consumed by the decay – enough so that I'm concerned that you may not be able to save the tree. You need to have a certified arborist look at this tree immediately. It could be weak enough that a strong wind could topple it once it leafs out.

**Dear Neil: Please tell me that I wasn't the butt of a joke when, about 30 years ago, an old friend told me that to be successful when transplanting a dogwood tree, you had to position the branches aiming in the same direction they were before it was dug. I did transplant one using that theory and it's flourishing. Was there any truth to that recommendation?**

Whatever works for you. I don't believe you'll find any

forestry or horticulture school teaching that, but it sounds like something worked right, so let's just give it credit this time. The fact is, getting the root ball at the same depth at which it was before the dig is a lot more important. So is staking and guying any tree that is large enough to be blown out of plumb by the prevailing winds of the summertime.

**Dear Neil: One of my live oak trees was ravaged by the little wooden "marbles" on its twigs last summer. They're still there, and I'm wondering if they are harmful to the tree. Is there anything I can do now to prevent them from producing more of these things next summer?**

Those are called "woody oak galls," and they're extremely common. They're not especially harmful to the tree, but they are unsightly, especially when you get them all over the branches. They're the work of female wasp-like insects that sting the small twigs and lay eggs in the young tissues. The galls are the plants' reactions to the stings. All that, and now the letdown: there is no prevention and there

is no cure. As a wise entomologist once told me, "You might as well learn to brag about them."

**Dear Neil: If I want to divide my mums, when should I do it?**

The old rule of thumb is that if it blooms in the spring, you divide it in the fall, and if it blooms in the fall, you divide it in the spring. However, mums get a fast start on growth in the spring, so you don't want to wait too long. You can see this year's stems at the bases of last year's flower stalks. Sometime in mid- or late February, on a warm, sunny day, you can dig up a clump and cut or break it into smaller clumps two-thirds the size of a tennis ball. Replant those into freshly prepared garden soil in a well-draining, sunny location.



Pecan tree bark separation

**Dear Neil: How are snake plants propagated? I understand some types can be rooted from leaf cuttings, but others cannot. Why the difference?**

If you think about the different types of sansevierias, you'll recall that some types have cross-banded markings across their leaves. Other types have bordering bands of yellow or white stripes around the outer margins of their leaves. Those that have stripes around their edges are referred to as "chimeras." When they develop roots and start to send up new leaves, the leaves will be partially green and partially white or yellow. Where the new

sprout forms will determine where the split in color will be, but it will definitely not be all around the outer border of the leaves. Those varieties can only be propagated by division of existing plants. By comparison, snake plants with cross-banded markings propagate easily from leaves that are inserted into very porous rooting media containing one part of sphagnum peat moss and two parts of horticultural perlite.

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 get away!
  - 5 lightweight helmet
  - 6 TX George H.W. Bush alma mater
  - 7 TX Jim Reeves hit: "I Losing You"
  - 8 TX Roy Orbison sang Traveling Wilburys tune: "Not Alone \_\_\_ More"
  - 9 long, heavy curtains
  - 15 Houston Museum of Fine \_\_\_
  - 16 "Red River Shootout" award (2 wds.)
  - 19 AL West city with Houston & Arlington deeply love
  - 22 TXism: "happy as a kid sitting \_\_\_ Claus' lap"
  - 27 female sheep
  - 28 valuable things
  - 29 "painful \_\_\_ in a tight shoe"
  - 30 this Floridian Kathy beat TX Zina Garrison in 1984
  - 32 first word in "Cowtown" (abbr.)
  - 33 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ his own mind" (ego)
  - 36 TXism: "\_\_\_ thru the dryer & hung out to dry" (tired)
  - 37 I.M. \_\_\_ designed Dallas City Hall
  - 38 area beyond suburbia
  - 39 TX A.C. Greene or TX Larry L. King bolo, e.g. (2 wds.)

- DOWN**
- 1 "Deaf" Smith during the Texas Revolution, e.g.
  - 2 TX George H.W., a dir. of this agcy.
  - 3 in Cass County on highway 77
  - 4 Valley Tex-Mex group: "? and \_\_\_"
  - 8 "Hill Country State Natural \_\_\_"
  - 9 TXism: "\_\_\_ in the woods?" (yes)
  - 10 longtime mayor of Dallas \_\_\_ Thornton
  - 42 suddenly bright stars
  - 45 action needed for "4th and long" in football fed. ID no.
  - 46 fed. ID no.
  - 47 what TX George Foreman did to practice
  - 48 TX Stuart Hamblen song: "This \_\_\_ House"
  - 49 Hispanic heritage book: "\_\_\_ Texas"
  - 52 Rio Grande early name: "Rio \_\_\_ Palmas"
  - 53 NBA rim hanger
  - 54 golf accessory
  - 55 speed measure in inches (abbr.)

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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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# Sports

## Bucks take on Golden Cranes, Buffaloes

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks took down their opponents last week, both at home and away. Last Tuesday, January 23, Alpine High School hosted the Crane Golden Cranes for a district game which resulted in a 72-43 win for the Bucks. On that Friday, they made the journey to Stanton where they defeated the Buffaloes 57-44.

Aaron Hardwick, head basketball coach for the Bucks, said, "Both the Crane and Stanton wins were great for us. We are battling through illness and injuries. It is cool to see that no matter who is called upon to step up, they do so without a blink of an eye. That is a credit to these young men for how they have prepared themselves mentally and physically."

During the game against the Golden Cranes, Alpine took the lead 12-8 in the first quarter. They maintained their lead 24-25 in the second quarter, 18-11 in the third quarter and 18-9 in the fourth. With a final score of 72-43.

Senior Jace Canaba led the team with 32 points, from 13 successful field goals, four three-point shots, and two free



**Alpine Fightin' Buck Zane Wash reaches for the ball during the tip-off at the Buck's last game against Crane.**

throws. Teammate Evren Martinez, also a senior, put 14 points on the scoreboard, with four field goals, four three-pointers, and two free throws.

Fellow Buck players, Daedrick Hardwick, Alec Ramos, Santiago Alvidrez, Ferris Daley, Zane Wash, and Davian

Fierro made up the rest of the 72 points with an impressive percentage of successful field goals and free throws. Together the team had 34 points in the paint, 16 offensive rebounds, and 20 defensive rebounds.

In Stanton, Alpine took the lead immediately 12-9 in the first quarter

and advanced that lead in the second quarter 16-9. The Buffaloes bolstered their offense in the second half with 13 added points to Alpine's 16 in the third quarter, but it wasn't enough for them to outpace the Bucks, especially with each team gaining 13 points in the fourth quarter. The final score of 57-44 added this win to the Fightin' Bucks record.

The Bucks are 21-5 overall and 8-0 in district. They currently sit first in the district with Presidio at their heels in second with a 7-1 record. Kermit is in third with 6-2 and Stanton is in fourth with a district record of 3-5.

In the second half of the district away game on Friday, the ball belonged to Alpine, and Canaba made a two-point field goal which Stanton met with one of their own. Then, Alejandro Hernandez and Alec Ramos each had a series of consecutive scores, boosting the Bucks up to 35-20 on the scoreboard.

After more points gained by Canaba and Davian Fierro and some pushback from the Buffaloes, the Bucks held a comfortable 46-31 score

See BUCKS • 9

### Sports Schedule

<b>FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL</b> Feb. 2 Alpine vs Kermit* JV 5 p.m. 9th Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m. Feb. 9 Alpine vs Presidio* JV 5 p.m. 9th Gold 6:30 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m. Feb. 13 Compass vs Alpine* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m.	<b>FIGHTIN' BUCK BASEBALL</b> Feb. 13 Alpine vs Fort Stockton (scrimmage) JV 4:30 p.m. Varsity 7 p.m. Feb. 16 Alpine vs Monahans (scrimmage) JV 4:30 p.m. Varsity 7 p.m.
<b>LADYBUCK BASKETBALL</b> Feb. 2 Alpine vs Kermit* JV 5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m. Feb. 7 OPEN Feb. 13-14 Bi-District	<b>LADYBUCK SOFTBALL</b> Feb. 10 Pecos/Kermit Scrimmage @ Pecos TBA Feb. 15-17 Tx Lead off Tourney @ College Station TBA
<b>FIGHTIN' BUCK POWERLIFTING</b> Feb. 10 Kermit Feb. 15 WinkGLQ Feb. 22 PecosBLQ	<b>TENNIS</b> Feb. 2 Alpine vs Crane Varsity Feb. 8 Alpine vs Monahans JV
<b>FIGHTIN'BUCK TRACK &amp; FIELD</b> Feb. 9 TBA El Paso Feb. 16 Queen City Relays Del Rio	<b>BOYS GOLF</b> Feb. 9-10 Pecos Tournament Feb. 16-17 Fort Stockton Tournament <i>*Denotes District Game</i>

## Fightin' Buck golf hits the links

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Buck boys golf team will hit the road today for their first tournament of the season in Monahans. While the girls' team has five players this season, four of them are still on the basketball court, and Coach Marco Gomez hopes to have a full girls' team this year.

Gomez has two returning boys from last season, sophomore David Baca and senior Ma-

teo Solis. Although he lost a player to graduation, Gomez says these two Bucks are sure to be on the leaderboards.

Baca was the district champion last year and Gomez commented that Solis has been improving his game the last few weeks leading up to today's tournament.

When asked how he believed this first tournament would go for the seasoned golfers, Gomez's reply was "I believe at any tournament

See GOLF • 9

## Lady Bucks win last home game

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

After a five-win streak spanning this January, the Lady Bucks were reminded that you can't win them all. Last Tuesday the Lady Bucks played the visiting team, the Crane Golden Cranes, in a district home game which resulted in a tough 53-81 loss for the Alpine team.

Head basketball coach for the Lady Bucks, Christopher Virdell, said, "The Crane game was a tough loss for the program. We really felt good going into this game and the girls were excited about playing them at home."

The two teams were well-matched in the first quarter, with Alpine leading 12-11. In the second the Golden Cranes jumped ahead with 19 points, ending the quarter in the lead 20-30. Each team added 18 points to the board in the third quarter, maintaining that lead gap, but the fourth quarter cemented the Golden Crane victory 53-81.

"We really struggled with their press, and we lost the turnover battle. I was very proud of the girls as they could have easily dropped their heads, but they battled together and continued to battle to the very last minute," said Virdell.

During this game, nearly every Lady Buck player put points on the scoreboard, with players Novah Carrasco and Collette Fowlkes leading the charge. Carrasco made five field goals, three three-pointers, and ten free throws. Fowlkes



**The Lady Bucks battled it out in Stanton last Friday.**

followed that with five field goals as well and a successful free throw.

Ali Maroney led in defensive rebounds and Hope Dominguez and Carrasco tied with three offensive rebounds each.

Later that week the Lady Bucks traveled to Stanton for a district away game against the Buffaloes. The Lady Bucks held their own through most of the game, however, they had a steep second quarter that they couldn't recover from, ending with a 42-58 loss.

"The Stanton game was the opposite for the girls. We won the turnover battle but struggled shooting from the floor in all areas," Virdell said.

Having beaten the Buffaloes at home previously, Stanton held a four-point lead at the end of the first quarter, 14-18 over the Lady Bucks. That difference jumped in the second quarter when Alpine only gained four points while

the Buffaloes put 20 extra points on the board.

At the end of the third quarter, the Lady Bucks had 30 points and the Buffaloes had 52. The Alpine team didn't give in for the fourth quarter, but sadly their added 12 points weren't enough to close the gap. The game ended with the hosting team winning 42-58.

"Neither of those losses will change the philosophy of what we want to do as a team on the floor, pressure defense and run the ball in transition. We just need to win the turnover battle and be more consistent from the field in shooting," said Virdell.

Carrasco and Dominguez had a striking 31-point combination out of the 42-point total for the game. Carrasco made seven field goals, two three-point shots, and five free throws. Dominguez made five field goals and a free throw along with five re-

bounds and six steals.

Maroney led with seven rebounds and three assists and Carrasco had the most steals with a total of nine.

"The girls were devastated after both games, but they are resilient and understand we have games to play with the chance to better our position. These young ladies are amazing competitors, and they will fight in every game to the very end," Virdell said.

On Tuesday the Lady Bucks played their final home district game against the Tornillo Coyotes, defeating them 75-20.

"We are preparing for our last two district games and are excited about getting ready for the playoffs," said Virdell.

The Lady Buck's last district game is against the Kermit Yellow Jackets, scheduled for tomorrow in Kermit. The Alpine team won their last game against the Yellow Jackets 52-44, at the beginning of January.



**David Baca prepares to tee off during last season's Alpine tournament.**

Photo by Kara Gerbert

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**FERRIS DALEY**

Off for a whole year due to injury, Ferris is finally beginning to get his shooting touch back! vs Presidio, Daley scored 10pts and went perfect from the 3pt line (2-2). Daley then doubled down on Friday's win against Odessa Compass scoring 22pts and going 4-8 from the 3pt line!

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# Lady Bucks ramp up for softball season

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Softball season for the Lady Bucks is swiftly approaching with their first scrimmage already under their belt and their first neutral tournament game scheduled for February 15. On Saturday the Lady Bucks traveled to Midland for the first scrimmage against Midland and Fort Stockton teams.

Head softball coach, Christopher Virdell said, "The softball scrimmage went very well. We went into the scrimmage with the mindset of it being a glorified practice, as it should be. I expected us to struggle in the areas we did, but overall, I was pleased with some things I feel we are ahead of the curve on."

With last year's graduating class, the softball team has become a new one with athletes joining for their first season.

"It is a new and young team that will have to learn to play together and find their roles and that



This season's Alpine Lady Bucks are once again under the direction of Coach Christopher Virdell, who has confidence in the girls' performance. Pictured are last year's team with Coach Virdell during a scrimmage before their first season game.

Photo by Shawn Yorks

will take a while. So, I am very patient in what we are doing, simply because I know the end result will be amazing," said Virdell.

Unlike these past volleyball and basketball seasons, where many of the players transfer from one team to the other, the Alpine High School softball team will be mostly independent players ac-

ording to the coach.

"Most of the team are not in basketball, we will only gain two players when basketball is over. I will have several freshmen who will have to play key roles this year in different positions. But we have great upperclassmen to lead the way with a ton of experience and that combination will lead to great things

for the program," Virdell said.

This season will be a very developmental one, and there will most likely be dramatic changes and advancements from the beginning to the end, as the players find their stride as a team. However, the players aren't completely brand new, as many of them work on their skills in the off-season and on their own.

"I am very fortunate that the community and parents help prepare these girls before they reach me in softball, a lot of them play during the off-season and are working on softball on their own, that puts the program ahead for certain," Virdell said.

The Lady Buck's next scrimmage is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 in Pecos, and the Lead Off Classic tournament in College Station is scheduled for February 14-17.

## GOLF • FROM 8

it is always a challenge. Especially the very first tournament of the season. Even though some of my players have played the Monahans course before, nerves and jitters can get the best of them, and new players, may not know how tournament play feels."

Although the Bucks play numerous teams throughout the season, their district competi-

tion remains the same as that of the other sports at Alpine High School. Gomez sees the Kermit boys being a big challenge for his team this year, and the Odessa Compass team, both boys and girls will give the Bucks a run for their money.

Next up for the Bucks is another out-of-town tournament on February 9-10 in Pecos.

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# Stronger than the rest



This year's Alpine High School powerlifting team took to the Sul Ross campus recently to pose for the camera. Made up of seven boys and 14 girls, this season's team is on their way to greatness.

Courtesy photo

# Bucks get new tennis coach

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine High School tennis program has gained a new coach for the upcoming season, and Lauren Martinez is looking forward to this Spring. Practice has been in full swing already and the Bucks' first scrimmage is tomorrow against the Crane Golden Cranes.

"This is my first season coaching tennis at AHS

and I'm excited to kick off our season this Friday against Crane. We've been working hard on all skills while focusing on improving our technique and stamina," said Martinez before the trip to Crane.

This season the team is balanced out with both returning and fresh players. The program has nine returners from last season: three Seniors, two Juniors, and four

Sophomores. They also have 11 newcomers: seven Freshmen, and four Juniors.

With nine players returning and Martinez working with them and the new players on their skills, the coach has a bright outlook for a positive season.

"We are looking forward to a great Spring season and can't wait to get started," said Martinez.

## BUCKS • FROM 8

margin at the end of the third quarter. Canaba fought for 21 points total, with nine field goals and three free throws.

"We knew Stanton was going to bring their best. We also knew that Stanton Coach Estevan Chavez would try to make adjustments to slow us down. In the end, we were able to persevere and execute on both sides of the basketball," said Hardwick.

"The team is focused and understands what needs to be done. Like I said before, we are dealing with some injuries and illnesses, but the team has that 'next man up' mentality while having each other's backs," Hardwick said.

On Tuesday, the Alpine Bucks stayed home for their last district home game with the Tornillo Coyotes.

"Tuesday's game against Tornillo will be

intense and hotly contested. Tornillo is one spot out of fourth place, so they will play with great desperation. We must match that early on and throughout the ball game," said Hardwick before that game.

The Alpine Bucks remain undefeated in district play, winning 71-56

over the Tornillo Coyotes, increasing their current district record by one.

Next up for the Bucks, an away district game against the Kermit Yellow Jackets, scheduled for tomorrow at 8 p.m. The Bucks won their last game against the Yellow Jackets at the beginning of January 76-57.

### Restaurant Guide

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**REATA RESTAURANT**

**COCINERO:** Beef • Chicken • Shrimp  
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—  
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**SADDLE PACK COMBINATION:**  
(Your choice of any two items)  
Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup  
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1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

## 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/](http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/)

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**ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**DISTRICT PEIMS COORDINATOR**

The Alpine Independent School District is accepting applications for the position of District PEIMS Coordinator. This team member coordinates the collection, integration, and formatting of all data required for district submissions according to Texas Education Agency standards. Training will be provided. Must be a high school graduate, college hours preferred. Two years previous experience in an educational setting is preferred. Skills required: Ability to maintain accurate records and meet State prescribed deadlines; computer skills and experience with spreadsheets, databases, and word processing; and strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills. Must be detail oriented. Must be able to work cooperatively with administration, campus, business office, and personnel office staff for provision and submission of reports and data.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Applications may be submitted by mail, FAX, or e-mail to the address listed below.

Application Procedure: Submit district application (may be downloaded from <http://www.alpine.esc18.net> - under Employment), resume, and college transcript (if applicable) to:

**Dr. Michelle Rinehart, Supt.**  
**Alpine ISD**  
**704 W. Sul Ross Avenue**  
**Alpine, Texas 79830**  
**e-mail: [mrinehart@alpineisd.net](mailto:mrinehart@alpineisd.net)**  
**FAX: 432-837-7740**

Alpine ISD is an E.O.E. - questions concerning application procedure should be directed to (432) 837-7700. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

**STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF BREWSTER**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. CVB23243**

To: DEFENDANT'S 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 EXPIRATION 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 citation 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 FOLLOWING: 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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**NO. PR03129**

IN RE ESTATE OF WILLIAM DALE MARTIN, Deceased

§ IN THE COUNTY COURT SITTING IN PROBATE OF 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.

**Appraiser Trainee**

Qualifications are any real estate background or tax appraisal background, mortgage industry as well. Experience in any related field maybe substituted. Hours are Mon-Fri 8AM-5:00PM, Holiday pay with benefits. Salary depending on experience.



**Raymond E. Herrera, RPA**  
Chief Appraiser

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Jessi Milam, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, San Vicente ISD  
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Must have some business background, owner of commercial real estate, Owner of small business, any real estate background preferred. Will be hearing protests from property owners and making decisions as to property values. Please contact Esther Howard at [ehoward0711@gmail.com](mailto:ehoward0711@gmail.com)



**Raymond E. Herrera, RPA**  
Chief Appraiser

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Village Farms is seeking a detailed oriented individual to join our team as **Shipping/Receiving Clerk** for our Marfa 2 location.

Responsibilities include loading and unloading, forklift operation, preparation of shipping documents, verify deliveries, maintain warehouse and other general duties.

Requirements: Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, ability to work independently, verbal, and written communication skills, working knowledge of computers and forklift experience preferred. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen.

**Interested candidates should call (432)729-3071 Ext. 607 or fax resume to (432)375-6241.**

Applications are also available at Village Farms Security Stations 3 Miles N. Hwy 17 Marfa, TX or 3 Miles S. Hwy 17 FT. Davis, TX



## Early morning structure fire bellows black smoke



Alpine Volunteer Fire Department along with other emergency services personnel responded to a structure fire on the southeast side of Alpine Tuesday morning. According to the Alpine Police Department, at approximately 7:32 a.m. Tuesday morning, a shed in the 1700 block of E. Avenue H caught fire and was a complete loss. No injuries to persons or pets occurred and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Photo courtesy of Felipe Fierro and the Alpine Police Department.

### SENIOR Spotlight

**JAELYN MONGLOVA**

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
Throughout my years in high school, I only participated in cheerleading as well as being a football trainer.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
Throughout high school, I had a couple of teachers that helped me. I cannot choose one, but I would say a big thank you to

Charlie our janitor his wife Mrs. Rena, and our nurse Ms. Gayla.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment was cheering on Friday night lights.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
My plan after high school is to either move to San Angelo for cosmetology school or go into the Air Force.

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## Devotional Page Start Today

BY ANDREW POSADAS  
Fuente de Vida (Spanish Assembly)

Comparison is the enemy of progress. Sometimes, I can't help but feel discouraged about my guitar-playing skill level after watching my favorite instrumental rock musician shred an epic solo in a performance video online. There's a canyon between where I am and where I want to be. The reason this can be so damaging to progress is that we forget we are seeing the product of years of practicing and perfecting the skill. The comparison also puts too much attention on the end result and not enough on what you can do today.

So, what can we do today?  
Honestly, not a lot. We all just have twenty-four hours in a day. Habits take a while to form (and to break). In the case of guitar playing, muscle memory, and agility take a while to form. But the result we see so quickly when observing someone we want to be like took days. There is no magic or secret, just starting and staying consistent, making valuable daily decisions.

By "starting", I mean that one day, the pro football player had to learn how to play football and the rock star guitar player held a guitar for the first time. Nobody is born with habits or even the skill level we see in many of our role models. Before it was developed, it was

attempted. And that's what we can do today. We can start and make an attempt.

I always found it surprising how short and sweet Jesus' call to his disciples Simon and Andrew was. "And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men," (Mark 16:15). If I were in a similar situation, I would add some details, some disclaimers, and maybe a contract or two. We know it was special to just be in Jesus' presence, but I also believe Jesus knew this was not about giving all the details but about just getting the disciples started. The "follow me" was the invitation and the "I will make you" was the promise that all the rest will come once they take the first step.

There was a lot of training that was going to need to happen in the next years to prepare the disciples for the growth and persecution of the church; it is not like the disciples weren't going to have an important job. But Jesus offers the disciples an invitation to follow him, an invitation to the daily commitment, not the end result.

We can get so caught up in where we want to be, it can seem impossible to get there, so why even try? Because it starts with today. Growing spiritually, in your knowledge of scripture or even your disciplines, starts with one step. I challenge you today to try taking the first today.

This Devotional and Directory are sponsored by these businesses who encourage us to attend worship services.

<p><b>ANGLICAN</b> HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN CHURCH (REC) 903 Fighting Buck Ave. Rector: Fr. Wyatt Boutwell 432-837-7170 hollycrossalpine.org</p> <p><b>APOSTOLIC</b> CALVARY APOSTOLIC South Hwy. 118, 837-1720 Javier Trevino, Minister</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 1802 Fort Davis Hwy., 837-2264 Pastor Clark Nussbaum</p> <p><b>FIRST HISPANIC ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> South 11th &amp; Avenue I Pastor Andrew Posadas</p> <p><b>BAHA'I</b> BAHA'I FAITH 1202 N. 5th St., 432-538-7002</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> 4th &amp; Sul Ross, 837-2487 Pastor Coleman Reidling</p> <p><b>HILLSIDE BAPTIST</b> East Hwy. 90, 837-5205 Pastor Brad McGuire</p> <p><b>BIG BEND CHURCH</b> Hwy 118 @ Bee Mountain, Terlingua 55 @ 10:00 Worship @ 11:00 (432) 371-2243</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC</b> OUR LADY OF PEACE 5th Street &amp; Gallego Ave., 837-3304 Fr. Pablo Matta, Fr. Victorino Loresca, Fr. Alfonso Coronado Sanchez</p> <p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 211 W. San Antonio, Marfa (432) 729-4694 Fr. Pablo Matta, Fr. Victorino Loresca, Deacon Alfonso Coronado</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> CHURCH OF CHRIST 2nd &amp; Sul Ross Ave., 830-515-0591 10:45 a.m. Sundays Wednesday Evening Service 5:15 p.m. Curtis Wubbena, Minister AlpinechurchTX.org</p> <p><b>MARFA CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> North Austin Street Marfa, TX 79843 Sunday 10:30 a.m. MarfaChurchofChrist@gmail.com</p> <p><b>DISCIPLES OF CHRIST</b> FIRST CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES OF CHRIST 6th &amp; Sul Ross Ave., 837-2275 Pastor Lana Covington</p> <p>Send updates to: publisher@alpineavalanche.com</p>	<p><b>EPISCOPAL</b> ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL, ALPINE Ave A &amp; N. 6th St., (432) 837-4133 Santa Inez, Terlingua; Chapel of St. Mary &amp; St. Joseph, Lajitas www.bigbendepiscopalmission.org</p> <p><b>JEHOVAH'S WITNESS</b> JEHOVAH'S WITNESS KINGDOM HALL 1508 N. 5th St., 837-5115</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN</b> REDEEMER LUTHERAN- LCMS 1003 W. Holland Ave. 432-279-0744 www.redeemerlutheran.com</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b> FIRST UNITED METHODIST 208 E. Sul Ross Ave., 837-2286, 2280 Pastor Stephen White</p> <p><b>MORMON</b> CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Sunny Glen Road, 837-3779</p> <p><b>ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN</b> ST. JONAH ORTHODOX CHURCH 405 E. Gallego Services: 6pm Saturday • 10am Sunday bbsgary@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 5th Street &amp; Lockhart Ave., 837-2449 Pastor Rev. Bill Cotman</p> <p><b>UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST</b> UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OF THE BIG BEND 1308 N. 5th St http://bigbenduu.org</p> <p><b>OTHER</b> BIG BEND COWBOY CHURCH E. U.S. Highway 90, 254-631-8582, 432-364-2822 Wendel Elliott, Pastor bigbendcowboychurch.com</p> <p><b>GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 801 E. Brown, 386-6203 Mark &amp; Shirley Williams, ministers www.facebook.com/gcfdalpine/</p> <p><b>ST. LUKE'S MISSIONARY EPISCOPAL</b> Welcomes you. Holy Communion 11 am Sunday 1102 North 5th Street, Alpine, 837-1653 Father Henry- Pastor</p> <p><b>ZEN MEDITATION</b> Morning Glory Sangha Rev. Jean O'Cullinn, Minister, 364-2462 Laura Belkin, 729-3063 6 p.m. Monday Nights Unitarian Universalist Church 1308 N.5th St.</p> <p><b>ALPINE GOSPEL CHURCH</b> Pastor- Adam Lopez Sunday services 10:30 &amp; 7:30PM 212 N. 6th st. Alpine Texas • 646-509-5072</p>
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I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.  
~ Philippians 4:13

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NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS § BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE  
 §  
 BREWSTER COUNTY § DATED 12<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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i'm lovin' it

# Goulash-the one pot wonder

What comes to mind when you hear the word goulash? For myself, it's two different dishes, although both hold almost identical similarities except for a single ingredient.

Lately, I've found myself with a craving for this hearty dish.

Likely, when we hear the word goulash, we think of that tomatoey, beef dish that includes macaroni. And if you ate this dish at my grandmother's house that is exactly what you would get.

Ground beef paired with a rich and tangy tomato sauce along with onions, bell peppers, and elbow macaroni. Dish it up, top it with shredded cheddar cheese if you desire and dinner is served.



It's one of those classic childhood dishes if you grew up in the 70s and 80s that was easy for mom to make after a long day at work. It was hot, filling, and satisfying, and most kids wouldn't complain about it.

It resembles sort of what I refer to as an Italian chili. And while recipes vary on what spices are used, we always used

chili powder in ours, so it was a bit like chili, but with an entirely different taste.

The amount of chili powder used is the difference. Traditional chili uses more chili powder, cumin, and peppers making it spicy, goulash uses just a small amount and adds Italian seasoning, paprika, and even Worcestershire sauce making for an entirely different flavor profile. This dish also goes by the name American Chop Suey.

Now here is where my mom's goulash differs from the rest. She never uses macaroni. And I know you're wondering, why not. Well, mom doesn't like pasta, therefore it was never added to her version of goulash.

Now, I know what you're thinking. Who doesn't like pasta? After more than 50 years I still have not figured that one out.

Instead of using macaroni in the goulash, Mom always made a big batch of mashed potatoes, and we would pile the goulash on top of those. Sounds weird, right? Well, it is, but it is also one of those food combinations you find yourself randomly craving.

This version of goulash is also much more addicting and satisfying than those of the macaroni variety. And while I know that all sounds very strange to most of you, I dare you to try it. The combination just might surprise you.



Goulash or American Chop Suey

## Lambs place at Fort Worth



Two Alpine students placed at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo recently with their show lambs. Rynn Matthews placed sixth with her lamb and Wyatt Renfro placed third with his.

Courtesy photo

## Goulash or American Chop Suey

- Ingredients:**
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
  - 1 small, diced onion
  - 1 diced green bell pepper
  - 6 garlic cloves, finely chopped or minced
  - 2 pounds of ground beef
  - 2 tablespoons of Italian seasoning
  - 1 tablespoon paprika
  - 2 teaspoons chili powder
  - 1 tsp crushed red pepper
  - Salt and pepper to taste
  - 28 ounces tomato sauce
  - 28 ounces canned diced tomatoes
  - 2 cups of beef broth
  - 2 tablespoons tomato paste
  - 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
  - 2 bay leaves
  - 2 cups dry elbow macaroni (optional)
  - 2 cups freshly shredded cheddar cheese (optional)

- Directions:**
- Heat olive oil in a heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add onion and bell pepper, and sauté until soft. Add garlic and cook for one minute.
- Add in ground beef, break it up, and cook, with occasional stirring until it is no longer pink.
- Add in Italian seasoning, paprika, chili powder, crushed red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper, and cook for 1-2 minutes.
- Add in tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, and beef broth.
- Add in Worcestershire sauce and bay leaves and bring to a low boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove bay leaves and return the sauce to a boil, then stir in the macaroni pasta, and cook till just a bit firmer than your desired tenderness, about 15-20 minutes. Stir in cheese and cook another 2-3 minutes, until it has melted and mixed in well.
- Allow to rest for a few minutes before serving.

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